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# Hallam Bridge



ISSUE #  
003

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

## “Our Lenten journey is synodal”

Pope Francis



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### Bishop’s Letter of Invitation to the 40th Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

This year’s pilgrimage will be the 40th pilgrimage from our diocese. Over the years, thousands of people from our diocese have experienced the very powerful encounter that takes place in Lourdes, and received many gifts. Gifts of healing in various forms, reconciliation, and renewal of a personal relationship with Jesus. The diocesan pilgrimage is a “gift”, not only to those who travel, but a gift to the diocese as a whole.

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### Encounter Calais

When most of the schools were finishing for half term, 6th form from All Saints and McAuley Schools had an early start on their way to Calais. They took part in a project to learn and volunteer with refugee projects at the border, as part of a collaborative project run by the Diocese of Hallam Youth and the Columban Missionaries.

Journeying together, Page 7.

### 40 Days for life campaign has started

Join the 40 Days for Life campaign in Sheffield sign up to stand vigil during the largest Lenten 40 Days for Life campaign ever from February 22nd until April 2nd

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/broomhall>

Events, Page 2.



## EDITOR'S LETTER

Welcome to the February edition of Hallam Bridge, as spring appears to be peeping through. We are entering the Lenten journey, and Pope Francis' message encourages us to continue to develop a synodal church (page 2). A précis of the Working Document for the Continental Stage of Synod on Synodality is on page 2. The assemblies from the continents of Europe, North America, Middle Eastern, African and Asian assembly have met and reflected on the document and are responding for the next phase in Rome. Meanwhile, parishes continue their own journeys. Hallam people of God continue to be invited to share their synodal journey stories with us. At the Hallam meeting to respond to the Working Document, people confirmed that Hallams views were represented. There are also stories about our refugee friends, about living Simply, Encounter Calais, Retreat at Home and a special invitation to journey with bishop Ralph to Lourdes. Do continue to send us your stories.

Grace and Peace

*Fionnuala Frances*

*Co-ordinator of Formation and Mission*

## GET INVOLVED

### Your Feedback

We would like to hear your comments on this issue.

Please send us an email to:

[communications@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:communications@hallam-diocese.com)

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## Upcoming Events

### **MAR 25** Diocesan Safeguarding Event

The annual diocesan Safeguarding event: 'Hidden Harms...from Social Distancing to Social Solidarity' will take place on Saturday 25 March, from 9.45am – 4.00pm at St. Joseph's, Wath-upon-Deerne, (there is a Mass of the Annunciation at 9.00am for those who wish to attend). The event is open to all safeguarding representatives, parishioners and volunteers. Refreshments and a free lunch will be provided. To book a place contact Jo Pearson on 2566453 or [jpearson@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:jpearson@hallam-diocese.com)

### Becoming Synodal - Retreat at Home

Hermit Rachel and Deacon Andrew welcome expressions of interest in this retreat planned to start on Thursday 23rd February (the day after Ash Wednesday) at 7pm. We will finish no later than 8.30pm and will be online. (If you do not use a computer then you may wish to join someone who has one - please discuss with the Rachel or Andrew) Information leaflets are available in the church. For more information or to express an interest please contact Hermit Rachel (St Catherine's) [hermitrachel@erdio.org](mailto:hermitrachel@erdio.org) or Deacon Andrew (St Patrick's) - [stpatlanetop@gmail.com](mailto:stpatlanetop@gmail.com)

### **MAR 1** "Arise:March" starts on Wednesday 1st March

set Sheffield aglow with Prayer! The month of March is a special time for all believers in Sheffield to Arise, and spend time walking with God, bringing before Him the needs of our city. Since 2021, over 100 churches right across Sheffield have been arising together each March to prayer-walk every street in our city, using the special Arise prayer-walking app.

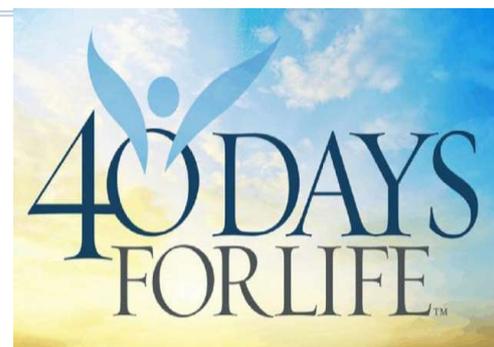
### Lost Chord Soup and Songs Sessions

**At Immaculate Conception, Herringthorpe.** These continue into the New Year on every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 12noon to 2pm. Ideal for anyone living alone, struggling with day to day life, who experience loneliness or simply want to build community. It's two hours of friendship, music, fun and laughter, and its FREE.

