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Hallam Bridge



ISSUE 23
December 2024

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

SVP Pilgrims in Paris



Find out more page 3

As Pope Francis begins the Jubilee Year

find out more about how you can join in some of the events taking place on pages 5 and 13



As the Final Document of the Synod is published we reflect on our diocesan Journey. Find out more on page 9



Cardinal Fitzgerald visits the Mount

find out more about his work in interreligious dialogue on page 10



On the Shoulders of Giants

Liz Salmon from Corpus Christi Parish gives thanks with fellow students as they complete the Loyola Certificate in Pastoral Ministry page 7.



Upcoming Events

28 December Opening of the Jubilee Year - Cathedral
25 January CCRS - Christology & CST Pastoral Centre
8 February CCRS - Christology & CST Pastoral Centre
3 March CCRS - Christology & CST Pastoral Centre
5 March Ash Wednesday
8 March Listening with the Heart Pastoral Centre
22 March Lent Day of Recollection TBA
8 June Summer Day of Recollection TBA
27 June - 3 July Hallam Lourdes Pilgrimage

Welcome to the Christmas edition of Hallam Bridge

As the year draws to a kindly close, we can look back at the joys and sorrows of 2024 and wonder what we have learned and what might we do differently in the year ahead. It may be that the Holy Spirit is prompting us all to notice developments in spirituality across the diocese. Articles contributed by you for Hallam Bridge's last issue of the year has plenty of spiritual development and joy to celebrate; the young SVP in Paris, welcoming of new formal ministries joining the ordained and laity in their mission, warm words from Sue McDonald on Youth Ministry, graduates of the Loyola Pastoral Ministry celebrating their achievement, reports from attendees at the Jesuit Institute Week of Guided Prayer and Eamonn Mulcahy's teaching on how the beauty of the words of Dei Verbum can enter your soul if you give space and time to praying with them, and the conclusion of the Synod in Rome

And so as we prepare for 2025, the Year of Jubilee, perhaps one resolution might be to join in with the Jubilee events, make a pilgrimage, forgive a debt, take practical steps to walk together and become a synodal Church, join in with spirituality events taking place next year as advertised, to enrich your prayer life and fill your hearts with the joy of Christ.

Grace and peace to you for Christmas and the year ahead.
 Editor

We share with you Kelly Latimore's icon of the Nativity called 'Christ in the Rubble'. She wants her art to be a 'holy pondering' - a process that potentially brings about a new way of seeing. She hopes that this icon will create more dialogue among Christians during this holy season about the ways our beliefs and actions - or lack thereof - contribute to the violence we're currently witnessing in Gaza. How can we shape a culture of Christianity where love truly has no boundaries? How do we create a world where our poor, homeless, refugee, Palestinian Saviour - born to a teenage mother and later condemned to death - would be cherished had he been born today.

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 Please send your articles or Feedback to
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CONTACT



Youth Ministry

As 2024 comes to a close, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the generosity and support extended to our young faithful in the Diocese. This year I have seen our young people actively engaging with the Church, fostering a sense of belonging and structure. This progress is largely due to the availability of our Diocesan priests, who have accompanied the youth at various events, the religious who have joyfully participated in listening to our young people. More importantly, our fantastic young adult leaders and the diocesan youth leaders who are growing in confidence, selflessly giving of themselves, and willingly sharing their journey with those younger than themselves. I could not do without this support.

Moreover, there have been numerous anonymous donations from parishioners across the diocese, enabling our young people to travel further afield and connect with others who are like-minded on this journey.

I have personally felt supported by Bishop Ralph, my consultative body and our schools and parishes. I recognise that there are still areas where we can build connections, and we are steadily moving forward.

Thank you to every one of you. I am enthused that our young people are active in many of your youth clubs and churches and meeting them is a joy.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas! Sue McDonald



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Around the Diocese

Young Adults go on Pilgrimage to Paris with SVP 1833



This September, a group of young adults, including Rachel Walters from Sheffield, journeyed to Paris on behalf of SVP 1833 in order to discover more about Vincentian spirituality and history. These were five days of discovery for those involved, making pilgrimage to key sites in the origins of the Saint Vincent to Paul Society.

The young adults in question had come from a variety of backgrounds and stages of the young adult experience, be that finishing their first year of university, settling into a career or taking time to reflect. The journey begun on Sunday 15 September, when members of the group travelled from all around the country to meet at St Pancras station ready to board the Eurostar. Like all good pilgrimages, it began with a prayer for a safe journey and a good time.

From the Gare du Nord, it was a short metro trip to the Congregation of the Mission, home to the beautiful Saint Vincent de Paul chapel. It was here that the pilgrims stayed, ate meals and enjoyed companionship together. During their stay, they had the privilege of access to the chapel, which aptly contained the relics of St Vincent, the society's patron and inspiration. The group were able to attend Mass in the Chapel with the congregation, as well as morning and evening prayer.

