

Hallam Bridge



ISSUE 27
April 2025

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



See page 3

Jubilee of Youth- Pilgrimage to Padley

In remembrance of His Holiness, Pope Francis we have opened an online book of condolence which you can sign here <https://hallam-diocese.com/pope-francis/>



Find out more on page 12

200 Young People from Hallam at Wembley OVO Arena

find out more on page 5



Upcoming Events

10, 17, 24 May CCRS Year 1 Church, Year 2 Liturgy
20 May Service for survivors of abuse St Theresa's, Sheffield
27 May Installation of Archbishop of Liverpool
7 June Summer Day of Recollection Hallam Pastoral Centre
27 June - 3 July Hallam Lourdes Pilgrimage
6 July Interdiocesan Padley Pilgrimage
8 July Schools Padley Pilgrimage
26 July Hallam Walsingham Pilgrimage



Jubilee Events in the Diocese

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

Welcome to the April edition of Hallam Bridge

April 21st 2025 was the day Pope Francis died. That is such big news that it is difficult to remember all the other stories of April but this month's Hallam Bridge 'carries a mix of local and national stories, reflecting some important national issues which are of concern to us all as well as local initiatives you might be inspired by. We welcome the appointment of Bishop John Sherrington as Archbishop of Liverpool. What's that to do with Hallam, you may wonder. The organisation of the Catholic Church means that each diocese belongs to a Province overseen by an Archbishop. Our diocese is in the Province of Liverpool, so in a sense, Hallam and the new archbishop belong to each other. We pray for Bishop Sherrington as he prepares to be installed on 27 May at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool. The important pastoral letter from Cardinal Vincent Nichols about the Terminally Ill adults (End of Life) Bill is included in full on page 4, as we are all urged to write to our MPs to ask them to vote against the Bill and explain the reasons why. There is also an article

from the Catholic Union describing, and with a link to, a debate from a panel of experts about the Bill. It is an important issue that needs to be taken seriously, and is also a way of witnessing to the Catholic faith which calls for acknowledgement of the dignity of the human person.

Last month young people from the diocese were in Rome, this month they travelled to Wembley for Flame 2025, the UK's largest youth conference, and we hear something about that journey. (Page 5). Another voice of youth can be heard in the excellent article on the Lent Pilgrimage of some Notre Dame students to Padley Chapel. (Page 10).

The Care for Creation champions provide some news of things they have been doing during lent to encourage us all in our endeavours. (Page 9).

As we pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis and give thanks for his life and ministry, we can continue his work of creating a more inclusive Church which reflects the Gospel, as he strived to do in his life and mission. Our stories this month reflect those Gospel messages which were also the themes of his papacy: respect for the dignity of persons, care for the marginalised, acknowledging previous harms done and safeguarding the People of God, care for creation, ministry to young people and creating a culture of encounter in the church as we continue the work of synodality, as we rejoice, give thanks, praise and worship Lord Jesus Christ, risen. There is a drawing circulating on the internet of Jesus and Pope Francis walking into the sunset together on Easter Monday, with the caption: "I'll walk home with you".

As we continue on our journey there are a number of resources to help with this, from Taizé and from School for Synodality. You can join the School for Synodality reading group of the Synod Final Document individually or, form a parish group, or join a diocesan group to read and discuss it together. Get in touch with the Formation and Mission Team if you would like to join a group to follow the programme. Enlarging the space of the tent was one of the synodal metaphors widely quoted and to some people this has meant that they ensure that everyone feels welcome and included, particularly focusing at this time on disabled people. The diocese has produced a Policy on Inclusion with much excellent work and assistance from the parish of St Vincent's. This is now available to all parishes, (page 7) along with an audit checklist so you can see how well your parish scores. Do let us know how you get on. And there are three invitations to note. One is to the Annual Service for survivors of abuse on 20 May at St Theresa's, Sheffield. All are welcome. Survivors are glad to know they are not forgotten and your presence and prayers are appreciated (Page 16). The second is to the Jubilee of People with Disabilities celebration at St Peter's in Doncaster on 31 May. (Page 15) The last one is to a conference on Baptism. Invitations (Page 15). Blessings for the month ahead.

Editor

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We Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Pope Francis



Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Pope Francis died on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, at the age of 88 at his residence in the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta.

By Devin Watkins
Vatican News

At 9:45 AM, Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Camerlengo of the Apostolic Chamber, announced the death of Pope Francis from the Casa Santa Marta with these words:

"Dearest brothers and sisters, with deep sorrow I must announce the death of our Holy Father Francis. At 7:35 this morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the house of the Father. His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and of His Church. He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage, and universal love, especially in favor of the poorest and most marginalized. With immense gratitude for his example as a true disciple of the Lord Jesus, we commend the soul of Pope Francis to the infinite merciful love of the One and Triune God."

The Pope was admitted to the Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic Hospital on Friday, February 14, 2025, after suffering from a bout of bronchitis for

several days.

