

# Formation and Mission Newsletter - October 2021 Catholic Diocese of Hallam

*Welcome to October, and to the newsletter to let you know of opportunities for Formation and Mission in the Diocese and further afield. The Pope's prayer intention for this month is that we all be 'missionary disciples'.*

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October is upon us, smelling of autumn leaves, cool damp and conkers. An Examen for the Season of Creation prayer cycle is attached for those interested in reflecting more on this.

It looks to be an exciting month ahead, with the launch of the Synodal process across the world and we recap. on what the Synod is, where we are so far and how you can get involved. The Catholic Certificate in Education course has begun, with an enthralling session with Fr John Ryan on the Old Testament for the new starters and the start of a module on Morality for the seasoned Second Years. COP26 is looming, with opportunities for prayer and social action for us all. And parishes are embarking on regular and new initiatives.



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## Synod-Hallam News

### **For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission**

A two-year 'synodal' process is taking place in the Catholic Church from September 2021 that culminates in the final Synod Gathering of Bishops in Rome in October 2023. Synod means "journeying together.

"What's going on with this Synod in Hallam?"

This is Pope Francis' Synod question:

**"How does this "journeying together," which takes place today on different levels (from the local level to the universal one), allow the Church to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with**

**the mission entrusted to Her; and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?**



Here's a photograph of Pope Francis having a meeting with Cardinals on-line on Monday in September 2021, to talk about the Synod.

The Vatican preparatory documents to explain the process of the Synod can be found [here](#).

<https://www.synod.va/en/news/preparatory-document.html>

Advice from the Catholic Bishops Conference are to be found [here](#).

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/synodal-church/>

## **Synod@hallam-diocese**

Here in Hallam, all parishes are invited to **nominate two Synod Coordinators for their parish**, to join the **Synod Working Group**.

### **Liturgy**

After the celebratory launch **liturgy on 17<sup>th</sup> October at 4.30 at St Marie's Cathedral**, hopefully also to be live-streamed across the Diocese, the Synod Working Group will meet on **22 October at 7pm on-line. Contact us for the link.**

### **The Synod Working Group: who are they and what will they be doing?**

The purpose of the Synod Working Group is to plan, support and learn from listening to each other and our ideas about how to take the next steps in the Synodal process.

The invitation to join the Synod Working Group is for anyone.

The representatives from the Synod Working Group will be going back to their own parish or group, to think about, plan and organise ways of getting groups of people together to talk and listen to each other. This is to begin the prayerful process of formulating responses to Pope Francis' question.

### **What groups? Who is talking and listening to each other?**

There are lots of groups, formal and informal, and different ways of getting together. You can arrange Synod Response Groups. Perhaps you are planning a Christmas Fair? Or a Coffee Morning? Or Friday Soup? Or a Walking Group? A Market Stall? Lectio groups, Rosary groups, SVP groups...

### **What are we supposed to be talking and listening about?**

Take or create any opportunity to talk together and think about how your journeying together as Church is going and what way forward the Holy Spirit might be showing you. Gather up the responses, reflect on them together and see what common themes are emerging in your group and across different groups.

### **What do we do with the responses?**

For the moment, we are concentrating on building up the conversations. As time goes on, we will need to think about how to discern together about where the conversations are directing us in

Hallam and the whole Church. We will then need to decide what we are feeding back to Bishop Ralph, for him to take to the Bishops Conference of England and Wales in 10 pages. They will take time to reflect and discern about what to take to Pope Francis at the Synod on synodality in 2023. However, the process of Synodality is not just a one off, for the purposes of producing a document, it is to see if we can walk together in solidarity into the future; synodality is the way of the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

There is an email address for the responses of your groups [synod@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:synod@hallam-diocese.com), but don't be in a hurry to send in responses just yet. The important thing is to have the conversations for now. And to make sure that **the invitation to talk and listen is open and welcoming to all, particularly those on the margins. How will you do that...?**

### **Sounds like a big task?**

You can be as involved as you want to, to use your gifts and your voice to contribute to the Synodal process. What is God calling you to?

### **You are not doing this alone.**

You will not be alone doing this, there will be opportunities for talks and training on such things as "How to facilitate a group"; "Listening", "Discernment", "How to get people involved". Ask us for any help you might need. But the Holy Spirit is the powerful force supporting us in this work, so ask for help from the Holy Spirit also.

### **What's going on already?**

The Diocesan Spirituality Group are already meeting to plan their involvement. Bishop Ralph is on with writing his homily for the liturgy on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Some parishes are getting themselves ready. Let us know what you have been doing if you would like it included in next months Newsletter.

If you are interested in being more involved, do get in touch [synod@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:synod@hallam-diocese.com). Follow us on Twitter: [synod@hallam](https://twitter.com/synod@hallam)

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## **Learning opportunities**

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### **Catholic Certificate in Religious Education**

The CCRS class of 2021 began the first module, meeting at The Pastoral Centre bright and early on Saturday morning. For the first years, Fr John Ryan gave an erudite beginning account of the Old Testament, with lots of handouts, a Timeline, and homework reading. Who is your favourite OT character and why? The second years began their module on the roots of Christian Morality, with Kevan Grady leading the learning.