Five days was a short time to take in all the sights and places of spiritual significance that Paris has to offer. Notable stops included the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal - the location of Mary's apparition to St Catherine Labouré in which she requested the creation and distribution of Miraculous Medals. The

Church of Saint-Sulpice is a baroque Church whose history is closely interlinked with that of the SVP society, and Blessed Frederic Ozanam's crypt is found in the Church of Saint-Joseph-des-Carmes, which was an appropriate location for a prayer for the canonisation of the society's founder. Paris is also home to the headquarters of the International General Council of the SVP, which contains a museum dedicated to Blessed Frederic Ozanam and is run by a team of SVP experts. Of course, there was also time for sightseeing - including but not limited to a boat cruise on the river Seine and trips to the Eiffel tower, the Arc de Triomphe and Notre Dame.

The journey was an impactful one for all involved, succeeding in its mission to educate young adults in the rich history of the Saint Vincent de Paul society and inspire them to return to normal life inspired by Vincentian spirituality and with a renewed sense of concern for those who need it most.

This pilgrimage, which was subsidised for the young adults, was possible thanks to some generous funders who were keen for young adults to connect with the SVP and become engaged with serving within their community. If anyone is interested in connecting with SVP1833 please email youngvincentians@svp.org.uk

Rachel Walters

Ministries Mass at Cantley



Peter Holland and Ken Agwuh with Bishop Ralph. Ken Agwuh was instituted as an Acolyte and Peter Holland as a Lector at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Ralph on the vigil of Christ the King, at St. Paul's, Cantley, on 23 November 2024. Ken

Around the Diocese

and Peter are both students in formation as candidates for ordination as permanent deacons.

They will now exercise the stable ministries of Acolyte and Lector, respectively, in order to be better disposed for their future service of the Altar and of the Word. Peter is based at Sacred Heart, Hillsborough, and he has completed two years formation, and as a new Lector is focussing on becoming more familiar with Holy Scripture, catechetical teaching and reading at Mass. Ken, based at St. Paul's, Cantley, has completed three years formation, and as a new Acolyte will increasingly assist the Priest at the Altar at Mass.

A Deacon is not only a herald of the Gospel in the Church, and is not only at Mass to assist and serve the Priest. From service at the Altar, he is called to go out into the world, beyond the boundaries of the Church, and into the faith community, and to proclaim the Word of God in sometimes challenging and unusual situations – particularly to those on the margins of society. He also has a role in helping us all; raising our awareness of those in need – and in activating our response. Deacons seek to make real the relationship between the Gospel and the lives of people in every social context. The functions of the Deacons in Hallam are many. Each Deacon responds to the needs of the community in which they live and worship, particularly in reawakening and sustaining everyone's attention to the poorest, and those in need, and in serving as Christ served.

In addition to Ken and Peter, the diocese has two other men in formation, discerning the Lord's call to ministry. If we are to realise a fully missionary and synodal Church we need even greater participation. The ministry of deacon is one creative way of activating a new form of ministeriality and missionary action. The diocese needs men, aged from 30 and under 60, to step forward and respond to the call to serve. Aspirants may be celibate or married. After initial enquiries, and after completing a national application form, a medical report, CRB check and psychological assessment a selection conference takes place followed by a decision by

the bishop. If accepted, the four-year, part-time, diaconal formation programme includes regular weekend meetings with other students, with lectures, essays, spiritual direction, pastoral and liturgical experience, and the structured institution of the ministries of Lector and Acolyte.

Please pray for Ken and Peter as they continue their formation. If you require further information about the Permanent Diaconate in Hallam, please speak to your Parish Priest, (the Parish Deacon, if there is one), or contact the Assistant Director of Deacons responsible for Formation, Deacon Tony Strike, on e-mail: astrike@hallam-diocese.com Tony Strike

Advent Reflection on Dei Verbum



A group of about twenty people were privileged to spend an Advent Saturday reflecting on the Word of God, the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on Divine Revelation with Spiritan priest, Fr Eamonn Mulcahy CSSp.

Fr Eamonn gave us an engaging and frequently entertaining introduction to the context of the Second Vatican Council and the centrality of the Dogmatic Constitution

Dei Verbum

to the whole process. He focussed our prayer on words from the opening paragraph of the Constitution "so that by hearing the message of salvation the whole world may believe, by believing it may hope, and by hoping it may love."

He went on to reflect on our relationship with Christ, the one source of Revelation, not in terms of concepts and ideas, but as the living Word of God in person, so that, in the words of

Around the Diocese

the First Letter of St John we may share “what we have heard, what we have seen with our own eyes, what we have watched and touched with our own hands, about the Word of life.”

He spoke about the centrality and importance of the kernel of Tradition surrounded by the husk of changing traditions and the necessity not to confuse the two.

He brought us right up to the present day in reflecting on the challenges and opportunities presented to us by the recently introduced ESV Lectionary that we will encounter at Mass, encouraging us to make sure that we have our own copy of the Bible at home in whatever translation we find helpful and encounter the living God through a prayerful reading of its pages.

The day concluded with the Celebration of Mass where we truly experienced the same Christ present in the Table of the Word and the Table of the Eucharist. We were sent forth to joyfully share the hope we had experienced together.