Pope Francis' clinical situation gradually worsened, and his doctors diagnosed bilateral pneumonia on Tuesday, February 18.

After 38 days in hospital, the late Pope returned to his Vatican residence at the Casa Santa Marta to continue his recovery.

In 1957, in his early 20s, Jorge Mario Bergoglio underwent surgery in his native Argentina to remove a portion of his lung that had been affected by a severe respiratory infection.

As he aged, Pope Francis frequently suffered bouts of respiratory illnesses, even cancelling a planned visit to the United Arab Emirates in November 2023 due to influenza and lung inflammation.

In April 2024, the late Pope Francis approved an updated edition of the liturgical book for papal funeral rites, which will guide the funeral Mass which has yet to be announced.

The second edition of the *Ordo Exsequiarum Romani Pontificis* introduces several new elements, including how the Pope's mortal remains are to be handled after death.

The ascertainment of death takes place in the chapel, rather than in the room where he died, and his body is immediately placed inside the coffin.

According to Archbishop Diego Ravelli, Master of Apostolic Ceremonies, the late Pope Francis had requested that the funeral rites be simplified and focused on expressing the faith of the Church in the Risen Body of Christ.

"The renewed rite," said Archbishop Ravelli, "seeks to emphasise even more that the funeral of the Roman Pontiff is that of a pastor and disciple of Christ and not of a powerful person of this world." Vatican News

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Pastoral Letter - 5-6 April 2025



BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Pastoral Letter

To be read at all Masses on the weekend of 5/6 April 2025

On the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill Fifth Sunday of Lent

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I wish to speak with you today about the process in which our Parliament is currently considering legalising assisted suicide through the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. As I have made clear earlier in this debate, as Catholics we have maintained a principled objection to this change in law recognising that every human life is sacred, coming as a gift of God and bearing a God-given dignity. We are, therefore, clearly opposed to this Bill in principle, elevating, as it does, the autonomy of the individual above all other considerations.

The passage of the Bill through Parliament will lead to a vote in late April on whether it progresses further. This will be a crucial moment and I, together with all the Bishops of England and Wales, am writing to ask your support in urging your MP to vote against this Bill at that time.

There are serious reasons for doing so. At this point we wish not simply to restate our objections in principle, but to emphasise the deeply flawed process undergone in Parliament thus far. We wish to remind you that it is a fundamental duty of every MP to ensure that legislation is not imposed on our society which has not been properly scrutinised and which will bring about damaging consequences.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will fundamentally change many of the key relationships in our way of life: within the family,

between doctor and patient, within the health service. Yet there has been no Royal Commission or independent inquiry ahead of its presentation. It is a Private Member's Bill. The Bill itself is long and complex and was published just days before MPs voted on it, giving them inadequate time to consult or reflect upon it. The time for debate was minimal. The Committee examining the Bill took only three days of evidence: not all voices were heard, and it comprises an undue number of supporters of the Bill. In short, this is no way to legislate on such an important and morally complex issue.

One consequence of this flawed process is that many vital questions remain unanswered. Can MPs guarantee that the scope of the Bill will not be extended? In almost every country where assisted suicide has been introduced the current scope is wider than was originally intended. What role, if any, will the judiciary have in the process? We were told that judicial oversight was a necessary and vital part of the process; now we are told it isn't needed at all. What will protect the vulnerable from coercion, or from feeling a burden on family? Can the National Health Service cope with assisted suicide or will it, as the Health Secretary has warned, cause cuts elsewhere in the NHS? Can MPs guarantee that no medical practitioner or care worker would be compelled to take part in assisted suicide? Would this mean the establishment of a 'national death service'?

In contrast to the provisions of this Bill, what is needed is first-class, compassionate palliative care at the end of our lives. This is already provided to many in our society but, tragically, is in short supply and underfunded. No-one should be dispatched as a burden to others. Instead, a good society would prioritise care for the elderly, the vulnerable, and the weak. The lives of our families are richer for cherishing their presence.

It is sad reflection on Parliament's priorities that the House of Commons spent far more time debating the ban on fox hunting than it is spending debating bringing in assisted suicide.

I am sure that you will share these concerns. It is now clear that this measure is being rushed

without proper scrutiny and without fundamental questions surrounding safeguards being answered. This is a deeply flawed Bill with untold unintended consequences. Every MP, and Government, has a solemn duty to prevent such legislation reaching the statute book. This, tragically, is what may happen. So I appeal to you: even if you have written before, please make contact now with your MP and ask them to vote against this Bill not only on grounds of principle but because of the failure of Parliament to approach this issue in an adequate and responsible manner.

In his Letter to the Philippians, from which we heard in the Second Reading, St Paul reflects on the difficulties and responsibilities of life. He speaks of 'pressing on' and 'striving' for the fullness of life promised in Christ Jesus. Yet he is totally confident in his struggles because, as he says, 'Christ Jesus has made me his own'.

