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# Hallam Bridge



ISSUE

13

January 2024

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

## Papal Awards in Wombwell and Rotherham



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## Book for the Lent Retreat



With Jesus, we dare to say ... A day to prayerfully explore the 'Our Father' Find out more about our Lent retreat day led by Vron Smaith from the Jesuit Institute  
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## Walking the Hathersage Pilgrim Ways



Mgr Charles Payne was the driving force behind the restoration of Padley Chapel. Find out more on page 9

## Navigating the Transition to Adulthood at St Mary's High School

SVP, Pax Christi, Columban Justice & Peace, fcJ' Sisters, CAFOD and Million Minutes ran workshops on discernment, scripture meditation, grief, art, yoga, going to university, welcoming the stranger and more.

Find out more on page 9



### Upcoming Events

- 7 January 5.30pm - 7pm Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Liverpool Hope Online)
- 3 February, 10am - 12pm Becoming Synodal- Retreat at Home - Pastoral Centre
- 17 February 9:00 am -5:00 pm Reawakening the Catholic Vision Leeds Trinity
- 22 February 5:30 PACT Mass at the Cathedral
- 24 February, 2&9 March 9:00 - 12:30pm CCRS Hallam Pastoral Centre
- 28 February 5.30pm - 7pm Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Liverpool Hope Online)
- 2 March, SAT 11am - 4pm Lent Retreat Day Hallam Pastoral Centre

### Upcoming Pilgrimages

- Lourdes Pilgrimage 28 June-4 July 2024
- Padley Pilgrimage 7 July 2024

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

### Welcome to the January edition of Hallam Bridge

To all our readers, a happy new year of peace, blessings and fruitfulness. Some resolution suggestions for you:

1. I will respond to Pope Frances' call to find out/remind myself of the vision of the Catholic Church that emerged from Vatican II as the collective wisdom of tradition and from the Bishops of the world, 3 popes and the Holy Spirit. The Bishop's Conference has produced a series of resources which can be found on their website <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/constitutions-of-vatican-ii/>
2. I will make sure I understand the meaning of synodality for the Church today, and take action with others in my parish to work together in a synodal way on one thing. For online resources visit our synod pages <https://hallam-diocese.com/synod/>
3. For this year of prayer, I will spend some time reflecting on my prayer life and how I can spend more time in thanksgiving, praise and conversation with God and maybe I will go on retreat this year. Resources to help with this are frequently shared on our social media platforms. Please follow us: Instagram: @Hallamdiocese Twitter: @HallamDioceseCC Facebook: Diocese of Hallam

There is also much celebratory award news from parishes across the diocese, from papal appreciation in Corpus Christi, Wombwell, and St Bede's Rotherham to an exciting and enjoyable Youth Conference. St Joseph's, Dinnington shares some tips on Living Simply. Synodality means 'walking together' and very good example of this is the Friends of Padley group preparing to invite you all to put a pilgrimage to Padley on your prayer plans for this year. Ged Bonner continues a series of articles on the life and times of Padley Chapel. We remember with warmth Mgr Peter Kirkham and Christine McBride. Finally, there is an article from the Vatican on Fiducia Supplicans, a recent document that has caused some controversy. You may want to inform yourself about what it says and read the explanatory article on page.

Don't forget to send us your parish news and activities for next month and to continue prayers for peace and justice.  
Editor.

This is a publication by Hallam Diocese. Please send your articles or feedback to [communications@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:communications@hallam-diocese.com) or to Hallam Pastoral Centre St Charles St, Sheffield S9 9WU

**CONTACT**

### Cafod An appeal for your help!

Since the pandemic, many of our dedicated volunteers in parishes around the diocese have stepped back from their activities. Those volunteers were our life-blood, they helped to share our work in our parish and school communities.

We recognise their value and appreciate their dedication and generosity and without them we simply cannot function.

We are very aware that our churches rely on people getting involved too. Our parishes, our communities, our world needs you! Could you get more involved in the life of your church and help us at the same time?

We are looking for people to give some time and join us in our mission of building up the church and working to bring about a better world for everyone.

Could you help in your parish, inspiring our church to help build a better world or by visiting our local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the area? Could you support local volunteers?

