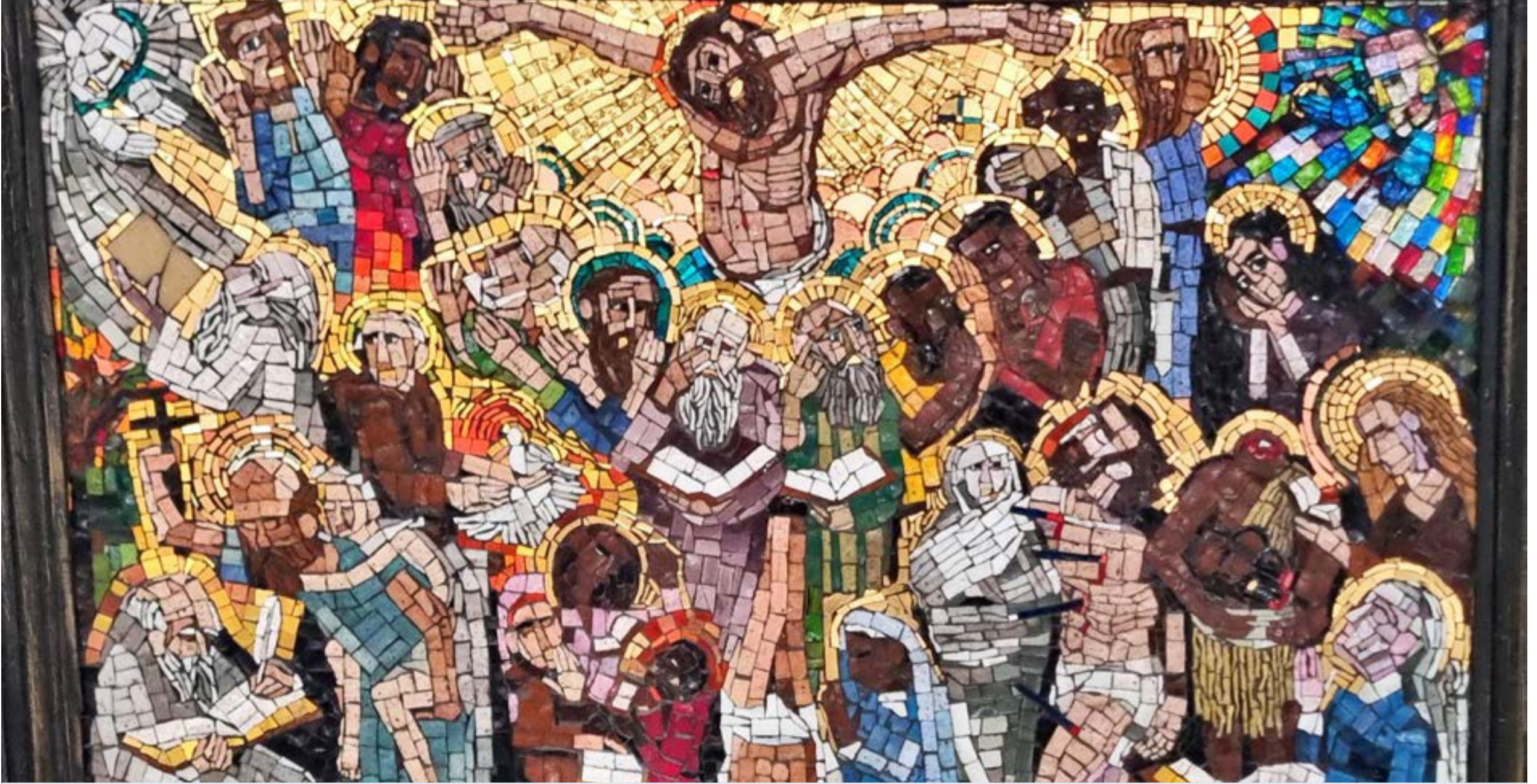


A Community called to love one another as Christ loves us.

## Little Bits of God Mosaic at St Michaels, Wombwell



### Treading the Pilgrim Path

Exploring the Spiritual Path: Year 6 students from St Marie's embark on the Sheffield Schools' Padley Pilgrimage. A young parishioner from Chesterfield presents the gifts at the interdiocesan pilgrimage

*Articles, Page 5*



### 40th Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

*Journeying Together, page 4*

*Journeying Together Page 4*

### Diaconal Ordination of Christian Nwakamma

Congratulations to Christian Nwakamma who was ordained to the diaconate at St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham by Archbishop Bernard Longley where he is studying for the priesthood for the diocese of Hallam.