We too have many struggles. We too know that Christ Jesus has made us his own. So we too press on with this struggle, so important in our times.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

FLAME 2025



Pictures© Mazur CBCEW

On 15 March, four coaches departed from the Diocese of Hallam early in the morning, transporting 200 young people to Wembley OVO Arena. There, they joined almost 11,000 others at the UK's largest Catholic Youth Conference, in the presence of Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster.

They listened to speakers including Bear Grylls

OBE, Adenike Adewale, and Isaac Harvey MBE, with the One Hope Project leading the music ministry. The theme for the conference was 'Unstoppable'. Here we hear from our young people who attended the day: "At the congress, we opened the liturgy with the procession of the CAFOD Icon and the Book of Gospels. Starting as you mean to go on, we heard the scriptures igniting the torch of hope for witnessing faith in our country. In the closing liturgy, along with the youth of our country, we travelled in Eucharistic procession led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols to adore the living Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist." "It was a deeply spiritual moment to be surrounded by so many young people all sharing the faith together. The speakers were brilliant; it was great to hear their messages. It was also nice to see all the Bishops together." "Prayer, adoration, and the Gospel were beautiful." "Musicians were awesome – hearing Christian pop was cool; I never knew it existed!" "The overwhelming sense of reverence towards the Most Holy Eucharist during that final liturgy was moving beyond words. Jesus was present among the youth, nourishing us as we return to our homes, communities, schools, workplaces, and beyond, knowing we are unstoppable when we abide in Him alone."

Along with our Diocesan young representative, Ciaran, four servers from the Diocese of Hallam were called upon to serve during the liturgies. They were blessed to participate in the largest gathering of young Catholics in the UK—a memorable event that will last for a long time! Here are their comments: "Serving at Flame was an incredible honour and privilege for me to represent the Guild and my Diocese. Having the opportunity to serve and assist at a liturgy that inspired so many was humbling." "I can surely say it was a very rewarding and unforgettable experience of altar serving. Not only did we get to meet and serve for the Cardinal, but we got to represent our Diocese and set an encouraging example for other young altar servers who undoubtedly also attended FLAME. It was nice to do something different from the ordinary, yet equally important—altar serving in our local parishes. I believe it is important for all young altar servers

to reignite their passion and mission for serving by attending such events and recognizing that they, too, can take part in incredible events and be deeply engaged in their parish and Diocese. It is a wonderful and honourable experience to see that we are all recognised and valued for what we do for our church." "The experience of serving at such an event and witnessing our faith through the service of the Eucharist to so many was incredible. Thank you to all involved and thanks to my fellow serving team and the Guild for answering the call to be unstoppable." It was an amazing day for both the young people of Hallam and all young Catholics of England and Wales. Our own Bishop Ralph accompanied the young people, traveling with them on the coach and spending the day with his young congregation from Hallam. One final thought from a young person on their first experience: "Is this venue big enough!" - a challenge for FLAME2027! Susan McDonald

Pope Francis appoints Bishop John Sherrington as new Archbishop of Liverpool



His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Bishop John Sherrington as Archbishop of Liverpool. Ordained as a priest for the Diocese of Nottingham on 13 June 1987, Bishop

Sherrington has been an Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster and Titular Bishop of Hiltia since 14 September 2011. Archbishop-elect Sherrington will become the tenth Archbishop of Liverpool in succession to Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP, who has been Archbishop of Liverpool since 2014.

His Installation will take place in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Tuesday, 27 May at 12 noon.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP said: "I am grateful to God and to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, for appointing a bishop to serve this local church, the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We are receiving a new Archbishop with considerable gifts, talents and skills, but most of all we are receiving a man of deep prayer who loves the Lord Jesus and who loves His Church. I have had the pleasure to serve with Archbishop-elect Sherrington in the Diocese of Nottingham and in the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and I am delighted to welcome him today."

On hearing of his appointment, Archbishop-elect Sherrington said: "I thank Pope Francis for his trust in me on my appointment as Archbishop of Liverpool which I accept with humility and joy. We pray for our Holy Father at this time of sickness as he recuperates and prepares for Holy Week and Easter.

"I look forward to serving as shepherd of the historic and faith-filled Church in the Archdiocese of Liverpool which is rich in its heritage of the English martyrs, Irish immigration, and now looks to the future.

"Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP has served Liverpool Archdiocese with love and generosity, and I am honoured to succeed him... I look forward to building on the foundations already laid in the synodal pastoral plan 'Together on the Road' to serve the Church and bring the hope and joy of Jesus Christ to all people.

"In this Jubilee Year, we are a people living the hope of Christ who has loved us, saved us and walks with us. We share this hope with other Christians and people of all faiths and good will. I welcome meeting and building friendships with leaders, both Christian and of other faiths, which

has always been a strong dimension of the Church here.

"May we receive the fire of the Holy Spirit into our hearts to bring Christ to others."

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, said about the appointment: "Those who have been following reports on the health of the Holy Father and keeping him in their prayers will know that he has continued his work, including the appointment of bishops.

"I am so pleased that he has appointed our Bishop John Sherrington to be the next Archbishop of Liverpool. Liverpool is, of course, my home diocese and I am delighted that it is to be led by Bishop John.