The Year of Jubilee



2025 is a Year of Jubilee! In the Old Testament, the Jubilee Year was a time of renewal and celebration. Debts were cancelled, people could rest, and because crops weren't planted even the land was able to rest. It was also a time of freedom: prisoners and slaves were freed, and land was given to those who didn't have any. It was known as the year of the Lord's favour. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the

poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”

Jesus makes it clear that his mission is to bring the justice and freedom of the Jubilee and we are called to share in his mission. At CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, this mission of Jesus is at the heart of what we do. This Jubilee year starts when billions of people across the world live in poverty, in war and suffering injustice. We need to take to heart this message of the Jubilee. It has to be a special, holy year of forgiveness and mercy, a time to reset, to renew our relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

Pope Francis has called this Jubilee Year ‘Pilgrims of Hope’. It is an invitation to renew our hope, a hope which comes from knowing that God loves each one of us, whoever we are. Pope Francis asks us to be signs of hope for others through caring for our common home and supporting our sister and brothers who are experiencing war, hunger or poverty. We know that the world is facing many of these challenges... but you are one of millions of people who are joining together in the Jubilee Year to bring the light of hope and the message of God's love to every part of the world.

How can we be Pilgrims of Hope this year? Here are our top five suggestions:

Join us for an upbeat and lively Introduction to the Jubilee Year on Saturday, 18 January, 10:30am-12:00pm online. With Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission for the Catholic Bishop's Conference, Christine Allen, our Director, and Kayode Akintola, our Head of Africa. Join us for prayer and reflection, with music from Catholic band Ooberfuse, and so much more, as we explore how to celebrate Jubilee and be a sign of hope in this holy year. Register now for free at cafod.org.uk/jubilee

Use our reflection guide to explore the biblical background to the Jubilee Year, be encouraged by stories of change from our global family and reflect on God's call for you in this special year. Use it in groups, as a church or individually.

As we begin the Jubilee Year 2025, we face the

Around the Diocese

most acute global debt crisis in history. Jubilee years in the Church have traditionally been a time for addressing inequality and restoring equality, and of cancelling debts. Pope Francis has called for action on the debt crisis in the Jubilee Year, saying, "More than a question of generosity, this is matter of justice." Sign the global petition calling for action at cafod.org.uk/campaign

You can make a huge difference to people living in poverty this Jubilee Year by giving a regular gift to CAFOD. Support us and our partners across the world, working wherever the need is greatest. cafod.org.uk/give

Lend a hand. The Jubilee is a great time to lend us a hand with our work in your parish, your local schools, your networks or in a variety of other ways. Your help can bring communities together, raise awareness of our global sisters and brothers and bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. cafod.org.uk/volunteer

Celebrate the Jubilee in Schools. Children and young people in Catholic schools will celebrate the Jubilee year, journeying together as pilgrims of hope and agents of change. Join the Jubilee for Schools Launch Day on 24 January 2025 and find our framework of events and resources at: jubilee-schools.org.uk

All our Jubilee resources for the Jubilee can be found at cafod.org.uk/jubilee We wish you a joyful and hope-filled Jubilee! Angela Powell

Pictured here is a Jubilee Icon commissioned by CAFOD depicting Luke 4:16-21. Created by Mulugeta Araya, an artist and engineer who studied at St Mary's college in Ethiopia. St Mary's offers vocational training for young people in agriculture, IT and accounting, as well as the arts. The college also takes part in programmes to improve food security, the supply of water and emergency response in the area.

Week of Guided Prayer in Hallam



Diocese of Hallam
FORMATION AND MISSION



Chris Wood from St Mary's, Penistone and a member of the Diocesan Spirituality Group writes of her experience of the Week of Guided Prayer hosted by the Jesuit Institute and the Diocesan Formation and Mission Department at the beginning of Advent from 1-6 December.

"Having had a little experience of the elements of guided prayer, I looked forward to this week. The five one-hour long Zoom meetings comprising of introduction, three workshops and final coming together, sounded like a good start to Advent.

It didn't disappoint; and what a change from formalised written prayer which dominates our church based celebrations. Making time to sit and be with the Lord, using our senses, imagination, contemplation, praying with art and reflection on our day by using Examen made a peaceful, reflective time.

Some who attended the sessions had also signed up to individual sessions with a delegated guide on a daily basis for a half hour at a mutually convenient time. This was a new experience for me, one that I would prepare for in a different way were I to have chance to repeat, but a valuable insight into my prayer habits both the elements that came easily to me and the ones with which I struggled.

The strong message that came from the week to me was to sit in the presence of God, talk to him as you would to a friend, and listen to him more intensely than you would listen to a friend, and all in peaceful silence -no verbal words needed. Many thanks to all who made week possible and enjoyable. God Bless you. Chris Wood

Around the Diocese

There will be an opportunity to deepen this experience in a series of sessions starting on 8 March 2025 called Listening with the Heart. The sessions will introduce participants to deeper listening and intentional speaking in our everyday encounters. They will explore through prayer, reflection, discussion and practice the place of life-giving conversation in the everyday. If you would like to find out more please contact the Formation and Mission Team.

formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com

On the Shoulders of Giants



Praising God during the celebration of the Mass of Thanksgiving

Liz, Rachel and Jacqui receiving their certificates.