### Little Bits of God Mosaic

The Little Bits of God Mosaic can be seen at St Michael's church, Wombwell until 29 September. Why not take the opportunity during the summer to make your own pilgrimage to explore some stories from the Bible included in this impressive mosaic.

Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings 10:30 till 12:30 and Wednesday and Friday evenings 18:00 till 20:00.

Group bookings outside these times can be arranged via [mosaic.wombwell@gmail.com](mailto:mosaic.wombwell@gmail.com) or calling the office number 01226 752372.

## Upcoming Events

Jul 10 – 29 Sept Little Bits of God Mosaic - Wombwell  
Aug 1 –6 World Youth Day 2023- Lisbon  
Sep 19 – Art and Spirituality Talk- Wombwell  
Sep 23 – Afternoon of prayer and renewal Mother of God  
Parish Centre Sheffield Sept 30 - Prayer vigil for the Synod St  
Peter's Sq Rome & Worldwide

## Upcoming Pilgrimages

Sep 14 – Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2023  
Oct 16 – Holy Land Pilgrimage 2023

Note: For details about events and pilgrimages, please visit our website.

## Editorial

In our summer edition, you can read about the diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, always a significant and important experience for all who walk together; more walking together on the annual Padley Pilgrimage; the synodal journey continues with the Synod Fruits day, reflections on our activities across the diocese in the past year since the opening of the Synod on Synodality and the a briefing on the Working Document (Instrumentum Laboris); Bamford Carnival flowers from parishioners at Our Lady of Sorrows. Bishop Ralph joined a group of determined and committed students to celebrate their achievement of the award of Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. There is still time to apply to join the CCRS course beginning again in September (contact formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com). There is an important invitation to everyone in the diocese to make time over the summer to visit St Michael's, Wombwell to see the startlingly beautiful Little Bits of God mosaic of Bible scenes currently on display there until September 2023 mosaic.wombwell@gmail.com Our aim is to for as many as possible to see this artwork before it ends its Northern travels and returns to the South. If you need help to arrange a visit, do get in touch.

There is no Hallam Bridge in August; we are back refreshed from a summer break in September. Don't forget to send us your news and contributions for the next edition.

Editor



## CONTACT

This is a publication by Hallam Diocese.

Please send articles to

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

Hallam Bridge, Hallam Pastoral Centre  
St Charles St, Sheffield S9 3WU

## Art Corner

The end ? - - - The beginning

well school year ends, you've been top of the shop You've probably felt quite tall  
But where you're going you'll be bottom again  
You might even feel quite small !

You know that you're valued and cared for and loved Both in your own home and at school  
But never forget all the poor of the world  
And help them - now that's really cool !

When schooldays are done and you're out in the world Look around at your world and take heed  
That the love and the care that you've had in your school Is passed on to the people in need

Sometimes if you're sad and you're feeling alone  
And you really don't know what to do  
Just turn to your family and to God  
For you know they will always love you

Be true to yourself, be brave, be strong  
And try to live peacefully  
Don't clutter your life up with things you don't need Strive for simplicity

So now that you're leaving, it's time to move on  
Ask God for His help every day  
Be good, be kind, choose to do what is right  
And your life will be cool all the way.

Jeannie Fojut

I wrote this for the school leavers

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



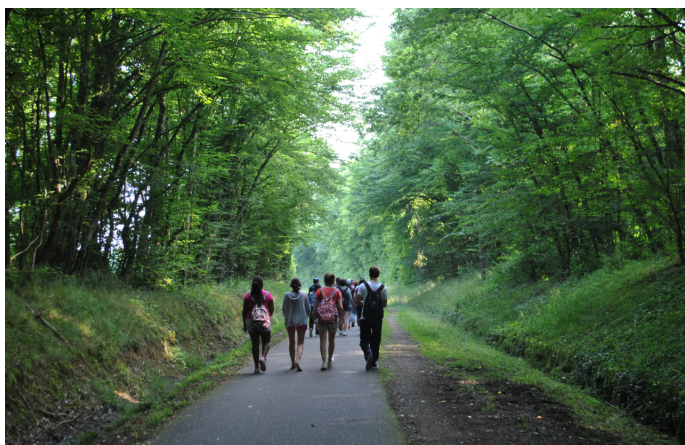
Christian Nwakamma celebrating his diaconal ordination of with some altar servers from Our Lady and St Thomas, Sheffield his base in the diocese.

