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ISSUE #
005

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



fix the
food
system

**WITHOUT ACCESS TO SEEDS,
AGRICULTURE IS NOT POSSIBLE**

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Hallam's Links with Sierra Leone



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For fourteen years a charity in Sheffield has been working with partners in the north of Sierra Leone, West Africa.

The charity, known as the Makeni Trust Fund, has channelled considerable funds to meet the needs of the local community.

While formally closing the charity, the trustees will encourage continued ad hoc support.



Madrasa

Madrasa! The Arabic for school. Continue the Journey with our refugee family...

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St. Peter-in-Chains 50th Anniversary celebration Mass

On Saturday 15th April, St. Peter-in-Chains celebrated its 50th anniversary celebrations. The day started with Mass celebrated by Bishop Ralph. Parishioners and visitors, young and old, turned out in their hundreds to join in this special event that included the burying of a time capsule in the church gardens and enjoying a huge array of homemade cakes in the Church Hall.

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EDITOR'S LETTER

A surprisingly cold and wet start to Spring reminds us to think about our impact on the earth and there are some helpful prompts in the article on page 4 about our care for our common home. We hear more about Home from Home and are invited to an anniversary celebration at St Peter's and a Synod Celebration at the pastoral centre. Is it really a year since we met at St Peter's to reflect on each parish's synod contributions, it will be great to see how those seeds have taken root.

Editor

CONTACT

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.

The synodal journey in Hallam



Our synodal journey in Hallam continues alongside that of the rest of the world. The Continental Stage has concluded, with the reports from each of the 7 Continents gathered in and collated. You can see the report on this stage on the Hallam website hallam-diocese.com/continental-stage-comes-to-an-end/ or on www.synod.va/en/synodal-process/the-continental-stage/final-document.html

Here in Hallam people are keen to have the opportunity to meet again and review the diocesan synodal journey and look ahead to plan for next year and onward. How have you taken forward the ideas that emerged from your synod meetings? What help can you avail yourselves

from other parishes and from the diocese? There are two opportunities for you to contribute to this thinking in our diocese. The first is to join the meeting to plan for the Big Hallam Synod Review meeting. Come along and help shape the day. The second is to come to the Big Hallam Synod Review meeting itself on the 17th of June, 2023.

We look forward to hearing from the Bishops of the world by the end of May when they are due to produce a Working Document, from what they have so far discerned, and in October 2023 on their reflections on the synod. Meanwhile we, the laity and clergy of Hallam, have work to do together.

Send your contributions to the formation and mission team. Please email us at formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com.



Im a little pencil in God's hands
-Saint Teresa of Calcutta

You may not be a storyteller, but your story, thoughts and experiences can be the reason someone else receives Jesus! We want to hear how God has impacted your life and what God is inspiring you to share. Your articles can be a powerful tool for reaching those God is calling to His Church.



It's time to share your faith. Send us your articles (250 - 500 words) to communications@hallam-diocese.com

Articles

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



As we approach the Feast of Pentecost we are reminded that all ministries in the Church are prompted by the Holy Spirit and flow from a person's response to their own baptismal calling to spread the Good News and build up the Body of Christ. The focus of all liturgical ministry is to assist people's communion with God through their fruitful participation in the worship of the Church.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist the Bishop, Priest or Deacon in the distribution of Holy Communion both within the Celebration of Mass and in taking Holy Communion to the sick and the housebound in their local community. It is important that Extraordinary ministers deepen their own faith in the Eucharist and exercise their ministry with dignity and reverence.

To help parishes train new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion there will be a training day on 3 June at the Pastoral Centre 10:00-3:30. The day will conclude with Bishop Ralph commissioning the new ministers during Mass at St Charles at 4:00 pm.

If you feel that called to exercise this or any other Ministry then please speak to your parish priest and ask how best you can use the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given to you to serve in your parish community.

Registrations to attend the training session must be made via your parish priest.

Will you help CAFOD to support farmers around the world in the fight to keep their rights to their own seeds?



WITHOUT ACCESS TO SEEDS, AGRICULTURE IS NOT POSSIBLE

"...what peasants, fisherman and farmers conserve in memory handed down through the generations and which is now derided and forgotten by a model of production that is entirely to the advantage of a limited group and a tiny portion of the world population. Let us remember that it is a model which, despite all its science, allows around eight hundred million people to continue to go hungry..."
Pope Francis

For generations, small-scale farmers have freely shared a wide variety of seeds to produce the food that feeds a significant proportion of the world's population. However, laws are being introduced across the world which limit what they can do with their own seed varieties.