"In Westminster we know his gifts, dedication and utter generosity only too well. We will miss him greatly. Archbishop Malcolm will welcome him with great joy as, I'm sure, will everyone across the extensive Archdiocese of Liverpool.

"Today we offer our profound thanks to Bishop John for all that he has given to us over these last fourteen years, and we assure him, wholeheartedly, of our prayers and constant support.

"And, of course, we continue to hold Pope Francis very much in our prayers, too."



Inclusion Policy Adopted in the Diocese



Diocese of Hallam

The Diocese of Hallam is committed to being a welcoming church for all of the Children of God. Each person is wonderfully made in the image of the Creator God. Every person, perhaps at different times of their lives, also has frailties.

The Diocese of Hallam is committed to full implementation of The Equality Act 2010. A person is disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if they have "a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect" on their ability to do normal daily activities.

Pope Francis suggests that the parable of the Good Samaritan is a helpful one (Lk 10:25-37). He says: "The decision to include or exclude those lying wounded along the roadside can serve as a criterion for judging every ...project."

Thus, every parish can ask, "What are the barriers which prevent disabled people from having full active involvement in our parish life?"

"What do we need to do to remove those barriers?"

Ensuring the full implementation of the Equality Act 2010

requires us to be "anticipatory" -thinking ahead, and about how the needs of our present congregation may develop in the future.

"...creating a completely accessible parish does not only mean eliminating physical barriers...It also assumes that we stop talking about 'them' and start talking about 'us.'" (1)

"The bonds of belonging become even stronger when disabled people are not simply passive receivers, but take an active part in the life of society as agents of change." (2)

Around the Diocese

RECOMMENDATIONS

Disability Champion(s)

Each parish or group of parishes should have one or two representatives and/or a working group responsible for promoting working towards a parish community which is fully inclusive of disabled people. Where possible, the working group will include disabled people. (3)

Audit

Each parish will carry out a regular audit of its facilities and activities with a view to enhancing access and inclusion for disabled people. (4)

Reasonable Adjustments: Property management

Each parish is required by law to make all reasonable adjustments in order to make the liturgy and community life accessible to disabled people. This may include alterations to physical features; provision of suitable spaces for people who use wheelchairs; clear marking of steps, and uneven surfaces; providing additional help. Advice should be sought from the Diocesan Property Manager (5) Make sure all adaptation equipment is functioning, no light bulbs are flickering, welcoming signs are in place

Inclusive Liturgy

Liturgies, prayer groups, parish services and catechetical programmes should be celebrated in such a way that disabled people are included as fully as possible.

This includes provision of materials in accessible language and formats; use of signing when possible, ensuring aids like a loop system are available and functioning.

Ministries

Different ministries should, where possible, be made more accessible to people with disabilities of all kinds, supporting their involvement in full.

e.g., enabling a person who uses a wheelchair to be a reader by providing a microphone; enabling disabled people to bring up the offertory gifts; to minister Holy Communion; to serve at the altar; to be a welcomer.

Inclusive parish life

Catechetical programmes, parish, social life, youth activities, and every other aspect of parish life, should be as fully inclusive as possible. Remember that there are many different

disabilities and needs and not all disabilities are visible and get specialist advice where you need it.

Reminders and prompts

Parish communications should routinely include reminders to plan for accessibility and inclusion of all, in local and national activities and where possible, and indicate any limitations on this.

Diocesan and inter-parish support

Parishes may request that the diocese share and promote national and local resources to include accessible formats, and training for catechists of disabled children/adults. The Diocesan library at Hallam Pastoral Centre welcomes contributions to help to build a library of useful resources to share.

This policy, approved by Bishop Ralph Heskett for the Diocese of Hallam, Easter 2025, will be reviewed in 2028.

Signed: Bishop Ralph Heskett

Notes

(1) Pope Francis' Prayer Intention December 2023 www.vatican.va

(2) Pope Francis' Address to Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, 11.04.2024, *Disability, and the human condition. Changing the social determinants of disabilities and building a new culture of inclusion* . www.vatican.va

(3) 'Through the roof' is an organisation which can support Disability Champions; see www.throughtheroof.org

(4) *Inclusion and Accessibility Audit Tool* available on Hallam Diocesan website

(5) 'Reasonable adjustments' will depend on all circumstances, including: how effective the change will be; how practical; the church's resources and size; resources already spent; cost and financial support available

(6) These documents use the Social Model of Disability and identity-first language. References: Social model of disability | Disability charity Scope UK, British Deaf Association, National Autistic Society, RNIB.