## Subscribe

You can subscribe to receive the Hallam bridge when is published here:  
<https://hallam-diocese.com/bridge/>

## Journeying Together

### THE WORKING DOCUMENT FOR THE SYNOD: SUMMARY AND REVIEW



(adapted from a reflection from Fr Tom Magill, Diocese of Motherwell, with permission)

The

#### *Instrumentum Laboris*

, the working document for the two sessions of the XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS this year and next, was published on June 20th. It is the fruit of the synodal process which began at grass-roots level in local churches (dioceses) in 2021 and continued through national and continental stages. The entire People of God was invited through listening, prayer and discernment to hear what the Holy Spirit was saying to the Church concerning communion, participation, and mission. This working document puts together in a synthetic manner the questions, hopes, dreams, and challenges expressed by Catholics the world over. The whole process showcases how local Churches and the universal Church can work together in fruitful dialogue even when tensions are present.

The 60-page text document is in two main parts, followed by work-sheets suggesting questions and topics to be reflected upon. The first part, "For a synodal church. An integral experience", highlights the contributions made by local churches in the past two years, considers the characteristic signs of a synodal church, and proposes "conversation in the Spirit" as a way forward for this synodal Church. The second part focuses on the three themes of the synodal process

-- communion, participation, mission – and presents them in question form as priority issues for the synodal Church:

A communion that radiates: How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and of the unity of all humanity?

Co-responsibility in Mission: How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?

Participation, governance and authority: What should be the processes, structures and institutions in a missionary synodal Church

The main text of the working document is remarkably short at only 24 pages, while the work sheets, which will prompt most of the reflection and discernment, take up 36 pages. It is not a prepared theological text to be reviewed, emended and voted upon...it presents itself as a "practical aid" (p. 23) "to facilitate discernment on the three 'priorities that most strongly emerge from the work of all the continents' (IL 14), with a view to identifying the concrete steps to which we feel called by the Holy Spirit in order to grow as a synodal Church." (p. 23) The document is thus open-ended and encourages different viewpoints to emerge without seeking either a pre-determined conclusion or being seen as a questionnaire requiring an answer to every question. In its very structure and way of proceeding, then, the

#### *Instrumentum Laboris reflects*

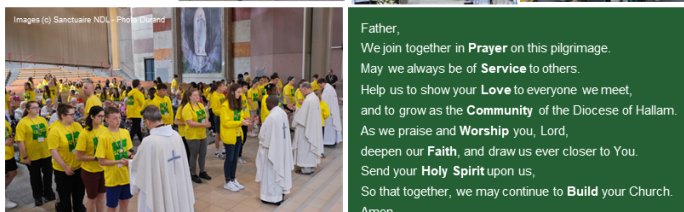
the synodal style now encouraged at all levels of the Church.

The second point to make is how deeply the document reflects the teaching of the 2nd Vatican Council. This is most evident in its emphasis on the centrality of baptism: "A synodal Church is founded on the recognition of a common dignity deriving from Baptism, which makes all who receive it sons and daughters of God, members of the family of God, and therefore brothers and sisters in Christ, inhabited by the one Spirit and sent to fulfil a common mission." (IL 20)

the full article is available on our website

## Journeying Together

### 40th Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes



Images (c) Sanctuaire NDJ - Photo Durand

The 40th Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes took place from 30th June – 6th July 2023, with over 325 people travelling from the Diocese, including a group of 160 Hallam Youth drawn from nearly all our High Schools. The theme chosen by the Sanctuary this year was “

#### **Build a Chapel here**

“. **At our Opening Mass, Bishop Ralph reflected on how St Francis of Assisi thought God was asking him to rebuild the small chapel in San Damiano, but then realised he was in fact being called to help rebuild the Church itself. Throughout the week we reflected on how each of us can “**

#### **Build the Church**

” in the Diocese of Hallam, and each day focused on a specific word from our Pilgrimage Prayer.

Over 50 Volunteer helpers helped look after our Assisted Pilgrims, who needed some form of support during the pilgrimage, and the youth helped push them in wheelchairs. The bond that is formed between our young people and the assisted pilgrims is one of the highlights of our pilgrimage experience.

Our first day was spent travelling, orientation for the youth, and the opportunity for the youth to meet the Assisted Pilgrims. Our first Mass on Saturday morning included the Blessing of the Helpers, and in the afternoon we had our Service of Reconciliation led by Fr Stephen Ssekiwunga. Our diocesan candle was lit that evening in a short ceremony, as we prayed for the Diocese. On Sunday we had the powerful Mass with Anointing of the Sick where Fr. Henry Woodhouse preached the homily. Then Bishop

Ralph led the Rosary at the Grotto, pilgrims did the Stations of the Cross. In the evening we came together to take part in the Torchlight Procession. On Monday morning Bishop Ralph presided at Mass at the Grotto as we joined with the Diocese of Paisley. Hallam Youth went up to the chapel in the Youth Village for their own liturgy in the afternoon, and we came together in the evening for a beautiful Holy Hour, led by Fr. Lee Marshall and young adults from St. Vincent's MissionHub.

