

## Join the Lent Retreat next weekend



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 Page 10

# WE DARE TO SAY

A resource for faith-sharing groups on The Lord's Prayer



Resources available in partishes to help us prayerfully for the Jubilee find out more on page 3

## New Care Service in Bethlehem



Hallam based Charity launches a new and groundbreaking service in Bethlehem. Find out more on page 7

## **Upcoming Events**

24 February, 2&9 March 9:00 – 12:30pm CCRS Hallam Pastoral Centre 28 February 5.30pm - 7pm Constitution on the Chruch in the Modern World (Liverpool Hope Online)

2 March, SAT 11am - 4pm Lent Retreat Day Hallam Pastoral Centre 30 April Annual Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse

6 July Annual Safeguarding Event

#### Welcome to the February edition of Hallam Bridge

your on-line newspaper and the organ of communication across the Catholic Diocese of Hallam. There are exciting ongoing changes in the Communications Team in the Diocese, as we look to recruit new members into the team and revamp the website. If you're interested to be involved in this work, do get in touch. We endeavour to bring you news from across the diocese, and we welcome contributions from you to let us know about your people, your interesting events that have happened or are upcoming, and your particular interests. We are discovering some hidden gems; did you know there is an African Mass held monthly at Sacred Heart Hillsborough? Fr Michael Umameh says all are welcome to come and join in. This seems like a rich gift to the diocese and we will be featuring some interviews with people from that community in the months ahead. Which introduces a Hallam Bridge new feature; Your Parish. Each month we will focus on a particular parish and find ways of telling you about what goes in that parish. There are 52 parishes in Hallam so this may take some time. So get ready to tell us about your parish.

Pope Francis has designated 2024 to be a Year of Prayer so this months' Hallam Bridge includes some opportunities for you to attend to your prayer life. Lent has begun and there are plenty of opportunities around to help you increase the time you spend talking with God. It will improve your quality of life. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to join a group to pray together and share your prayer, there is still time to book onto the diocesan Day of Reflection, with Vron Smith, on the Lord's Prayer. Give yourself the time to focus, line by line, on the words Jesus gave us, and be enriched, If you can't make the day of reflection, pick up the 'Dare to Say' from your parish or from the Pastoral Centre which is a gift from the Bishops of England and Wales for reflection on the Our Father.

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

We feature the regular updates from Formation and Mission on the Synod, from safeguarding team with a reminder of a Save the Date for the Annual Day of Prayer for survivors of abuse on 30 April, from the Care for Creation team, and from the Friends of Padley who have been extremely busy polishing the Chapel in preparation of the Summer opening. For those of you who would like to be introduced to the Padley Martyrs, there is a picture, and personality label for each, with more to come in the months ahead. We celebrate with McAuley Catholic High School Report on their "Good" OFSTED grading, (Page 5) and with the account of the 'Beacon of Hope' event at St Marie's Cathedral. (Page 6). The SVP reports on the increase in the demand on their services and the Catholic Union invite people to take part in a survey to help plan for their work prior to the next election. There are various opportunities to refresh yourself on Catholic Social Teaching listed on the website to help you prepare.

IF YOU'RE TOO BUSY TO PRAY, YOU'RE TOO BUSY. Have a good Lent.

Editor

## A plea for volunteers!

The diocesan youth team is thriving, but we need you!

The group has been strengthened by new nominations from Sheffield, Doncaster and Rotherham. There are 15 young people of faith aged 15 to 17 who have accepted nominations and join with others in the diocese every half term. We have time for fun, food and faith sharing. We meet in a different location each time to reduce the amount of travelling and the meeting usually last 2 hours.

At the end of January, we met at Our Lady & St Thomas, Sheffield. The young people spent time planning what they want to do this year. They are really enjoying themselves and keen to meet up, but I need a few more adult volunteers.

The young people would welcome the opportunity to get to know each other through shared activities, with Laser Quest at the top of their list. Other activities on their list include retreats, a pilgrimage, go-karting, preparing for a diocesan youth Mass.

I am looking for volunteers who have time to join us, even if it's just for one activity.

Laser Quest is in Worksop; we are looking to go before the end of March one evening.

This age is very important in the church, we are lucky to have great committed young people in Hallam and it is a privilege to spend time with them.

If you would be happy to help out as an extra adult to make these outings happen, please do get in touch; smcdonald@hallam-diocese.com. Safer recruitment checks will be carried out.

