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# Hallam Bridge



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

ISSUE #  
**020**  
September  
2024

## PASTORAL LETTER



SEASON OF  
CREATION

On 1 September, we embarked on another Season of Creation, concluding 4 October, on the Feast of St Francis, Patron of Ecology and a much loved Saint in the Church.

### TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION



Find out more *Page 3.*



### We are pilgrims, not tourists

This year was my third pilgrimage to Walsingham with the Diocese and every year it has been profoundly different. I come from a place where there's a strong devotion to Mary, especially when the oldest pilgrimage site in Slovakia is in the neighbouring village.

Find out more *Page 8.*



### Youth Mass at Padley

We gathered to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption on August 15th at Padley Chapel.

Find out more *Page 7.*

### New Deacons ordained at St Marie's Cathedral

Deacons Martin Frain and John Gilliver were ordained on the Feast of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist before a crowded congregation, including many priests and fellow deacons.

Find out more *Page 4.*



## Upcoming Events

- 1 October** Second Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, Penitential Celebration St. Peter's Basilica, at 6:00 pm (local time) Broadcast live.
- 2-27 October** Second Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, Rome
- 6 October** 2:00pm Youth Mass in Barnsley - Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe
- 11 October** XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops Ecumenical Prayer **7.00 pm** Broadcast live
- 19 October** 9:00-12:30 CCRS Year 1 & 2 Students - Pastoral Centre
- 21 October** 7:00 pm Using the New Lectionary - Pastoral Centre
- 2 November** 10:00-11:30 am Emerging Pastoral Ministry Meeting - Pastoral Centre
- 16 November** 7:00 pm Using the New Lectionary venue Wickersley Parish Hall
- 1-7 December** Week of Guided Prayer - Jesuit Institute - Online
- 14 December** Advent day of Recollection Fr Eamonn Mulcahy

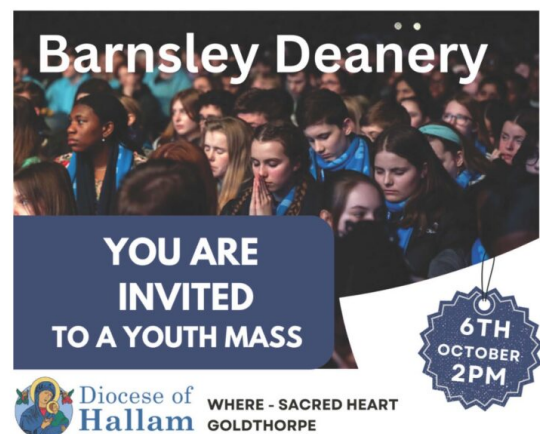
## Welcome to the September edition of Hallam Bridge

New term starts, offering us new opportunities to See, Judge and Act. Schooldays once offered the excitement of new beginnings; the new things at the beginning of the new term; pencil cases, uniforms, new timetable, new teachers, new opportunities, alongside the falling leaves, the falling conkers and the end of the possibilities of summer. As St John Henry Newman points out, we are all familiar with 'the order, the constancy, the perpetual renovation of the material world which surrounds us'. The world constantly changes but also continues. Here in Hallam diocese, we embrace the Season of Creation, with a Pastoral Letter from our Bishop Ralph, reminding us that the beautiful creation is a gift of Love from our Creator for us all to appreciate and cherish. Pilgrimages feature in Hallam Bridge this month and we hear a moving account from Renata of her experience of pilgrimaging to Walsingham. Hallam Youth travelled to Padley for Mass in the Martyrs chapel and some of the fascinating history of Catholicism in Yorkshire will be revealed for us in the months ahead. New things are beginning for our 2 new deacons, ordained at St Marie's Cathedral, and serving henceforward at St Peter in Chains in Doncaster and Blessed English Martyrs, Askern, although of course their commitment and loyal service to the Church is clear from their stories and we are grateful to them. You are reminded to pray for their ministry and discern your own. We pray for the repose of the soul of Sister