Around the Diocese

Bell ringers at St Maries Cathedral Honour Pope Francis

The heaviest bell in the bell tower of the Cathedral Church of St Marie, is being tolled a total of a hundred times before Requiem

. Masses for the late Pope Francis

The one and a quarter tonne bell is tolled 88 times to mark each year of the Pope's life and 12 times to mark the number of years Pope

. Francis held the office

Requiem Masses are being held at 5:30pm on weekdays, at 12:30 pm on Saturday and at 10:30am on Sunday during the nine-day

. mourning period

All of the Cathedral's eight bells have been muffled as a sign of respect and mourning and plans have been made to ring a muffled quarter peal on the bells in memory of Pope Francis. Bob Rae

Care for Creation update- April Walking the Big Lent Walk



St. Vincent's parish Live Simply pledge for April is to choose greener ways to travel, by bus, by train, cycling or car sharing when possible. Going on foot, of course, is the gentlest way of all, and chimed well with Cafod's annual Big Lent Walk, which encourages us to walk 200km in 40 days, seeking sponsorship to help fight global poverty.

We formed a parish group and recorded the distances we walked (or ran in one case!) on our Cafod online page. As page 'editor' I logged the totals, and as I write now we are nearing 2000km. 2000km of moving lightly on God's good Earth in support of our sisters and brothers living elsewhere on our planetary home.

'I feel privileged to walk for pleasure when so many people have to walk to fetch water or to get to a place of safety'. Marie.

Some of us covered ground by taking the long way round to the shops, perhaps an extra stroll in the March cold or the April sunshine. One walked through areas of Sheffield he had never visited before and was awakened to loveliness in unexpected places. God's creation inspired meditation: 'Walking alone in nature is an opportunity to reflect and give thanks for all God's work'. Maria.

And who spotted an adder? (Pauline in Nidderdale).

One Sunday after morning Mass a group of us set off from church for a 5km round walk. Walking and talking, we enjoyed the sense of communal effort - and the signs of Spring and hope's renewal were all about us.

'Mindful walking with friends is spiritual balm for the heart if not the feet.' Ann.

While generous sponsors donate money for Cafod, we are conscious of being given much more.

Columba Timmins for St. Vincent's Faith-in-Walking group.

The Taize Community Provide Resource to Promote the Implementation of the Synod



Synodality is a path of spiritual renewal and structural reform to make the Church more participatory and missionary" (Final Document 28)

The Synod of Bishops "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission" came to an end in Rome in late October 2024. But the synodal process is far from over. On the one hand, the ten study groups convened by the Pope have to present their work. On the other hand, the ball is now in the court of dioceses, parishes, religious communities, and local groups of all kinds to try out and experience the proposals gathered in the Final Document. In connection with a small group of synod participants, I have undertaken to write this Vademecum, hoping that it will encourage people to read the Final Document and to start putting it into action. At Colón (Cuba), February 26, 2025, Brother Alois of Taizé

Vademecum-ENG (1)Download

The Final Document (FD, available at www.synod.va) is not much more than about fifty pages long. Following the lead of Vatican II, it moves resolutely away from a pyramidal conception of the Church towards the image of a community of all the baptized. It so opens up possibilities for reform that make the Church more faithful to the Gospel. To discover more deeply what it means in practice to live as a Church which is Communion, a time of education and training is going to be essential. Some people have emphasized the document's weak points or shortcomings. Young people are mentioned only once, reflecting their absence

from the assembly... The ordination of women to the diaconate or of married men to the priesthood was not discussed. Questions of gender and sexual orientation are not explored in depth. This should not prevent us from setting out with others to enable the Church let the Good News shine out more fully. It is important to realize that this is a long-term process. Ripening takes time, and the synodal process is called to keep going ahead and to evolve continually. The synod has initiated deep changes in ecclesial culture; this is a long-term undertaking, but there are already initiatives that can be taken now to help it move forward. The Final Document is more than a simple text: it is the fruit of an experience. The synodal process began in 2021, with meetings at various levels: local, regional, and continental. Even if these consultations did not take place everywhere with equal intensity, they were a first in the history of the Church and they provided a solid basis for the global assemblies of 2023 and 2024.

During these assemblies, two ecumenical times of prayer showed that synodality and commitment to Christian unity are inseparable. A penitential prayer named the sins of the Church in quite a stark way. The Pope wanted the bishops to be joined by other representatives of the people of God as well as a larger number of fraternal delegates from other Churches. He wished to begin the synod with a retreat, to introduce a simple method for listening to one another[1], and to provide moments for prayer and silence. All of this bore fruit. The fraternal climate made it possible not only to accept the diversity of the participants and their opinions but to view it positively. In a world where views are becoming more and more harshly polarized, Christians could bear witness to the fact that unity in a great diversity is possible. The experience of the global assemblies can provide an inspiration for local initiatives: penitential prayer, prayers for Christian unity, "conversations in the Spirit." The following six areas have been selected with the aim of helping people enter more deeply into the synodality that the Final Document proposes.... **The full article is available on our website** <https://hallam-diocese.com/taize-community-provide-resource-to-promote-the-implementation-of-the-synod/>

