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Hallam Bridge



ISSUE #
006

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



Speaking with the heart.
"The truth in love"
(Eph 4:15)

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Diaconal Ministry within a Servant Church

By ordination Permanent Deacon's are the Church's sacramental sign of Christ the Servant. A servant minister in a servant-Church. Like Jesus, the Church is a servant. Servants can of course be despised, but it is the path Christ chooses. He sets the example and calls us to follow.

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Easter Donation from the UCM to Bluebell Wood Hospice

On Wednesday 17th May 2023 during the meeting of the Union of Catholic Mothers at St. Vincents Church in Crookes, Sheffield

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Diocesan Commitment to Laudato Si'

At the Bishops' Conference Easter Plenary, each diocese was asked about their progress on the conference environmental resolutions made at last November's plenary. A specific issue at this meeting was progress on setting targets for reducing carbon emissions. Bishop Ralph titled his document 'Diocesan commitment to Laudato Si.'

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Bishop Ralph's Document

Diocesan Commitment to Laudato Si

EDITOR'S LETTER

The big news on synodal journey in the diocese this month is the document from Bishop Ralph, committing the Diocese of Hallam to the ecological conversion called for by Pope Francis in 'Laudato Si'. If you haven't read the encyclical yet, I encourage you to take the time. The link is on the website, and we will be having a workshop in the Autumn to encourage each other in reflecting and acting on the ideas it contains. Elsewhere this month, the UCM had their AGM, the bell ringers celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III loudly and Pope Francis reminds us that ALL the baptised are called to participate in spreading the Good News of the Gospel. There are some invitations to you for the month ahead, to the Synod Fruits gathering, to think about vocations to the diaconate, to sing plain chant and a description of the Bits of God exhibition of biblical stories mosaic which is coming to Wombell from Leeds on the next stage of its UK tour. A special good wishes to diocesan Communication Officer, Catalina, as she goes on maternity leave. We are recruiting for a replacement, so get in touch if you are interested. As always, send us your news and articles for next months Hallam Bridge.

ART CORNER

Poem - Lot's wife

*They say she died because she looked behind.
So, it was her fault, and a needless death.
Of course she looked back, leaving all she knew,
The only life she'd known since she drew breath.
Her home, the little garden she had made,
Her parents' bones, her youth, so much to mourn.
And cruellest of all, the infant child
Who just two days ago had been stillborn.
Still weak, still sorrowing, dissolved in grief
She could not run like those who got away.
The white fire overtook and swallowed her
The others left her body where it lay.*

*If she were truly salt, as people say,
Through crystal coldness still she might feel touch
The gentle tonguing of a moist- lipped beast
A welcome saltlick and valued as such.
Or caravans of roaming traders might
discover her, and hail a blessed day,
as they carve chunks of her to take and sell.
The legionaries like their salty pay.
When rare rains came, she'd weep salt-water tears
Slowly eroding that white sterile crust
Until a mythic mist is all that's left
A legend that outlived her saline dust.*

We extend the invitation for anyone who feel inspired by art in any form: poetry, reflections, images, paintings, music, prayers to send in your contributions for this section to:
communications@hallam-diocese.com

CONTACT

This is a publication by Hallam Diocese. Please send your articles or Feedback to communications@hallam-diocese.com or to Hallam Pastoral Centre St Charles St, Sheffield S9 9WU.

Upcoming Events

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03

Mass of Thanksgiving for All Involved in Ministry

If you are involved in any lay ministry in your parish community you are invited by Bishop Ralph to join him in the celebration of Mass to give thanks for the variety of lay ministries exercised across the diocese. Saturday 3 June 2023 at 4:00 PM St Charles Church (Next to the Hallam Pastoral Centre) St Charles Street Sheffield S9 3WU.

JUN
11

Corpus Christi Procession

Led by Bishop Ralph will be on Sunday 11th June, starting at 3pm from St Marie's Cathedral. Gather outside St Marie's Cathedral on Norfolk Row by 3pm. Stewards will be there to assist you.

JUN
17

Fruits of the Synod

An opportunity to come together and hear from each other about how the fruits of the synod are developing in Hallam Diocese. From 10am - 2:00pm at the Hallam Pastoral Centre, Saint Charles Street, Sheffield S9 3WU.



Pilgrimages

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGES 2023

June 15th to 22nd or September 14th to 21st For bookings and enquiries please contact Deacon Pete Marshall on: 07807955836 or petesuemarshall@googlemail.com

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2023

June 30th to July 6th

Applications forms are available from the Parish Offices. please see the poster at the back of church for more details.

PADLEY PILGRIMAGE 2023

July 9th

Bishop Ralph Heskett CSsR, will lead the Interdiocesan pilgrimage to the shrine of the Padley Martyrs. Gather at Griddleford Station and join the procession to Padley Chapel for the celebration of Mass

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2023

July 22nd

For more information and bookings please contact

In Sheffield: Joseph Durham on 07939 152558; joseph.durham52@gmail.com)

In Doncaster or Dinnington: Marian Johnson:- 07990588083 (text only) or email: mcjohnson2512@gmail.com

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2023

October 16th to 23rd

Bishop Ralph Heskett CSsR, will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Contact: Joe McNally at: joejmcnally@gmail.com Telephone: 0114 236 4076

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Pope's Communications Message 2023



The Pope's message for the 57th World Communications Day follows the theme speaking with the heart. "The truth in love" (Eph 4:15)

Pope Francis, following tradition, has released his message for World Communications Day on 24 January, the Feast of St Francis de Sales – patron saint of Catholic writers and journalists.

The Holy Father stresses the need to listen before speaking truth with a pure heart to "see beyond appearances and overcome the vague din which, also in the field of information, does not help us discern in the complicated world in which we live."

"The call to speak with the heart," he says, "radically challenges the times in which we are living, which are so inclined towards indifference and indignation, at times even on the basis of disinformation which falsifies and exploits the truth."

The Pope hails the example of the great Doctor of the Church, St Francis de Sales, and his commitment to patient, heartfelt dialogue with everyone – even those who opposed him. A gifted theologian, his phrase "Heart speaks to heart" inspired many, none more so than the recently canonised Saint John Henry Newman who, on being made a Cardinal in 1879 by Pope Leo XIII, chose as his cardinalatial motto, *Cor ad cor loquitur* or Heart speaks to heart.

Read the full message on our website

Diaconal Ministry within a Servant Church



Called to Serve

By ordination Permanent Deacons are the Church's sacramental sign of Christ the Servant. A servant minister in a servant-Church. Like Jesus, the Church is a servant. Servants can of course be despised, but it is the path Christ chooses. He sets the example and calls us to follow.

Through preaching, teaching and service deacons encourage and empower others. Advancing the Church's engagement with the world as heralds of the liberating power of the Gospel. Deacons assist our Priests at Mass, proclaim the Gospel, can preach the homily, serve as ordinary ministers of the Eucharist, baptise, witness marriages, preside at funerals and may lead the Liturgy of Hours, Eucharistic Adoration, and Benediction. Beyond these liturgical functions our Diocesan Deacons serve in hospitals, prisons, airports, care homes and hospices, in social justice settings or in Church-related administrative roles. Deacons are not paid but serve on a voluntary basis. Fr Michael Umameh is the Diocesan Director of Deacons, responsible for the diaconal community.

Any man considering a vocation as a Permanent Deacon needs the support of their parish priest, to be actively engaged in the life of their own parish, and already be involved in works of service, exercising some leadership role within their community. A married man looking to become a deacon must be able to demonstrate a stable marriage and family life.

After initial enquiries aspirants for the permanent diaconate attend a selection

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conference and then spend a year in reflection, discernment, and prayer, while learning more about this ministry. Candidates then commence three years of formal formation and study in a shared programme with the other northern Diocese. Candidates must have a desire for ministry, have the necessary stability to accept this life-long and public commitment, and the capacity for service. Enquiries to join the Permanent Diaconate Formation Programme are welcome from men between 35 years and 55 years of age. Those who are married must have the support of their wife and family.

Those interested should speak first to their parish priest, and then contact Deacon Tony Strike.

Email: astrike@hallam-diocese.com

Lay ministry must be done in service to others and not become 'self-referential,' Pope Francis says



Pope Francis discussed his vision for lay ministry in the Church in an April 22 speech, noting that all baptized people are called to take part in the mission of the Church regardless of whether or not they hold a formal lay ministry title such as lector or catechist.

He also emphasized the importance of lay ministers working in service to others rather than as a way to inflate their egos.

"I get angry when I see lay ministers who — pardon the expression — are 'puffed up' by this ministry. This is ministerial, but it is not

Christian. They are pagan ministers, full of themselves, aren't they? Beware of this: They must never become self-referential. Service is one-directional, it is not a round trip: That will never do," the pope said, speaking to the plenary assembly of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life.

Pope Francis meets with participants of the plenary assembly of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life on April 22, 2023, at the Vatican. Credit: Vatican Media

Pope Francis has made changes in recent years to certain lay ministry roles, including a change in Church law in January 2021 making women eligible to be formally instituted to the lay ministries of lector and acolyte. A lector is a person who reads Scripture — other than the Gospel, which is only proclaimed by deacons and priests — to the congregation at Mass, while an acolyte assists deacons and priests in liturgical actions, especially the Mass.

Pope Francis also in May 2021 established the ministry of catechist as an instituted, vocational service within the Catholic Church. The newly instituted ministry is for laypeople who have a particular call to serve the Catholic Church as a teacher of the faith. The ministry lasts for the entirety of life, regardless of whether the person is actively carrying out that activity during every part of his or her life.

Read full article on our website

Following Saint Francis of Assisi in Our Modern World



Perhaps the most popular of Saints is Francis of Assisi. Known worldwide for his love of creation and God's creatures, he is admired by Christians

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and non-Christians.

This remarkable man achieved so much in adult life; dying as He did at the age of 44, but there is so much more to Francis than his love of animals and creation.

The son of rich merchant, and in his youth a 'bit of a lad!' he had a conversion experience at the age of 25 to 26 of age, when Our Lord spoke to him, saying " Francis repair my Church, which as you can see is falling into ruin."

Francis naturally thought the Blessed Lord was talking about the physical building in which Francis heard the message. He set out about rebuilding that church. The Catholic Church at that time was falling into disrepute and Our Lord was really referring to the declining state of His Church.

Initially having an experience where he set aside his former life and taking on the life of the way of the Lord, Francis began to live a life influenced by the Holy Gospel. He had no intention of forming a new Order, but what transpired was many hundreds and, in due course, thousands followed him in this new calling.

Married man and women, some of them in business came to him and said, " We would love to follow you but we have family and work commitments. Francis then formed what was subsequently called the Third Order and enabled these people to follow the way Francis lived, but in the community.

Today that Third Order, renamed the Secular Franciscan Order, is the largest lay order in the world and 600.000 Catholics are members. Their aims are to make our Lord known everywhere; to spread the spirit of love and harmony, to live simply and go from Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel.

We are today inviting you to join us at our gatherings (Fraternities) where you will receive a warm loving welcome. In our area we have 4 fraternities- Clay Cross, Belper, Nottingham and a new emerging fraternity in the Peak District close to Sheffield and Chesterfield.

We hope you will wish to join us or know more, please contact our Midland formation Minister,

Terry Mortimer on 07434574606 or
Mortimer968@uwclub.net

Learning to speak the truth in love: World Communications Day 2023



On May 14, the Catholic Church in Australia marks the 57th World Communications Day. Pope Francis' message for the day reflects on the theme "Speaking with the heart: 'The truth in love' from Ephesians 4:15".

Pope Francis opens by reminding us that in previous World Communications Day messages, he has reflected on the verbs 'to go and see' and 'to listen', observing that these are good conditions for communication. The 2023 theme, 'Speaking with the heart', naturally flows from this. "It is the heart that spurred us to go, to see and to listen, and it is the heart that moves us towards an open and welcoming way of communicating," he writes.

"Once we have practised listening, which demands waiting and patience, as well as foregoing the assertion of our point of view in a prejudicial way, we can enter into the dynamic of dialogue and sharing, which is precisely that of communicating in a cordial way."

He goes on to say, "Communicating in a cordial manner means that those who read or listen to us are led to welcome our participation in the joys, fears, hopes and suffering of the women and men of our time. Those who speak in this way love the other because they care and protect their freedom without violating it."

There is a deep emphasis on using the gift of communication as a 'bridge' and not as a wall, where kindness is not only a question of

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'etiquette' but a "genuine antidote to cruelty". We need to foster peace and understanding. Acknowledging that we are "living in a dark hour in which humanity fears an escalation of war," he writes that "Today more than ever, speaking with the heart is essential to foster a culture of peace in places where there is war; to open paths that allow for dialogue and reconciliation in places where hatred and enmity rage.

Read full article on our website

Plainsong : the sound of prayer



That great Church architect, Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin, is arguably the finest Church architect in recent times. He attempted to recreate the beauty of Church architecture that existed before the reformation. So much had been lost during these religious upheavals, most notably during the Puritan period in England when all imagery and artistic beauty was swept away. Pugin wished to restore English architecture to its original glory.

But it was not simply architecture that was the concern of Pugin. It is said that Pugin, incensed by the music provided at the consecration [31st August 1846] of the Parish Church of Saint Giles, Cheadle [one of his most famous creations] stormed out of the Church, since he felt, the music provided was not appropriate for the Church. That, Pugin maintained, was Plainsong.

Read full article on our website

St Jerome on a laptop: Intricate mosaic honours Bible translator for the digital age to be displayed at St Michael's Wombwell July-September 2023



Jerome (c.AD 347–420) translated the Bible from the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek into Latin, the first scholar to do so systematically. His 'Vulgate' translation became the standard biblical text of the Roman Catholic Church and is still used today. Now a mosaic commissioned by Bible Society and the Catholic Church in England and Wales is celebrating his achievement. Created by Portsmouth-based artist Pete Codling, 'Little Bits of God' tells the story of the Bible using the smalti mosaic technique developed in ancient Byzantium.

Jerome himself is depicted in the mosaic with the traditional symbols associated with him of a lion, a book and a skull. But, says Codling: 'In this contemporary mosaic the book pages on his desk blend into a computer keyboard and his stylised quill pen, or stylus, remind the viewer that Bible reading, learning and studying also now take place online via the internet. The Bible speaks now through the digital as well as the printed text.'

Another modern reference that picks up the theme of mortality and suffering is the depiction of three-year-old Syrian refugee boy Alan Kurdi, drowned in 2015 as his family attempted to leave Turkey.

Biblical figures including Jesus, Mary and St Matthew are also represented.

Codling says: 'The idea behind this artwork has challenged me technically as well as artistically. My research for this artwork took me to Ravenna and Venice in search of materials, technique and craftsmanship. I wanted to portray the Bible visually, and convey the journey of translation from the oral tradition to the digital age in one coherent artwork.' The mosaic stands on a pedestal which is an integral part of the work. It is over two metres tall and is formed of ten panels created from thousands of pieces of coloured glass. If you would like to find out more and arrange a visit then email Mosaic.wombwell@gmail.com

SYNOD NEWS Journeying Together

Diocesan Commitment to Laudato Si



The Diocese of Hallam is committed to Pope Francis' call and challenge to ecological conversion as outlined in Laudato Si.

We are taking small steps, and we have taken some small steps to respond to the call and challenge, and are committed to ongoing conversion.