Training and support is provided. See [cafod.org.uk/Volunteer](http://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer) for more information about how you can help or get in touch with me by

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth's Dialogue with Cultural Sectors Team presents

## What does it mean to be Human?

Medical Ethics and Social Care Today

Keynote 1 - What does it mean to be Human? **MR. MICHAEL NADEEM ALI**

Keynote 2 - How significant is the Sexual Revolution? **DR. PHILIP DEAN**

Hosted by: **DAVID WELLS** and **DR. PHILIP DEAN**

Saturday 16th March 2024 10:00 - 16:15

The Arc, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8SB

Tickets £20 (includes lunch and light refreshments) Scan the QR code with your smart phone or use this link: <https://what-does-it-mean-to-be-human-symposium.eventbrite.co.uk>

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

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## Around the Diocese

### Synodality in Hallam Diocese –Towards October 2024



On Saturday 20 January, a group met at the Pastoral Centre to reflect on the synodal journey in Hallam so far, to think about the synopsis sent from the synod meeting in Rome in October and to listen together to the Holy Spirit's suggestions for the year ahead. It was an open invitation to attend, advertised in the Hallam Bridge, on the website, sent out to parishes for newsletters and bulletins. Twenty-seven people attended, it was good to see everyone, many of whom have been involved in the synodal process in the diocese since the outset in October 2021.

We began with a reminder of the journey so far, taking a moment to reflect, then watching a lovely video montage of the previous 2 diocesan synod meetings. We asked the guidance of the Holy Spirit in praying the Adsumus prayer. This has been a heartbeat to all our meetings, a version of that used through the centuries at synod meetings in the Catholic tradition.

The work of the day was built on 4 documents: 1) the summary synod report of Hallam diocese 'Bringing it all Together'; 2) the synthesis report from the first session of the assembly of the synod in Rome 2023; 3) the invitation letter to the People of God from the Vatican synod office with suggestions about the next steps, and 4) a summary sheet of the 82 proposals that arose from the Rome 2023 meeting. The task was to integrate these four sources through prayer, listening, sharing and discernment to decide which of the proposals were possible for parishes and/or the diocese and which of these then seemed to be priorities to carry forward. It was a pleasure to have Bishop Ralph join the

group and he will take an account of the discussions in a submission from the diocese requested by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW)

Reflecting on what has happened in parishes so far in the diocese, people were pleased to note many things had flourished with the impetus of the synod process, from paying attention to being more welcoming, to increasing Care for Creation, to nourishing the prayer life of the parish. One of the prompts from the synod meeting in Rome was for us to go back to the original synod exercise and think about how to engage those who weren't involved or were minimally involved in the original conversations. The group discernment process identified furthering the involvement of young people, of priests, and of other Christian communities. These were all identified as voices which still need to be heard in the synodal journey in Hallam. Talking to catechists, school chaplains and others involved in work with young people was seen as a possible way forward. It was suggested that some priests might have been unable to attend this meeting due to their parish mass commitments so another meeting will be offered at a different time, open to priests and others. Some priests have however expressed a reluctance to be involved in the synodal process; while it may be a personal choice as to their alignment with this work of the church, people were uneasy about how this left the People of God in a particular parish deprived of or even perhaps unaware of, opportunities that were available for Conversations in the Spirit and developing of an understanding of synodality. Pope Francis is clear that the sort of clericalism whereby a priest sees himself as anything other than the servant of his flock is not how he understands the call of the Holy Spirit. We can pray for those members of the People of God so deprived and urge them to look to the diocesan or other parish resources where synodality is welcomed as a blessing.

the full article is available on our website

## Around the Diocese

### An Invitation to Become Synodal-Retreat at Home



A short time after each parish in the diocese had responded to Pope Francis's invitation to reflect on how well we, as a church, are travelling together, a few words suggesting a synodal "retreat at home" appeared in a diocesan newsletter. This idea stirred something within Hermit Rachel Denton and Deacon Andrew Crowley (both within the parish of St Catherine's), and after much work with Diocesan Formation & Mission team, they developed a "Retreat at Home" based on what synodality means for us. This retreat was piloted in St Catherine's and St Patrick's. The material was available online via the diocesan website, and each week there was something new to watch, to listen to, to pray about and to reflect upon.

The retreat was loosely based upon the Ignatian retreat at home, with the 'retreatants' being given a piece of scripture each week to reflect upon, noting what moved and challenged them. In addition to these texts there was also some material relating to what it means to be synodal. Each week we would meet and listen to each other as we shared our responses to these texts. These meetings took place within a synodal environment, i.e. all respectfully listening to each other, and noting what moved us. There was little discussion, lots of silences and time to listen and sense the Spirit at work.