Around the Diocese

Jubilee of Youth- Pilgrimage to Padley



On April 9 several participants of the Jubilee of Youth came together for a sponsored pilgrimage. We met at St. Marie's with Fr. Henry and prayed in front of the Blessed Sacrament to begin our journey. The purpose of this gathering was to engage in meaningful conversations, strengthen our relationships, and raise funds in anticipation of our summer pilgrimage to Rome. We had a great time navigating with paper maps, which were far from being "live" or "online," as we debated the best routes to take—often pondering which path would be the shortest! Our 10-mile trek took us through bustling streets, charming park cafes, and up hills, despite the frequent assurances that it would be "all downhill from here," which turned out to be quite misleading. After five hours, we reached Padley Chapel, where we were warmly welcomed by Gerard Bonner, a historian and Friend of Padley. We were fortunate to learn about the chapel's symbols, many of which are connected to a devotion to Our Lady, as well as the inspiring stories of local Catholics in the Hope Valley who maintained their faith during challenging times. We concluded our pilgrimage with a decade of the rosary led by Fr. Henry before heading back to Sheffield by train. On the platform, we were greeted by Bishop Ralph, providing a fitting conclusion to our long day. Bishop Ralph signed our Pilgrim cards, and then we each went our separate ways.

If you wish to sponsor our young people for this walk, then please email – smcdonald@hallam-diocese.com thank you. Sue McDonald

Rosary prayed at Burbage Rocks



A group of Notre Dame students made an inspirational Lent pilgrimage to Padley Chapel. Padley Chapel is a fourteenth century chapel and gatehouse, and our very own shrine in the Hope Valley, where we commemorate the Padley Martyrs, two priests who died for their faith in 1588. The group were led by Ms Gomes, Mr Neal and Mr Bonner, who is both a Foundation Governor and a volunteer at Padley Chapel. As a fellow volunteer, and the littlest of the Friends of Padley, I was honoured to be allowed to join the trip.

The others walked from School, holding their crucifix aloft and stopping for the Rosary and conversations with other walkers on the way. I would have loved to join, but as I have hypermobility, I started at Grindleford. The sun shone as we walked up the hill, and the first thing we did was to plant a forget-me-not in the grounds. Then the School group arrived, and we celebrated Mass upstairs at the Chapel. Father Henry gave me a special blessing and I felt very proud to be there with my School. At the end of Mass everyone sang happy birthday and gave me a card. Then I helped with the dust sheets, tidying chairs and locking up at the Chapel. We walked down together and waved everyone off from the bridge as they got on the train.

What I loved about this trip was feeling part of my community of faith and my community at School. I like to think the Padley Martyrs would have been delighted to see the Chapel so full of praise and joy. We will be opening the Chapel to visitors from Easter, every Sunday from 2pm to 4pm. If you would like to know more, please email friendsofpadley@hallam-diocese.com. Theodore Goulding aged 12



How Many Incorrect Deaths Justify the Right to Access Lethal Drugs?



A panel of experts, Chaired by Baroness Hollins, recently discussed the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. The panel issued a call for people to contact their MP as a matter of urgency, asking how many incorrect deaths justified the right to access lethal drugs. The expert panel consisted of:

- Dr Matthew Doré, Consultant Palliative Care Physician
- Professor Peter Hindmarsh, Chair of the Catholic Union Charitable Trust
- Baroness Hollins, President of the Catholic Union
- Dr Philip Howard, former Gastroenterologist & Senior Lecturer in Medicine
- Professor Julian Hughes, Former Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist

Baroness Hollins, President of the Catholic Union says: "Even if you have communicated with your MP, I would encourage everyone to initiate new communication and ask them to commit to well resourced, well trained and coordinated end of life care in your constituency, that is the crux of what we need as a society rather than a deeply flawed and dangerous Private Members' Bill".

The panel focused on the subtleties of coercion and how the passage of the Bill would create a coercive force which means that people when they are at their most vulnerable may be most at risk. They also discussed the need to offer palliative care when people are suffering rather than killing the sufferer, and explored the nuances of capacious decision making.

The Catholic Union is encouraging people of faith or no faith to contact their MP as a matter of urgency raising the following issues:

What can be done to ensure well-resourced and co-ordinated end of life care at home or close to home?

How concerns about coercion and undue influence as well as domestic abuse and violence are to be tackled?

What thought has been given to the unintended consequences of introducing lethal drugs into society?

How many incorrect deaths are acceptable? A Private Members' Bill is not the right vehicle to overturn each person's fundamental right to life? A recording of the webinar can be found here. Louisa Collyer-Hamlin Catholic Union

Stella Maris chaplains bring hope to exploited fishers



Fishers arriving in the United Kingdom to earn a living can sometimes find themselves in extremely vulnerable situations. Some are exploited, abused, not paid their agreed wage, or even denied wages altogether. They trust that the contracts they sign are legitimate. But in some cases, a ship's route and the work required of them can breach the conditions of their visa. Then they can be caught in extended limbo status in a legal system that they find baffling, waiting for their case to be heard. They can feel that they are treated like criminals. With little contact with anyone from the outside world, many depend on the help and friendship provided by Stella Maris port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors.