As a result of these laws, small-scale farmers are facing increasing pressure to buy seeds from the limited selection produced by big corporations. But this is not good for people or the planet.

Following on from the Lent appeal, CAFOD is inviting parishes across the country to stand in solidarity with small-scale farmers to ensure that they have free access to their own varieties of seeds.

Salina, a seed saver from Bangladesh says

Articles

"...The companies do not give good seeds. They put descriptions on their seed packets that are not true. It is very impractical information. And the main thing is, the seeds sold by the companies do not belong to the farmers. Farmers can grow the crops, but they cannot keep the seeds in their own hands. This is a very bad thing..."

Read full article on our website

Environmental Leads update April 2023



There are several items to highlight this month:

At last November's Bishops' Plenary Assembly in Leeds, the following resolution was passed:

The Bishops' Conference asks Dioceses of the Catholic Church in England and Wales to declare target dates for stated reduction of carbon emissions, or report on how close they are to having the information necessary to set such a target....The bishops will report on the progress of the diocese at the Easter season and November Plenary Assemblies in 2023.

We all have a duty to help with the diocesan effort to decarbonise. What can we do?

Where does your parish or Diocesan building source its energy from? All parishes and Diocesan owned buildings can use the Interdiocesan Fuel Management Ltd (IFM) energy company. All the electricity used is from renewable resources, and a growing percentage of gas is from renewable or green sources too. Enquire at contact@hallam-diocese.com

Read full article on our website

Hallam's Links with Sierra Leone



For fourteen years a charity in Sheffield has been working with partners in the north of Sierra Leone, West Africa. The charity, known as the Makeni Trust Fund, has channelled over £420,000 to partners working to meet the needs of the local community by delivering improvements in education and health. Much of this money has come from generous donors in the Diocese of Hallam, and especially Mother of God parish in Sheffield, and has been gratefully received by partners in Sierra Leone including the University of Makeni, Holy Spirit Hospital and St Joseph's School for the Hearing Impaired. Through these years the trustees of the Makeni Trust Fund, all members of Mother of God parish, have been pleased to facilitate a whole range of important developments including:

Water wells drilled to provide clean water throughout the year at the University, Holy Spirit Hospital and St Joseph's School for the Hearing Impaired. Vital medical supplies delivered to the hospital and surrounding medical centres. Students who couldn't afford to continue studying helped to complete their degrees. Destitute families given food parcels at Christmas. Teaching staff at the University and the School for the Hearing Impaired supported to get further qualifications. Sheffield Masters students enabled to visit Makeni with some returning to teach there. Shipping containers full of furniture and equipment delivered to the University. Projects supported to improve the teaching facilities and accommodation at the University. Projects supported to improve security and facilities at Holy Spirit Hospital.

Read full article on our website

Articles - Home from Home Hallam

Madrasa



Madrasa! The Arabic for school.

Schooling, the cement for our society was a top priority for our newly arrived family with 3 small children. It was July. A school was found. It was 3 tram stops away and a stiff walk up a steep hill. One of the children is in a wheelchair, Dad has his own lessons to attend, and Mum is expecting a baby in August. Really?

Surely this can't be right? The local school 500m from the family home was full. Phones rang, emails zipped, heartfelt appeals made. Amy from the council intervened. The local school would take two of the children full time and offered part time to the child in the wheelchair until a place in a special school was sorted out. Well done all.

Read full article on our website

Faith in Action at All Saints Catholic High School



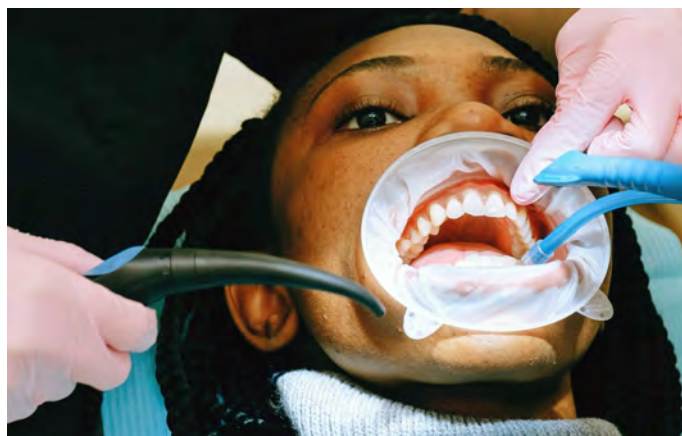
Continuing the story of our support for one refugee family...