The retreat fell naturally into 2 parts. The first focussed on what it means to be synodal whilst the second focussed on our responses to the diocesan report <https://hallam-diocese.com/synod/> in particular pages 5 to 8.

During the first part we began to understand what it means to be synodal, and how the church has had a tradition of listening to itself, especially when big decisions need to be made e.g. Acts 15. Dr Austin Ivereigh, through the videos from London Jesuit Centre, <https://www.londonjesuitcentre.org/resources> was our guide, and challenged us to appreciate the significance of being synodal.

One of the pictures that was shared during our reflections illustrates what we experienced. On the surface there is tranquillity and calm, but beneath there is activity, energy and some turmoil as the swan's legs propel her serenely across the water. There was a balance between the tranquillity and the turmoil.

As we walked together during this part of the retreat we developed new ways of listening to each other, by listening to the day's gospel and sharing our responses. At the end we rested together in silence as we listened to some music relevant to the particular focus of the meeting.

At the end of the day we experienced a communion of hearts, a symphony of different voices, sounds, rhythms, moods and textures, a song of praise to God our Father.

We hope that you will use the material in a creative way and develop your own style and approach to it.

The Diocese is hosting a taster session for all those interested in running this retreat in their parish on 3 February at 10am at the Pastoral Centre for all those who would like to run the retreat in their parish situation.

### St. Joseph's Live Simply Journey





## Around the Diocese

The Parish Community at St Joseph's Dinnington confirmed their commitment to Living Simply at mass on the first Sunday of Advent last year by writing pledges to the planet. Pledges such as 'I will buy less', 'I will recycle unwanted stuff', and 'I will save energy' were written on cards and taken up at the offertory. The pledge cards were displayed on a Christmas tree for the whole of the Advent and Christmas season.

Many people are searching for ideas about what they can do to reduce their impact on the planet and the poor, so we published a leaflet with a different theme each month with practical tips and information. Changing the focus each month helped to keep up motivation and brought new surprises such as Living Simply isn't always difficult and doesn't have to be about giving things up, it can also save money and it can be fun.

We wanted to give nature a helping hand by encouraging pollinating insects, so we joined the national No Mow May Movement. The church grass wasn't cut at all during May and after that it was only cut once a month. Wonderful shows of cowslips, dandelions, pansies and all manner of wild flowers appeared that had never seen before. We were excited when a hedgehog was seen in the presbytery garden but the crowning glory was when four Bee Orchids flowered in the church lawn for the first time.

Actions speak louder than words and we changed to Environment Friendly Cleaning Materials, Recycled Toilet Paper and Recycled Printer Paper and we only serve Fairtrade tea and coffee in church now. The heating is managed more efficiently and the temperature has been turned down, water saving devices have been placed in all the toilets. We were shocked to discover that there were only a few centimetres of insulation in the presbytery loft. The insulation has been upgraded to meet modern building standards and Fr Andy is cosy now!

All these small actions by many people add up to big effects, we are sure that we have made a hole in our carbon footprint and have made the world a better, place to live in.

The poor are always in our hearts and the parish

has continued to raise funds for many causes. Individuals can only do so much and so we have become campaigners for change. We joined the CAFOD Campaigns to Fix the Food System, Cancel the Debt of the world's poorest countries and the Campaign to Clean up our Rivers to name a few. We pray that the people with power to make change happen including the Prime Minister, the World Bank and our local MP will listen and take action.

Working towards the Live Simply Award has been a wonderful journey for us. We have learned that by making small changes to our lifestyles, we can make a sustainable difference that will last much longer than our lifetimes.

The Live Simply Award is something that everyone in the parish from the youngest to the oldest can be involved with in by actions both big and small. It is a truly rewarding and empowering experience in these times when many people are searching for ways to take action. Christine Parrott

To find out more about the Live Simply Award please contact [apowell@cafod.org.uk](mailto:apowell@cafod.org.uk) or [christineparrott24@gmail.com](mailto:christineparrott24@gmail.com)

## Helping people like James to fish safely and feed their families



Lent begins early this year with Ash Wednesday falling on 14 February and CAFOD's Family Fast day is on Friday 23 February.

