

Hallam Bridge

ISSUE 26

March 2025

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



Students From All Saints, Sheffield have an unforgettable time in Rome See page 4

Caring for Creation - St Joseph's, Dinnington support needy families
find out more on page 9

Hallam Represented at the Jubilee of Deacons in Rome



Find out more on
page 5

Upcoming Events





10, 17, 24 May CCRS Year 1 Church, Year 2 Liturgy
7 June Summer Day of Recollection Hallam Pastoral Centre
27 June - 3 July Hallam Lourdes Pilgrimage
6 July Interdiocesan Padely Pilgrimage
8 July Schools Padely Pilgrimage
26 July Hallam Walsingham Pilgrimage



Jubilee Events in the Diocese

16 April Jubilee of Priests and People St. Marie's Cathedral
31 May Jubilee of People with Disabilities Our Lady of Doncaster Shrine, St. Peter-in-Chains
4 June Jubilee of Marian Spirituality Our Lady of Doncaster Shrine, St. Peter-in-Chains
22 June Eucharistic Procession from St. Marie's Cathedral
6 July Padley Pilgrimage and Mass Padley Chapel
20 July Annual Hallam African Community Mass TBC
20 September Jubilee of Altar Servers Holy Rood Barnsley
15 November Jubilee of Volunteers Immaculate Conception, Rotherham

Follow all the Hallam news and stories on:

-  Diocese of Hallam
-  @HallamDioceseCC, @SynodHallam1
-  Hallam Diocese
-  @HallamDiocese

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

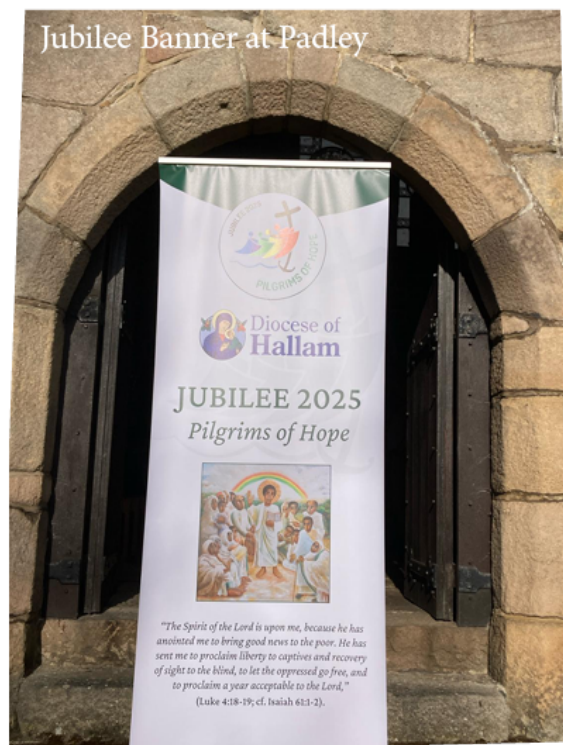
CONTACT

Welcome to the March edition of Hallam Bridge

As this edition of Hallam Bridge is published, we are rejoicing and giving thanks for the progress towards recovery that Pope Francis has made, as he is discharged home from hospital after 5 weeks suffering from pneumonia. Praying the rosary every evening to ask for the intercession of Mary for his recovery has undoubtedly contributed to his wellbeing and he has been careful to acknowledge gratitude for all your prayers, feeling himself upheld on a sea of prayers. If you haven't found the Rosary from Rome broadcast, go to Vatican media to pray with the world.

The theme of going home arises in our Jubilee stories of pilgrimages (pages 4&5) and Lenten Day of Reflection page 12. Bishop Ralph also features a few more times in this month's edition, with a pastoral letter announcing the establishment of a Diocesan Pastoral Council to help him in his task of taking care of the diocese. He also joined the young people at Flame 2025 and it's good to see the enthusiasm and energy in the report from that event (page 7). CAFOD and St Joseph's remind us of making efforts to care for creation and Friends of Padley are grateful for the volunteers who came forward after last month's request, and now ask for help in their detective work. (Page 11)

Next month Hallam Bridge will feature an article on how we can be a diocese which better attends to the needs of disabled people. Do send us your thoughts, ideas, and articles, on this or any other news you would like to share across the diocese. Blessings for your month ahead
 Editor



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

Subscribe

Around the Diocese

Pastoral Letter - 8-9 March 2025



To be read at all Masses on the weekend of 8 – 9 March 2025

Wherever there is change, people manage best when they are not caught off guard but are able to at least take on board events that may change them. Therefore, this is perhaps a good moment to remind you of changes in the Diocese that will impact on everyone.

Last month we formed a Diocesan Pastoral Council. The membership of this Council is predominately lay people from across the Diocese. Together with the Council of Priests and the Diocesan Trustees (Diocesan Finance Council) these bodies, whose existence is prescribed in Canon Law, will now begin to look at the future shape of our Diocese and make very necessary recommendations about overdue changes.