Peter Morgan, Stella Maris Regional Port Chaplain in the Bristol Channel, got to know "Benjamin", (not his real name) who came to the UK with dreams of providing for his family. He had been promised a fair wage and honest work. Little did Benjamin know, he'd never make it home. "Instead, this hard-working fisherman was mistreated in UK waters, suffering physical and racial abuse on board," says Peter. "Benjamin became trapped in an unforgiving system, his visa status uncertain, his wages unpaid and his voice unheard. "We did all we could to help. But Benjamin died (due to ill health) while waiting for justice in the UK. What happened to him wasn't right. It was heart-breaking." Peter says he's seen first-hand the problems fishers often endure. "I've seen it all... pressure from captains to work longer hours, books fiddled to falsify rest times, wages

unpaid for months. Right now, I'm supporting fishers held in a detention centre through visits, referrals, and enabling channels of communication.

Steve Willows, Stella Maris Regional Port Chaplain in Northumberland and North and South Tyneside, has been supporting a group of fishers from Africa and South Asia since they were rescued a few years ago. They were victims of modern-day slavery and were kept in a safehouse. However, it took a long time for them to be recognised as victims while the Home Office made its decision. Before their rescue, they lived in appalling conditions. "They were on their ship just over a month before they were rescued. They were having to drink water from a dirty tank, being given Personal Protective Equipment that was too small, and the machinery onboard was barely working, so the work was very dangerous," says Steve. He visits three of the fishers once a month in the safehouse where they are staying. "In the beginning, I was taking them for days out and providing different activities, to take their mind off what they had been through." "Over time, we helped them with contacting solicitors, finding temporary accommodation, and appealing Home Office decisions. Stella Maris also provided financial support so the fishers could send money to their families," adds Steve.

Stella Maris Senior Area Port Chaplain for Scotland and Northern Ireland Rev Joe O'Donnell has seen many fishers that work too many hours and don't get enough time to rest. "I am currently supporting some fishers who were working twenty-three hours a day and receiving one meal a day and being paid half the salary they were promised. "It's hard listening to their individual stories and hearing about how sadly they have been let down by other human beings and how badly their mental health has suffered through their experiences," says Joe. Fishers sailing off the UK's coast can be extremely vulnerable. Isolated at sea, with little connection to their families or the outside world, they may ear speaking out. Many endure their suffering in silence. But they don't have to.

This Lent, your support can help give fishers a voice. You can help ensure that Stella Maris chaplains can continue their work with exploited fishers, rescuing them from unsafe conditions, fighting for their rights, and providing vital practical and emotional care. Visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/ lent for more details about how to help. Greg Watts

The We Believe Festival of Catholic Life



This summer, St Mary's College, Oscott is hosting WeBelieve, a festival of Catholic Life celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope. You are warmly invited to join us from 25th -28th July for what promises to be a wonderful experience. WeBelieve has been designed with parishes and families in mind, as an opportunity to receive inspiring faith formation together, to bond as a community and to celebrate the Jubilee in a tangible way. The festival programme brings together the Catholic communion in a broad and beautiful way with a great line-up of contributors so far, including Dr Gianna Emanuela Molla (daughter of St Gianna Molla), Fr Paul Murray OP Mgr Michael Nazir-Ali, The Southwell Consort, Fr Toby Lees OP & many . more

Pilgrim-attendees can choose to join us for the whole weekend (camping, staying locally or coming from home) at an adult Early Bird rate of £70, or come for a day at £40. You can find all ticket options, the festival programme, print and online promotional material or register your parish at . www.webeliefefestival.com

If you would like to know more about this, or if you would be interested in bringing a group, email info@webeliefefestival.com

I have taken the liberty of including a brief insert below, for you to use in Newsletters and online. Digital posters can be downloaded here and printed materials can be requested via the parish . sign-up form

Monsignor John Armitage
Master of The Guild of Our Lady of Ransom
Master@guild-ransom.co.uk | 020 7476 4129 | www.guild-ransom.co.uk
79A Barking Road, Canning Town, London, E16 4HB

Final Synod Document - online bookclub



On 26th October Pope Francis received the recommendations of the Rome Synod Assembly and declared them part of the Magisterium of the Church. The Final Synod Document is a beautiful, if densely written, expression of the three year global process in becoming a missionary, synodal Church. However, it's not necessarily easy for people in the pews to grapple with! The School for Synodality is offering a series of webinars to explore the FSD section by section with expert guests from around the world, including Archbishop Jason Gordon, Trinidad and Tobago. Watch live on Wednesday nights 7.30-8.30pm from 21st May - 25th June or at any time afterwards via youtube. Suitable for small groups or individual reflection. We would be grateful if you could advertise our series through your newsletters and contacts - short text below.

SVP National Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2025

6th July 2025

Join the St Vincent de Paul Society for a pilgrimage to Walsingham in this year of Jubilee. A wonderful occasion to gather members from all across the Society.