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN

**Bishop Ralph wants to draw your attention to the following invitation:**

From 22nd February, you're invited to join other Christians for the 40 Days for Life campaign – 40 days of peaceful prayer and fasting for an end to abortion outside the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. If you'd like more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact: Rachel [40dforsheffield@gmail.com](mailto:40dforsheffield@gmail.com) or 07368297872.



## ARTICLES

## Our Lenten journey is synodal



In his Message for Lent 2023, Pope Francis highlights the relationship between the Lenten journey and the synodal journey, which are both rooted in tradition and open to newness.

Personal and ecclesial 'transfiguration' is the goal of the ascetical journey of Lent, and similarly of the synodal process.

Pope Francis takes his inspiration from the Gospel account of the Transfiguration, proclaimed each year on the Second Sunday of Lent. As with the chosen disciples at the Transfiguration, Jesus "takes us with Him to a place apart" during the season of Lent.

"Lenten penance," he writes, "is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross."

This requires effort, sacrifice, and concentration, which are also requirements for the Synodal Journey; and therefore we can say that "our Lenten journey is 'synodal' since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master."

Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, falls on 22 February 2023.

*Read the full message of Pope Francis on our website*

## The Working Document for the Continental Stage



The document for the Continental Stage is a text of about 43 pages. After the table of contents, the introduction (n. 1-14) is followed by four chapters: 1) The experience of the synodal process (n. 15-24); 2) Listening to the Scriptures (n. 25-28); 3) Towards a missionary synodal Church (n. 29-97) - the largest chapter, which is in turn divided into sub-chapters: 3.1) Listening that becomes welcoming (n. 32-40); 3.2) Sisters and brothers for the mission (n. 41-56); 3.3) Communion, participation and co-responsibility (n. 57-70); 3.4) Synodality takes shape (n. 71-87); 3.5) Synodal life and liturgy (n. 88-97); 4) Next steps (n. 98-109)

Introduction (n. 1-14): The introduction aims to offer key ideas for a correct understanding of what the Document for the Continental Stage is and what it is not.

As an example, note the following: "The DCS will be understandable and useful only if it is read with the eyes of the disciple, who recognizes it as a testimony to the path of conversion toward a synodal Church. This means a Church that learns from listening how to renew its evangelizing mission in the light of the signs of the times, to continue offering humanity a way of being and living in which all can feel included as protagonists".

The "Introduction" concludes with a prayer of praise for "the joy experienced by those who decided to set out" and a plea to "enter these pages as on 'holy ground'".

Chapter One (n. 15-24): The first chapter offers,

## ARTICLES

in the light of faith, a narrative - not a chronicle - of the experience of synodality lived so far in the consultation of the People of God in the local Churches along with the discernment of the Pastors in the Bishops' Conferences: it traces the outline of this discernment, presents the difficulties encountered as well as the most significant fruits gathered, identifying the cornerstones of that which constitutes an authentic collective experience of the Christian faith.

Although it does not provide a definition of synodality in the strict sense, it expresses the shared sense of the experience of synodality lived by those who took part in it. What emerges is a profound re-appropriation of the common dignity of all the baptised, the authentic pillar of a synodal Church and the theological foundation of that unity which is able to resist the tendency towards homogenisation in order to continue to enhance the diversity of vocations and charisms that the Spirit pours out on the faithful with unpredictable abundance.

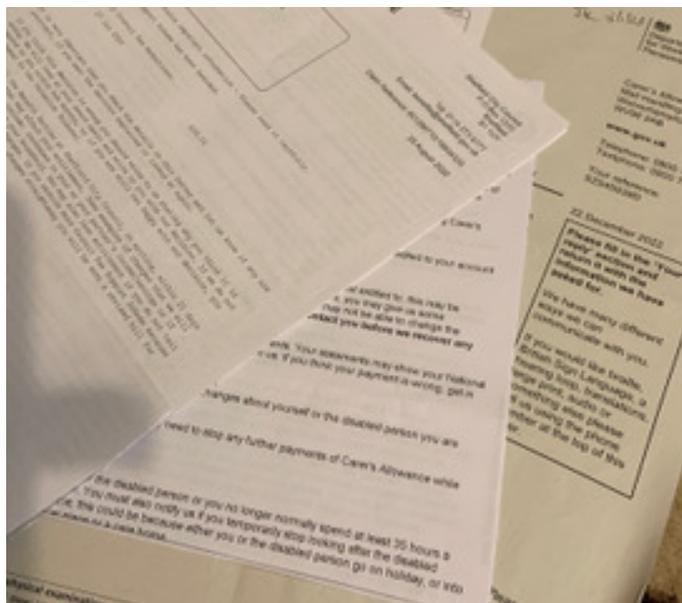
Chapter Two (n. 25-28): The second chapter presents a biblical image: that of the tent with which Isaiah Chapter 54 (v. 2-3) opens: "Enlarge the space for your tent, spread out your tent cloths unsparingly; lengthen your ropes and make firm your stakes. For you shall spread abroad to the right and to the left; Your descendants shall dispossess the nations and shall people the desolate cities."