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<https://hallam-diocese.com/bridge/>

Maire Morris, giving thanks for her loyal mission to those on the margins of society. In this edition you are invited to consider some volunteer opportunities with the Diocese (details on the website), with PACT, the organisation which supports Prisoners, families and communities. There is a link to prayer resources from CAFOD and a reminder of the CAFOD Family Fast Day appeal. Do you still have a little red box for collecting for the missions? Fr Dermot reminds us that everything you do is a contribution to building the Kingdom. As we begin preparations for 2025 Jubilee Year, a group from the diocese joined others at Oscott College for a day of preaching, prayer and adoration. That the day of prayer took place there is a good reminder to pray for those involved in the work of the upcoming Synod on Synodality to be held in Rome from the beginning of October. St John Henry Newman, who preached on 13th 1852 from St Mary's, Oscott, in the first Provincial Synod of Westminster, lived through changes and turbulent times but was absolutely confident in the strength of the Holy Spirit we pray for that grace, too.



This is a publication by Hallam Diocese.

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## Around the Diocese

### Pastoral Letter - September 2024



## TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*The firstfruits of hope*  
(Rom 8:19-25)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On 1 September, we embarked on another Season of Creation, concluding 4 October, on the Feast of St Francis, Patron of Ecology and a much loved Saint in the Church.

The Season of Creation is a season dedicated to prayer, reflection and celebration of God as Creator. It invites people of faith and none to reflect prayerfully on the gifts of creation, and the mission given to us by God, to care for creation and to respond to its needs and crises today.

In his book, *The Practice of the Love of Jesus Christ*, written in 1768, St Alphonsus, the Founder of the Redemptorists, speaks of four outpourings of God's love on the world: the Incarnation, the Passion, and the Eucharist. However, he says that the first outpouring of God's love on the world is in the gift of creation.

Alphonsus is no "Eco Warrior"! However, I believe he has something that is both simple and profound to say about our relationship with our Creator and our world. He writes:

"Seeing that humans are driven by kindness, God willed to use his gifts to win them over to his love. 'I led them with cords of kindness with bands of love. (Hos11:4) I want to draw all men and women to love me with those snares of love, by which they are caught, that is by the snares of love, and those have precisely been God's gifts to human beings. After having given us souls with powers after his own image, with memory, understanding and will, and bodies furnished with their senses, he created for us heaven and earth, and so many other things, all for the love of us – the sky, the stars, the planets, the seas, the rivers, the springs, the

mountains, the plains, metals, fruits and countless species of animals: and all these creatures were made to serve the human race, so that men and women might love him in gratitude for so many gifts".

Our Christian responsibility for the planet begins with an appreciation of everything that he made, and it was very good. (Gen.1: 31) We gather today to celebrate our great prayer of thanksgiving to express our profound thanks to God for the gift of his creation to each of us by name, as an expression of his love for the world and for each of us.

However, as we look around our world, we quickly become aware that our actions have not always expressed our gratitude for God's many gifts, and the effects of our lack of gratitude on our world are clearly seen. As a result, in recent years, we have experienced increased incidence of wildfire, flooding and other natural disasters across the globe, the rise of sea levels, and the warming of the planet.

The result of this is what scientists speak of as tipping points in the earth's system that, once reached, will make it difficult to find our way back from. And these, we are constantly reminded, are not far away.

We cling to the hope and expectation for a better world. However, we cling to the hope for a better world, striving for a new life amidst the struggles.

The good news, however, is that we can change course, believing that the worst effects of climate change can still be avoided.

Reflecting on this year's theme "To hope and Act with Creation", one of the pieces of resource material offers the following ...

As stewards of this planet, the call to hope is a beacon guiding us towards a future of sustainability, balance and harmony with nature. It invites us to envision a world where the beauty of Creation is preserved for generations to come, where ecosystems flourish, and where every living being finds its place in the delicate web of life.