### **Still time to sign up...**

Because it is a modular course, with 8 modules to be completed over a period of up to 5 years, there is still time for you to participate, to work towards the Certificate or just for interest. If you want to join in time for the next module on New Testament, the dates are 13 November, 27 November and 4 December, and we meet 9-12.30 at The Pastoral Centre. Email us for a registration form at [formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com)

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## **Journey in Faith 2021-2022**

This programme is for all who want to become a Catholic, for adult Catholics who have not received their First Communion, and for Catholics who want to learn more about their faith. It takes place at various places in the Diocese.

St Marie's Sheffield:

Begins on Friday 19 November from 7-8.30 in Houlden Hall. More information available soon.

Holy Rood, Barnsley:

Begins Monday 11 October 2021 at 6:30 in Holy Rood Church Hall. Anyone interested please contact Fr Damian.

## **Urban Theology Union Certificate in Discipleship**

The aim of this one year ecumenical course is "to facilitate the development of each participants own personal discipleship and theology and work towards a new or changed engagement in mission".

This course begins on 11 October, meeting virtually 2 mornings a month 10-1.

<https://utusheffield.org.uk>

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## **Prayer, Retreats, Pilgrimages and Spirituality**

St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre in rural North Wales is re-opening, offering a range of long and short individually guided retreats as well as themed retreats. Demand is usually high, so you will need to book well in advance to avoid disappointment.

### **Rosary Group**

St Marie's Cathedral Rosary Group is restarting, meeting in the Cathedral after Friday 12.30 mass

### **Sheffield Church Action on Poverty annual pilgrimage**

is on Saturday 16 October. This year's Covid-safe pilgrimage will focus on challenges based by poverty in Darnall and how various organisations are endeavouring to reduce its impact. The pilgrimage starts at 9.30am with a break for lunch at 12.15 and concludes at 3pm. Contact Briony Broome for further information

[briony.broome@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:briony.broome@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Spiritual Accompaniment**

Introduction to Spiritual Accompaniment

An eight day course to introduce participants to the basic principles of Ignatian Spiritual Accompaniment is run twice a year at St Beuno's. The next one takes place from 8 November 2021 to 17 November 2021 at St Beuno's, Tremeirchon, St Asaph, Wales.

Hallam Diocese is committed to supporting the development of Hallam Spirituality Group to offer spirituality resources including spiritual accompaniment as a resource for others. If you feel called to follow this opportunity, please do get in touch with us to discuss how we can help.

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# Social Action

## SVP

Mother of God SVP group has resumed meeting in person. Contact Gerry on [gfkirwin@hotmail.com](mailto:gfkirwin@hotmail.com) for more details.

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## COP26\*<sup>1</sup>

The UK will host the 26<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference between 31<sup>st</sup> October to 12 November 2021 in Glasgow.

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## What is COP26 and why is it happening? (From [BBC.co.uk](https://www.bbc.com/news) News)

The world is warming because of fossil fuel emissions caused by humans.

Extreme weather events linked to climate change - including heatwaves, floods and forest fires - are intensifying. The past decade was the warmest on record, and governments agree urgent collective action is needed.

They all agreed in 2015 to make changes to keep global warming "well below" 2C above pre-industrial levels - and to try aim for 1.5C - so that we avoid a climate catastrophe.

This is what's known as the **Paris Agreement**, and it means countries have to keep making bigger emissions cuts until reaching net zero in 2050.

UNFCCC (also called 'the Convention') was created in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and entered into force in March 1994. The Convention sets a framework for efforts by governments to tackle climate change, with the ultimate objective to stabilise greenhouse gases "at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system". Almost all countries in the world have ratified, or agreed to be 'Parties' to, the Convention.

## **At COP26, most countries will set out their plans to reduce emissions.**

Stories about the impact of the climate crisis can be found on the UN website [news.un.org](https://news.un.org)

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## What can we do?

- Let your MP know of your concerns, particularly your concerns about how global warming effects the poorest societies the most.
  - Pray that it will be a good meeting, with a just and compassionate outcome.
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## Pray

Below is a link to a beautiful Praying with Art video, with the music of John Denver. Created by Mill Hill Missionaries.

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<sup>1</sup> COP26 = Conference of the Parties26 - Conference Number 1 took place in 1995).

*Lord, you created the world and entrusted it into our care.  
Inspire us to use the riches of creation with wisdom.  
We pray for all the participants in COP26.  
Please give them courage, guidance and strength.  
May your glory and peace fill this meeting.*

Prayer Video for COP26

<https://youtu.be/O-zkVfCDQ3A> via  
[@YouTube](#)

If there is anything you would like to be included in next month's Newsletter, about what is going on in your parish, please do get in touch and let us know, and we will add it to the newsletter if we can.

Blessings on your month ahead  
Fionnuala and Kevan