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# Hallam Bridge



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

ISSUE #  
009  
Sept 2023

## In Preparation for the Synod



### World Youth Day in Lisbon

Young people from the diocese joined with one and a half million others in Lisbon. In the final Mass, reflecting on the gospel of the Transfiguration he asked them "What will we take back with us as we come down from the mountain to resume our daily lives?"

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### Young People take Action in Calais

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### 42nd Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Pilgrims from across the diocese joined Bishop Ralph in honouring Our Lady at England's National Shrine where they prayed for the diocese and for the success of the forthcoming synod.

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### Little Bits of God Mosaic

A final chance to see the Little Bits of God Mosaic at St Michael's church, Wombwell You have until the end of September. Why not take the opportunity to make your own pilgrimage to explore some stories from the Bible included in this impressive mosaic.

Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings 10:30 till 12:30 and

Wednesday and Friday evenings 18:00 till 20:00.

Group bookings outside these times can be arranged via mosaic.wombwell@gmail.com or calling the office number 01226 752372.

### Upcoming Events

Until 29 Sept Little Bits of God Mosaic - Wombwell  
 Sept 30 - Prayer vigil for the Synod St Peter's Sq Rome & Worldwide  
 Until 4 October The Season of Creation  
 4-29 October Sixteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on Synodality

### Upcoming Pilgrimages

Oct 16 – Holy Land Pilgrimage 2023  
 Note: For details about events and pilgrimages, please visit our website.

Conkers have been sighted, Autumn is here. This edition of Hallam Bridge brings pictures and stories of the Holy Spirit in the summer, with groups and people of all ages. See the joyful picture of Ann Murphy celebrating her 80th birthday and a commitment of more than 60 years to UCM. Pilgrims journeyed joyfully to Walsingham and to Lisbon, apparently always in sunshine. The reflections from Hallam Youth who joined 1.5 million other young people meeting for World Youth Day in Lisbon is inspiring. Autumn also brings the Season of Creation, and more opportunities to notice and appreciate the wonders and great gift of Creation. Care for Creation is now a regular feature of Hallam Bridge and Catholic commitment across the world. St William's held a Parish Film Night showing of 'The Letter', reminding us of the clear links between degradation of the earth and the impact on the poor. This resulted in a "Laudato Si" champion emerging to encourage the parish in ways to care for our brothers and sisters. Hopefully other parishes will let us know what they are doing also. We look forward to Pope Francis' promised sequel to Laudato Si, coming soon. St Patrick's and St Catherine's SVP group lived out their evangelising mission at Firth Park Fair and the diocese continues to make a contribution to the work of Missio.

Looking ahead, last chance to see the art work mosaic in Wombwell, a Divine Renovation renewal night, an SVP retreat for young people, a prayer walk, learning opportunities as Catholic Certificate in Religious Education begins a new year and of course, the eagerly anticipated Synod on Synodality in October. Refresh your knowledge and awareness of the synod Working Document, and join the worldwide prayer vigil for the synod.

Blessings on your autumn.

Editor, Formation and Mission

A note on Digital Exclusion

If you, or anyone you know, are unable to access the Hallam website or Hallam Bridge, please let us know. We are very concerned that communication reaches all.  
 Editor



### CONTACT

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 Please send your articles or Feedback to [communications@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:communications@hallam-diocese.com) or to Hallam Pastoral Centre  
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### Art Corner

Inspired by a visit to Wombwell to see the Little Bits of God

mosaic, Leonie Martin composed this poem. She she shared this at an evening in Wombwell where those present were reflecting on how art helps us in our relationship with God.

The mosaic is in Wombwell until the end of September so you still have a chance to see it.

The God who Speaks: in Wombwell  
 And if, this summer,  
 you dare to seek the source  
 of an ageless call carried on the breeze  
 above those once worked seams  
 below the Valley of Dearne – between  
 the A6195 and the River Dove –  
 you'll finally find yourself in Wombwell.  
 Be drawn to that ageless call, that roar;  
 the roar you know you've always heard in  
 dreams  
 through flinging branches  
 flickering faces  
 but always strained to place.  
 Those pit shafts are silent now;  
 this roar is deeper  
 than the deepest seam of coal.  
 Bury your hands in that wild-gold mane;  
 be carried; and when you reach  
 St Michael's (on Park Street)  
 be not afraid – there will be angels by your side.  
 Unload those heavy burdens\*  
 unveil the ears of your distracted heart  
 just rest your weary gaze on The Story of Stories:  
 here – you'll stand on holy ground.  
 Today the God who roars  
 plays in ten thousand places \*\*  
 narrates a million syllables of graces,  
 mosaics every little bit in tiles of timeless love.  
 Here – Christ speaks a seamless whole,  
 shimmers shoals of worded mercy  
 in every shade under the sun:  
 lovely in eyes, lovely in hands not His –  
 to the Father, through the features  
 of all faces\*\*. Will you listen to His voice?

©Leonie Martin 2023

\*Matthew 11:28

\*\*Gerard Manley Hopkins 'As Kingfishers Catch

*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](mailto:communications@hallam-diocese.com)

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

## Young people see the vibrancy of the church during world Youth day



Hallam Youth joined the 1,000 young people from England and Wales and took part in World Youth Day, Lisbon. We had a few meetings before going but, as the participants were far flung from around the Diocese, I wondered if we would become a group.

As soon as we began our pilgrimage - coming together with young people from every country except 2 in the world - we really came together on our journey as the Diocese of Hallam. Accompanied by Bishop Ralph & Fr Henry Woodhouse, the group took every opportunity given them to immerse themselves into the experience. Here are excerpts from the reflections of two of the pilgrims.

"This year, World Youth Day, took place in Lisbon. I was lucky enough to go and experience this and we went to many different events, this included: the opening mass, the pope's first address, a visit to Fatima, the stations of the cross and the vigil. For me, the most moving event was the vigil. This was when everyone taking part in World Youth Day came to together and camped out for the night. The pope joined us in the evening and gave a speech regarding the theme of WYD: RISE UP. In particular, he spoke about how life is like a journey with its twists and turns and that we might fall down, but that we should remember that Jesus is always there with us helping us to move forward. I thought this a really hopeful message and I found it very powerful thinking that all these young people (around 1.5 million!) will go back to their home country and share with their

parishes and family what they experienced and that ripple effect the world will feel.

During the vigil, there was also adoration, which was a very special moment of prayer we were able to participate in. It was incredible how everyone (I repeat 1.5 million young people!) suddenly went into a serene sort of silence, and it was at that moment that I really thought to myself, wow all these people have come from far and wide for the same exact reason, that is to experience the love Jesus has to offer.

Overall, World Youth Day showed me how alive and thriving the church really is. It was amazing to speak to people from all around the world and hear their experiences knowing we were all united by the same faith. It really was an experience I will be forever grateful for, and I'd like to thank my parents, my parish (St Francis), Sue McDonald, and everyone who has helped me in both fundraising for the event and making this unforgettable pilgrimage happen!"

"In the scorching summer of 2023, I and my fellow young pilgrims embarked on a transformative journey to World Youth Day, an event that transcended geographical boundaries and united the hearts of millions. As the sun's golden rays bathed the vibrant streets of the host city, I found myself being enveloped in the diverse sea of cultures and languages. Being surrounded by fellow young people from across the globe, made me realise that the Church is truly alive and that there are young saints rising up. Each day brought new spiritual revelations, as I listened to inspiring speakers, participated in the Holy Masses, and engaged in thought-provoking discussions. Amidst the energetic atmosphere, I discovered a profound sense of purpose, which led to me renewing my faith and encouraging me to leave everything at the feet of Christ. This unforgettable experience left an indelible mark on my soul, reminding me of every Catholic's call to holiness and sainthood - a path that is not easy to walk but is certainly worth it."

Sue McDonald with Isabel & Sharon

## 42nd Hallam Diocesan Walsingham Pilgrimage



The 42nd Hallam Diocesan Walsingham Pilgrimage took place on 22 July when Bishop Ralph led 105 pilgrims including priests and deacons from the diocese.

Pilgrims travelled by coaches from Barnsley, Sheffield, and Bassetlaw Deaneries. Despite the drizzle, the weather did not inhibit the intrepid pilgrims who processed along the Holy Mile to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham where Holy Mass was celebrated.

The keynote of the pilgrimage was Joy.

The Joy of being on pilgrimage to England's Nazareth with our Bishop gathered in communion and in community with each other as a diocese. Together we honoured Our Lady of Walsingham under her new title White Rose of England. The pilgrims prayed for their own intentions and those of others and especially for the success of the Synod. It is the hope of the Pilgrims that the fruits of the Synod will be evident for next year's Walsingham Pilgrimage.

Joseph Durham

## Previewing the Synod - A historic moment in the life of the Catholic Church



Two years after Pope Francis gave all Catholics the opportunity to make their views known on the mission of the Church in the 21st Century, the first of two Synod meetings will take place in Rome from the 4 October on the theme *'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission'*

The Synod of Bishops will, for the first time, include non-Bishop voting members, comprising of a number of laymen and laywomen.

The Catholic Church in England and Wales will be well represented. Archbishop John Wilson, the Archbishop of Southwark, and Bishop Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds, were elected by their brother bishops to attend. Joining them will be Bishop Nicholas Hudson, an Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Westminster, chosen by Pope Francis, and Professor Anna Rowlands and Austen Ivereigh chosen as expert facilitators. Father Timothy Radcliffe, the Dominican preacher, will lead a retreat for all Synod members prior to the official opening on Wednesday, 4 October.

In a 20-minute conversation linked below, Father Jan Nowotnik, who will attend as a voting member and whose doctoral thesis focused, in part, on the preparation for a Synodal Church, joins theologian Professor Anna Rowlands to preview the Synod. Both will be in Rome, and both will have a key role in proceedings.

## Parish Riverside Walk for the Season of Creation



**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River  
Amos 5: 24

The Season of Creation runs from 1st September (the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to the feast of St. Francis of Assisi on 4th October. The Season offers us time to reflect on the needs of our planet, our common home. We are encouraged to pray, celebrate liturgies, and join in community events in order to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share. The theme this year takes inspiration from the Prophet Amos: '...let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream' (Amos 5:23). We are invited to join people of good will across the globe in working and praying together for justice to flow throughout our world, restoring peace to creation and all people. On sunny Saturday 9th September, a group of us came together to honour God's Creation with a walk along the River Porter from Endcliffe to Forge Dam. Four churches were represented: St. Francis of Assisi and St. Vincent's (S 10), St. William of York (S 11), and Sacred Heart (S 6). We gathered under the trees by Endcliffe Park cafe, very happy to meet up with new friends from different parishes, and considered the reason for our walking together. We set off along the side of the river, talking together and stopping for a rest and prayer by Shepherd's Wheel. Then we continued on to Forge Dam, where we finished the walk with a final prayer to Live Simply, and with thanks for each other's good company. May we walk and pray together again, and continue to make new friends.

Walkers stopping for a rest and prayer by Shepherd's Wheel

St. Vincent's parish Live Simply Prayer.

Father, source of light and goodness Help us to tread lightly on your world, and To share with each other the fruits of your creation. Acting justly, loving tenderly and living simply. Showing humility and gratitude for all that you give Lord of heaven and earth.

Columba Timmins. St. Vincent's Parish, Sheffield.

## Congratulations to a long-standing member of UCM



Ann Murphy who has been a member of the Union of Catholic Mothers since 1960 celebrated her 80th birthday on 1st July 2023. She joined St. Catherine's Foundation in the Diocese of Hallam in 1975 where she has been a loyal and hard-working member in her commitment to the community. Well done Ann and a big 'thank you' from the UCM ladies for your ongoing support. Dorothy Anderson

## Sheffield St Patrick's and St Catherine's Parish SVP Conference



As members of the St Patricks and St Catherine's Parish Conference, we understand that part of the SVP's Social Justice ethos is to empower, advocate and campaign for people living in poverty of any kind and those facing discrimination. Part of this role is to make connections with our local community by engaging with the public.