Arrivals - 12 midday
1:45pm - Mass with Bishop Peter Collins
3:15pm - Sacrament of the Sick
4pm - Benediction

National Shrine of Our Lady
The Slipper Chapel
Houghton St Giles,
Walsingham,
Norfolk, NR22 6AL

To Register your interest, please complete the relevant form by following the link or scanning the QR code:

Mini Vinnies (Age 7-11)

Youth SVP (Age 11-18)

SVP 1833 (Age 18-30)

SVP 1833 (All members)

*Mini Vinnies (Age 7-11) and Youth SVP (Age 11-18) to be completed by group leader/responsible adult.

For more information, get in contact:
Email: bethand@svp.org.uk
Phone: 0207 703 3030

Looking Ahead

Re-imagining Baptism National Conference



Preparing for a lifetime in Christ

Keynote: Abbot Hugh Allan O.Praem with workshops run by seasoned catechists and clergy from around the country

Friday 9 May 2025 for Clergy

and repeated on Saturday 10 May 2025 for All
Location: Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, Archdiocese of Southwark

Priests, Deacons, Catechists (involved in all areas of Sacramental preparation) are invited to participate in a day to re-imagine Baptism. This event will be hosted by the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis from the Archdiocese of Southwark, and the Baptism Collaborative.

The Sacrament of Baptism is key, it is transformative, it is the gateway to life in Christ. Yet, despite this, the reality in our parishes is a familiar one. Frequently, those who come requesting baptism have suffered from a distinct lack of formation in their faith. Prompted by the Spirit they have no sure knowledge of how to proceed. Not only is their relationship with Jesus a fragile one they are at a loss as to how to share the Good News with their children. Often, they do not understand the transformative nature of the Sacrament for themselves, let alone for their children.

Priests and catechists alike, however, recognise the possibilities that God offers, placing these young families before us so that we might announce the Good News, accompany them in

the months and years beyond the celebration of the rite to make them disciples, deepening with them their relationship with Christ. How might we avoid passing up these opportunities to share about life as a child of God?

Come and spend the day re-imagining Baptism, learning new strategies to build a baptismal mindset in your parish.

Both Conference Days will provide an opportunity to explore practical suggestions that will enable parents to be 'the best teachers in the faith'. Kinga Kosterka

Diocesan Mass with Anointing of the Sick



Jubilee of People with Disabilities

Saturday 31 May 2025 at 12 noon

As part of the Jubilee Year celebrations in our Diocese, Bishop Ralph invites us all to a Diocesan Mass with Anointing of the Sick on Saturday 31 May 2025 at 12 noon, at St Peter-in-Chains Church, Chequer Road, Doncaster DN1 2AA to celebrate the Jubilee of People with Disabilities. All are welcome to this Mass, and Bishop Ralph extends a particular invitation to anyone living with a disability, their family members and anyone who supports people with disabilities.

Bishop's Letter of Invitation

Bishop's invitation - Jubilee of People with Disabilities Download

During the Mass, Bishop Ralph, and priests from around the Diocese, will offer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. After Mass there will be

Looking Ahead

refreshments in the Church Hall, giving the opportunity to gather socially.

In his invitation, Bishop Ralph reflects on the Holy Family's message marking the International Day for Persons with Disabilities, where he called for "the 'conversion' of the Catholic community, to move from using inclusion as a 'slogan' to ensuring people with disabilities are welcomed, integrated, recognised and supported as full members of the community. Pope Francis goes on to say that "Catholics with disabilities can teach others one of the central messages of the Gospel: human beings need God's love, mercy and strength. The awareness of one's limits, allows us to appreciate all the more God's loving decision to help us in our weakness. The joy that radiates from those who encounter Jesus and entrust their lives to him is no illusion. It is the power of His resurrection penetrating lives marked by fragility".

There will be a BSL interpreter at this Mass, and the ability to access large print versions of the Mass booklet through a QR code. For those with a "Blue Badge" additional car parking spaces will be reserved near the Church entrance.

All are welcome and there is no requirement to notify attendance in advance – please just come along on the day. Alex Prior

National Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse 2025



This year's Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse is Tuesday 20 May 2025. It is an opportunity to reflect on the impact of abuse on individuals, their families and friends, and the communities of which they are part. The Prayer for 2025 can be found

here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/day-of-prayer-for-survivors-of-abuse/>

The CBCEW Spirituality Committee has prepared new adaptable resources which include

Intercessions

that can be used at Mass, school staff meetings, pastoral councils and other gatherings,

Homily thoughts

and

A Listening Session.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/national-day-of-prayer-for-survivors-of-abuse-2025/>



Diocese of Hallam
Safeguarding Committee
Safeguarding by everybody, for everybody



Join Bishop Ralph Heskett
on the National Day of Prayer for
Survivors of Abuse
Service of Love and Prayers

Tuesday 20th May 2025, 7.00pm
St Theresa's Parish Hall
311 Queen Mary Rd,
Sheffield S2 1EA

All are welcome to join
together as an active
demonstration of our love
and support for all survivors
of abuse