Three parishioners in the Hallam Diocese celebrated the completion of the Loyola University Pastoral Ministry Course this September. Rachel, Jacqui and Liz studied along with people from around the UK, studying part time for 2 years covering subjects which included the Old and New Testament, the history of the Catholic Church in Britain, Catholic Social Teaching, Catechesis and much more. The Loyola course is an online study programme with renowned lecturers from the UK and America. Each module is a precious gem, giving the learner an opportunity to delve deeper into our faith, traditions and history, bringing characters in the bible to life and shining a light on the great Theologians, Saints, Martyrs and Popes who have shaped the Church. What do you get from the course you might ask, well for me personally, I gained confidence and knowledge, equipping me for my continuing

journey. I discovered new and wonderful things about myself and my faith through listening and sharing with my fellow students. It opened my eyes to the treasure trove of wonders and riches of our people and culture. It brought echoes of the past two thousand years into the world I live in today and I realised that I stand on the shoulders of giants to witness the Glory of God. As one of our group said, "One of the greatest gifts of the course was discovering the thoughtfulness of other people's faith. I had no idea that other people - the person sat next to me in the pew - had such profound ideas; had thought things through so carefully, and was waiting to share their sense of God. Having the opportunity to speak freely and safely in the forums and discover the gift of other people's ideas about Church and God was the best thing."

Thanks to the Hallam Formation and Mission team for their invaluable support and guidance, to Bishop Ralph, our Parish Priests, our families, friends and parishioners for all your prayers and good wishes. Liz Salmon

Find out More about the Certificate in Catholic Pastoral Leadership

This course has now been replaced by the Certificate in Catholic Pastoral Leadership delivered by Liverpool Hope University. If you would be interested in starting this course in September 2025 then contact the Formation & Mission Team to find out more.

Around the Diocese

Statement on Second Reading of Assisted Suicide Bill



Catholic Bishops of England and Wales

Following the decision of MPs to vote in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill at the Second Reading today (29 November), Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, said:

"We are disappointed that MPs have voted in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill progressing through parliament. We believe that this bill is flawed in principle and also contains particular clauses that are of concern. We ask the Catholic community to pray that members of parliament will have the wisdom to reject this bill at a later stage in its progress.

"In addition to being opposed to the principle of assisted suicide, we are particularly concerned with clauses in the bill that prevent doctors from properly exercising conscientious objection, provide inadequate protection to hospices and care homes that do not wish to participate in assisted suicide and allow doctors to initiate conversations about assisted suicide. We ask that these voices be heard in the next stages of the Bill to strengthen the deep concerns about this proposed legislation.

"We have expressed the view, during this debate, that genuine compassion involves walking with those who need care, especially during sickness, disability and old age. The vocation to care is at the heart of the lives of so many people who look after their loved ones and is the sign of a truly compassionate society. It is essential that we nurture and renew the innate call that many people have to compassionately care for others.

"It remains the case that improving the quality and availability of palliative care offers the best pathway to reducing suffering at the end of life. We will continue to advocate for this and

support those who work tirelessly to care for the dying in our hospices, hospitals and care homes." CBCEW

Polish war dead remembered in Cathedral Commemoration Day Mass



Members of the Polish community and others have gathered at St Marie's Cathedral to give thanks for those from the community who fought fascism during the Second World War. The Polish Commemoration Day Mass, presided over by Bishop Ralph, Cathedral Dean Fr Christopher Posluszny and the Polish Parish Priest Fr Marcin Wysocki took place on the 40th anniversary of the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the role of Polish servicemen and women in the Cathedral's Lady Chapel. It also marked the 80th anniversary of a number of key battles in which Polish troops took part, most notably, the Battles of Monte Cassino and Ancona, the Normandy Landings, Operation Market Garden and the Battle of Arnhem.

Among those attending the commemoration were Lady Neill, Deputy Lieutenant for South Yorkshire, Mr Ireneusz Truszkowski, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Manchester together with representatives of ex-servicemen's associations, the Polish Community and Scouts and Guides from the Polish Scouting Association. The commemoration was organised by a group of second-generation Poles in Sheffield Photos and Article Bob Rae

Around the Diocese

Continuing to Journey Together



Reflections on the Implications of Synod Final Document in Hallam

At the end of October we saw the conclusion of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops and the publication of the final document in English during November. On the Feast of Christ the King, Pope Francis issued an accompanying letter noting that, "The

Final Document

will form part of the ordinary Magisterium of the Successor of Peter..., and as such I ask that it be accepted. It represents a form of exercise of the authentic teaching of the Bishop of Rome." He also said, "The local Churches [...] are now required to implement ...the authoritative indications contained in the *Document*, through processes of discernment and decision-making envisaged by law and by the Document itself... The *Final Document* also contains indications that, [...], can already now be implemented in the local Churches ..." He went on to say that when bishops visit Rome for their *ad limina* visit that they, "...shall take care to report what choices have been made in the local Church entrusted to him in relation to what is indicated in the *Final Document*, what difficulties have been encountered, and what the results have been."