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

**Subscribe** 

## Around the Diocese

The Jubilee Year 2025 'Pilgrims of Hope'



The Year of Prayer 2024 and The Jubilee Year 2025 Introducing the Jubilee Year

Pope Francis has declared that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year. A Jubilee year is a holy year. As we read in Leviticus (25:12) 'For it is a Jubilee; it shall be holy to you.' The year will run from the opening of the Holy Door in Rome on 24 December 2024 until the Feast of Epiphany 2026. The Holy Father has invited the whole Church to prepare for the Jubilee through 2024, which he has called a Year of Prayer.

Jubilee Motto

The motto for the upcoming Jubilee Year is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The motto aims to give a concise sense of the meaning of the jubilee journey. The 2025 jubilee will be a year of hope and trust in a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased threats to the climate. Jubilee Logo

stylized The logo shows four figures, representing all of humanity, coming together from the four corners of the earth on pilgrimage. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need.

The Year of Prayer

The Holy Father has asked that 2024 be a 'Year of Prayer', as a preparatory year for the Jubilee, particularly focussed on the Lord's Prayer. Pope Francis announced its launch on Sunday 21 January 2024. 'We Dare to Say' is now available as booklet (distributed in parishes across the diocese) or for download from the Jubilee Pages of the Diocesan Website. It is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions each based on a line from the Lord's Prayer. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. Please consider joining with others this Lent to use 'We Dare to Say', exploring together the prayer our Saviour gave us. Adoremus at Oscott in September 2024

A National Eucharistic Congress is planned for Saturday 14 September 2024 at Oscott, Birmingham. Oscott is significant as it was the place where the first Eucharistic procession took place after the restoration of the Church in Britain. There will also be a youth event on the Sunday which will be concentrating on vocations. St Marie's Cathedral will have Eucharistic Adoration over that same weekend, and parishes may also offer a holy hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Pilgrimage

Prayer takes us on a pilgrim journey, on the path to God. While pilgrimage should be an integral part of the Jubilee not everyone can visit Rome. However, we can plan to undertake a spiritual or walking pilgrimage in 2025 as 'Pilgrims of Hope.' We have many shrines, sanctuaries, and other places filled with spiritual significance in our diocese. For example, we have the Padley Martyrs Chapel at Grindleford, the Shrine of Our Lady of Doncaster, the Carmelite Monastery of the Holy Spirit at Kirk Edge, Roche Abbey in Maltby, the Monk Bretton Priory in Barnsley and of course St Marie's Cathedral in Sheffield. We can plan to visit one or more of these places in 2025, as our pilgrimage of hope.

# Around the Diocese

Walking the Hathersage Pilgrim Ways



The Blesseds' Padley Chapel Windows

Three of Padley Chapel's stained glass windows, depict the Bl Nicholas Garlick, Bl Robert Ludlam and Bl Richard Simpson, who as Missionary Priests, in Elizabethan England post 1585, knew they faced the death sentence if captured.

Blessed Richard Simpson

Blessed Nicholas Garlick & Blessed Robert Ludlam

Mgr Canon Hargreaves (1946), described Bl Nicholas Garlick and Bl Robert Ludlam, 'kneeling before the crucified Christ, and being presented to Him by Our Blessed Lady, as two privileged souls who are about to share in the suffering of their Lord'. Bl Richard Simpson is shown holding an executioner's knife and a palm frond, the latter, the badge of a martyr, representing the victory of 'spirit over flesh'. His window stands above the grave of Mgr Charles Payne, who was the force behind the restoration of Padley Chapel in the 1930s.

The history of the Blesseds provides us with gifts of a 'faint insight', into each of the Blessed's characters which could possibly help us on our personal pilgrimages of self-reflection, during this Lenten season.

Nicholas Garlick - Leader (forthright - spokesman - committed)

Robert Ludlam - Quiet (but could speak powerfully\*- committed)

Richard Simpson - Self doubt (a 'doubting Thomas' - committed)

\*'Venite benedicti Dei' (Come, you Blessed of God), Blessed Robert Ludlam's prayer, as the last of the Blesseds to mount the scaffold on St Mary's Bridge, Derby, 24 July 1588. This prayer is proudly declared on the Chapel's altar balcony at Padley.

As 'Pilgrims of Hope', may we pray to the Blesseds, for their intercession with our petitions, in this 2024 Year of Prayer's Lenten season, in preparation for the Year of Jubilee 2025.

Through these short articles, we have the opportunity to explore what we know about the Blesseds, the Fitzherbert family as 'Confessors of the faith', the history of Padley Chapel and other aspects of Hathersage's Pilgrim Ways, in the High Peak of Derbyshire.