On Tuesday, we had Mass in the Rosary Basilica where Bishop John preached on the Theme. In the afternoon we had our Water Liturgy led by Fr. Gus O'Reilly, and then took part as a diocese in the Blessed Sacrament Procession. Tuesday evening we celebrated our 40th pilgrimage with a party.

Wednesday morning saw us participate in the International Mass with 18 Bishops, 160 priests and over 7,000 other pilgrims. We had our Thanksgiving Service Wednesday afternoon and then joined together for our Closing Mass on Thursday morning, where Mgr. Peter Kirkham spoke about the importance of remembering we are part of the Universal Church once we are back home.

Many of the services during the week were livestreamed so that people back in the diocese could join remotely. Those services are now available to watch through the links on our website [www.hallam-lourdes.com](http://www.hallam-lourdes.com) together with a video of the week and the daily reflections recorded by Fr. Lee.

Next year's pilgrimage will take place from

#### **28th June to 4th July 2024**

You can register interest by emailing [lourdesoffice@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:lourdesoffice@hallam-diocese.com)

Father,  
We join together in Prayer on this pilgrimage.  
May we always be of Service to others.  
Help us to show your Love to everyone we meet,  
and to grow as the Community of the Diocese of Hallam.  
As we praise and Worship you, Lord,  
deepen our Faith, and draw us ever closer to You.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon us,  
So that together, we may continue to Build your Church.  
Amen

## Journeying Together

### Treading the Pilgrim Path to Padley



Exploring the Spiritual Path: Year 6 students from St Marie's embark on the Sheffield Schools' Padley Pilgrimage, starting at Mayfield, passing Lady Canning's Plantation and then treading the ancient Roman Road to Padley

Pilgrims from as far away as Loughborough and Oughtibridge gathered at Grindleford Station process to Padley Chapel on 9 July for the annual Hallam and Nottingham Inter-diocesan pilgrimage in honour of our local martyrs Blessed Robert Ludlam and Nicholas Garlick. It was a beautiful day to be in the Peak District for a joyful celebration of Mass in the chapel grounds and in spite of threats the rain held off until the pilgrimage was over.

with thanks to Michael Galvin

Bishop Ralph presided over the Mass together with priests from both dioceses. During the homily, Bishop Patrick McKinney of Nottingham shared with pilgrims some of the story of the two heroic local priest martyrs who in July 1588 were discovered and captured whilst staying overnight at Padley Manor. The Fitzherrbert Family who owned the hall, together with the two priests, were arrested and taken to Derby. Two weeks later Blessed Nichols and Robert with another priest Richard Simpson were gruesomely executed in Derby.

An annual pilgrimage honouring the two martyrs began in the late Nineteenth century. The Diocese of Nottingham bought Padley in 1931 and it became part of the Diocese of Hallam in 1980.

Following the Mass, many pilgrims remained behind and were able to sit outside, share their picnics, and enjoy meeting up and chatting. It was also the day before Bishop Ralph celebrated 47 years of his ministry in the Priesthood and 9 years as bishop of Hallam.

Two days later it was the opportunity for the

primary schools to join together in their own pilgrimage. The children and their teachers arrived by a variety of means but the group from St Marie's entered the true spirit of pilgrimage by walking from Mayfield, passing Lady Canning's Plantation and then treading the ancient Roman Road to Padley. Bishop Ralph presided over another joyful celebration of Mass and although the weather drizzly it didn't dampen the spirits of the children who later had the opportunity to have a picnic and explore the ancient chapel and discover something of the story of our local martyrs.

Dorothy Anderson

## Engage the Disengaged: How to accompany 'Non-Religious' Persons

How to accompany 'Non-Religious' persons

# ENGAGING THE *disengaged*

6pm - Tuesday 21 November 2023

An **Online Seminar** providing an opportunity for people who work within the fields of evangelisation to explore how Catholics can fulfil their mission to bring all to Christ.

**SHERRY WEDDELL**  
Creator of the first charism discernment process for Catholics.

Tickets are priced at £10 (non-refundable)

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth in partnership with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

This event is organised by the Diocese of Portsmouth in collaboration with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It will give the perfect opportunity to people who work within the fields of evangelisation to hear from a renowned thinker in this field and will give attendees the chance to meet other people who are active in this field. Sherry will explore how Catholics can fulfil their mission to bring all to Christ. Sherry is much in demand across the world to talk on equipping parishes and dioceses to become centres of evangelisation and formation as well as encouraging on-going apostolic support for the laity.