The Synod Document itself calls for "local Churches ... to continue their daily journey with a synodal methodology of consultation and discernment, identifying concrete ways and

formation pathways to bring about a tangible synodal conversion." It also asks for the "Planning for an evaluation of the progress made in terms of synodality and the participation of all the Baptised in the life of the Church..." It continues, "This call is based upon a shared baptismal identity. It is rooted in the diversity of contexts in which the Church is present and finds unity in the one Father, one Lord, and one Spirit. It challenges all the baptised, without exception: "The whole People of God is an agent of the proclamation of the Gospel. Every baptised person is called to be a protagonist of mission since we are all missionary disciples."

To help the diocese to evaluate the ways we are continuing to journey and help all the baptised to respond to their calling the Formation and Mission Department will be arranging gatherings in the in the New Year. If you would like to be involved then please contact us. Additionally, if you would like to find out how this could impact in your parish, the School of Synodality has produced a number of helpful resources on their website <https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/#resources> Considering these themes at this time are especially opportune since Bishop Ralph has recently responded to the Council of Priests' request to establish a Diocesan Pastoral Council. This re-echoes the discernment of those involved in the synodal process in the diocese over the past three years.

The document also says, "The lay faithful, both men and women, should be given greater opportunities for participation, also exploring new forms of service and ministry in response to the pastoral needs of our time in a spirit of collaboration and differentiated co-responsibility." Even before the publication of the final document a small group of current and past students from the Loyola Certificate in Pastoral Ministry have been meeting together to discuss how best to promote and support a range of emerging lay ministries in the diocese. If you would like to be involved in this process then contact the Formation & Missions Team formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com

Around the Diocese

Cardinal Fitzgerald visits the Mount



On Friday 22 November, Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald visited Mount St Mary's College, Spinkhill, and spent the day with the students. Cardinal Fitzgerald, now retired, belongs to the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) and began his visit by speaking to the Sixth Form about his own life story, teaching in Rome and Uganda and working in Sudan before becoming President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue in 2002. The students questioned him about the need for dialogue between the different faiths in the world of today, and the challenges of that mission.

Later, in the College's hundred-year-old Memorial Chapel, the Cardinal celebrated Mass for the whole college, including students from Barlborough Hall School, parents and families, and representatives from the Diocese of Hallam. Since it was the feast of St Cecilia, the Mass was accompanied by some magnificent music and hearty singing, including the senior choir performing Mozart's

Ave Verum Corpus

Over a buffet lunch, the Cardinal then chatted with some of the College's senior students who had the opportunity to ask him questions. In the afternoon, he spent an hour with the A Level Religious Studies class – since interfaith relations is a key part of the A Level RS syllabus, it was a rare opportunity for them to converse with a world authority on the subject.

As there are only 233 cardinals in the whole worldwide church, and only two in England (at the time of writing) Cardinal Fitzgerald's visit was

both a great honour and an inspiring experience for the students and staff of Mount St Mary's, which was established by the Jesuits in 1842 and ever since has striven to fulfil the Jesuit educational vision of caring for the whole person in order to produce "men and women for others" – grateful, generous, learned and wise young people of conscience and compassion. Peter Scally SJ

Care for Creation - people and our common home



The word Creation is often taken to refer to 'nature' and regarded as separate from mankind. It is there for humanity's use, disposal or recreation, and irrelevant to the search for individual salvation. We are taught to have our eye on the Kingdom of Heaven and our place at God's right hand.

'The word 'creation' has a broader meaning than 'nature,' for it has to do with God's loving plan in which every creature has its own value and significance'. Pope Francis *Laudato Si'*. 2015

I have heard it said that Pope Francis is 'banging on about the environment'. This suggests teaching about care for creation has a lesser value. Some may heed the messages of previous Popes more readily:

St. John Paul II Message for the World day of Peace. January 1990

'In our day, there is a growing awareness that world peace is threatened not only by the arms

Around the Diocese

race, regional conflicts and continued injustices among peoples and nations, but also by a lack of due respect for nature, by the plundering of natural resources and by a progressive decline in the quality of life. The sense of precariousness and insecurity that such a situation engenders is a seedbed for collective selfishness, disregard for others and dishonesty....I should like to address directly my brothers and sisters in the Catholic Church, in order to remind them of their serious obligation to care for all of creation. The commitment of believers to a healthy environment for everyone stems directly from their belief in God the Creator, from their recognition of the effects of original and personal sin, and from the certainty of having been redeemed by Christ. Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God.' Pope

Benedict XVI Message for the World Day of Peace. January 2010

'It is all too evident that large numbers of people in different countries and areas of our planet are experiencing increased hardship because of the negligence or refusal of many others to exercise responsible stewardship over the environment. If you want to cultivate peace, protect Creation.'