Our focus story is on a young man called James Pyne, who is a fisherman in Liberia. His father taught him how to fish at the age of 12. James

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said, "I didn't want to fish but my father told me that when you are a man, you can't depend on one thing, you have to learn many things because you do not know where you will find yourself tomorrow." He says, "Fishing means a lot to me. Sending my children to school is because of fishing. Everything that I do, that I live on is fishing. God first, then fishing is my life."

In 2005, James rowed 200 kilometres from his home in River Cess to start a new life in New Kru Town. He spent five years establishing himself before his family came to join him but despite all his work, life was difficult.

He said, "Before I joined the CAFOD project I was using my traditional methods in my fishing activities. I was not going too far. If I went further, I would not be able to see the shore and I could lose my way back home. It wasn't through choice that we were fishing around the shore side but based on the equipment that we used, it wouldn't allow us to go to a far distance. So it was difficult but we had to do it because it was all that we could afford to do."

"Sometimes I got no catch at all because I was not going far out. That was one of the reasons why I had to send my children home, out of school. Sometimes there would be no food for that day. I would tell them, bear with daddy, things will get better and we are going to hold on together." It was very difficult.

James was risking everything to put food on his family's table. Five fishermen a month in James' community were losing their lives at sea, people James called brothers.

CAFOD funded on-land and at-sea safety training for fishermen in James' community and provided equipment to help them navigate and stay safe. He told us, "The CAFOD project introduced many things in our village. We were able to get life-jackets, we have a signal mirror and we were able to get the fish finder with the GPS. The CAFOD training made me more brave at sea and I'm not using the traditional methods like before."

When he was in the paddle canoe, he could only go 6 or 7 nautical miles but with the GPS he can now go above 70 nautical miles and using the

fish finder he is able to catch more fish because he can travel at sea any time he chooses, even at night.

James says, "I got more food. I feel good because I used to buy rice by the cup but now I can buy it in 25kg bags. And when I go fishing, I've got my fridge, I've got fresh fish."

James used the money he made from catching more fish to buy a bigger boat with an engine. He now hires and trains young fishermen, passing on his knowledge to the next generation. "It is my prayer that I want the project to continue and the fishermen with the GPS will go further and bring more fish and the community will be developed."

Your donations this Fast Day will help hardworking people like James to get the tools they need to feed their families. Please give what you can and remember to pray for our work. For whatever you are able to do, thank you!

## Papal Awards Across the Diocese



The Benemerenti medal is an award presented by the Pope to members of the Clergy and Laity for services to the Church. They were originally established as an award for soldiers in the Papal army. It is now a civil decoration but may still be awarded to members of the Pontifical Swiss Guards. In 1925 the concept of awarding this medal as a mark of recognition to persons in service of the Catholic Church, both civil and military, lay and clergy alike, became acceptable. Members of the Swiss Guard may receive it for three years of faithful service. The current version of the Benemerenti medal was designed by Pope Paul VI. The medal is a gold Greek Cross



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depicting Christ with His hand raised in blessing. On the left arm of the cross is the tiara and crossed keys symbol of the Papacy. On the right arm is the coat of arms of the current Pope. The medal is suspended from a yellow and white ribbon – the colours of the Papacy. A number of parishioners from the diocese have received this award.

Audrey with three of her daughters Rachel, Elizabeth, and Bridget. Photo credit: Kathryn Roberts

Colette with her son Gavin & daughter Amanda.

Collete Sharp from St Bede's, Rotherham writes..

I never imagined that one day I would receive one of these prestigious medals. It was a complete surprise and shock when I was awarded one on 31 December 2023. I truly thought the Mass was being offered for my son Gavin's on his fiftieth birthday. I was a little surprised when he suggested that I wore my favourite suit for the occasion, but he knew how much I loved this outfit. I had bought the fabric in Paris 46 years ago when we were on a family camping trip and I do like to wear it every now and then. We attended the Mass along with my daughters Julie and Amanda and my Son-in-law Darren. Gavin and I were privileged to bring up the gifts. At the end of the Mass - Alex Prior - the Lourdes pilgrimage director – spoke a few words about requiring helpers in Lourdes. He began to mention the 25 years I had assisted in Lourdes and then the devotion I had given to my parish of St.Bede which has been my only parish for the last 77 years. I was completely shocked when he said I was being awarded a Benemerenti medal. Father asked me to come forward and as I approached the altar I was shaking my head to say no – it seemed a dream and should not be happening to me. "There are so many people who are more worthy of such recognition. I was overwhelmed. Throughout the day I was inundated with messages of congratulations and good will from parishioners and Lourdes pilgrims that I had known over the years. I am most blessed and thank and praise the Lord and His Mother Mary for being at my side all my life."