More articles will follow throughout 2024. If you would like to get involved or join the Friends of Padley Chapel then contact formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com Gerard Bonner Friends of Padley Chapel

## **Safeguarding News**



Hello from the Safeguarding Team. May we firstly take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year.

Bishop's Pastoral Letter for Safeguarding

Hopefully you will have heard Bishop's pastoral letter for safeguarding on 21 January, in which he provided an update on the continued work we are doing in the Diocese to keep everybody safe, and to ensure our Church Communities are spaces where all feel welcome and cared for. The ongoing work of the safeguarding team will

## Around the Diocese

be guided by the national safeguarding standards, and the recommendations made during the recent audit. An update on the outcome of the audit will be provided in due course.

Save the Date

The Annual Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse will take place on Tuesday 30 April 2024.

This day is an important event in our diocesan calendar to open our hearts to survivors. The service is open to all (not just survivors), and we hope you will consider attending when the service information is published.

The Annual Safeguarding Event will take place on Saturday 6 July 2024. This is a themed event and will include key speakers from partner agencies who will talk about relevant safeguarding topics. The event also provides the additional opportunity for you to meet with parish volunteers and wider safeguarding team and leaders.

Policy updates on the Diocesan website

The following policies have recently been reviewed and can be found on to the Diocesan website:

Commitment to Survivors Policy https://hallam-diocese.com/safeguarding/hurt-b y-abuse-2

Communication and Engagement Plan https://hallam-diocese.com/safeguarding/policypractice/procedures-manual/

CSSA National Learning Portal – Online Training

The Catholic Church has developed its own learning portal offering Level 2 national safeguarding training for parishioners and volunteers.

You can access the portal by typing the following link into your web browser: https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/ The safeguarding office can be contacted on 0114 2566453 or via email: jpearson@hallam-diocese.com

# McAuley: GOOD in All Areas!



As a staff body we are incredibly proud to share that McAuley Catholic High School has been graded as 'Good' in all areas by Ofsted after our December 2023 full inspection.

McAuley has been on a considerable journey over recent years. This latest Ofsted judgement is testament to the hard work of so many and ultimately the coming together of our entire community.

In recent years McAuley has achieved notable awards including; The Arts Mark Gold Award, Music Mark, Inclusivity Quality Mark Centre of Excellence, as well as pupils achieving the best examination results at GCSE and our Sixth Form going from strength to strength.

Our grading of 'Good' by Ofsted came as no surprise to those of us who work, day in, day out, at McAuley, however it is a fantastic achievement and gives confidence of our upward trajectory. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all teachers, support staff, pupils and families for their hard work and support over the course of the inspection.

James Tucker (Headteacher)

# A Beacon of Hope – at St Marie's Cathedral



It was a dark and stormy night on the 9th December... Certainly not what we were anticipating, but in hindsight, the perfect backdrop to our Beacon of Hope event at St Marie's.

The street team bravely set out into the City Centre, inviting shoppers into our Cathedral to light a candle from our Candle of Hope. Our carol-singers, sheltering from the wind and rain in the south porch, created a link from the secular to the sacred, and offered a complementary hot drink to passers-by.

And inside the candlelit Cathedral, there really was a sense of the sacred. All was peace and beauty, with gentle waves of the most beautiful live worship music soothing troubled and harried minds.

I wish I could tell you what really went on that evening; the Holy Spirit was certainly moving. (From an organisational point of view, we facilitated this by trying our best to align volunteers with roles on the basis of their God-given Charisms... God's plan is always the best). But I can tell you that we had over 130 visitors, and that 86 candles were lit. Many people stayed for a while, and plenty of silent tears were shed. And at the very end, I got the longest, tightest hug I have ever received from a stranger: "Thank you," she said, between the tears. "I was on my way home, and it's been a tough year... I was raised a Catholic but haven't been to Church for a long time... and this was exactly what I needed".

If the whole event had been just for her, then it was worth it.

Special thanks to our team of volunteers who came from St Marie's, the Mission Hub, and English Martyrs, and also to Margaret from Antioch Community Church, who not only volunteered, but donated some candy canes to give away. Candida Calvert

# Catholics Urged To Have Their Say On Election



The Catholic Union is urging Catholics across the country to have their say on what matters most to them ahead of the next General Election.

With an election expected later this year, the Catholic Union has launched a new survey to test the temperature of Catholic views and attitudes towards politics. The survey is seeking people's views on the policy areas where Catholic voices are most needed. It also explores the extent to which Catholics are engaged in politics and how they plan on participating in the election.