Why do we have to make changes at this time? Well, as I write there is no spare capacity of priests within the diocese. We are totally dependent on our retired priests to provide some of our regular Sunday Mass cover when a priest is sick or on holiday. This leaves me as Bishop with very little room for manoeuvre. I am very conscious of my role as Shepherd to ensure that you have the best possible access to Mass and the other Sacraments. The challenge of change will affect us all.

This challenge change brings will perhaps be most acutely felt by those who do not regularly attend Mass. They are unaware of how changes have affected us thus far and fail to see things

are very different from when they previously had any major contact with the church. When they do come in contact with the church again, their notions of yesteryear lead to unrealistic expectations. This then can result in disappointment and perhaps sometimes, anger. We all have to find ways of communicating our reasons for change and help them to a better understanding.

However, there is a challenge too for us who remain faithful to the Lord's call. In particular, to be realistic about what is possible, given where we are at present. I want to take the opportunity to thank our priests as they continue to strive to provide best access to the Holy Mass and the other Sacraments in the face of ever decreasing numbers.

I read a Lenten Reflection last week that described Lent as "a serious encounter with reality". Let us use Lent this year to seriously acknowledge the reality of where we are and, in keeping with the theme of the Jubilee, look forward in confidence and hope.

We entrust ourselves to the Lord's loving kindness and mercy and the motherly care of Mary, our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Yours sincerely in Christ, the Redeemer,

Clergy Appointments

Bishop Ralph has made the following appointments:

Fr Mark McManus as a Vicar General in the Diocese, to work alongside Fr Desmond Sexton. Fr Sexton will have responsibility for Safeguarding and Sick and Retired Clergy and Fr McManus will have responsibility for Priestly Formation and Communication.

Fr Evangelist Ohaejesi as Episcopal Vicar for Overseas Clergy with responsibility for their orientation into life in the Diocese and their ongoing care.

Around the Diocese

Students from All Saints Sheffield Have an Unforgettable Time in Rome



This February, 49 All Saints students and staff had an unforgettable trip to Rome. On the first day, although tired from a long journey, they were able to get their first taste of the staggering history of Rome, visiting sites such as the Pantheon, Trevi fountain, and Castel Sant'Angelo. They also visited the tomb of St. Catherine of Siena where, under the main altar, her remains are preserved. In the front, two small angels, hold an inscription which presents to the pilgrim or the visitor the saint buried here: "Sancta Caterina de Senis Ordinis Santi Dominici of Poenitentia" (Saint Catherine of Siena of the Order of Penance of Saint Dominic). On the Way to the Holy Door

On the Friday, students spent a great deal of time in the Vatican, spending the morning climbing the 551 steps to the top of the Dome. Most special, and something only possible every 25 years, was students and staff entering St. Peter's Basilica through the Holy Door, reminding students of this Jubilee year. Afterwards, students had a guided tour around the Vatican museums; Year 13 Philosophy students loved seeing 'The School of Athens' in the flesh. The tour ended in the Sistine Chapel, where we spent time reflecting with hundreds of others; many students commented that this was their highlight of the trip.

Despite the beautiful weather of the rest of the visit, we spent Saturday at the Colosseum in the rain which, thankfully, did not alter spirits. Students learned of how Christians were martyred at the Colosseum and were fascinated

by the deep history of one of the seven wonders of the world. Much to their delight, they were then able to take the short walk up the road to the Basilica of San Clemente and view the mosaic they have studied in such detail. Some students marvelled that they could not believe they were seeing it in real life and spent time talking through with each other everything that they could remember about its intricate details.

The Sunday saw students joining the celebration of Mass at the Venerable English College, where they were welcomed warmly by Fr Stephen Wang, rector of the College. We prayed for Pope Francis' health and reflected on how every person is capable of being a saint in their day-to-day lives. At the end of the Mass, the reliquary of the English Martyrs' under the altar was opened specially for All Saints to place prayers from staff and students back home. There was time for individual prayer in front of the altar where students took the opportunity for quiet reflection.

From the Students:

"For me, Rome has completely opened my eyes to a new understanding of culture and faith. I thoroughly enjoyed it and would love for many other students to have the opportunity and privilege of visiting Rome!"

"Rome was an unforgettable experience for me; an amazing trip that helped me to make lifelong friends and allowed me to see monuments that I have wanted to see since I was little. It was so great!"

"Rome was an amazing trip to go on before leaving school. It's helped me form amazing connections with people I adore and become closer to those I already knew. It's an amazing experience and enjoyable. It's also an amazing way to visit somewhere new!"

"Rome was such an incredible, once in a lifetime experience that I got to share with great friends, old and new. I'm so grateful for this opportunity and to have shared it with such great people."