And in Corpus Christi, Wombwell, Pope Francis

has awarded Mrs Audrey Salmon the Benemerenti Medal for her years of dedicated service to St. Helen's in Hoyland and St. Michael's in Wombwell and to the community. For many years, Mrs. Salmon was involved with the Union of Catholic Mothers at the parish, diocesan, and national level. She provided emergency accommodation for victims of domestic violence. She founded Wombwell AgeWell, and at 89 years of age she still volunteers at the Wombwell Lunch Club. And much more! She was presented the medal by Fr. Declan Brett, her parish priest.

## Reflections on the Life and Ministry of Mgr Peter Kirkham



We have included some reflections on the life and ministry of Mgr Peter Kirkham from Dr Alan Caunt who was a life-long friend from their days together at De La Salle, Sheffield and from Fr Mark McManus who preached at his funeral Mass.

Alan writes: Peter and I started at De La Salle College, Sheffield, at the same time in 1952. We quickly became friends. He already knew that he wanted to be a priest. He had done so from the age of 8.

He was an altar boy at Saint Theresa's on Prince of Wales Road on the Manor in Sheffield, I was an altar boy in Hoyland. We visited each other's churches, we used to swap 'tips' such as how to get the 'best smoke' from the thurible, how to stop candle wax running everywhere! and so on.....

Peter was an only child. I had two brothers and a sister. We each felt at home in the other's house. His dad was a bus driver, my dad was a

## Around the Diocese

fettler. Both sets of parents were very welcoming and supportive. My parents became very fond of Peter. He, later in life, conducted each of their Requiem Masses. In school holidays, and occasional Saturdays, we used to go to Doncaster station trainspotting - his love of trains lasted his lifetime.

Peter maintained his close connection with my family throughout his ministry. He conducted several family baptisms, weddings and funerals along the way. He also attended many social family gatherings. He was regarded by all of us as a close family member. We were privileged to be invited to Peter's parish celebrations such as his 70th Birthday party, 50th Jubilee celebrations and when he was made Monsignor and Chaplain to the Pope.

Fr Mark writes: Peter always expressed a deep and abiding gratitude for his parents, the upbringing they had given him and for the family life that they had shared. Appropriately, his Old Norse and Old English surname, Kirkham, has its origins as a name for someone who lived near a church and much of his childhood was spent in the bosom of his beloved St Theresa's on 'The Manor' in Sheffield. The care and example of the priests there, especially that of Canon Denis McGillicuddy, remained with him throughout his life. Peter's Catholic upbringing stirred his soul and, seduced in particular by the beauty of the liturgy, he heard the Lord call to him and invite him to follow him in service of his holy people. So it was that the teenager went from De La Salle School to train for the priesthood at the English College in Rome, where he was to be ordained priest in 1966. His time in Rome would leave him with an abiding love of the Eternal City and of all things Italian and Romanita!

Desiring nothing more than to live a simple, holy life, Peter absolutely loved the priesthood and its brotherhood and he was always conscious of the need to pursue virtue and be a good example, especially in the promotion of vocations. A man of humility, his daily routine revolved around prayer. He gave time to his relationship with the Lord and nurtured his devotion to the Mother of God through the daily

recitation of the rosary. He had little by the way of personal possessions and gave much to the poor.

## Union of Catholic Mothers News



Sadly, Christine McBride passed away on Friday 15th December 2023 at home after a long illness. Her funeral took place on Monday 8 January 2024 at St. Peter-in-Chains, Doncaster. Holy Mass was celebrated by Father Darren Reid assisted by Fr Gus O'Reilly and Fr James Daly who had travelled from Ireland. Her son Mark gave the eulogy and there were tributes from Christine's grandchildren. Christine was one of eight children. She and her late husband Brendan moved from Ireland with their three children and lived in Doncaster for 60 years.

Christine's Catholic faith was unwavering and she contributed hugely to the Parish. She was a central figure in the Union of Catholic Mothers for many years, supporting the Parish alongside many of her closest friends. For the last four years she was Foundation President.