The results will inform the Catholic Union's interventions in the election campaign, including the publication of a "Catholic Manifesto" which will be sent out to candidates ahead of polling day. A date for the General Election has not yet been confirmed. Last month, the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, said that his "working assumption" was that the election would take place in "the second half of this year".

Catholic Union Vice President and Labour MP, Mike Kane, encouraged people to take part in this "really important election" and make their voices heard. The Catholic Union's President and Vice Presidents are drawn from across the political spectrum. Last year, Crossbench peer Baroness Hollins took over as President from Conservative MP, Sir Edward Leigh.

The survey can be found on the Catholic Union website. Louisa Collyer-Hamlin

## New Care service in Bethlehem



On 1 August 2023 Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust, a Hallam based Charity, launched a new and ground- breaking service in Bethlehem. Our Nurses, the first licensed palliative care service in Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) began caring for fifteen terminally ill people in their own homes, in Bethlehem and its surrounding villages. The Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust is a registered Charity based in the UK and in Ireland. It is registered as an NGO in Palestine. It was set up in response to requests from Bethlehem community leaders who highlighted the limited provision of care for the terminally ill in Palestine.

Cancer is one of the major causes of death in OPT. Seven out of every ten reported cancer cases are at terminal stage when first diagnosed. A recent report identified Bethlehem as having the highest concentration of reported cancer cases in OPT. Prior to the launch of this service care for the terminally ill was generally unsupported. Described as 'a major humanitarian service and the first of its kind to be licensed by the Palestinian Minister of Health': the "Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust" is presently providing palliative care to 31 patients and supporting their families. This includes providing equipment the patient would need that is not normally available in the home, such as oxygen machines, anti-decubitus mattresses, and wheelchairs. Pain relief is very important for these patients, but this hospice care extends beyond pain control and the supply of equipment and it includes support to grieving families.

There are a great many people in need of palliative care in the OPT and while the Trust has ambitions to care for many more terminally ill patients sadly, it does not have the resources to provide such care. Neither the Bethlehem community or the Palestinian Authority has the resources to support hospice care.

Bethlehem today sees no active conflict, yet the lingering repercussions of war weigh heavily on its residents. The tragic events of Saturday 7 October, and subsequent incidents have effectively paralyzed the local economy in communities like Bethlehem. Security checkpoints continue to isolate these areas, impeding the free flow of goods and people. Last year there was be no civic Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem. Bethlehem's hotels still stand vacant. Bus and coach operators, tour guides, cafés, restaurants, and tourist sites have all shuttered doors, resulting in employee layoffs. Those who are fortunate enough to have jobs often struggle to reach their workplaces due to stringent security lockdowns and checkpoints that obstruct the free movement of people and goods. Bethlehem's economy heavily depends on tourism and pilgrimages, yet during times of turmoil, visitors tend to stay away, causing widespread hardship. A World Health Organization report dated September 16, 2023, highlighted that 40% of the Palestinian population survives on less than \$2 per day (£1.58p). Bethlehem people simply do not have the means to support themselves. Regrettably, in a region already grappling with limited employment opportunities and modest living standards, these individuals may remain jobless until lockdowns are lifted and the economy rebounds. This is not anticipated to be anytime soon.

In these circumstances the young and healthy emigrate in search of work, security and a better life leaving the sick and the elderly. They cannot leave. They must endure. This inevitably increases the demands on the limited resources of our hospice service. However, even amidst movement and travel constraints, these dedicated Hospice Nurses persist in their compassionate work, providing care and comfort to individuals with life limiting illnesses in the Bethlehem region, right in the sanctity of despite the tumultuous their homes, circumstances that envelop them. Daily these nurses courageously confront concerns for their personal safety, yet their commitment remains unwavering as they go out and attend to the most critically ill. Joe McNally

the full article is available on our website

# Community based charities in the North are key to tackling regional inequalities, say the St Vincent de Paul Society



The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) has published a report that highlights the faith-based charity's vital role in delivering locally-based support to 'left behind' communities.The research - From the Frontline – Tackling Regional Inequalities from the Ground Up – provides a snapshot of the St Vincent de Paul Society's (SVP) community-based 'levelling up' work in 10 regional centres and through locally-based volunteer members, working in 17 of the 20 most deprived communities in England.

#### The report highlights

A 49 percent increase in the number of requests for help to SVP's support line, nearly 2300 in the last 12 months, showing an alarming trend of reliance on charities like SVP to deliver frontline services.