Speakers:

Sherry Anne Weddell created the first charism discernment process specifically designed for

## Journeying Together

Catholics in 1993. In 1997, she co-founded the Catherine of Siena Institute, an affiliated international ministry of the Western Dominican Province, and currently serves as Co-Director. Sherry has developed numerous unique formation resources that are used around the world and trained and helps lead an international team who have worked directly with over 130,000 lay, religious, and ordained Catholics in hundreds of parishes in 150 (arch)dioceses on 5 continents. Sherry's book, *Forming Intentional Disciples* which came out in July 2012, is a best seller that has sold over 100,000 copies. When not hanging around airports, Sherry enjoys tending her high-altitude Tuscan Garden in the Colorado Rockies.

More details can be found here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/engage-the-disengaged-how-to-accompany-non-religious-persons/>

## FLOWERS FOR PEACE DURING BAMFORD CARNIVAL



The Church of Our Lady of Sorrows at Bamford was open each day during the Carnival week from 8 to 12 July 2023 and hosted 'Flowers for Peace'

The floral displays organised by the Parishioners and friends were beautiful. They were accompanied by prayers for all refugees around the world; for the hopes and prayers that many of us share for the poor and for peace in all the world's war zones, especially in the Ukraine.

In the words of St. Francis of Assisi: 'Start by

doing what's necessary, then do what's possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible.' The Parishioners are delighted to support the village's annual carnival. Donations will be given to the Jesuit Refugee Service U.K. Dorothy Anderson

## School for Synodality Launched



The School for Synodality has been launched. It is a project that exists to help support the synodal conversion of the Church in England and Wales in our day to day practice. Through conversations, the development of resources, our webinars and our parish and innovation programmes we hope to enable an openness to the Holy Spirit in our Church through listening, sharing and discernment.

The project, a collaboration between Northampton Diocese and Synod Fruits, hopes to respond to Pope Francis' challenge to become a synodal Church by engaging at the grass roots in the parish and other communities we engage with each week. It does this initially by offering resource that help us to bringing lectio divina and spiritual conversation into our ordinary interactions and decision-making meetings.

You can find out more about the project at [SchoolforSynodality.org.uk](https://SchoolforSynodality.org.uk)

## Journeying Together


### Celebration and Presentation of Certificates for CCRS Students




At the end of long term the students of the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies accompanied by their families and friends came together for a Liturgy of thanksgiving and a celebration at the Hallam Pastoral Centre on 18 July. During the liturgy two of the students spoke about how valuable the course had been in their faith formation. Margaret Eames spoke how the course had helped her to deepen her understanding of the faith that she had received from her parents. She talked about how when had she passed the 11 plus she had moved to a non-Catholic school and her formal religious education ceased. She went on to say that the course allowed her to ask the questions that she had not been allowed to ask as a young person. Together with Margaret, Carmel Cooke, Sarah Verdon-Smith, Clare Slade and Christina Curtis all received certificates from Bishop Ralph. He thanked them for their commitment to developing their faith and for sticking with the course which had been interrupted by the Covid pandemic. It was also an opportunity to give thanks for the tutors who had accompanied them during the course. The liturgy was followed with a buffet and an opportunity to socialise.

If you would like to find out more about the CCRS please contact the formation and mission team.

## Liturgy as Proclamation of the Gospel


JOINT LITURGICAL GROUP

# LITURGY AS PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL




**Keynote Speaker: Dr Rowan Williams,**  
former Archbishop of Canterbury


A day exploring Liturgy and Worship as a way that many people hear the Good News, and deepen their journey of Christian discipleship.

**28 September 2023**

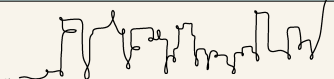
11-5pm, Llandaff Cathedral  
Tickets £30 | £15 students  
*including lunch and refreshments*

*Book your tickets here:*





WWW.JLG.ORG.UK



## Articles

### SeaFarers



"The seafarers had several shopping trolleys filled with fresh fruit and vegetables, bottled water, rice, pasta, and other items when the supermarket manager appeared and said they were not allowed to buy in bulk at this particular branch," said Rev Doug Duncan, Stella Maris north-east Scotland regional port chaplain in Aberdeen.

He explained that because seafarers spend months at sea, when their ship arrives in a port, they often want to stock up in local shops. The manager wouldn't listen, so Doug told the seafarers to leave the trolleys. He took them to a nearby Asda, where they were allowed to buy what they needed.

The irony is that many of the goods sold in supermarkets have been imported and arrive in the UK by ships, not by planes. Around 90% of imports to the UK arrive by ship. This includes items such as coffee and oranges to washing machines and cars.

At one time, seafarers could look forward to time ashore after arriving in a port. But the changes in the shipping industry mean that the time they get ashore is now very short. And some ships never actually dock. Oil tankers, for example, may connect to a pipeline somewhere off shore.

This is where Stella Maris port chaplains such as Doug play such a vital role. They can collect seafarers in the port, drive them to a supermarket, and return them to their ship.

Doug also provided the seafarers, who were on a coaster carrying salt to Aberdeen, with a MiFi

unit which enables them to contact loved ones back home. The vessel was to make two trips to Aberdeen over the week, so Doug agreed to leave them the unit and get it back on their last trip.

The idea of spending months at sea in a metal box hundreds or thousands of miles from land and without any way to contact your family back home would not appeal to most of us. But for most seafarers this is the reality of their working life.

There's nothing glamorous about working on a ship. It's a tough and dangerous job where the hours are often long and the pay low. The deck can be slippery, the sea and the wind can be treacherous, and fires on board and collisions with other vessels are common hazards.

Stella Maris port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors are a lifeline for seafarers. In their hard hats and high-vis jackets, they go about their work quietly and without any fuss. When they climb the gangway to a ship the first question they ask the crew is: Can I help you in any way?

They can provide mobile phone top-up cards, internet access (many ships still don't have this), warm clothing in the winter, and transport to local shops. As well as this, they can arrange for Mass to be said on ships or for them to be blessed. This often happens if there has been a death on board.

When a ship arrived at Teesport last year, two Stella Maris ship visitors went on board, taking with them welcome packs and bags of clothing. It transpired that the 22-strong crew was under huge mental and physical strain. One confided that, during the voyage to Teesport from the USA, he had only been getting two hours sleep a night because he was so stressed and overworked. He was also concerned that the crew were no longer able to operate the vessel safely as they were all exhausted.

The Stella Maris team immediately contacted the relevant authorities and a vessel detention notice was served that afternoon. Eleven of the crew were repatriated to the Philippines later that month.

the full article is available on our website



## Articles

The Order of the Knights of Saint Columba announces National Relic Tour 2023



The Order of the Knights of Saint Columba, in collaboration with the Hierarchies of the Roman Catholic Church in England, Wales & Scotland, is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated National Relic Tour 2023. This extraordinary event aims to bring communities together, foster spiritual growth, and celebrate the rich heritage of the Catholic faith.

The National Relic Tour 2023 will showcase a collection of Sacred Relics of immense historical and spiritual significance. These Relics, revered by millions of Catholics worldwide, offer a unique opportunity for believers to deepen their faith, seek solace, and draw inspiration from the lives of saints who have played an instrumental role in shaping the Church's history.

During this inspiring journey, the National Relic Tour 2023 will visit numerous Dioceses across England, Wales, and Scotland, providing an exceptional chance for individuals from all walks of life to encounter these cherished Relics. The tour's itinerary will include visits to several Cathedrals, Parishes, and other significant Catholic landmarks in England, Wales and Scotland, inviting both locals and Pilgrims from afar to come and experience this spiritual event.

The Relics on display encompass a diverse array of Saints, each with their own compelling story and heavenly intercession. Among the treasures to be showcased are Relics of Saint Andrew, Apostle and Martyr, who was the brother of Saint Peter the First Pope; Relics of Saint

Margaret of Scotland, whose charity and piety was well known throughout her realm; and Relics of Saint Columba of Iona, the patron saint of The Order of the Knights of Saint Columba, renowned for his missionary work and founding of monasteries.

The National Relic Tour 2023 is not only an opportunity for personal spiritual growth but also a chance to strengthen the bond within the Catholic community. Through this event, the Order of the Knights of Saint Columba seeks to promote unity, encourage dialogue, and foster a sense of belonging among the faithful across the Dioceses.

"The National Relic Tour 2023 is an extraordinary occasion for all Catholics to come together, be inspired by the lives of the Saints, and experience the power of faith," said Henry Welsh, Supreme Knight of the Order of the Knights of Saint Columba. "We invite everyone, from the young to the old, to join us on this remarkable journey of spiritual enlightenment and renewal."

The National Relic Tour 2023 promises to be an exceptional event that will leave a lasting impact on the hearts and minds of all those who participate. It is a testament to the enduring vitality of the Catholic faith and the profound influence of these Saints on our lives today.