Yours sincerely in Christ, the Redeemer,

+Ralph

## Around the Diocese

### New Deacons ordained at St Marie's Cathedral



Two new members of the Permanent Diaconate have been ordained by Bishop Ralph at the Cathedral Church of St Marie, in Sheffield.

Deacons Martin Frain and John Gilliver were ordained on the Feast of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist before a crowded congregation, including many priests and fellow deacons.

Readings at the Ordination included St Paul's exhortation to the Ephesians to lead lives worthy of their vocation, read by Deacon John's wife, Maria, and the account of the appointment of the first Deacons, from the Acts of the Apostles, read by Deacon Martin's brother, Kevin.

The Gospel, read by Deacon Simon Hegarty, focused on Jesus calling 'a man called Matthew' to follow him before rebuking the Pharisees for asking why he ate with 'tax collectors and sinners', telling them: "It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick...I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners."

Both Deacons Martin and John will serve in the Doncaster area at St Peter in Chains, and Blessed English Martyrs, Askern respectively.

Deacon Martin was born in Sheffield to an Irish family and was the youngest of Paddy and Annie Frain's eight children.

He was educated at St Catherine's Primary School and Notre Dame and gained his grounding and love of the faith as an Altar Server at St Catherine's, Pitsmoor.

He worked as a carpenter and joiner before

moving into construction management and working for one of South Yorkshire's local authorities.

Playing Irish traditional music is a big part of his life and he won an all-Ireland title for the Uilleann Pipes in 1987, two years before he married Suzanne Corcoran, herself a champion Irish dancer.

The couple have four children.

Martin says of his decision to seek ordination as a Deacon: "There was no great pull from God towards an ordained ministry but more a gentle nudge on life's directional rudder.

"Everything seemed to fall into place - a loving family who have given nothing but support, a new change of job that allowed for times of study and pastoral experience and a wife who knew me so well that she recognised my calling before myself.

"How could I refuse God's call."

Deacon John is a retired fire fighter and former Doncaster Councillor, who represented the Askern Ward for four years before, as he puts it, he felt a "strong sense of being called to serve a much higher Authority."

He started out in the church as an Altar Server, aged seven, and he and his wife of 39 years, Maria, are Readers and Eucharistic Ministers in addition to helping other Catholic couples to prepare for married life.

The couple have two adult children, a son who has Down syndrome and associated medical conditions and lives with them and a married daughter

John sees parallels between his 30 years as a fire fighter with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and his new role as a Deacon.

"We are trained to deal with every eventuality, the primary objective being to save life. As someone recently said: 'As a fire fighter you put out many fires, may you now light them instead!'"

In their spare time, John and Maria enjoy taking their son to watch the Dons Rugby League team and watching Formula 1 racing on the television.

[Read full article and see more photos on our website](https://hallam-diocese.com/Bridge)



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### Diocesan visit to the Adoremus - National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress



Saturday 14th September 2024

Bright and early 34 pilgrims and friends from parishes all over the diocese started their day long pilgrimage to Birmingham.

Oscott College, the place where St John Henry Newman preached his 'Second Spring' sermon, hosted representatives from all over the country. The seminarians shepherded us around the beautiful buildings and grounds to a large marquee where all the main events were held.

The sun shone and the coats were discarded to hear Bishop Alan McGuikan SJ from Down & Connor in the first address of the day. He drew parallels from the past to explain how the sequence of offering, ritual and feast has always been part of human nature and how the Liturgy of the Eucharist mirrors so much in Jesus message and, indeed, in human life.

After the Adoremus and Mass, led by Cardinal Vincent and many bishops, including our own Bishop Ralph, we enjoyed lunch together. Those who stretched out on the manicured lawns of the College or in the marquee enjoyed great fellowship and conversation before returning for the Eucharistic procession and Benediction. The procession led us around the driveways, woods and lawns of Oscott in what felt to be a walk with Jesus in the sunshine.

Mgr John Armitage gave a presentation on the

works of the Guild of our Lady of Ransom, to "go and make disciples, of all the peoples." His call was for renewed evangelisation.

The only problem of the day was that a planned keynote address by Sr Margaret Adkins CRSA was cancelled. The only woman to be on stage stood down in order to keep the bus drivers legal.

Return to Sheffield and Rotherham on the bus had more fellowship and a beautiful rosary led by the organiser for the diocese, Deacon Tony Strike.

As we prepare for 2025, a year of Jubilee and pilgrimage there was no finer opportunity for people of the Diocese to walk together with the Holy Spirit as pilgrims with hope.

"To bring people together from across the Diocese of Hallam to join with pilgrims from all the dioceses of England and Wales was a tremendous act of solidarity, affirming our collective belief in the Blessed Sacrament. Especially in this Year of Prayer, in preparation for the Holy Year of 2025, we could experience travelling and praying together as pilgrims of hope." Deacon Tony Strike

### Sister Maire Morris RIP – an appreciation



Sister Maire Morris died on 17th of July 2024 after an heroic battle against cancer.

She bore her treatment with patience, and

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prayer. Her life was one of dedication to the care of those in need.

For a significant part of her life she worked for Catholic Care (formerly the Rescue Society in the diocese of Leeds) in Southbourne linked with the Children's Homes at Minto Road in Sheffield.

Children's homes and hostels started to be phased out in the late 70's. The opportunity arose for a new project at Southbourne.

Father Hubert McNamara a priest of the Hallam Diocese, was very open about his condition as a recovering alcoholic. Fully recovered he wanted to set up a project based on the AA programme to help others in a similar situation to the one he experienced. He was friendly with Sister Moira who became a huge personal support for him and together they set up this project renaming it the Carmel centre in 1986. He once said to me that he couldn't have done this without Sister Moira's help and basically she had saved his life.

Carmel's programme was based on the 12 step programme.

The word "Carmel" means an oasis – a place of rest and nourishment. Father Mac became known as "the priest of the broken". He always referred to Sister Moira as his greatest support in this work. They journeyed together helping others in need.

After father Mac died Moira continued to oversee the work of the centre until her retirement, ably supported by Bridgett Warren.

The work at the centre continued but was soon faced with an issue of financial support and it nearly closed. Caritas put together a recovery plan and fortunately it survived a precarious period.

Today it is a thriving enterprise offering care and counselling to the lonely, isolated, disadvantaged, depressed, and refugees etc. From an initial 3 day opening to now opening 6 days a week. Sister Maire legacy carries on today.

Staffing is entirely covered by volunteers. A religious order is still involved in the person of sister Marie thereby continuing the line of a

religious involvement.

In my 60 years of practice in the social care field it is probably the best project I have had the honour of overseeing and witnessing.

The last words come from Sarah who was in the children's home where sister Moira worked. "Sister Moira was like a mum to me. She was loved by me and everyone she cared for. She never judged anyone. She had a beautiful smile that lit up a room".

Stuart Hanlon on behalf of Caritas Diocese of Hallam

## Hallam Diocese Missio Mass



Hallam Diocese Missio Mass was held on Saturday 21 September 2024 in the beautiful Catholic Church of Holy Rood, Barnsley.

Fr Dermot Byrne MHM was the visiting Mill Hill Missionary priest, supported by Deacon Paul Green and Fr Damian Humphries.

Fr Dermot preached, telling us about God's call to him to missionary life and his response. He told us in an amused way that he had been hoping for a bit of a dramatic working life but had instead provided teaching for seminarians in Uganda for many years. But with joy he was able to say that he had learned that every small part of his life of service he knew was important for the mission of spreading the Good News of the Gospel. He thanked Hallam Diocese for their contribution of money and prayers. (Last year Hallam contributed £37,388 from Red Missio Box donations.) After Mass, the kind parishioners of Holy Rood provided refreshments and there was time to hear from each other and drink tea. Supporters from



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across the diocese joined the conversations and Teresa from Missio thanked everyone for coming and directed those wanting to know more about the work of Missio to look at this year's Impact report.

## Youth Mass at Padley



Our second Marian Youth gathering this year took place in August. As the Diocese of Hallam is under the patronage of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, this group will be meeting in October, May, and August.

We gathered to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption on August 15th at Padley Chapel. Despite the rainy day, we were pleasantly surprised to have a group of 30 present. The youth group from St Marie's Cathedral travelled together by train, joining us once again. Additionally, we were joined by people from Mother of God, St Vincent's, and our diocesan youth leaders, despite it being A-level results day. Fr. Henry was assisted by two young adults from St Peter's & the Mission Hub.

Gerard Bonner, a 'friend of Padley,' arranged for us to use the pre-reformation altar inside the chapel. Gerard gave a wonderful explanation of the site, bringing it alive for us, and pointing out where the altar stone had been hidden for 3 and a half centuries. You can read much more about the history of the Martyrs and the Chapel here: [Padley Martyrs Chapel - Hallam Diocese #](https://hallam-diocese.com/Padley_Martyrs_Chapel_-_Hallam_Diocese_#) ([hallam-diocese.com](https://hallam-diocese.com))

Fr. Henry Woodhouse celebrated Mass, and we used incense for the feast day. Gerard believes it is the first time a thurible has been used at this altar since its reinstatement. During the Mass, Fr. Henry spoke about the importance of Mary in our Faith on her feast day, as well as about

martyrdom and the difficulties young people face in following their faith.

## Hallam Youth – Update



Hallam Youth has been busy over the last month working and volunteering with our young people of Hallam.

A few of our older youth leaders were chosen to assist the post-16 group to Lourdes. They participated in safeguarding training at the Hub and met the young people at the Lourdes training day. As part of their week in Lourdes they accompanied the young people in prayer, in free time and were privileged to walk with the young people as they reflected on their faith. Seeing the Hallam Youth as peer role models for our young people was inspiring. On the 24-hour journey home, they reflected on the experience and were keen to continue walking alongside the young.

After Lourdes, several Hallam Youth assisted at the primary school pilgrimage to Padley. It was raining heavily and the children had to have Mass indoors. This did not dampen the spirits of Hallam Youth who set about working out how to squash over a hundred children into the small space and have room for 4 altar servers! These young helpers stayed until the end moving chairs, directing children, and even stepping in when the children were unsure. They were a great asset to the day and the staff said it was great to see these young role models in our diocese.

After schools broke up Hallam youth set off to Savio House to prepare for a summer camp for yr7's. This was the first time we had worked together with Leeds diocese and it was a great

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success. Our young team worked together with the Leeds staff and brought a lot of joy and energy to the week. They honestly exceeded expectations with their fun, empathy and just giving everything a go.

The day after summer camp it was up early and off to the pilgrimage to Walsingham. It was a real blessing to arrive early and pray the rosary, have adoration and be able to place petitions at the Marian shrine. I hope that more young people may think of joining us next year.

This last month has been uplifting for the mission of the youth office, watching young leaders grow and young adults come forward asking to accompany them.

THANK YOU to all who took part in these events! If you would like to know more about the young leaders in Hallam get in touch.

Now – we are planning a youth Mass in Padley and Barnsley and we will be starting up our meetings again in September.

## We are pilgrims, not tourists



After being asked to share my personal experience and reflections on this year's Annual Pilgrimage of Hallam Diocese I felt honoured. As I know myself being too quick to say yes to million things without thinking, I felt urge to find out whether this is something God wanted me to do. I brought it to prayer and I remembered Mother Theresa's "Flying novena." The word came to me "How can you say NO to your sweet Mother?" So it was decided.

This year was my third pilgrimage to

Walsingham with the Diocese and every year it has been profoundly different. I come from a place where there's a strong devotion to Mary, especially when the oldest pilgrimage site in Slovakia is in the neighbouring village. So, after being encouraged by a friend to come and join her to Walsingham I thought it would be interesting to find out more about this English Marian shrine. It also happened to be my birthday on that day. Everyone sang Happy Birthday to me at the end of the mass and I could not have felt more blessed. Last year, I made my own way down which meant leaving the car at the shrine, walking the Mile to the village and then back again with the whole Diocese, but nothing beats travelling down on a coach with other pilgrims. It gives the sense of belonging and provides an opportunity to know each other on a more personal level. We are all so different, quiet or outspoken, confident or less so, funny or serious, sad or cheerful. We have so much to give and learn from each other and yes, we are all invited to come and give thanks, ask for what we need and offer what we have. We accept this invitation and embark physically on the journey to come and to talk to our Mother Mary, often feeling lonely in our own struggles and worries. The pilgrimage, in a special way, allows for the healing to take place by doing it together, we go home heard, reassured, fed and filled with peace. This year, although I come from a local parish in Sheffield, I joined the coach setting off from Doncaster organised by Marian Johnson.

I was impressed by the prayer program. We were invited to contemplate about being pilgrims not tourists. We are pilgrims not just on this particular journey but on our journey of life as such. We ought not to be demanding, comfortable, complaining and entitled like tourists are, but rather, like pilgrims, we ought to grow in compassion, patience, gentleness and love towards others along the way. So apt!

To add, Fr Christian's homily at the shrine about fish and bread was convincing. We get fed, do we feed others? What is our bread, do we give it up for the good of others and for building up the Church or do we keep it to ourselves whilst others are starving? These words called me to



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action and think of way I can personally give the bread to someone in my church/Diocese. So much food for thought. I thoroughly enjoyed the day, meeting old friends and making new ones. I got back home knowing again, that my walk of life is never lonely, our Mum takes care of us in such a loving way. I would like to express my gratitude to all those who took part in organising the pilgrimage and to Marian for thoughtfully preparing the reflections.

My hopes for the Hallam Diocese Pilgrimage to Walsingham are that we fall more and more in love with our sweet Mother, that I will be joined by more people from my parish and one day we will go down in at least 5 coaches.

Renata Atkins, Parish of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows at the Foot of the Cross (Slovak community), Sheffield

## 'Pilgrimages banned in England'



A Pre-reformation Pilgrim

If this were a present day headline, it would be both eye-catching and shocking. Particularly as we head towards the Year of Jubilee 2025 with its theme of being 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

But it did happen in England 1538, when Henry VIII's Chief Minister, Thomas Cromwell, shaped an Act of Parliament to ban pilgrimages.

In some places the ban worked, the Shrines of St Thomas of Canterbury and Our Lady of Doncaster were destroyed.

But elsewhere the tradition of pilgrimages to shrines survived and flourished, as at 'St Winefrides's (Gwenfrewi's) Shrine', at Holywell in

Wales. It was declared the Welsh 'National Shrine' in November 2023.

Fr Philip Fletcher, of the 'Guild of Our Lady of Ransom', restored the first, post reformation pilgrimage at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in 1897. Fr (Canon) Oswald Dolan of St Marie's Sheffield, called on the support of the Guild, in the first official pilgrimage to the 'Padley Martyrs' Chapel' Grindleford in 1898. The 'Shrine of Our Lady of Doncaster' had been renewed in 1868.

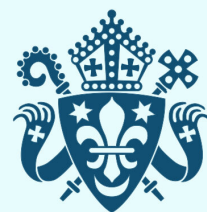
A significant boost to the tradition of Catholic pilgrimages, has come from 'Hearts in Search of God' project, led by Phil McCarthy. It has identified or established, a Pilgrimage route in each of the 22 dioceses of England and Wales. *The Diocese of Hallam's pilgrimage route is the 'Padley Martyrs' Way'.*

The tradition of 'walking prayer' is deeply embedded in the history of Christian civilisation. In England it has survived legislative 'bans' and in 2024 is vibrant and flourishing, as in the 2024 Year of Prayer. we walk towards the 2025 Jubilee 'Year of Hope' as 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

The Hallam Diocese's 'Pilgrim Passport' will soon be available, with more information.