In 2022-23 we provided 80,000 meals in our St Vincent's centres and supported 19,000 people through our foodbanks - an unprecedented level of need

The need to adopt a long-term, bottom-up, rather than a top-down, approach that is rooted in local communities' lived experiences and social and cultural contexts, if tackling regional inequalities is to be successful.

Government action to rethink its model of delivering local services, through an evaluation of who is delivering local services and how that is being funded.

Elizabeth Palmer, CEO, St Vincent de Paul Society said:" This report amplifies our belief that successful levelling up intervention lies in a wraparound and person-centred approach that can be delivered locally. As a faith-based organisation that is rooted in communities across the country, our blend of tailored local services boosts equality, provides opportunities, supports wellbeing and promotes a sense of community."

The recommendations in the report, released in an election year, calls on policy makers to tackle regional inequalities in the following ways:

Strengthen the social security system and help people meet their aspirations. A strong and reliable social security safety net is essential to address regional inequalities and support

## February 25, 2024

Page 9

ʻleft behind' neighbourhoods. people in Recognise the role charities play in delivering national and local services and review the current model of delivering services for communities. Charities are increasingly delivering services previously provided by state agencies, Local Authorities (LA) and the National Service. If national and Health regional inequalities are to be tackled, the role charities play in tackling poverty must be acknowledged.

Devolve power and funding to local decision-makers. We believe that the key to the success of a long-term strategy to address national and regional inequalities is to help local stakeholders deliver what's needed by working closely with them – drawing on their knowledge and insight of local challenges and solutions.

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) is part of an international Christian voluntary network dedicated to tackling poverty. For the last 180 years we have been working to tackle poverty and its causes by bringing a blend of services and support to people in need in our local communities.

## **Looking Ahead**

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



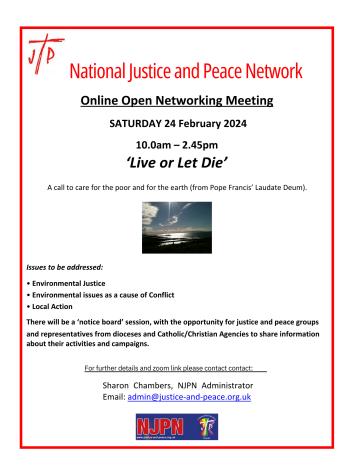
Lent Day of Reflection and Prayer with Vron Smith from the Jesuit Institute 2 March 2024 11:00-4:00 at the Hallam Pastoral Centre

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







## See more at https://hallam-diocese.com/Bridge

Jane, East Anglia

# Looking Ahead

# **Catholic Social Teaching**

#### Revisiting the Basics

What does the Church teach about society?For anyone interested in discovering, refreshing or deepening their understanding of this.

## Boarbank Hall, Cumbria



28 June-1 July 2024

Why? Catholic Social Teaching has been described as 'the Church's best-kept secret'. It offers a fresh way of understanding moral and social questions, deeply rooted in e Gospel, but accessible to anyone. It has rich resources for renewing a tired and confused political world. Ideal reflection for election year!

Who? The course will be taught by Sr Margaret Atkins, former lecturer at Trinity and All Saints, Leeds, and Oscott College seminary.

What? The weekend will offer lectures and discussions, shared meals and the option of joining the Community for Mass and Daily Office, along with some social time and space to explore our beautiful local area. How much? The basic Guest House fee is £90 per day with full board (£140 for twin/double), plus the option of a donation to cover the costs of the course.

# Your Parish and your Planet

A residential week to help us in our mission to care for creation, especially through our parishes.

25 May-1 June 2024 or 5-12 October 2024uctions offered if needed –please ask.)ed)

To book, email margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk

Why? Following our popular zoom weekends on the theme, we offer a chance to meet in person. We hope you will enjoy a refreshing break in our comfortable Guest House, while drawing inspiration and encouragement to continue your journey of living the Gospel in our fragile and precious world.

Who? Sr Margaret Atkins of the Boarbank Community and John Paul de Quay of the Ecological Conversion Group will lead the weeks.

What? The weeks will offer lectures and discussions, shared meals, the option of joining the Community for Mass and Daily Office, social time, optional gardening and visits to inspiring places in our beautiful local area.

How much? The basic Guest House fee is £90 per day with full board (£140 for twin/double), plus the option of a donation to cover the costs of the course. (Reductions offered if needed – please ask.)



Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk