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# Hallam Bridge



ISSUE #  
**001**

A Community called to love one another as Christ loves us.

## Progress of the work towards the Synod on Synodality



“Enlarge the space of your tent, extend the curtains of your home, do not hold back! Lengthen your ropes, make your tent pegs firm”

(Isaiah 54:2)

“Enlarge the space of your tent”

(Is 54:2)



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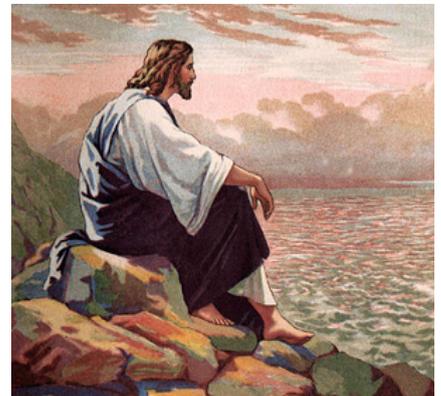
## St. Bernadette Relic Tour In Hallam Diocese

In September and October, the relics of St. Bernadette visited England, Wales & Scotland. Our diocese welcomed the relics to the Cathedral Church of St. Marie and St. Peter-in-Chains, Doncaster with over 2,500 people participating on 4th/5th October 2022.



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## Do you have a quiet place?



Do you have a quiet place? A place where you can be at peace, away from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

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## A Refugee Family's story



Who are the refugees that Pope Francis, in his 2015 initiative, asked that 'every parish, every religious community, every monastery, every sanctuary in Europe' should host?

Arriving in June of this year, our family spoke no English; the father of the family had had no formal education, and of the three children one is severely disabled and a wheelchair user.

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## EDITOR'S LETTER

You are warmly welcomed to our first edition of the Hallam Bridge, a modernised, technologised, colourized replacement for the Hallam News which ceased to print in the summer 2022. The Hallam Bridge is designed to be distributed to all parishes for your 'communications group' (or parish priest, or whoever does your newsletter) to print out to make available for the non-technology users, and also to be available on-line, via the parish or Diocesan website ([www.hallam-diocese.com](http://www.hallam-diocese.com)) or if you want it sent straight to your email inbox, you can subscribe. We hope you enjoy the new format as well as the opportunity to hear from and contribute to news across the diocese. Feedback is welcome and we will be reviewing your comments on content and on how easy it is to get hold of a copy to read. Have your say.

This first edition updates you on progress of the biggest consultation in the history of the Catholic Church, the Synod which you were all invited to be involved in last October, and which is moving into the next phase. See page 3. We are introduced to our new Safeguarding Trustee, see Page 2 for a word from Catherine Bailey. John Wood shares a thoughtful reflection about the importance of having a quiet place, perhaps especially so in order to relish the anticipation of Advent as we wait for the joy of the Incarnation. The Diocesan Synod response expressed the strong desire to be a welcoming church journeying together, so it is good to have reports on various aspects of that journeying together; the tour of the Relics of St Bernadette, a celebration of Missio in Hallam, a Youth Event, the Laudato Si' prayer vigil reminding us of the care for creation and the welcome for the refugees arriving in South Yorkshire. There are interesting events listed in the Events section; do send in any news or invitations about what is happening in your parish and many thanks to all who have contributed so far, to the online or printable version.

*Fionnuala Frances*  
Co-ordinator of Formation and Mission

## Welcome to Cath Bailey



Cath was appointed Trustee of the Hallam Diocese with a focus on Safeguarding in support of caring for others. You can read her full profile on: [hallam-diocese.com/about-doh/](http://hallam-diocese.com/about-doh/)

To get to know her better Cath shared with us three important thoughts:

First that to her being a Trustee of Hallam Diocese "it is huge privilege" because it means to "be able to contribute in some small way to hopefully making a real difference to how we care for people and their faith journey, whilst also nurturing my own. Can't wait to see where this journey takes me."

Second, one thought that is resonating with her about the synodal journey of Hallam is "that the views of the people, young and older, are really listened to in shaping and energising the here and now and future of the church."

And third, one message she wants to give to all the people that read Hallam Bridge is "Thank you for your support, and don't be shy in making yourself known to me. The welcome I have had has been humbling on what I know is the start of an amazing journey together. Onwards and upwards."

## GET INVOLVED

### Your Feedback

We would like to hear your comments on our first issue.

Please send us an email to: [communications@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:communications@hallam-diocese.com)

## CONTACT & DETAILS

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## SYNOD

### The Continental Stage

The WORKING DOCUMENT for the Continental Stage (DCS) of the Synod on Synodality was published in October 2022. The colourful 56 page document is available on-line and/or copies are available from your parish or from the Diocesan Pastoral Centre. A two page Summary Document will also be available soon. As one parishioner said, 'I have returned to read it a number of times and find something remarkable and interesting each time'. It is a remarkable document. If you don't know what this is all about, and are puzzled by the word 'synodality', here's a quick recap:

'Synod' is another word for 'meeting'. Synods have happened in the Catholic Church since the beginning, although changing in nature and format over time. Vatican II introduced the Synod of Bishops, to act as advisors to the Pope. Pope Francis has called a Synod on Synodality for 2024; at this, Bishops from across the world will gather to pray and discern the direction for the Church, reading and reflecting on the signs of the times. For the first time ever, this synod is asking for the views of all the people of God to add to the discernment. This is what the synod process which you may have responded to in March was about. We published the summary of responses from the diocese then Bishop Ralph and the other bishops of England and Wales looked at all the responses from all the dioceses and produced a Synthesis document which went to the Synod Office at the Vatican. Synthesis documents were also received from other Bishop Conferences throughout the world. These in turn were used to produce the Document for the Continental Stage which has now been returned to us so we can check that our voices were heard. and which we are now being asked to pray and reflect on, and talk to each other in the sort of synodal conversations we have begun to learn about and experience since the beginning of this synodal

journey. Pope Francis is continuing to encourage us in the implementation of the insights of Vatican II, and in particular to develop our discernment about how to be a synodal Church in the 3rd Millennium. Theologians reflecting on this challenge identify 3 aspects to attend to: changing the way the people of God relate to each other, including changing the ways of communicating to becoming more outward looking and the vocations and common dignity of all the baptised are recognised, and changing the structures of the institutional church to embrace synodality, for example, Diocesan and Parish Pastoral Councils, so all the people of God have ways to participate, to be heard and be involved in decision-making and helping the Church to grow.

The passage from Isaiah and the DCS were reflected on by the participants at the synodal meeting held at the Pastoral Centre on 1 December. Fruits of the reflections were to acknowledge the joy and excitement of having the opportunity to continue to be heard on the ongoing synodal journey, welcoming the honesty and breadth of the DCS document, and the resonances between the themes of the Hallam synthesis and those of dioceses across the world as well as from other faiths. Acknowledging once again the desire to find ways of being a welcoming church to which all can belong, anxiety was also expressed about the tensions around different understandings of tradition, revelation and expectations of the synod, and how these tensions could be fruitful and not destructive. The task of all to pray, learn, and build community was blessed by Bishop Ralph in closing the meeting and he will carry what he heard to the discernment meetings at Bishops Conference for carrying onward to the Continental meeting in Prague in February. A summary of our discussions will be made available on the website and do please tell us of your ongoing synodal journey in parishes or groups. Holy Spirit, continue to be with your people in Hallam as journey onwards together. Amen.

## Articles

### Do you have a quiet place?

*By John Wood*



Do you have a quiet place? A place where you can be at peace, away from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

All too often the pressures of work and caring for the needs of family and friends seem to consume all our time leaving little or no time for our hobbies and the social activities we enjoy. For many, time in a quiet place at peace may seem a waste of time.

It's not, it's when we can experience the greatest joy. An awareness of the presence of God in our lives. When we can talk to God and God will talk to us.

God is always with us but in the business of our daily lives we forget this. We think we are alone when we're not. This understanding of the constant presence of God in our lives is of paramount importance. Pope Francis emphasises this in 'The Joy of the Gospel' when he states: On the lips of the catechist the first proclamation must ring out over and over: "Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you."