The image of the tent offers an interpretive key for the contents of the DCS in light of the Word, placing these contents in the arc of God's promise that becomes a vocation for his People and his Church: "Enlarge the space of your tent!"

\*The graphics of the paginated DCS are intended to refer to the image of the prophet Isaiah's Tent.

*Read the full article on our website*

## Financial Challenges – continuing the story of our refugee family



### By Home from Home

Our family arrived in Sheffield with all their worldly possessions in a few suitcases - and with no money.

The parents share a strong commitment to support their children to live healthy and fulfilled lives in England; the husband is highly motivated to work. However, with no English and little schooling, learning the language is a major challenge; and lack of English a barrier to being able to work safely. Initially, their only income would be State Benefits.

The first hurdle was filling in many forms and responding to follow-up questions in a timely manner. With the help of an interpreter, an application for Universal Credit was submitted the day after the family arrived in Sheffield. However the amount, set by Government, long before recent rapid inflation in the cost of all household expenditures, could not be paid until the family had been here for 5 weeks. Funds provided by a charitable trust (through the Diocese) enabled us to give some initial help including setting the family up with household goods and clothing so they would start debt-free.

Another priority was to help the family to budget. Having lived on meagre handouts in a refugee camp, our family appear to be very



## JOURNEYING TOGETHER

### Bishop's Letter of Invitation to the 40th Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

#### Bishop Ralph's Letter



#### Invitation to the 40th Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is approaching - Saturday 11th February - and I would like to invite you to join our diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes this year.

This year's pilgrimage will be the 40th pilgrimage from our diocese. Over the years, thousands of people from our diocese have experienced the very powerful encounter that takes place in Lourdes, and received many gifts. Gifts of healing in various forms, reconciliation, and renewal of a personal relationship with Jesus. The diocesan pilgrimage is a "gift", not only to those who travel, but a gift to the diocese as a whole.

We were privileged last October to receive the relics of St Bernadette in our diocese, and a large number of people joined in the liturgies for that 24 hour visit. During that time, BBC Radio Sheffield interviewed one of the young people who had travelled with us to Lourdes last June. In a few words, that young man summed up the pilgrimage, saying "Lourdes was a life changing experience". Those words are very powerful, but they are very often heard from our young people, and indeed pilgrims of all ages.

One of the joys I found when I came to the diocese was the way in which so many young people from around our diocese travel to Lourdes, and the way that so many Assisted Pilgrims travel and stay in the hotels, sharing the week, and helped by volunteers. Together they accompany one another serving one another.

A diocesan pilgrimage provides a unique opportunity for this, both in terms of making it possible for those who need medical or physical help during the week, and in bringing us together to spend time as the Church of the Diocese of Hallam. The Masses and liturgies, and the time we spend talking to one another, create an environment that, I feel, draws each one of us closer to God.

Taking that "time out" to reflect and to have this experience is nothing new. The tradition of pilgrimage has existed for centuries in the Church, and stepping outside of our routines and reflecting was a fundamental part of the parish missions that I was involved in for many years as a Redemptorist.

So this year, I invite you to take time out and to join me, for our 40th diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes from Friday 30th June to Thursday 6th July.

I know that this is a very challenging time, with the cost of living crisis and the demands that face people. If you are in a position to join us in person, please do consider travelling this year. You will not be disappointed. Whether you travel as an assisted pilgrim, pilgrim, or as a volunteer helper (no experience necessary - just willing to help others and complete the standard safeguarding processes) you will be made very welcome. Booking forms are available online at [www.hallam-lourdes.com](http://www.hallam-lourdes.com)

I am delighted that students from each of our diocesan High Schools will be taking part and travelling as Hallam Youth. Until now, however, it has been difficult to bring young people in our parishes who do not attend Catholic schools. I am pleased to say that we can now offer the opportunity to those students who do not attend Catholic Schools and they can apply to join Hallam Youth, under the supervision of Sue McDonald, our Director of Youth Ministry. Anyone interested should contact Sue by email on [smcdonald@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:smcdonald@hallam-diocese.com)

If you're not in a position to join us in person, I would ask you to note the dates of the pilgrimage and to join us in prayer during the time we are in Lourdes. There will be

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER

opportunities to livestream a handful of liturgies from Lourdes and these will be signposted from the website [lourdes.com](http://lourdes.com)

Through this joining together in prayer during the period 30th June — 6th July, whether that is in person, or from home, I'm sure we will receive many blessings.