For more information about the National Relic Tour 2023, including the tour schedule, locations, and additional details, please visit [www.ksc.org.uk](http://www.ksc.org.uk) or contact [headoffice@ksc.org.uk](mailto:headoffice@ksc.org.uk). Sean Smith KSC

## Catholic Union launches campaign to "scrap the cap"

The Catholic Union has launched a major new campaign to lift the 50 percent cap on faith-based admissions to new free schools. People are being asked to sign an open letter to the Education Secretary, Gillian Keegan MP, to "scrap the cap". The letter is available for people to sign on the Catholic Union's website and will be delivered to the Department for Education after the summer holidays.

## Articles

The 50 percent cap on faith-based admissions applies to oversubscribed free schools with a religious character in England. Introduced by the Coalition Government in 2010, the cap has made it impossible for new Catholic free schools to open as the policy is incompatible with Church law. The Catholic Union, along with the Catholic Education Service and others, has been calling for the policy to be reversed since it was first introduced. The 2017 Conservative manifesto committed to lifting the cap, but this was never achieved. As well as making Catholic education more widely available, the letter to the Education Secretary says that lifting the cap “would help boost morale” in a sector that has struggled with pay and conditions and the pressure of inspections.

### **Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh MP, President of the Catholic Union,**

comments: “The 50 percent cap is a source of huge frustration to the Catholic community in this country. There has never been any justification for the policy or any evidence to support keeping it in place. I have raised this matter with successive Ministers in the Department for Education. We have come close to getting the cap lifted in the past and with the help of Catholic teachers we can make the Government see sense. Lifting the cap would be a huge vote of confidence in Catholic schools in this country and I know would be welcome by people from other faiths.”

### **Professor John Lydon, Chairman of the Catholic Union’s Education Committee, adds:**


“This letter is a very important initiative from the Catholic Union. There is a bright future for Catholic schools in this country, but we need to be honest about the challenges we face. One of those challenges is the cap on faith-based admissions. It has without doubt restricted access to Catholic education in England and prevented the Church from realising the benefits of the academisation programme currently underway. The letter to the Secretary of State is a timely intervention and I encourage everyone involved in Catholic education in this country to add their name in support.”

## Catholic Union Free Membership for young people

The Catholic Union is a membership organisation dedicated to the defence of Catholic values in Parliament and public life and the promotion of the common good. As a young Catholic, a student or under 25 years old, we are delighted to offer you free membership and would encourage you to join whereby you will receive exclusive benefits and give us much needed support in order that we can work on your behalf. We urge you to tell your friends and colleagues about this fantastic free offer and please do get involved, we welcome volunteers and expertise. You may like to check out our Events Calendar packed with Pub Talks, webinars, lectures and more.

We look forward to welcoming you on board.

## Urban Theology union



**URBAN THEOLOGY UNION**

**Announcing the 23-24 Certificate in Theology & Discipleship for Mission**

Session Dates  
9 & 23 October  
6 & 20 November  
4 December  
15 & 29 January  
12 & 26 February  
11 March  
29 April  
13 May  
3 & 17 June  
1 July

Join our 23-24 Cohort for the CTDM to participate in

- scholarly readings of Mark's Jesus movement led by the founder of UTU, Rev'd Dr. John Vincent
- sharing of stories in faith journey, evolution, change and discovery
- perspective building through liberation theologians, including Black liberation and Indigenous theologians.
- gain insight from guest speakers who are embedded in mission provide practical insight into what works, how to adapt, and how to flourish as a Kingdom Community.
- Our 15-sessions culminate in student led plans for local mission.

**How long are sessions?** We meet by Zoom about twice a month between October and July. Sessions last for 3-hours and include a mid-session break.

**What's the style?** Classes are highly relational, with brief presentations from guests/course leader, but dialogue based.

**How are students assessed?** We do not "assess" work in the traditional sense, but encourage and facilitate dialogue, personal, spiritual, and intellectual growth.

**What is the work load?** Fortnightly assignments (about 1 or 2 pages of A4, double spaced).

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utusheffield.org.uk

office@utusheffield.org.uk  
Urban Theology Union, Victoria Hall  
Methodist Church, Norfolk Street,  
Sheffield, S1 2JB

Certificate in Theology & Discipleship for Mission

## Articles

The Urban Theology Union is recruiting for participants for their Certificate in Theology & Discipleship for Mission. The course is open to all Christian Traditions and involves:

scholarly readings of Mark's Jesus movement led by the founder of UTU, Rev'd Dr. John Vincent sharing of stories in faith journey, evolution, change and discovery perspective building through liberation theologians, including Black liberation and Indigenous theologians.

gaining insight from guest speakers who are embedded in mission provide practical insight into what works, how to adapt, and how to flourish as a Kingdom Community.