How do we follow this teaching?

All parishes will be doing something: it might be individual or group prayer, Cafod support, a justice and peace group, a walking group, gardening group, supporting local organizations caring for the homeless and refugees. How do we recognise such things as essential elements in our common concern for salvation?

The Live Simply projects at St. Joseph's, Dinnington, St. Vincent's, and St. Francis of Assisi, Sheffield, are helping those parishes discover what they do already that contributes to care for all Creation, and what more might be done. We are able to support each other, sometimes with ideas, sometimes just in the knowledge that we consider the same things

important to our faith.

Would it be helpful to share this support further within the Diocese? To provide a focal point for individuals and groups who are praying and acting for all Creation? While acknowledging that not everyone has easy digital access, Hallam Bridge, which goes out monthly to all parishes and can be printed out if needed, can provide a hub for communicating support and ideas. So we could start by providing an article each month in the Hallam Bridge dedicated to Care for Creation –people and our common home.

For thoughts on this, contact christineparrott24@gmail.com (Chris at St. Joseph's, Dinnington) or heavygate@aol.com (Columba at St. Vincent's, Sheffield). Columba Timmins

Blessed Richard Simpson



Blessed Richard Simpson appears in the history of the Padley Martyrs, Bl Nicholas Garlick and Bl Robert Ludlam as someone they met when they were taken to Derby County gaol in July 1588. It is more likely that Nicholas Garlick as Tideswell's school teacher, knew Fr Richard Simpson as the local missionary priest. One of his Derbyshire bases is likely to have been Wheston, near Tideswell. Padley manor was 'a haven for missionary priests for almost thirty years before the arrests of 1588'. Therefore it is likely that they walked there together, on 'pilgrimage' from Tideswell, for the celebration of Mass with the Fitzherberts, at the pre-Reformation altar in their chapel. (Details to follow, on route options for a 'Blessed Simpson Way' pilgrimage).

Around the Diocese

Blessed Richard Simpson was baptised in Well, Yorkshire (1553), attended Oxford University and may have become an Anglican Deacon. But like St Edmund Campion before him, he turned from that path, was imprisoned in York gaol as a Catholic recusant and on release, travelled to Douai, to be ordained to the priesthood and started his Mission in England in 1577. He was arrested and banished in 1585, but promptly returned to England. He was betrayed in Derbyshire, by a Crown agent, pretending to be a Catholic and imprisoned in Derby County gaol in the Spring of 1588.

Blessed Nicholas Garlick is likely to have returned to the High Peak in the summer of 1588, to replace Blessed Richard Simpson as the local missionary priest. Blessed Richard escaped the death sentence at the Derby Lent Assizes in 1588. The hope that he would recant his Catholic faith is a less likely reason for this, than the Elizabethan government's hope, that slowing down its execution of Catholic priests, would help delay Philip II, launching the Spanish Armada invasion fleet.

St Peter and St Thomas faced fear and doubt, that ultimately strengthened their faith to the point of martyrdom. Blessed Simpson followed in their footsteps.

If you would like to volunteer as a guide at Padley Chapel Shrine, please contact

friendsofapdley@hallam-diocese.com Gerard Bonner

Helping seafarers celebrate Christmas



Parishes and schools also play an important part in making Christmas special for seafarers, says Anne McLaren, Stella Maris' Senior Area Port Chaplain for the North of England.

"We have run a woolly hat appeal with primary schools for a number of years. We visit schools in November and in the assembly, we tell them all about the importance of seafarers and the goods that they bring to us an island nation. We explain how, especially at Christmas time, we should remember seafarers in our thoughts and prayers.

"A list of items is given to the school for the children to collect and then we return in early December to pack everything with the woolly hats with the children. We include a Christmas card from them or a label identifying the school which is attached to the hats.

"Then we deliver the hats to the seafarers on board their vessels. We tell them about the children who have prepared the hats and that they will be praying for them over the Christmas period.

"We let the schools know what vessel their hats are on, so they can track the vessel on a marine traffic app. That way the children can see where the seafarers will be in the world on Christmas Day when they open their presents from them." the full article is available on our website

Looking Ahead

It's a Jubilee



The 2025 Jubilee will officially open on 24 December 2024, with the rite of Opening of the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St. Peter by the Holy Father. The rite of the opening of the Jubilee Year in the Diocese of Hallam will take place on Saturday 28 December, at a special celebration at which Bishop Ralph will preside. The celebration will start at the Sheffield Anglican Cathedral at 12:30pm, from which there will be a procession to St Marie's Cathedral for the opening Mass. All from across the Diocese are encouraged to come and celebrate the beginning of this special year, in which all are invited "to an intense experience of the love of God" and "a lively experience of grace and hope" (Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 6)!

Pilgrims of Hope

The theme of the Jubilee Year is "Pilgrims of Hope", and it is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The theme is an invitation to Catholics to renew their hope in Christ and to share that hope with others.