C Staniland

Around the Diocese

Jubilee Of Deacons - Rome



I was fortunate to be able to join Permanent Deacons from across the world who gathered in Rome, between 20 – 23 February, to celebrate the Jubilee of Deacons. Deacons came from the Americas, Asia, Oceania and from across Europe, with more than thirty representing different dioceses in the UK. Many came with their wives and families, making a total of 6,000 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

Earlier in the week, 180 delegates from 26 countries attended a three-day conference, in the Frater Domus outside Rome, organised by the International Diaconate Centre (IDC), with the title of 'Deacons: Joyful Witnesses of Hope'. The Conference included presentations and discussion on marriage and the diaconate, deacons as peacemakers, communion, mission and synodality. At the Conference, Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachukwu gave an excellent presentation on communion and mission, and Cardinal Oswald Gracias spoke about the synod. Cardinal Lazzaro You Heung Sik, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Clergy, was with us on Thursday, celebrating Mass. As vice-chair of the National Diaconal Conference I was invited to join the delegates assembly of the IDC to represent the UK which I happily accepted.

On Friday the Jubilee of Deacons formally opened across twelve churches in Rome. The afternoon started with reciting of Midday Prayer, followed by catechesis, delivered by twelve bishops in different language groups, on the theme 'Concrete Signs of Hope in the Diaconal Ministry'. Cardinal Robert Prevost, Prefect the Dicastery of Bishops, gave the English-speaking groups presentation on the theology of Deacons

as expressed by Pope Francis.

On the Saturday, at the Auditorium Conciliazone, over 1400 hundred participants gathered for an International Meeting, organised by the Dicastery for the Clergy, and were welcomed by its Prefect, His Eminence Cardinal Sik. There followed 'Testimonies from the Continents' giving a world-wide 'snapshot' of the Permanent Diaconate, with reports from Germany, United States, Brazil, Rwanda, Lebanon and elsewhere. Delegates then reflected on the future pathway of diaconal ministry, on how to be 'Witnesses of Hope' in a 'Synodal and Missionary Church'. There was recognition of the need for an updating of the 1998 'Directory for the Ministry and Life of Deacons'. This led to the announcement from the Dicastery for Clergy of the launch of a global online questionnaire for Deacons 'Consultation on the Ministry of the Diaconate Today', to culminate in a Conference on the Permanent Diaconate organized by the Dicastery for Clergy to be held in the Vatican in 2026.

On Saturday afternoon, all those attending had the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica. I was privileged to carry with me prayers from parishioners through the Holy Doors. The day concluded with an evening Prayer Vigil in Paul VI Hall, and I was very pleased I had with me the right pass to get past the Swiss Guard!

On Sunday, in St Peter's Basilica, 2,500 deacons and families gathered for Mass, presided over, in the absence of Pope Francis, ill in hospital, by Archbishop Rino Fisichella, Pro-Prefect for New Evangelisation with the Dicastery for Evangelisation. During the Mass twenty-three men from eight countries were ordained deacons. Prayers were said for Pope Francis, and Archbishop Fisichella delivered the homily prepared by Pope Francis, in which he reflected on three essential dimensions of the diaconate: forgiveness, service and communion. The Pope wrote that, 'The deacon, invested in a ministry that leads him toward the world's peripheries', must see and teach that all are brothers and

Around the Diocese

sisters, even those who cause suffering, in need of reconciliation, guidance and help. Pope Francis asked that deacons make selfless service 'an essential dimension of your very being'; and encourages them to serve with humility, as the day's Gospel from Luke said, to 'do good and lend, expecting nothing in return'. This Mass was for me an unforgettable lifetime experience, not only was it in St. Peter's but I was picked with others out from the entrance procession to sit in the Sanctuary in the Basilica for Mass and to assist with the distribution of communion. I think this choice by the Master of Ceremonies had more to do with my correctly having black shoes, a cincture and amice rather than any indication of holiness.

The message I came away with from the catechesis session was a concern that the shortage of priests in Western Europe was in danger distorting the proper ministry of Deacons. In our context, they thought we had allowed ourselves to become 'assistants' to the parish priest, a solution to the shortage of priests, rather than offering a distinctively diaconal ministry based in mission, social justice and charity. In 2021 Pope Francis spoke to this problem saying:

"The decrease in the number of priests has led to a prevailing engagement of deacons to substitute them in tasks which, however important, do not constitute the specific nature of the diaconate. They are substitute tasks," he said. "Through your cooperation and generosity, you will be a bridge linking the altar to the street and the Eucharist to people's daily lives."

If you are a practicing Catholic man aged between 30 years to 55 years, prayerful, with the desire to love God and God's people, and are actively involved within your parish and community, you might possibly be called to be a Permanent Deacon? If you require further information about the Permanent Diaconate, please speak to your Parish Priest, (the Parish Deacon, if there is one), or contact Deacon Tony Strike, Assistant Director (Formation), via e-mail: astrike@hallam-diocese.com Tony Strike

Pope approves convocation of post-synodal Ecclesial Assembly in 2028



Pope Francis officially initiates a new phase in the Church's synodal journey by approving an accompaniment process that will culminate in an Ecclesial Assembly in 2028.

By Isabella Piro Vatican News

Cardinal Mario Grech, the Secretary General of the Synod's General Secretariat, has announced the convocation of a special post-synodal Ecclesial Assembly to be held in the Vatican in October 2028 as the culmination of a three-year process accompanying the implementation of the outcomes of the Synod.