Gerard Bonner

## Bishops' Conference calls for Catholics to help abolish two-child benefit cap



The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has renewed its call for the government to scrap the two-child benefit cap on Universal Credit payments and is asking Catholics to contact their local MPs to make their feelings known.

The policy is currently under review by the Government's Child Poverty Taskforce and the Bishops' Conference has set up an e-Action

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online – a simple form to help Catholics contact their MPs.

Bishop Richard Moth said: "The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have opposed the two-child cap on Universal Credit payments since its introduction in 2017. We have continually called for its removal because of the impact on family life and child poverty.

"As Chair of the Department for Social Justice, I am pleased that the Government is reviewing the cap as part of the work of the newly formed Child Poverty Taskforce."

Penalising larger families

The bishops have consistently argued that the policy has been undermining the financial security of families with three or more children. Such families often have no choice but to make claims for Universal Credit as a result of common, but unpredictable, life events, such as job loss or the onset of disability. The majority of families affected by the two-child policy are working families.

[Read full article on our website](#)

## Care for Creation update



'People seek God outside and above creation, in abstraction and purity and complexity. But the creation story of Genesis, the Incarnation in Luke and Matthew, and the Cross in all the Gospels tells us that the reverse is true..... God is close and concrete. God creates this world as good and beautiful, wanting all his creatures to thrive. And the place we find God is right here, down here with his creatures, in all things.' (First

Belong to God. On Retreat with Pope Francis. Austen Ivereigh.)

The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is a special time for all Christians to pray and work together to care for this place we find God.

It begins on Sunday September 1st with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

The day is inspired by Pope Francis' landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth.

In his message for the World Day of Prayer this year, he reminds us that the Holy Spirit "keeps the believing community alert and calls it to conversion in lifestyles, to resist human degradation of the environment."

See <https://cafod.org.uk/news/uk-news/celebrat-e-world-day-of-prayer>

This webpage leads on to a wealth of prayer resources and intercessions for individual, group and parish use throughout the Season up to the Feast of St. Francis on October 4th.

'Pioneering parishes' is an online event on Wednesday 4 September 2024 hosted by CAFOD, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and St Mary's University.

How local Church communities can become Guardians of Creation.

<https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/pioneering-parishes>

Live Simply parish award Mass:

This year St. Vincent's Crookes, Sheffield, followed St. Joseph's Dinnington to be the second parish in Hallam Diocese to earn the Cafod Live Simply Award.

The award will be presented by Bishop Ralph at Sunday morning Mass on 29th September. It feels fitting that this will happen as part of the Season of Creation; anyone nearby is most welcome to come to the celebration!

Day of action Saturday September 21st:

Faith leaders mark Season of Creation with a call on followers to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty proposal

[Read full article on our website](#)



## Looking Ahead

### Diaconate Vocations 2024



We pray for the Permanent Deacons serving in our diocese and we pray for new vocations to this ministry. If you are a baptised and confirmed man, between 30 and 55 years, prayerful, and with the desire to serve God's people, and you are visible and involved within your parish and community, you might be being called to be a Permanent Deacon? Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance, and if you require more information about the Permanent Diaconate, speak to your Parish Priest, or the Parish Deacon, if there is one, and then contact the Diaconate Formation Director, Deacon Tony via e-mail: [astrike@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:astrike@hallam-diocese.com)

### CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal: Carving a Better Future - October 4th



This Harvest season, we will mark CAFOD's Family Fast Day on Friday, October 4th, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. We have a special opportunity to follow the example of St Francis

and reach out with love to our sisters and brothers.

You can donate during parish collections for CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal this Harvest season. Remember to pick up your Family Fast Day envelope and Gift Aid your donation if you can. You can also give online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](https://cafod.org.uk/envelope).

One example of the impact our collective generosity makes is the life-changing work in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Thanks to your support, CAFOD is helping young people there overcome poverty and build better futures.