Pilgrim Passport

Every parish Church has now received copies of a Diocese of Hallam 'Pilgrim Passport' for distribution to parishioners. This Passport gives us all a copy of the Jubilee Prayer, describes the theme of the Jubilee Year, gives details of the designated pilgrimage places in the diocese and provides an events calendar through 2025.

Jubilee Icon

In order to celebrate and commemorate the

Jubilee Year 2025, Pilgrims of Hope, CAFOD commissioned an icon from artist Mulugeta Araya in Ethiopia, for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. The Diocese of Hallam will receive the national Jubilee Icon in November 2025, for the Jubilee of Volunteers at Immaculate Conception, Rotherham, on 15 November. The icon interprets Jesus' teaching of healing and liberation in the Synagogue in Luke 4:16-21, which refers to Isaiah 61:1-2. This passage is particularly relevant to the Jubilee given its emphasis on bringing good news to those who are poor, and liberty to those who are captive or oppressed.

CAFOD Initiatives

CAFOD has produced a Jubilee 2025 Reflection Guide to help parishes, groups and individuals to prepare for the Jubilee year. It is available as an online download or a booklet to order from CAFOD's website, the guide has reflections on different themes within Luke 4:16-21 and is suitable for individual or group use over the course of four sessions, or only one session if preferred. It can be used at any point during the Jubilee year.

Jubilee of Youth

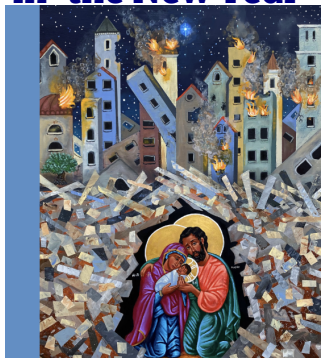
If you have a young parishioner aged 16 to 30 whom you would like to send to the Jubilee of Youth in Rome from July 28 to August 4 with Bishop Ralph Heskett then contact Sue McDonald, Director of Youth Ministry, for details and a booking form. A wonderful experience for our young people.

Jubilee for Schools

All schools are invited to journey together, supported by a framework of inspiring resources and events created by the Catholic Education Service with CAFOD. Schools across the country will be celebrating the Jubilee year by putting faith into action and pledging to build a better world. The suite of resources available includes a witness banner for the school gates, a Jubilee explainer animation and much more. Visit jubilee-schools.org.uk for resources and information. Tony Strike

Looking Ahead

Opportunities for Formation in the New Year



What does the Word made flesh, the one recognised by the shepherds as the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes mean to you? What does he have to say to the areas of conflict in our world today? Explore some of these issues in Units of the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies starting in January.

At Christmas in a few days, we will celebrate the feast of the Incarnation. The one who in John's Gospel is the Word made flesh and in the Gospel of Luke is recognised by the shepherds as a baby lying in a manger. But who is Jesus for you? If you would like to explore this question there will be an opportunity in the new year to join the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) to deepen your own understanding and relationship with Him.

It is the same Christ who has something to teach us about the world and society that we live in; about the world or work; about justice; about the current conflicts that exist in the world; about caring for the environment, and much more. If you would like to deepen your understanding about what the Church has to say about these issues then come along to participate in the CCRS Unit on Catholic Social Teaching.

If you would be interested in joining others already exploring either of these two themes then you would be welcome to join us for sessions at the Hallam Pastoral Centre from 9:00-12:30 on 25 January, 08 February and 1 March 2005. The cost for either of the units is £60 (£30 concessionary rate).

If you would like to find out more please contact formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com

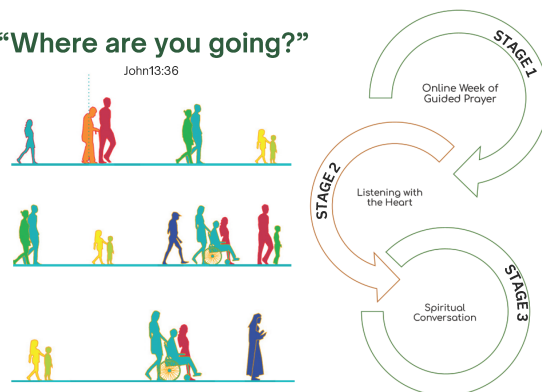
Spiritual Listening and Accompaniment

"Growing as missionary disciples means answering Jesus' call to follow him... learning to accompany each other as a pilgrim people journeying through history towards a common destination, the heavenly city"

Instrumentum Laboris 2, Synod on Synodality 2024

"Where are you going?"

John 13:36



Join us to learn the synodal method of 'Listening in the Spirit', currently being practiced and promoted as a good way of learning to be a diverse and inclusive church on mission. **Learn how to listen** to the other and to listen also to the Holy Spirit.

Contact: formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com or 0114 256 6410



What is it?