On Sunday 9th July 2023 we visited our local Firth Park Fair where we raised money for the conference by selling delicious snacks baked by members, we sold plants, we had a Tombola raffle sale which was very successful and we also sold some Afro Pop socks highlighting the diversity in the Conference. The money raised is used to support the poorest and most vulnerable members of our society. Our Conference approaches each request for help with compassion and consideration for support tailored to the uniqueness of the individual and situation.

We were graced with beautiful weather and a visit from the Sheffield Mayor Cllr Colin Ross who visited our stall. We had a chat with him about what we do as a Conference, and we were able to capture this by taking a couple of photos with him. He also walked away with a pair of Afro Pop socks from our stall. Andrew Crowley

## University education offering a future for Iraq's Christian community



IRAQ / ARBIL-CLD 21/00065 Housing support for 14 students studying at Catholic University in Erbil (CUE) - academic year 2021/ 2022 (Pope Francis Scholarship Concept).

*By*

John Newton A SCHOLARSHIP programme at an Iraqi Catholic university – which is now entering its second year – is helping the country's beleaguered Christian community stay in their ancient homeland.

The Catholic University in Erbil (CUE), based in the capital of the autonomous Kurdistan region, is providing a scholarship scheme to help Christians and members of other vulnerable groups with support from Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN).

Archbishop Bashar Warda of Erbil, the founder of the university, said: "The CUE model encourages the whole family to stay and not to emigrate – their children will have an excellent education to obtain work and therefore a future in Iraq to support themselves and their parents."

Basma Adwar, who was one of the first students to be given financial support to pursue her studies, told ACN "Because I have a scholarship to study, I can stay in Iraq. I want to stay in Iraq. I want my future to be in Iraq, and I want to help build the future of Iraq."

## World Mission Sunday 2022: the impact it made



**Today. Tomorrow. Together.**

**Last year, supporters in England and Wales came together in generosity and faith on World Mission Sunday helping to raise an impressive £616,251.**

**Supporters in the Diocese of Hallam contributed £9,860.00**

**to this total**

**That money went to help missionaries and projects around the world, including the Kidist Mariam Centre in Ethiopia.**

Coordinated by Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, World Mission Sunday is a moment of grace to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in situations of poverty, violence, and oppression, through the tireless work of the missionaries who accompany them.

Missio England and Wales invites every parish, school, and community to join this special event, through prayer and giving.

On World Mission Sunday last year, Missio featured the work of Spanish lay missionary Maria in Meki, Ethiopia. As Director of the Kidist Mariam Centre, Maria and her amazing local team work hard to provide a safe, supportive, and educational environment for vulnerable women, so they no longer have to leave their families and communities to find work.

Our Catholic community's generosity and prayers mean that Maria and many other dedicated missionaries like her can keep loving, serving, and sharing God's hope with others.

Maria shared: 'It doesn't matter where we come from, where we live, where we are working... we

are God's dream, and we have to fulfil that dream... So, we have to do our best not only to live out our dream, but also to make real the dreams of so many other people and so many other young women.'

Since last year's World Mission Sunday, thanks to Missio supporters in England and Wales, the Kidist Mariam Centre has continued to provide vocational training, including food preparation, hairdressing, and tailoring, despite the difficulties in Ethiopia at this time.

According to Maria's latest report: 'Conflict and political instability in Ethiopia, the continuing effects of the pandemic, and climate change affecting much of the country are making it increasingly difficult for vulnerable families to have the bare minimum necessary to live. Shortages of food and basic goods in local markets further worsen the situation.'

'In September 2022, new students were registered at the Kidist Mariam Centre. The total number of students in May 2023 is 380: 180 students in hairdressing, 163 students in tailoring, 37 in food preparation.'