15/03/2025

Cardinal Grech: A new path to help the Church walk in a synodal style

In a letter addressed to all Bishops and Eparchs, along with the Patriarchs and Major Archbishops of the Eastern Catholic Churches, Cardinal Grech explained that the assembly will not be a new Synod.

The process refers to the implementation phase of the three-year Synod on the theme: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission," which concluded in October 2024.

As the Pope immediately clarified at its conclusion, the Final Document of the 16th General Assembly "is part of the ordinary Magisterium of the Successor of Peter" and, as such, must be received. This, explained Cardinal Grech, means that "local Churches and groups of Churches" must commit to "implementing" the document's guidelines through processes of "discernment and decision-making".

Around the Diocese

Making exchanges within the Church concrete
Cardinal Grech specified that the implementation phase should not be seen as “a simple application of directives from above” but rather as “a reception process” of the Final Document in a manner “appropriate to local cultures and community needs.” The goal remains “to make exchanges and dialogue between Churches and within the Church concrete.”

Involving priests, deacons, consecrated persons, and laypeople

A crucial aspect of this implementation process is the renewed involvement of all those who contributed to the Synod so that “listening to all the Churches” and the discernment of their pastors can bear fruit.

Fundamental to this effort will be “synodal teams composed of priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, and laypeople, accompanied by their bishop.” The Secretary General therefore recommends that these teams be “valued” and, if necessary, “renewed, reactivated, and appropriately integrated.”

Study groups and the Canon Law Commission

According to the Secretary General, the entire process forms “the framework” in which the “results of the Study Groups’ work and the contributions of the the Canonical Commission of the Synod” will be placed.

The ten Study Groups were established by Pope Francis in March 2024 to examine issues that emerged during the first session of the 16th Synodal Assembly in 2023.

Instead, the Canonical Commission shic has been active since 2023 , as indicated in the Instrumentum Laboris of the Assembly’s second session was established “in agreement with the Dicastery for Legislative Texts, to serve the Synod.”

The Jubilee of Synodal Teams

Cardinal Grech outlined the stages of the accompaniment process for the Synod’s implementation phase: the announcement of the process which will be followed in May, by the publication of a specific document detailing its execution and the celebration a of “Jubilee

of Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies” scheduled for October 24-26.

The Secretary General emphasized that this is “an important event” that places “the commitment to an increasingly synodal Church within the horizon of the hope that does not disappoint,” the central theme of the ongoing Holy Year.

A three-year process

Between the first and second semesters of 2027, evaluation Assemblies will take place within dioceses, eparchies, national and international Episcopal Conferences, Eastern hierarchical structures, and other Church groups. The first and second semesters of 2028 will be dedicated to continental evaluation Assemblies and the publication of the Instrumentum laboris for the Ecclesial Assembly in October 2028.

A call to pray for the Pope

Cardinal Grech’s letter concludes with an invitation to pray for Pope Francis’ health, as he has been hospitalized at Rome’s Gemelli Polyclinic since February 14.

Bear Grylls tells sold-out Flame 2025: “You guys are unstoppable!”



Flame 2025 saw more than 10,000 young people from every part of England and Wales, as well as a group from Gibraltar and the Ukrainian national Chaplaincy, join chaplains, teachers, priests, bishops, and youth leaders, in selling out the OVO Arena Wembley in a huge explosion of faith and hope.

Inspirational speakers included adventurer and television presenter Bear Grylls, who spoke about his book The Greatest Story Ever Told

Around the Diocese

based on the Gospel – every attendee received a copy.

In conversation with Catholic speaker David Wells, Mr Grylls shed light on his Christian faith: "Faith is in your heart, faith is in relationships, faith is a constant connection to the Almighty. I have many struggles, many doubts, I really don't have it all together, but I know that I am loved and held, and the light shines.

"Faith is part of the adventure, faith is the adventure. It's a journey... It's a backbone, a streak of steel, the presence of Jesus besides us in the highs and the lows. It's fire and life and water, all in one. It's a journey."

To a packed out and loud crowd, he added: "I hope you have an amazing rest of Flame. You guys are unstoppable!" Flame's theme of "Unstoppable: Fan the flame of hope" echoed what Pope Francis calls us to be in this year of Jubilee: "Pilgrims of Hope."

Rt Rev David Oakley, Bishop of Northampton, who is Chair of the Department for Discipleship and Evangelisation for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, read a message from Cardinal Parolin on behalf of Pope Francis, who encouraged the young people saying: "Fan a flame of hope that is 'unstoppable' for Christ itself is its living soul." Bryan Enriquez, a founding team member of the Hallow prayer app, spoke as well as Isaac Hall, an inspiring disability advocate.

Isaac Harvey said: "It's about having faith, hope, and at the end of the day having fun. Going with the flow, having fun, and taking opportunities as they come."

Fr Dominic Howarth, a priest of Brentwood Diocese who co-chairs the planning team for Flame 2025, read a message from the Apostolic Nuncio in Great Britain, H. E. Archbishop Miguel Angel Ayuso Guixot, who encouraged the young people with these words: "Let your faith shine brightly in the world, and know that you are not alone on this journey."

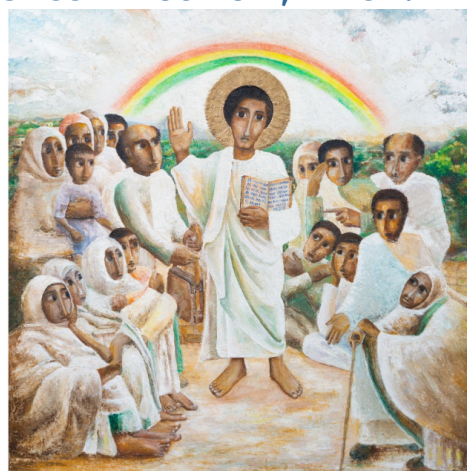
The message from St Vincent de Paul Society was: "You are loved, you are lovable, and you are loved by God." CAFOD partner, Brian Maeba, a young farmer from Kenya, spoke about the global debt crisis, where some of the world's poorest countries make huge repayments on high-interest loans to wealthy banks, institutions and governments, leaving them unable to fund essential services. Brian encouraged the audience to support CAFOD's debt cancellation campaign by shouting out "cancel debt and choose hope".

Flame 2025 concluded with a moving moment of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, capping a day of spiritual renewal, encouraging young people to return to their parishes and schools as ambassadors of hope.

Source

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bear-grylls-tells-sold-out-flame-2025-you-guys-are-unstoppable/>

Jubilee If Not Now, When?



We are several months into the Year of Jubilee, a holy year named 'Pilgrims of Hope' by Pope Francis. In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

It's tempting, in our busy world, our busy lives, to just let it happen around us but that would be to miss a key moment in the life of faith, and a

Around the Diocese

vital moment for our world.

The phrase “May you live in interesting times” is not known as a blessing, but rather quite the opposite. We hold on to hope precisely because we live in interesting times.

The Jubilee logo shows the pilgrim church together holding to the Cross of Christ which is also an anchor. Our hope is a gift from God, but like many of God’s gifts, it needs to be actively received and put into practice. We are given hope and we are called, especially in this Jubilee Year, to be tangible signs of hope for others. And in doing this, our own hope can grow. In CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, we see countless tangible acts of hope and witness the difference they make.

In the Bible the Jubilee Year occurred every 50 years and involved the cancelling of debts, a period of rest for people and the earth, and land being restored to the landless. It was a time for justice, for tackling many of the problems that kept people in slavery or poverty and damaged the land. In the Gospel of Luke 4:16-21 Jesus makes it clear that his mission is bring the justice and freedom of the Jubilee to all. Inspired by the example of his life, we can share in his mission to create a world of justice, peace and love.

Our world today faces many of the same problems. In hope, in this Year of Jubilee let’s commit ourselves to tackling those things that keep our brothers and sisters in poverty.

But what can I do?

We can do more than we might know, especially when we act together. Perhaps you can take a moment now to reflect on what God might be calling you to, this Jubilee. It may be God is asking you to take more time to pray, make a pilgrimage or take the chance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It may be that God is asking you to be a tangible sign of hope for others.

Could you recommit to our global family this

Jubilee year by pledging a monthly gift? Could you join us in tackling the causes of poverty? Could you add your prayers to ours or volunteer with us? Thousands of people have joined in the Big Lent Walk – making a difference with every step. Maybe you could take on a challenge event like the London Marathon or do your own fundraising with a cake sale or book sale or something else you enjoy.

When we commit to be a sign of hope we are refusing to give up. When we work together, open to the Holy Spirit, the world can be transformed. So let us turn to God in this special Jubilee Year, let us be signs of hope for others and as Pope Francis wrote ‘may the power of hope fill our days’ (Hope Does Not Disappoint, #25).

To join CAFOD in this Jubilee Year please see cafod.org.uk/jubilee or get in touch with our CAFOD Diocesan Coordinator Angela Powell apowell@cafod.org.uk telephone 07779804247

St Joseph’s Collection of Pre-Loved Clothes for The Clothing Bank was a Fantastic Success!!



St. Joseph’s Parish Dinnington collected more than 50 sacks of pre-loved clothes in just 6 weeks; the clothes were taken to The Clothing Bank.

The Clothing Bank is a charity that provides free packs of clothes to people who are struggling to afford them across Yorkshire and the wider UK.

Around the Diocese

The team aim to prepare 7 days' worth of clothing, suitable for the person and their needs, including 7 days of new underwear.

The clothing donations are given to people and groups in need, including the homeless, shelter homes, young vulnerable adults, families and older people. In providing decent clothing to those struggling to afford it, the Clothing Bank empowers and transforms peoples' lives.

The Clothing Bank accept:- baby clothing, children's clothing, adult clothing & bras, shoes & bags for all seasons, school Bags, school clothing, smart work clothes, outdoor clothes, new underwear

The Clothing Bank don't accept:- stained clothing, used underwear, used bedding, used duvets

There are collection points all across Yorkshire and beyond. For more information about

The Clothing Bank see:-
<https://theclothingbank.org.uk/> Facebook – The Clothing Bank
 The Need

All of us will have heard of the choice many people have to make between eating and heating but there is another crisis that remains untold. 5.5 million adults are going without essential clothing, children are missing school due to unwashed or damaged clothes, older people are staying at home and becoming lonely because their clothes are shabby. Without access to decent clothing people can't go for job interviews. People's self-confidence dwindles, leading to social isolation. This is a human rights issue and one where we can easily make a difference.

Some Good News Stories about people The Clothing Bank have helped

An elderly man was petrified of putting his heating on and had been sitting with a quilt around him with his coat on. Because he had a pit pension, he was over the limit by a few pounds so he couldn't get help. The nurse that had been visiting him asked for a pack of clothes and nightwear for him. When the nurse gave him his pack and helped him into some nice pyjamas and dressing gown and slippers he

cried. He said it was the kindest thing anyone has ever done for him.

A young lad reached out for help, all through high school he never had what others had so he stood out and he didn't have many friends. He wanted to start college looking like others and was hoping to make some friends there. He did well at college, made some lovely friends, and got a place at university. But before he went to university he visited the Clothing Bank with some socks he had bought. His words were "The Clothing Bank changed his life when he needed them most"

Two small children were referred by their teacher for some help. When they opened their parcels the little boy beamed as he pulled out his brand new boxer shorts as he didn't have any to wear. He had been going to school with no underwear on for weeks.

St. Joseph's are thankful to The Clothing Bank for their work and for giving them the opportunity to make a difference. Christine Parrott

Marriage , a building block for a flourishing society



Marriage is the key foundation for a happy, healthy society, says bishop Ahead of National Marriage Week, celebrated from 7-14 February, Bishop Bosco MacDonald has said that marriage is a vital building block for a flourishing society.

In a message for the week, Bishop MacDonald, the Lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life, said we should all be working towards a society that values marriage.

"We can offer our contribution towards a culture that respects and values marriage, knowing that it's the foundation for a happy and healthy society," he said. "National Marriage Week is a

Around the Diocese

time for all of us to think about this special sacrament and how it can change lives. It's a chance for married couples to strengthen their bond by being kind to each other, talking openly, and sharing experiences.

"And for all of us, as we celebrate the beauty of marriage this week, let's make sure that we support and encourage couples in their journey."

In December 2024, UK charity Marriage Foundation found that just over half of all Gen Z men and women, 57%, will ever marry (those born in 1997 or afterwards). This is why we must speak up for marriage and uphold the theme of the week – 'Hope in Marriage'.

Bishop MacDonald said that in a time of division, happy and functioning marriages can be an encouraging sign of God's love:

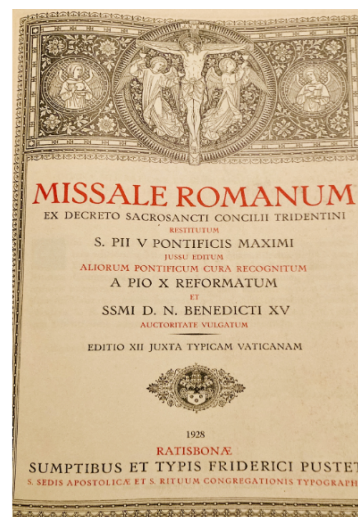
"As we mark National Marriage Week 2025, these resources aim to help us to think about the huge importance of marriage in our lives and society.

"In a world that can be confusing and divided, hope shines brightly especially in this Jubilee Year. And the hope of marriage is that it becomes a source of stability and happiness, showing us the endless love that God has for all of us."

Bishop MacDonald explained what makes a Christian marriage special, and why it is much more than just a 'legal agreement':

"For Christians, marriage isn't just a legal agreement, it's a special promise between husband and wife, like the covenant between God and humanity. "And God's promises are always fruitful. Pope Benedict XVI once said, 'Marriage is a way to save ourselves and our society', because marriage is a source of hope, strength, and new beginnings for everyone involved". CBCEW

Does anyone know the background to this beautiful spiritual gift to Padley Chapel Shrine in 1933?



Inscription in a Latin Missal gifted to Padley Chapel Shrine 1933

Ave Mater Dolorosa
Hail Sorrowful Mother
In festo Sancti Jacobi
On the feast of St James

In this Holy Year 1933 - being the 19th century from the Redemption and in the reign of the most Holy Father Pius XI, this missal is given to the Chapel at Padley (now reclaimed for the offering of the Holy Sacrifice) in honour of the Sufferings of the Lord and the Sorrows of Our Lady and in memory of the Venerable Martyrs Nicolas Garlic + Robert Ludlam, as also in gratitude to them. At this same time a chalice is also given.

Whensoever these poor perishable gifts are upon the Altar during the most Holy Sacrifice, may the most merciful Father look down upon the families of the donors, both living + departed, forgive their frailties, bless their undertakings + lead them on quickly to the Beatific Vision.

Blessed be God.
1933 was an extraordinary Jubilee year in the Catholic Church, marking the 1,900th anniversary of Jesus' death and resurrection. Pope Pius XI proclaimed the Jubilee on January 6, 1933

Around the Diocese

It was written rather than 'and' in the inscription
Lawrence F Harvey Tertiary of the Order of the
Servants of Mary

Audrey Mary Harvey Hugh Joseph Harvey (aged 2
years + 5 months)

Jesu Converte Angliam (Jesus Convert England)

Chapel of Our Lady of the Immaculate
Conception and S Joseph, Furz Court, Brighton

If you have any knowledge of this gift, please
contact: friendsofpadley@hallam-diocese.com

Gerard Bonner Friends of Padley Chapel

The Prodigal Father



A lenten day of reflection was held at Hallam Pastoral Centre on 22 March. A small band of pilgrims gathered, from all around the diocese and beyond, to reflect on the parable of the Prodigal Son, with the help of a painting by Rembrandt, the inspirations of Henri Nouwen as recorded in his eponymous book, and the insights and pastoral guidance of Hallam's own Bishop Ralph Heskett. In the parable, the younger son asks for his inheritance early, which his father gives him, and he fritters it away on wine women and song until he wakes up sharing dinner with the pigs and realises he has hit rock bottom. He decides to return home and beg his father's forgiveness. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming and ran out

to greet him, embraced him and threw a party for him. The older brother was annoyed, jealous and self-righteous, and expressed this to the father, who responded to his needs as well as those of his brother. We had a gentle and prayerful day reflecting on this story. It was helpful to be given our own little prayer card version of the famous Rembrandt painting, as Bishop Ralph led us through reflections on different aspects of the story. It was interesting to hear how different people described how they identified with different characters in the story and then to hear Nouwen's thoughts and Bishop Ralph's reflections. There was a period of individual prayer, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament a friendly lunch and further food for thought, reflecting on how at different times in our pilgrim journey towards the Kingdom we may occupy different aspects of the roles of younger son, or older son, the father, the mother, an observer. The final session also enabled us to reflect on the motherhood and fatherhood of God, and how our journey is perhaps always calling us to be as the Father in the story, in our grief, forgivingness and generosity. We ended the day together with the Celebration of the Eucharist. We are very grateful to Bishop Ralph for his time and it was noted that his gentle pastoral ministry creates a very safe space in which all can reflect and contribute. F&M

Barbara Richardson writes, I was privileged to attend this day of reflection. Our "visual aid" for the day was a painting by Rembrandt; Return of the Prodigal.

In the bible, Luke tells us about the parable of the younger son, who takes his inheritance, leaves home and squanders his money and life on "wine, women and song." Eventually he returns home, penniless, without dignity, ready to beg his father to allow him to work as one of his servants rather than face starvation. We all know how different his homecoming turned out.

Around the Diocese

During the sessions, we concentrated on how the three members of the family felt about the young man's return. The "prodigal" son is unsure of his reception and humbly begs forgiveness, expecting nothing in return. His elder brother is angry and resentful. He has remained at home working for his father, and feels unappreciated, bitter and unfairly treated.

The father is delighted and overjoyed to welcome home his younger son. Far from hiring him as a servant, he sends for the finest garments to re-clothe him and orders a banquet to celebrate his return.

Rembrandt's painting perfectly illustrates all these emotions. The younger son is bathed in light as he is warmly embraced by his father. The father's strong left hand secures him as his gentle right hand soothes and comforts him. The father's face glows with love. The elder son stands straight and forbidding, scowling at his father and younger brother. Whilst there are two others in the painting, we do not know their stories, but they, like us, gaze upon the father's and son's reunion.

In turn, we reflected on how we reacted as we took on each role in the story.

As a mother, I easily empathized with the father, always ready to forgive, overwhelmed by love.

As a "middle child" I also understand the feelings of the older brother when the "baby of the family" can do no wrong!

As a Christian, I know the love of God, "which passeth all understanding" and am humbled by His goodness and grace.

As a disciple, I know I need to see life through other's eyes and walk in their shoes.

Thank you, Bishop Ralph, for helping me to understand this parable more clearly. Barbara Richardson

Pilgrimage: Hearts in Search of God



The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Formation and Mission Team recently hosted a webinar entitled 'Pilgrimage: Hearts in Search of God'.

Pilgrimage: Hearts in Search of God

This webinar considered a brief overview of the history and significance of pilgrimage; provided insight into the national Pilgrim Ways project and its special Jubilee Year event; offered 'real-life' experiences of pilgrims within their diocese and highlighted some local and budget-friendly options for pilgrimage. A recording of the webinar is available [here](#). It provides a good opportunity to reflect on the theme of pilgrimage in this Jubilee Year.

A youth charity in Parson Cross



Fourth Wall Building Consultancy, a Sheffield-based award-winning firm, has completed a £1 million sustainable development for Chilypep, a youth charity in Parson Cross. The project, which earned a Highly Commended Sustainable Development award at the Inside Media Yorkshire Property Industry Awards,

Around the Diocese

transformed a former GP surgery into a modern, eco-friendly youth and community centre.

Instead of demolishing the existing building, Fourth Wall refurbished and extended it, saving costs and reducing carbon emissions by 60%. Sustainability was a key focus, with energy-efficient features including an air-source heat pump and solar panels, which will lower the centre's operating costs and environmental impact.