Christine and Brendan, who was one of eleven children were very proud of their Irish heritage and were key members of the Doncaster Irish Society. There was a magnificent attendance at the funeral which included her extended family of nieces and nephews some having travelled from Ireland, also friends and UCM members.

She was a lovely lady, great company and will be greatly missed by all of her family and friends especially for her wonderful sense of humour. May she rest in the peace.

Dorothy Anderson



## Around the Diocese

### Navigating the Transition to Adulthood



In December, Sue McDonald, the Youth Director, was asked to organise a conference for 150 Year 12 students at St Mary's Chesterfield. The four-day conference was held at The Hayes, Swanwick, where students were able to choose from a variety of workshops.

National and local organisations such as SVP, Pax Christi, Columban Justice & Peace, fcJ Sisters, CAFOD and Million Minutes took part. Workshop leaders presented topics such as discernment, scripture meditation, grief, art, yoga, going to university, welcoming the stranger and more. Each session offered 16 workshops for students to explore.

The title, "Social Justice: A Focus on Dignity & Compassion," urged students to see themselves not merely as learners, but as key players in societal change. Million Minutes worked with nearly all of the students, helping them generate ideas for social change and put their beliefs into action. Columban Justice & Peace was delighted with the young people who wrote Christmas cards to people in immigration removal (detention) centres. Josh, a student and parishioner of St. Vincent's Crookes, shared his experiences at university. Teachers from St Mary's provided much entertainment during the evenings and built relationships with the young people as they started out on their journey through the Sixth form.

Both the school and its students found immense value in the initiative as it helped them navigate the transition to adulthood. The workshop leaders were impressed by the focus and engagement of the students and were very pleased to have the opportunity to challenge,

listen to and walk alongside St Mary's young people.

### Walking the Hathersage Pilgrim Ways



'Padley - its Martyrs and Restoration 1588-1933'.

There's no author's name on this little red booklet, but it's clearly the work of Mgr Charles Payne V.G.(Nottingham Diocese), who was the driving force behind the restoration of Padley Chapel. Mgr. Payne will have chosen red, identifying Padley Chapel and the Blessed with St Stephen, the first Christian martyr and all who were to follow the martyrs' path across the centuries.

There's a sense of urgency in the appeal for funds, to clear the debt of £3,000 incurred, by the purchase of the site. The National Archives currency converter estimates that to be £151,987.80 (1935 to 2017 equivalence). We must also remember the historical context of this purchase. The Wall Street Crash 1929, led to the Great Depression of the 1930s, which in turn, helped ignite the horrors of World War Two.

Mgr Payne was clearly a man of great faith, vision and determination, to embark on his contribution to the centuries old 'mission' of Padley Chapel in the challenging 1930s. The theme of the 'conversion of England' is prominent on the cover. This reflects the role of the Blessed Garlick, Ludlam and Sympson, as missionary priests of the 1580s. Also, the role of the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom, when Canon

## Around the Diocese & Beyond

Oswald Dolan of St Marie's Sheffield (now the Diocese of Hallam's mother cathedral), asked them to take a lead with the first Padley pilgrimage in 1898. That prayer for conversion, is also stated in one of the chapel's stained glass windows, where Our Lady stands protectively above one of the Blessed, kneeling in prayer.

It is clear that Mgr Payne saw Padley as a Shrine of regional importance, ahead of any necessary official recognition.

The booklet lists the benefits pilgrims could gain from the devotional observance of their pilgrimage to and their prayers at Padley Chapel.

1. You are asked to bring your Sick to the Chapel and to fervently ask the intercession of the Martyr Priests for them. Instances have already occurred of great help and relief being obtained by the Sick.
2. Indulgences have been granted by the Holy See to those who come to Padley as Pilgrims.
3. Medals of the Venerable Martyrs and of Padley Chapel can now be had. They have all touched the Original Altar at which the Martyrs said mass.
4. There is a Red Martyrs Book and names can be inscribed in this singly or in groups. The Red Book is placed near the altar during Mass.

So as we begin 2024, the year of prayer, as 'Pilgrims of Hope', in preparation for the Year of Jubilee 2025, let us all draw strength and inspiration from Mgr Payne's Padley Chapel legacy, captured and left for us all, in his little red booklet.