Yours sincerely, in Christ the Redeemer,  
+ *Ralph Heskett CSSR*

Bishop of Hallam

## Hallam Diocese, pray the Rosary!



By Joseph Durham

The 25 March Feast of the Annunciation was a memorable occasion in the life of the local church when we joined the church universal with Pope Francis for the collegial consecration of Russia & the Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

As part of our preparation of the above consecration and following solemn mass at the cathedral Bishop Ralph along with Priests from the city centre churches Fr Chris & Fr Naylor joined over a hundred of the faithful from all over Hallam Diocese to pray the Rosary at the war memorial at Barker's Pool Sheffield. An initiative of St Marie's PPC .

This was a historic occasion not least that the rosary was prayed as an act of public witness by the faithful seeking the intercession of Our Lady at this time of conflict in the Ukraine.

Following this precedent the rosary has continued to be prayed monthly outside Sheffield city hall besieging the patronage & protection of Our Lady .

This group in Sheffield that gathers fluctuates in numbers . However we are part of a wider national group which prays the rosary outdoors in towns & cities across the UK notably outside Leeds & Westminster cathedrals . It is by a happy coincidence that Cardinal Nicoll's has been known to drop by .

This nationwide group praying the rosary outdoors is part of [www.ukprays.com](http://www.ukprays.com) which promotes the outdoor rosary as public witness to Jesus & Mary .

The primary intention is to pray for the needs & wellbeing of our country and for our bishops, priests & religious. To advance the new evangelisation and the kingship of Christ in the national life of the UK.

The Sheffield group meets to pray the outdoor rosary outside the city hall following mass at the cathedral at 1330 hrs on the second wednesday of the month.

All are Welcome.

## Encounter Calais



On the 10th February, when most of the schools were finishing for half term, 6th form from All Saints and McAuley Schools had an early start on their way to Calais. They took part in a project to learn and volunteer with refugee projects at the border, as part of a collaborative project run by the Diocese of Hallam Youth and the Columban Missionaries.

Before the group left, we were given donations of men's beanie hats by the UCM, many of which had been hand knitted! Thank you to the UCM for their support.

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER

We were 6 young people and 6 educators in the group including Polly Witter, Chaplain of McAuley. We managed to fit into our itinerary: a visit to Secours Catholique (Caritas France), a Mass in French, a meal with a Jesuit priest, Fr. Philippe Demeestere, at a house of hospitality he runs in Calais (His engagement has included hunger striking for refugees' rights), two full days volunteering with Care4Calais in the warehouse and out on distribution and finally a debrief at Aylesford Priory before heading back to Hallam.

Each day we took time with the group to pray and reflect on the experience, led by James Trewby, the JP officer for the Columban Fathers and Sue, director of youth for Hallam.

It is so difficult to share the many emotions and learning that we went through here in this short article. If groups wanted to know more they can contact Sue McDonald, but here are a few pictures of the group and two reflections that students, Lidya and Faith, wrote upon their return. The project was very much to learn through meeting and engaging with others, something all our students from Hallam did so well. We hope to be able to share more when we have had a little time to process it all.

### Testimonies

These are two reflections the girls made upon their return home, we will share more of the experience after we have had our final reflection as a group. Thank you to Columban Fathers, Hallam UCM and the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom for their support in the running of this project

1. "For I know the Plans I have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11)

*"What an amazing trip this has been, in such a short amount of time I've learnt so much about others but also myself, such amazing souls were met throughout our travel and have definitely left an impact on how I perceive things.*

*If I could take away anything it would be to always be appreciative of everything you have and never take life for granted. So many of the people we met had nowhere to stay, no one to talk to and no promise they would see the next day.*

*I thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to take part in this experience and opening my eyes to the pain and challenges refugees are facing in their everyday life.*

*Even through all of this they still had hope in their God and his plans for the future. I pray God is with them on every step of their journey and that He gives them the freedom they deserve"*

(Faith, All Saints)

2. "Don't forget to show hospitality to believers you don't know."

*Being able to volunteer at the camps in Calais with refugees who have been turned away and dismissed, enabled me to see the pain and suffering they went through. Yet I watched them be so thankful and compassionate of the little help we could offer them.*

*And being greeted and surrounded with people who were going through such a heart-breaking experience while never losing hope and faith in God should be something we can learn from.*

*Such an amazing experience, thanks to those for who made it happen!*

(Lidya, All Saints)