The project was funded by the Youth Investment Fund, with Fourth Wall assisting Chilypep in securing the grant. This collaboration ensured the development met the fund's high standards while providing a vital resource for the local community.

Joshua Weston MRICS, Co-Founder and Lead Director of Fourth Wall, expressed his pride in the project, noting his deep connection to Sheffield. He emphasized the importance of involving young people in the design process to ensure the centre met their needs. The completed facility includes an IT suite, sports hall, accessible spaces for young people with special educational needs, and services like a food bank, counselling, and career support.

Lesley Pollard, CEO of Chilypep, thanked Fourth Wall for their dedication and collaboration, noting the positive impact the centre will have on the community. The development will provide young people in Parson Cross with essential resources, creating a space for growth, support, and opportunity.

For more information, visit www.FourthWallBC.com. Edwin Buckley

Looking Ahead

What's on at Boarbank Hall?



Boarbank Hall, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7NH

Craft Weekend 2nd-4/5th May 2025.

Bring your own arts or crafts, enjoy working and sharing together.

Two Wings and Some Prayers 12th-17th May 2025.

Prayer, walks and birdwatching, with a focus on learning birdsong.

Celebrating Creation 27th-31st May 2025 and 4th-10th October 2025.

Talks, discussions, art, liturgy, gardening, walks.

Our Lady in Latin 18th-20th/21st July 2025.

Learn about the Latin and the music of our best-known hymns to Our Lady.

Thinking Faith 26th July-2nd August 2025.

Theme: St Paul Time out for working Catholics.

St Augustine's Confessions 18th-22nd August 2025.

An introduction to St Augustine's classic spiritual autobiography.

Magnificat 24th-26/27th October 2025.

Follow up to Our Lady in Latin, on the canticles of St Luke.

Hope in Health 5th-7/8th December 2025

For all who support or care for anyone who is sick, professionals and others.

For more information or booking, email margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk.

Visit: www.boarbankhall.org.uk

New CELEBRATE Lent resource for families

Celebrate Lent with CELEBRATE's New Family Activity Pack and Upcoming Events

As we enter the season of Lent, CELEBRATE is excited to share a brand-new resource designed to support families in nurturing their faith life. The

Lent Online Family Activity Pack

is packed with engaging activities, prayer suggestions, books to savour, and films that not only entertain but also foster meaningful conversations about faith. This free resource is perfect for parishes, schools, and families, providing creative ways to connect with the season and one another. You can download the pack now and dive into the season of Lent together.

Upcoming CELEBRATE Events

In addition to this new resource, CELEBRATE has a couple of exciting events coming up that offer fantastic opportunities for spiritual growth and community building.

Joel's Bar – A Space for Young Adults

For young adults seeking a place to encounter God and deepen their faith, Joel's Bar is the perfect opportunity. Hosted by CELEBRATE Trust's Young Adults Ministry, Joel's Bar will take place from April 6 to 11 at Worth School, West Crawley. This week-long event is designed to help young adults explore their faith in a vibrant and supportive environment. The schedule includes opportunities for personal prayer, praise and worship, workshops, social activities, and community-building in their lively Cafe and Bar.

The programme is intentionally crafted to foster an atmosphere of fellowship while offering a range of ways to engage with God. Young adults will experience powerful encounters with the living God, engage in meaningful discussions, and connect with others in both structured activities and informal settings.

Tickets for Joel's Bar are now available, so don't miss out on this incredible opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth.

CELEBRATE Festival – Witness to Hope

This year, CELEBRATE invites you to join them in the beautiful Sussex countryside for the highly anticipated CELEBRATE Festival, running at Worth School. This year's theme,

Witness to Hope

, aligns perfectly with the spirit of Jubilee and promises to be an event filled with inspiration, renewal, and community.

The festival is designed to cater to all ages, with specific groups for children and young people, so the entire family can be part of this faith-filled weekend. Expect to be inspired by powerful talks and breakout sessions from inspirational speakers, participate in uplifting Masses and worship services, and take time for personal prayer in the stunning surroundings of Worth's Abbey.

But it's not just about faith—it's also about fun and fellowship. Take part in social activities, grab a coffee or a glass of wine, and meet new people while connecting with others who share your faith. Whether you camp on the festival grounds or stay in the comfortable residential school accommodations, there's something for everyone at this unique event.

Book Your Spot Now!

With limited Early Bird Tickets available, and accommodations selling fast, it's best to book early to secure your place. Children's and youth groups are likely to fill up quickly as well, so don't wait—book now to ensure your spot at the CELEBRATE Festival and make the most of this incredible experience.

For more details and to book tickets for both the CELEBRATE Festival and Joel's Bar, visit the CELEBRATE website.

<https://www.celebratetrust.org/>

As we journey through Lent and beyond, CELEBRATE continues to provide incredible resources and events to nurture faith, build community, and inspire hope. Whether you're looking to engage in family activities this Lent or join a transformative event, CELEBRATE has something special for everyone! Claire Fernandes