We aim to make Padley Chapel more available to the public (more volunteer guides are needed) and in the longer term, explore the possibility of developing improved 'visitor facilities'. We're blessed with access to beautiful countryside and are currently developing local pilgrimage routes, 'to celebrate our Catholic

cultural heritage, with peoples of all faiths and none'.

More articles will follow throughout 2024. If you would like to get involved or join the Friends of Padley Chapel then contact [formation-mission@hallamdiocese.com](mailto:formation-mission@hallamdiocese.com) Gerard Bonner Friends of Padley Chapel

## Stella Maris port chaplains fight modern slavery



Isaac hasn't seen his family for three years. He's not allowed to work. He's doing his best, but it's hard to stay positive. Every couple of weeks, I take him out for a trip. He confided in me one time, 'I don't know where I'd be now without Stella Maris,'" said Steve Willows, Stella Maris' Regional Port Chaplain in Immingham, Lincolnshire. Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea) is the Catholic charity supporting seafarers and fishers in the UK and worldwide.

Isaac is one of a growing number of fishers who has become a victim of modern slavery. According to the International Labour Organisation, migrant workers in particular are vulnerable to being deceived and coerced by brokers and recruitment agencies and forced to work on board vessels under the threat of force or by means of debt bondage.

Isaac (not his real name), left Ghana in 2020 and, because there were few job opportunities, he paid £1,000 to an agent for a UK fishing contract.

the full article is available on our website



## Doctrinal declaration opens possibility of blessing couples in irregular situations



With the Declaration “*Fiducia supplicans*” issued by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Francis, it will be possible to bless same-sex couples but without any type of ritualization or offering the impression of a marriage. The doctrine regarding marriage does not change, and the blessing does not signify approval of the union.

### By Vatican News

When two people request a blessing, even if their situation as a couple is “irregular,” it will be possible for the ordained minister to consent. However, this gesture of pastoral closeness must avoid any elements that remotely resemble a marriage rite.

This is what is stated the Declaration “

#### *Fiducia supplicans*

” on the pastoral meaning of blessings, published by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and approved by Pope Francis.

The document explores the theme of blessings, distinguishing between ritual and liturgical ones, and spontaneous ones more akin to signs of popular devotion. It is precisely in this second category there is now consideration of the possibility of welcoming even those who do not

live according to the norms of Christian moral doctrine but humbly request to be blessed. 23 years have passed since the former “Holy Office” published a Declaration (the last one was in August 2000 with “*Dominus Jesus*”), a document of such doctrinal importance.

“

#### *Fiducia supplicans*

” begins with the introduction by the prefect, Cardinal Victor Fernandez, who explains that the Declaration considers the “pastoral meaning of blessings,” allowing “a broadening and enrichment of the classical understanding” through a theological reflection “based on the pastoral vision of Pope Francis.”

A shepherd's heart that never closes the door

It is a reflection that “implies a real development from what has been said about blessings up until now, reaching an understanding of the possibility “of blessing couples in irregular situations and same-sex couples without officially validating their status or changing in any way the Church’s perennial teaching on marriage.”

After the first paragraphs (1-3) that recall the previous pronouncement of 2021 that is now further developed and superseded, the Declaration presents the blessing in the Sacrament of Marriage (paragraphs 4-6) stating as inadmissible “rites and prayers that could create confusion between what constitutes marriage” and “what contradicts it,” by avoiding any implication that “something that is not marriage is being recognized as marriage.” It is reiterated that according to the “perennial Catholic doctrine” only sexual relations between a man and a woman in the context of marriage are considered lawful.

A second extensive part of the Declaration (paragraphs 7-30) analyzes the meaning of different blessings, whose recipients are people, objects of worship, and places of life. It is recalled that “from a strictly liturgical point of view,” the blessing requires that what is blessed “be conformed to God’s will, as expressed in the teachings of the Church.”

the full article is available on our website

## Looking Ahead

### Marriage Week 2024



Wednesday 7 February - Wednesday 14 February

Marriage Week is an annual celebration offering the opportunity to support and promote marriage and family life. It is celebrated this year from 7-14 February.

A Christian marriage is rooted in faith; that means faith in God, as the giver of life and the one who promises eternal life to those who believe in him.