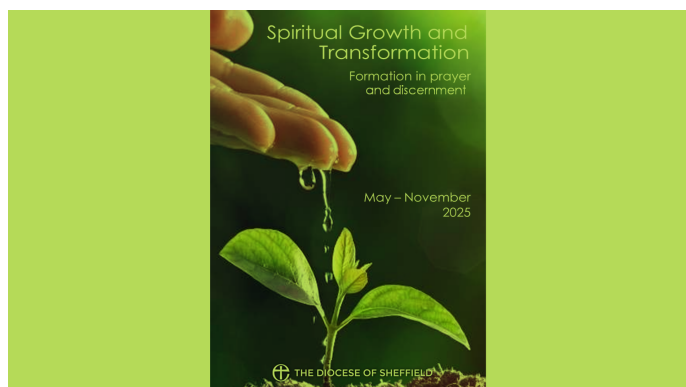
This programme is a combination of in-pot and experiential learning, on-line and in-person, in three stages, with teaching, spiritual accompaniment, faith sharing and learning, being offered by the Jesuit Institute and the team from Hallam Diocese Formation and Mission.

You will learn ways to build understanding and skills in praying and listening to help you to develop your relationship with God. In time, you will also have the opportunity to consider your mission and whether God is inviting you to further study, towards the ministry of accompanying others on their spiritual journey.

For further information get in touch with Formation and Mission by: Email: formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com or Phone: 0114 256 6410

Looking Ahead

Spiritual Growth and Transformation



Are you looking for more in your faith? Or feeling called to walk alongside others in their journeys of faith?

Over ten days from May to November, Sheffield Anglican Diocese's Spiritual Growth and Transformation course offers a process of prayer, listening and reflection through which participants are supported in drawing closer to God. The course is ecumenical, enriching the experience for all who take part. It has been a turning point for many, in their own lives and in their support of others. It also forms the first part of a programme for the formation of Spiritual Accompaniers.

You can find more information and the downloadable course leaflet at <https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/learning/courses/spiritual-growth-transformation/>

The deadline for applications is 31 January 2025.



Approaching a Theology of the Body clergy conference series: November, January, March

Three, day-long conferences for clergy in November, January and March, examining Pope St John Paul II's vision of the person as created for communion, the character of conjugal communion, and formatting for authentic love. The conferences are stand-alone, although they offer a progressive itinerary through related themes.

For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/tob-clergy-days/>

The Fatherhood of the Priest clergy retreat, 28 April – 2 May 2025

We are delighted to announce that Fr Jose Granados, Superior General of the Disciples of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and Vice-President emeritus of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies in Marriage and Family Life, will preach our spring clergy retreat. Fr Granados will address two, intertwined questions that are at the heart of priestly identity: masculinity and spiritual paternity. As a widely respected sacramental theologian, a consultor to multiple Vatican dicasteries, author of numerous articles and volumes, as well as an experienced pastor and formator, this is a unique opportunity to engage with a theme of fundamental importance to priesthood.

For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-fatherhood-of-the-priest/>

Looking Ahead

Mens' Spiritual Exercises, 31 March – 5 April 2025

A 5-day version of the Ignatian Exercises offered specifically for men (whether lay or ordained), this retreat will be preached by the Benedictine Monks of St Joseph's Abbey, France. Founded in 1988, this community has retained its charism of a specific apostolate to men and of engaging them through a shortened version of the Ignatian Exercises. One-to-one direction will be offered alongside the talks. Priests are welcome to attend and concelebrate or celebrate their own Mass. For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/event/s/mens-spiritual-exercises/>

Charity launches urgent appeal for Aleppo



AN international Catholic charity is rushing to the help of Christians suffering in Syria, asking for prayers and fundraising for emergency aid in response to the resurgence of violence. Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is set to provide support to Christian schools in Aleppo and medical assistance, food supplies and other emergency aid to the estimated 25,000 Christians remaining in the city captured by Islamist extremists. Marielle Boutros, ACN project coordinator in Syria, said: "Basic services are paralysed, with only two hospitals operating for critical cases. Food supplies are insufficient, prices have soared, and the population faces the dual threat of bombings and insecurity on the

ground."

Ms Boutros added that clergy and religious congregations have decided to stay in Aleppo, and the Church is working tirelessly to assist and console the most vulnerable – but the situation is critical, and residents are increasingly concerned about safety. She explained: "There is a constant climate of fear. People are trapped – no one can enter or leave the city."

She added: "An Armenian doctor was killed by a sniper, and a bus trying to leave for Hassake was also attacked. Basic services have collapsed – schools are not operating and banks have stopped functioning, leaving people without access to their salaries." ACN aid in Syria has included the rebuilding of homes, support for pastoral activities and the installation of solar panels for Church buildings and schools to help reduce energy costs amid a crippling financial crisis.

Dr Caroline Hull, national director at ACN (UK), said: "As the situation in and around Aleppo is deteriorating by the hour, we are working closely with our project partners on the ground to understand what their most pressing needs are." She added: "The future of the Christian community in Syria is especially uncertain at this difficult time. The Church is looking to us for help, and ACN is committed to providing all the assistance we possibly can." Dr Hull concluded: "Your generosity and prayers are urgently needed right now. Please join ACN in prayer for peace, safety and hope for the people of Syria during these dark hours." Amy Balog