The work of Home from Home Hallam presented a great opportunity for me, as Head Teacher here at All Saints, to talk to the school community about Faith in Action. I wanted to raise awareness of the current refugee crisis and its impact on one family in our city, and to encourage our school community to take action themselves, through fund raising activities.

Groups of students devised a range of activities, from cake sales through to 'Soak the teacher' - including the Head Teacher. I'm not sure whether I felt pleased or not at the fact that so many students were willing to throw ice cold sponges at me. One pupil even offered to pay £5 if they got to empty the contents of the ice-cold water buckets over me. You're welcome!

Read full article on our website

Health care needs



Our refugee family's journey to health...

Most of us are too well-aware of pressures on the NHS, but imagine navigating NHS services in a new country, with no English and little experience of a functioning health care system. Adding into the mix three young children, one with complex medical and therapeutic needs, an injured father and a pregnant mother would not be an easy journey for any family. Although the cogs of the NHS can move slowly, the health care our family has received has largely been wonderful.

Read full article on our website

SYNOD NEWS Journeying Together

Day of Reflection at Whirlow Spirituality Centre - A sell-out event



Fr Denis McBride led a Day of Reflection at Whirlow Spirituality Centre on Sunday 4 March. He spoke from the depth of a strong prayer life, and his reflections on the Passion and Stations of the Cross accompanied by art work to reflect the theme and focus of each one were moving and thought-provoking. We hope to invite him again soon.

Meanwhile, look out for other advertised events on the website or on our Twitter @HallamDioceseCC

Live simply logo competition



As part of St. Vincent's quest for the Parish to achieve the Cafod 'Live Simply' award, children in Year 3 at St. Marie's school took part in a 'Live Simply' logo competition. Ann Burke from St. Vincent's Parish showed the class the Cafod 'Live Simply' video. The children were already very knowledgeable about ways we can all care more for our beautiful planet and quickly grasped the main objectives of living more simply. It was clear from the 'logo entries' that lots of thought and care went into their work. It was difficult to choose an overall 'winner'. The one that was chosen was by Freya, seen in the photo with her fairtrade easter egg prize.

Community movie - The Letter



A small group of parishioners from Our Lady and St Thomas and Mother of God Parishes met on 22 May to watch The Letter.

The Letter is a film that tells the story of a journey to Rome of a group including a young female Indian climate activist, the chief of an indigenous Amazon community whose life is regularly threatened, a young Senegalese asylum seeker who watched friends drown trying to escape his flooded village and two American marine scientists who were invited to discuss the encyclical letter Laudato Si' with Pope Francis. The exclusive dialogue with the Pope, included in the film, offers a revealing insight into the personal history of Pope Francis and stories never seen since he became the Bishop of Rome.

All of those who watched it were inspired by it, and as Rita McManus said, "We were deeply moved and our determination to play our part was re-ignited" In the words of Pope Francis we were encour , to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor in the following ways: inviting and encouraging families to watch the Letter at home and think about the small steps they can take to care for the planet; working towards forming Laudato Si circles in both parishes and meeting again during Laudato Si Week 21-28 May 2023; reading Laudato Si; promoting the Cafod Fix the Food System campaign during the summer, arranging a Parish Gardening Party to care for OLST parish garden and to invite Confirmation Candidates to be involved.

If you would like to find out more about watching the film as a parish group or as an individual please contact Kevan Grady in the Formation and Mission Team kgrady@hallam-diocese.com

SYNOD NEWS Journeying Together

Catholics joined the arise citywide prayer campaign



Catholics from across Sheffield and beyond joined with other Christians to prayer-walk over 5,500km in their neighbourhoods this Lent. From Sacred Heart in Hillsborough, to Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury in Beauchief; from St Marie's Cathedral to St Vincent's MissionHub, more than 850 believers from over 150 different churches joined in with Arise:March 2023, a citywide prayer campaign.

Through the Arise:March Prayer app, prayer-walkers are planned and mapped prayer-walks, discovered and shared prayer needs, and prayed for requests sent in through banners displayed outside churches. Church communities such as St Marie's organised group prayer-walks together, and others joined in with other local believers to completely cover their local streets with prayer. In total, participants shared more than 165 prayer needs through the app, and logged nearly 2,900 prayer-walks.