God calls us to a quiet place where he can speak to us in our hearts. Sometimes in scripture the call is to a wilderness or

to a high place but the significant call is to a place where we are with God alone. In the prophet Hosea our Lord says: "I will lead the noble soul into a wilderness and there I will speak into her heart" (Hosea 2:14). This is the origin of Newman's motto "Cor Ad Cor Loquitur" (heart speaks to heart). Saint Mark, speaking about Jesus writes: "In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed." (Mark 1:35)

Using Jesus as our example, we see that in spite of huge demands, he sought out times alone with God.

I urge you to find your quiet place. If you haven't much space it could just be a chair when you are by yourself or others are asleep, in the bathroom or by your bed. God may choose to speak to you in bed when you don't expect it. This is your "song in the night". Sitting, standing or kneeling, however, you feel most at peace. I assure you, God is waiting for you and he loves you. Steady your breathing, relax your muscles and let the cares of the world drip off you like water falling from your fingertips in the shower. Relax and just bathe in the love of God.

Just talk to God as you would to your Mum or Dad, your brothers and sisters or your children. Thank God for loving you and tell God that you love him. Do this in addition to the prayers of the church that you already use.

It is not easy and your efforts may seem unrewarded, but if you persevere God will lead you by the hand to joys beyond your imagination.

God calls people in many ways and I hope I haven't offended fellow disciples who are already conscious of the living presence of God with them as they go about their daily lives. For those who have fallen away from daily prayer or who feel their prayer life has become lukewarm I hope this is of some help.

Speak to God in your quiet place, put your trust in God. God will never let you down.

## Articles

### A Refugee Family's story

By Kate McCullough



Who are the refugees that Pope Francis, in his 2015 initiative, asked that 'every parish, every religious community, every monastery, every sanctuary in Europe' should host?

It is heartening that this year, amid media hype about small boat crossings from Northern France, and politicians' talk of 'invasions', so many in the UK have welcomed Ukrainian refugees to their homes. But it's easy to forget other victims of war, from previous years and further away, in Afghanistan, for example, or Syria.

Home from Home Hallam is a small group from Mother of God, St Francis', St Mary's Herringthorpe, St Vincent's, and St Williams, who have undertaken the challenge of welcoming one such family, approved by the UNHCR as being in particular need.

Arriving in June of this year, our family spoke no English; the father of the family had had no formal education, and of the three children one is severely disabled and a wheelchair user.

Imagine the feelings of this family as they arrived ... probably relief at being settled; certainly joy as they were reunited with family members previously settled in Leeds; but perhaps also a sense of loss for those they had left behind, for their own culture, and for the finality of being 'settled'.

Imagine also their challenges; getting a house, ensuring an income by applying for benefits, dealing with pressing health concerns, settling the children in schools, learning about our money, how to use public transport and where to shop, making friends.... and how to ask for help in a foreign language...

And this is where our group could help... Next month, we plan to tell you more about the challenges facing this family, and about our journey. We will start with an account of their arrival.

### A Home – At Last...

Travelling long distances with young children is never easy. None of the group of three volunteers and an interpreter expected the ride from Manchester Airport over the Snake Pass with our newly arrived refugee family to be easy. They had travelled from their home, a camp in Lebanon via Istanbul ... The mother was expecting her fourth child in a couple of months, and of the other children, one is disabled.

Our first piece of good news came in Arrivals, when 'our' family were greeted by family already settled here, in Leeds. The family's joy at being reunited showed us how much we had in common - shared family values.

By the time they, with all their possessions, and the welcome committee, were packed into the minibus (which had been kindly lent by Notre Dame High School), it was crammed to the gunnels. The Snake Pass induced the usual response – two of the vomit bags were required; and everyone's discomfort was increased because of distressed and crying children.

All of this changed on arrival. The family could not contain their wonder. The cupboards and fridge had been filled with salad, vegetables, chicken, flatbreads, yogurts, tomatoes... There had been a last minute difficulty with the boiler but warm water for baths was ready, and iced water because it was a warm June day...