The Bishops Conference has a range of resources on their website here [CBCEW](#)

### With Jesus, we dare to say ... A day to prayerfully explore the 'Our Father'



Lent Day of Reflection and Prayer with Vron Smith from the Jesuit Institute 2 March 2024  
11:00-4:00 at the Hallam Pastoral Centre

During this year of prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year in 2025 Pope Francis has asked us to focus on the Our Father. On this day Vron Smith to prayerfully explore the 'Our Father' as an invitation to live out our faith together. To book scan the Formation & Mission Eventbrite page QR code

### PACT Celebration of Mass for People in Prison and their Families



Prisoners · Families · Communities  
A Fresh Start Together

22 February at 5:30pm in the Cathedral

A toddler watches a prison officer through one of the locked barred doors during a family visit in HMP Brixton, South London on the 26th of July 2016, London United Kingdom. The Prisoner Advice & Care Trust (PACT) organise special family days that help the men inside the prison connect with and support their partners and children on the outside. (photo by Andy Aitchison)

*"Pact gave me hope when I thought I was never going to be able to see my son in prison. They were like a light in what was a really dark time"*

Pact is the national Catholic prison charity providing support to men and women in prison and their children and families. We work in four prisons in the diocese of Hallam as well as in the community.

The UK incarcerates more people per capita than any other country in Western Europe. A record 100, 000 children across England & Wales will go to bed tonight knowing that their mum or dad is in prison. Families in our communities who are affected by

## Looking Ahead

imprisonment serve a 'hidden sentence' of stigma, social isolation, and perhaps material hardship.

On Thursday 22 February at 5:30pm in the Cathedral, Bishop Ralph Heskett will celebrate Mass for people in prison and their families. Pact CEO Andy Keen-Downs and the charity's Faith in Action team will be there. We warmly invite you to join us, in solidarity with people affected by imprisonment. Stay and talk over refreshments in Houlden Hall afterwards. We would love to meet you and tell you more about what we do to support our brothers and sisters in prison in the diocese, and their children and families.

Contact Theresa and Marie, Pact's Faith in Action team: [parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk](mailto:parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk)

Find out more: [prisonadvice.org.uk](http://prisonadvice.org.uk)

## Health or Burnout: Where are your leaders going?



**DIVINE  
RENOVATION**

Wednesday 28 February • 7:00 – 8:15pm Free  
Online event

### Let's face it

: giving ministry your all can be overwhelming! At the pace and direction you're going, are you headed to health or burnout? The work of parish renewal needs healthy leaders. People count on you. How can you ensure that you're serving out of abundance, not burnout and frustration? Join Sr. Miriam James Heidland and Will van der Hart on Wednesday, 28th February in our online event, Health or Burnout: Where are your leaders going? Register today!

### Meet the Speakers:

Sr. Miriam James Heidland is an author, podcast host, and speaker for the John Paul II Healing Center. Will van der Hart is an author, communicator and pastoral specialist. He is an ordained Anglican priest, director of mental health charity Mind and Soul Foundation and executive coach.

## Called & Gifted Charism process

'Called and Gifted' has helped more than 2000 people in England & Wales discern & recognize their own unique charisms & how to apply them. (Est 2014 in Portsmouth diocese]

Charisms, as defined in this context, are Gifts of the Holy Spirit through which God collaborates with His people to bless the world.... And the world needs blessing! There are at least 23 charisms defined and grouped by what they do. Organisational /Communication/ Healing/ Pastoring / Creative / Understanding/ & Lifestyle Charisms. They differ from talents & experience (which are often loosely referred to as 'gifts') because they are supernaturally effective! Some people have charisms in one or two groupings & some a mix across several groupings. They bring joy & help us to understand both God, ourselves & others in delightful new & surprising ways! They are like power-tools to help us on mission to bring God's transforming Love into our homes, work places & communities.

Discover why you see the world through a unique lens & know your unique purpose & gifting through each season of life. Let God Surprise you!

There are two ways of being accompanied through the Called & Gifted Charism Discernment process ... one can be accessed year-round, online; the other is through the Live Teaching days; By special arrangement, we have a Live Teaching day in Sheffield, Saturday 11 May 2024 at St Vncents Mission Hub.

If you would like to know more, then do visit our website [www.calledandgifted.org.uk](http://www.calledandgifted.org.uk) and email: [calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or correspond with Deputy Leader, Anne-Marie Fletcher, located in Hallam Diocese: [amfletcher@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:amfletcher@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
Anne-Marie Fletcher