Candida, from St Marie's, really enjoyed the prayer-walking challenge. "I did quite a lot of prayer-walking in my local area with my dogs; there was a real sense of shared purpose with my unknown 'buddy' prayer-walkers, as - between us - we managed to cover off every single street! I particularly loved prayer-walking in the snow; every cul-de-sac was a memorable adventure, and the snow seemed to give me more information about who exactly I was praying for, even though many of the streets were deserted.

"I also led small groups of parishioners out on prayer-walks around Sheffield's City Centre. We stood outside many major businesses and

public services, and prayers just tumbled out of our mouths for the staff and clients there, and the difficulties and challenges they face.

Read full note on our website

St. Peter-in-Chains 50th Anniversary celebration Mass



On Saturday 15th April, St. Peter-in-Chains celebrated its 50th anniversary celebrations. The day started with Mass celebrated by Bishop Ralph. Parishioners and visitors, young and old, turned out in their hundreds to join in this special event that included the burying of a time capsule in the church gardens and enjoying a huge array of homemade cakes in the Church Hall.

Especially poignant was the blessing of a newly commissioned bench in honour of the much-loved Deacon Neil Bailey who died four years ago. His family and friends attended this special commemoration.

It was a chance for parishioners and priests, past & present, to catch up, view a video of the original Mass in 1973 and a photographic display of the life of St. Peter-in-Chains church over the last 5 decades. Thousands of families over the last 50 years have been baptised, married or attended the funerals of loved ones at St. Peter's.

Photos by Graham Warrender

ART CORNER

Poem - EVE

I was curious and bored, not evil.
One can have too much of a good thing.
Even Paradise.

Why did You choose to throw us out?
What happened to unconditional love, and
mercy and forgiveness?
A rational explanation would have made a
difference,
but 'Do as I say because I say it,
Well, that's a challenge to any child to disobey,
to make the experiment, to take the dare.
And You made us that way after all-
disobedient, perverse, adventurous, Human.
Gave us the freedom to make our own
decisions.
And so I did. Savoured forbidden fruit,
Until the juice ran down my chin.
Spat out the pips.

I don't understand, but I accept the
consequences of my deed.
And, whatever the serpent says (the slimy
troublemaker- never did like snakes)
I wasn't trying to know as
much as God.
I am not the Man,
seeking to deny my choice or pin the blame on
Woman.
Blaming and shaming me and my daughters;
making us scapegoats, and witches and lesser
beings, and everything is our fault really, for
ever and ever, amen.

I don't understand, but I can hope
That, though You are teaching me a very hard
lesson,
You still care, and You haven't really thrown us
out,
but have given us liberty to find our own way,
in our own way.
And, as my children fill my heart with joy, and
shatter it with sorrow,
bewildering me, and making their own
decisions that lead to tragedy and pain,
I feel You didn't stay behind in Eden. And I am
always Your child.

Claire Parsons

**We extend the invitation for anyone who
feel inspired by art in any form: poetry,
reflections, images, paintings, music,
prayers to send in your contributions for
this section to:
communications@hallam-diocese.com**

Upcoming Events

MAY 05 Coronation Mass at St Mary Magdalene, Maltby

A Deanery Mass for the Coronation of King Charles III will take place on that Friday 5th May, at 6pm, in St Mary Magdalene, Maltby. All are welcome to attend.

MAY 09 Annual Service for Survivors of Abuse

You are invited to the Diocese of Hallam Annual Service for the Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse. Taking place on Tuesday 9th May at 7.00pm in Blessed Trinity Catholic Church Hall, Wickersley. Refreshments will be available afterwards, but please confirm your attendance for catering purposes to jpearson@hallamdiocese.com

MAY 17 Planning SYNOD Meeting

We are having a gathering up on what's been going on over the last year since the last big meeting. There will be a planning meeting to think about this. Anyone who wants to contribute for the planning meeting can come to the Pastoral Centre on the 17th of May at 7pm, join by zoom or send your contributions to the formation and mission team. Please email us at formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com and let us know how you want to participate

Pilgrimages

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGES 2023

June 15th to 22nd or September 14th to 21st
For bookings and enquiries please contact Deacon Pete Marshall on: 07807955836 or petesuemarshall@googlemail.com

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2023

June 30th to July 6th

Applications forms are available from the Parish Offices. please see the poster at the back of church for more details.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2023

July 22nd

For more information and bookings please contact Joseph Durham on 07939 152558; joseph.durham52@gmail.com)

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2023

October 16th to 23rd

Bishop Ralph Heskett CSSr, will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Contact: Joe McNally at: joegmcnally@gmail.com
Telephone: 0114 236 4076