Each of the parents was given some cash and a set of keys. The father opening the back door enquired whether the garden was theirs, whether he could grow vegetables there?

Could this desire to put down literal roots be a good omen for their new lives? We plan to tell you more about this family, and their challenges settling into South Yorkshire in our next article.

## Journeying Together

### St. Bernadette Relic Tour



In September and October, the relics of St. Bernadette visited England, Wales & Scotland. Our diocese welcomed the relics to the Cathedral Church of St. Marie and St. Peter-in-Chains, Doncaster with over 2,500 people participating on 4th/5th October 2022.

On the evening of Tuesday 4th October there were queues to get into the Cathedral, where after a welcome liturgy and Vespers, there was a very moving Water Liturgy led by Fr. Gus O'Reilly and animated by some of the young people who travelled as Hallam Youth on the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in June with Hallam Youth, and Hallam Lourdes Helpers. Pilgrims venerated the relics and made a gesture with Lourdes Water. The evening concluded with a powerful reflection led by Fr. Lee Marshall. St Vincent's MissionHub music ministry led the music.

On Wednesday 5th October, over 300 pupils visited the Cathedral in the morning to venerate the Relics, experience a short Water Liturgy, and write petitions which were taken back to Lourdes. Bishop Ralph celebrated Mass at 11am in a full Cathedral before following the Relics to St Peter-in-Chains, Doncaster where another 400 pupils visited in school groups in the afternoon, as well as many individual pilgrims. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was available in both venues. The visit ended with Mass with Anointing of the Sick in another full Church, celebrated by Bishop Ralph with 10 priests concelebrating. Fr. Darren Reid a powerful homily. The whole experience was an incredible 24 hours.

Many people said that they found the visit a very special encounter, with a large number of people being able to have an experience of Lourdes, here in the Diocese. The 40th Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place Friday 30th June to Thursday 6th July 2023. For further details visit [www.hallam-lourdes.com](http://www.hallam-lourdes.com)



### Youth Ministry

This weekend Sue McDonald met with those young people who hope to go to Calais in February. They met in St Peter-in-Chains, Doncaster and were guided through the weekend by James Trewby the Columban Fathers justice and peace officer, Danny Sweeney Scotland's Catholic social justice coordinator and Sue our director of youth ministry.

The young people learnt about refugees and met a few from Jamaica and Sudan on zoom, listening to their personal stories and journeys. We spent time getting to know each other and looking at how this project is one of learning and giving only of ourselves. In February the group will travel to Calais to work alongside organisations such as Care4Calais and will have the opportunity to engage with refugees and reflect on their experience.

If you would like to know more then email [youth@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:youth@hallam-diocese.com)



## Journeying Together

### A big Missio thank you to Hallam Diocese!



At Missio we love meeting our amazing supporters and volunteers. And throughout 2022, Hallam Diocese has provided some wonderful occasions to meet, share mission, and raise funds in support of missionaries and their vital work around the world.

The Hallam Diocesan Mission Mass in July, concelebrated by Bishop Ralph Heskett and Fr Anthony Chantry MHM, Missio's National Director, was a truly special occasion. In the beautiful setting of St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield we gave thanks for Missio's volunteers and supporters, and celebrated the beatification and legacy of Blessed Pauline Jaricot – one of Missio's founders - who was beatified in May this year.

Meanwhile, a Red Box Appeal at Immaculate Conception Church, Rotherham brought to light the story of a moving link with the Mill Hill Missionaries. Parishioner and Missio supporter, Bill Hurley, brought along a Bible owned by his late brother - Fr Michael Hurley MHM. Bill explained how this precious Bible had travelled with his brother on many of his missionary placements, notably in Borneo and Africa.

As Advent approaches, we feel especially grateful to our supporters in Hallam Diocese, particularly the 50 Missio heroes - our Local Secretaries - who organise Red Box collections in parishes across the diocese. Your tireless work is such a gift, without which, we simply could not support our global church.