In Goma, young people face big challenges due to ongoing conflict, poor infrastructure and few job opportunities. Many families cannot afford food or education for their children. Thanks to generous donations from the Catholic community in England and Wales, CAFOD partners with local organisations like CAJED (Concerted Action for Disadvantaged Young People and Children) in the DRC. CAJED operates a vocational training centre in Goma, teaching young people skills to earn a living.

"If God helps and this work expands, I can do greater things," says Daniel, a young man from Goma. His story shows the impact of vocational training. Despite his parents' hard work, Daniel's family often went hungry and there was no money for school. As soon as he could, Daniel took on labouring jobs to support his family. Reflecting on his childhood, Daniel said, "I never want anyone to go through the life I had when I was younger."

Determined to change his life, Daniel enrolled in an eight-month carpentry course at the CAJED centre. With the guidance of local experts like Simon, Daniel learned to make furniture like doors, chairs and cabinets. Simon saw Daniel's potential, saying, "I saw that Daniel understands things quickly. I am proud when I see the young people I trained becoming independent."

Today, Daniel runs his own workshop, making furniture for customers in Goma. He earns a stable income and is supporting his family.

[Read full article on our website](#)

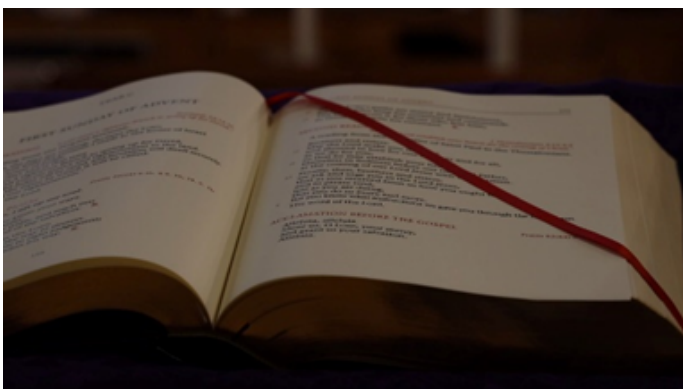
## Looking Ahead

### Opportunities for Spiritual Development



In addition to the now-established seasonal days of recollection (the next one is on 14 December) that the Formation and Mission Team is offering, they are also planning a number of events to help people to develop their spirituality. This will begin with an online week of Guided Prayer from 1-7 December led by the Jesuit Institute. This will be followed next March by the Listening Project, which is about spiritual conversation and will lead onto a third phase, which will teach the art of Spiritual Accompaniment for those who feel called to develop this ministry. This process will provide an opportunity to discern appropriate candidates. If you would like to find out more contact the Formation & Mission Team.

## New Lectionary



A new translation of the lectionary which uses the English Standard Version (Catholic Edition) (ESV-CE) and the Abbey Psalms will come into use on the first Sunday of Advent (1 December 2024). This will replace the Jerusalem Bible (JB) version which is currently used. In order to help

readers and others prepare for this change, and specifically help readers prepare for the proclamation of this new translation, The Formation and Mission Team are planning to have two training sessions: Monday 21 October 7:00 -8:30 pm at the Pastoral Centre and Saturday 16 November 10:00-11:30 am at Blessed Trinity, Northfield Lane, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 2HL. (This is accessible by public transport Train & or X1, X2 from Chesterfield, Sheffield, Barnsley and Doncaster and there is ample parking). The sessions are aimed primarily at readers but open to others. To help us with our planning you will need to book for either of these events on our Eventbrite page here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hallam-formation-and-mission-46212155433>

## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DIOCESE



There are four vacancies for volunteer roles with the Diocese:

- Environmental Lead
- Diocesan Archivist
- Diocesan Building Committee (x2)

If you think one of them is something that you feel you could contribute to then please do register your interest before October 4th, 2024 with [jmoylan@hallam-diocese.co](mailto:jmoylan@hallam-diocese.co)

[Find more information on our website](#)