We are at the early stages of forming a cross diocesan environmental group that will prepare our plan for the future. Under the diocesan environmental lead there will be representatives from the Trustees, the deans, the schools, the Historical Churches Commission and the Justice and Peace Commission. They will be tasked with advising us on the practical steps that are needed on the journey to becoming carbon neutral.

We have started collating the data on our energy use around the diocese. This is complete for the church buildings, but further work is needed on the school estates. We have not engaged professionals to undertake decarbonisation surveys as for a small diocese the costs are prohibitive. I understand that there are ongoing conversations among the Financial Secretaries about sharing the costs of surveys for different types of churches. For example the survey undertaken for a 1960's brick built medium size church, whilst not identical across England and Wales, will have common characteristics in terms of a decarbonisation plan and could be shared. It could be that a repository of surveys is created for dioceses to share?

The diocese has encouraged all churches to

move to the Interdiocesan Fuel Management (IFM) scheme. This has been very successful and we can confirm that 100% of electricity is from renewable sources. We were particularly pleased when 80% of gas use came from non-fossil fuel sources and hope that it is possible to return to a similar position, contracts permitting.

We have encouraged our schools to engage with IFM. Unfortunately, whilst the schools may be supportive of the principle, financial pressures of the cost of fuel and reduced school budgets have resulted in little traction in this direction. The appointment of school representatives on the net zero group will help keep this on the schools' agenda.

Read full document on our website

UCM National Council at Swanwick



The Union of Catholic Mothers National Council & Annual General Meeting took place on the 10th-12th May 2023 at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick in Derbyshire.

This meeting was attended by members from Dioceses all over England which included the five ladies in the above picture from the Diocese of Hallam.

The clergy officiating were the Rt. Rev. Alan Williams S.M. Bishop of Brentwood Rt. Rev. John Arnold Bishop of Salford, Canon Laurie, Fr. Bill Serplus and Fr. Paul Edwards.

SYNOD NEWS Journeying Together

St Marie's Cathedral bell ringers mark King Charles III's Coronation



A total of ten bell ringers, including three trainees, marked the coronation of King Charles III at the Cathedral Church of St Marie, Sheffield's Roman Catholic Cathedral.

They rang a combination of 'Rounds and Call Changes' on St Marie's eight bells, which weigh up to 1.25 tonnes, before a special Mass, celebrated by the Bishop of Hallam, the Rt Rev Ralph Heskett on Friday (May 5) and immediately before the coronation itself on the Saturday.

St Marie's Tower Captain, Bob Rae, said: "We're currently rebuilding St Marie's band of bell ringers, having not had our own dedicated band for more than sixty years.

"We've half a dozen learners, and half a dozen experienced regular ringers, including ringers from other towers, for which we are grateful. It's really great that three of our learners took up the challenge to 'Ring for the King'.

"St Marie's is also the home tower for Sheffield Universities' Guild of Change Ringers and we really appreciated the fact that two members of the Guild were among the ringers before Friday's celebratory Mass, led by Bishop Ralph."

St Marie's is still looking for new ringers to build its own band. Practices take place on Monday nights at 7pm. For more information, please contact Bob Rae (e-mail: ringing@bobrae.force9.co.uk or tel: 07710116701).

Easter Donation from the UCM to Bluebell Wood Hospice



On Wednesday 17th May 2023 during the meeting of the Union of Catholic Mothers at St. Vincents Church In Crookes, Sheffield, Dr. Caroline Anderson spoke to us about her work at Bluebell Wood, Dinnington, Sheffield.

She is a music therapist and has worked there for seven years.

Bluebell Wood was opened in September 2008 and cares for children, young adults and their families giving them respite and short, much needed breaks. It has helped hundreds of children from across South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, North Nottinghamshire and parts of North Lincolnshire.

Support is given to parents and their siblings, and particularly during the last moments of their child's life.

Over the years donations have been vital to help pay for day trips and to fund sessions of sensory play.

The St. Vincent's Foundation of Catholic Mothers were delighted to give Caroline a cheque for £520 for Bluebell Wood, as the Easter Donation from the UCM members and friends of the Parish.