Our 15-sessions culminate in student led plans for local mission.

Further details from:  
<https://utusheffield.org.uk/2023/06/12/certificate-in-theology-discipleship-for-mission-2023-2024/>

4/

## Water for the Holy Land



The Association Pro Terra Sancta and Friends of the Holy Land Association have recently signed an agreement to install water tanks or solar panels in the houses of families in need in the Bethlehem area. This agreement is part of our year-long cooperation between the two

organizations in the social and aid fields. This specific project, named the "Water Emergency & House Rehabilitation Project," aims to improve living conditions, promote sustainability, and provide clean water to people in the Bethlehem area. We aim to help a minimum of 40 households in phase 1 through this project.

Pro Terra Sancta

Friends of the Holy Land

#water #wateremergency #waterscarcity  
 #sustainability #solarpanels #solarpower  
 #bethlehem #palestine

### Installing water tanks to a Bethlehem home

Friends of the Holy Land patrons include the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Birmingham Bernard Longley and Dr Rowan Williams.

FHL is a small ecumenical Christian Charity with groups and supporters across England and Scotland. FHL have been operating for over ten years having been founded in 2009 inspired by a Pilgrimage in 2007, a number of returning Pilgrims felt called to do something to improve the lives of Christians living in the Land that is at the root of their faith.

FHL operates an office in Bethlehem to support vulnerable Christians. In addition to meeting their direct emergency needs, when families fall into financial difficulty, FHL's team in Bethlehem also works with other partner agencies to support vulnerable Christians with medical costs and school fees. Both of which can be very expensive often accounting for as much as a quarter of a normal household's yearly income. Friends of the Holy Land have two major projects in Bethlehem, School of Joy providing education and therapy to disabled children and St Martha's House which is a day centre for elderly women, mainly widows or those whose family have emigrated. FHL also provide long term support to St Luke's Hospital in Nablus, by supporting a medical exemption fund for the local Christian population.

## Articles

### My MARATHON Experience



## LOST CHORD UK

### *When words fail, music speaks*

On 21st May 2023 I attempted my first marathon running in aid of the charity Lost Chord UK. Little did I know just what a spiritual experience it would be from the moment I stepped off the plane in the beautiful Austrian city of Salzburg and saw the snow-capped mountains.

In the taxi to the hotel I was thinking about what piece of music I should play on my flute as I crossed the finish line; yes you read that right, I had decided to finish the marathon playing my flute!

"How about 500 miles by the Proclaimers" I said to my friend Sally? The radio had been playing gently in the background the whole journey and just before we reached the hotel, about 5 minutes after I had suggested the tune, the familiar beat of the song I'd been talking about caught my ear. Of all the billions of songs in the world what are the chances that it would be that one?

The taxi driver was a charming, chatty gentleman who's parting words were "everyone's a winner who finishes a marathon". I will always hold onto those words...for it is true.

We spent the day before the race visiting the tourist sites of the picturesque city. After visiting the amazing Cathedral we found ourselves in an enclosed square. I shall never forget what happened in that square. A wind that was so strong I had to put my arms over my face and move towards a wall blew right at us for what seemed like several minutes. Sand was everywhere, in my ears, my shoes, my hair...We'd been talking about the Holy Spirit and it truly felt like we were experiencing the

Pentecost experience from the Bible.

"On the day of Pentecost, all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting." - Acts 2:1-2

We made our way to the start line and passed the church of St Sebastian which had a statue of the Saint with darts in his chest. My friend said "I wonder who the Patron Saint of runners is?" We googled it and yes you guessed it...St Sebastian.

The atmosphere on the day of a race is electric. I had woken up really early and decided to listen to podcasts about the Scottish athlete Eric Liddle of Chariot's of Fire fame. I felt so fired up by his inspirational life. After a seeming eternity of waiting we set off and as I rounded a corner about half a kilometre in there was a Scottish pipe band playing 'Amazing Grace'. "Thank you Eric...I know I can do this."

the full article is available on our website

## Guide Dogs Fosterers Needed

We're looking for training dog fosterer volunteers to provide a temporary home for dogs training at our new office in Sheffield, which will be opening in August (2 Europa Court, Sheffield Business Park, S9 1XE).

We're ideally looking for people who are not far away, however we'll accept applications from anyone who can drop off and pick up one of our guide dogs in training each morning and evening for a few months at a time.

Volunteering Coordinator (Sheffield/Hull) The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association  
www.guidedogs.org.uk