Last year, Hallam Diocese raised a whopping £43,452 for Missio's work. This generous total will help missionaries

around the world share God's love and light amongst communities in desperate need, and where the Church is young and in need of support.

### Laudato Si prayer vigil

On Monday 14th November, a group of Catholics from the Laudato Si movement held a prayer vigil outside Hinsley Hall in Leeds, where the Bishops of England and Wales were gathered for the first day of their Autumn Plenary meeting. We carried a banner reading 'Loss and Damage is a Pro Life Issue' - referring to the harm caused to all life by human-generated climate change, and a contemporary icon of Mary, Mother of Mercy. In the weeks before the meeting, the group had sent a letter to each Bishop signed by 50 Catholics from a variety of concerned campaign groups, explaining the background to the vigil and inviting them to meet and pray with us on the day. We asked that they speak to the UK government and to their Catholic communities, on behalf of those vulnerable countries which have done least to cause climate chaos but are suffering its worst effects. Their people are losing their homes and livelihoods; richer countries who contribute most to climate change owe them help to repair this damage.

The day was good. Coming together outside on a cool and damp autumn day - holding silence, praying the psalms, and singing hymns - felt truly expressive of both lament to God and hope in the Holy Spirit's inestimable power. Bishop Ralph was among the first Bishops to come out to greet us and join in a prayer, and many more came to talk and stand with us during the afternoon. As darkness fell and the evening approached we left in a spirit of hope.



## Upcoming Events

### DEC 14 Joy in Enough Talk - Catholic Social Teaching - Towards a Politics of Communion

Anna Rowlands of Durham University will be talking about her new book "Towards a Politics of Communion: Catholic Social Teaching in Dark Times". In her book she takes a fresh approach to considering the increasingly critical questions concerning the role of Catholic Social Theology in a pluralist and post-secular context, and thinking in contemporary society about the issues of political community and democracy, migration, and integral ecology.



Scan to register

### JAN 16 How To ... ? Webinar Series

This is a series of webinars to help support you to run Sycamore in any group. All of the sessions aim to be very practical, with tips and advice.

The topics for this series are:

- How to get momentum started
- How to run a Sycamore group
- To 'Retreat' or not?

# SYCAMORE



Scan for more details and to book

### MAR 4 Flame 2023 "Mary arose and went with haste" and crystallizes it into the theme, "Rise Up!"



Join us on Saturday 4 March 2023 at OVO Arena, Wembley for the largest Catholic gathering of young people in England and Wales, Flame Congress. Passes cost just £30 including entrance and travel (a subsidised cost from £62).

For more information email: [youth@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:youth@hallam-diocese.com)

## PARISHES NOTICES

### **Cathedral Church of St. Marie: Ring for the King at St Marie's Cathedral**

Bell ringers across the country are making plans to "Ring for the King" on the day of his coronation, Saturday 6th May, 2023—and we need your help. Although there are about 6,000 churches across the British Isles, with a total of nearly 38,000 bells, there are only 30,000 bell ringers—many of whom ring at more than one tower. St Marie's is one of only a handful of Catholic churches with a ring of bells and we currently have fewer ringers in our congregation than bells in the tower. If we are to ring our bells in celebration of the coronation, we need to recruit more ringers from our congregation now in order for them to be ready to ring next May. Bell ringing is a great way to make new friends, take gentle physical and mental exercise and connect with the community. If you would like to learn contact Bob Rae (tel. 07710 116701; e-mail: [bob.rae@stmariecathedral.org](mailto:bob.rae@stmariecathedral.org)).

### **Parish of Corpus Christi: Second hand Book Sale**

Sunday 11th December at Goldthorpe After the 9.00am mass at Goldthorpe there will be a Second hand Book Sale (with some surprise Christmas extras) in the Parish Room - all proceeds for parish funds. Suggested book prices will be Hardback £1, paperback 50p, but any donation will be very gratefully received. Why not support the parish and buy a last-minute Christmas gift by snapping up a pre-loved book?

See more at [hallam-diocese.com/Bridge](http://hallam-diocese.com/Bridge)