Missio also shared the story of Beth\* who, unable to find employment locally, had travelled overseas and became a domestic worker to help support her family living in Meki. Sadly, her employer abused and exploited her. Watch Beth's story here:

[https://youtu.be/T7tkThds\\_iY](https://youtu.be/T7tkThds_iY)

Throughout her darkest moments, Beth shared that her faith was a beacon. She explained: 'I believe that God is always before you and behind you in all your troubles... He is prominent for a person like me, who has fallen in life. He is my life. God is my life and my everything.'

Missio recently received the wonderful news that Beth has now graduated. She shared: 'Missio helped to make it possible...May God make you prosper, may you be measured by the measure you have given... Thank you. God bless you.'

## THE COMMITMENT TO THE SAFEGUARDING OF CREATION OF THE XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS



Vatican, September 19, 2023

On the eve of the publication of a "new"

### *Laudato si*

, the General Secretariat of the Synod intends to make its contribution to the conservation of creation by choices that will offset the residual CO2 emissions produced by the upcoming XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

Through the financial support of the SOS Planet Foundation

and the technical contribution of LifeGate,

already tested at the 2019 Synod Assembly, part of the remaining CO2 emissions will be offset thanks to projects that will generate a carbon "credit", thus balancing the accumulated "debt."

The project chosen to compensate emissions, which responds to the criterion of integral ecology as proposed by the encyclical *Laudato si*

, brings together the ecological aspect, attention to the local area and concrete help for the lives of the populations involved. The identified project, implemented in Nigeria and Kenya, aims

to disseminate efficient cooking stoves and water purification technologies to households, communities and institutions. The new technologies will significantly reduce the consumption of nonrenewable biomass and fossil fuels for cooking and boiling water. This will result in a significant improvement in air pollution that is directly correlated to respiratory disease and mortality rates, especially among women and children, consequently improving the overall health of the affected populations. The project will use proceeds from the sale of carbon credits to support local partners engaged in the production, distribution and maintenance of the related technologies.

*"Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. Yet we are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness."* (Pope Francis, LS 53)

## Anscombe Centre Draws public Attention to Important Research on Link Between Assisted Suicide & Suicide Rates on World Suicide Prevention Day 2023

**Today is World Suicide Prevention Day. On this day in particular, it is an important duty that as a society we examine the potential and actual causes of suicidal ideation, and the best means of preventing suicide.**

In the light of that duty and the spirit of this day, we would like to highlight an important paper published last year about the relationship between euthanasia and assisted suicide (EAS) and rates of ('non-assisted') suicide more broadly, as an important contribution to discussions on the dangers of legalising physician involvement in enabling or causing the death of their patients.



## World Day for Migrants and Refugees 2023



World Day of Migrants and Refugees is celebrated by the Church every year on the last Sunday of September. 2023 marks the 109th anniversary of World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

The theme for this years' celebration is 'Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay'.

For many today, migrating is their only choice. Everybody should be able to live their best life and to be able to feel safe and secure - whether in their home country or the place they come to call home.

Sadly our common home is not a place of safety, peace and welcome for all. How can we build our common home together? The Holy Father in his WDMR message says:

'Only by walking together will we be able to go far and reach the common goal of our journey.'

Find more information and resources at: <https://www.jrsuk.net/wdmr2023/> and <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/refugees.php>

## North Derbyshire Prayer Walk



Saturday 23rd September 2023  
Sheffield and North Derbyshire

Green Christian Prayer Walk with CCA Pilgrimage

Start point: Grindleford Station at 2:40pm

A distance of just under two miles in length will be covered, all on footpaths or well worn grass, with gentle inclines in places. Please wear strong footwear in case of damp or stony ground.

There will be magnificent views, and four stopping points for reflection and quiet prayer.

A full Risk Assessment has been completed, and this will be shared at the start of the walk. Individuals are responsible for their own safety during the walk.

**Further details from Catherine Fish**  
**[Catherinefish@greenchristian.org.uk](mailto:Catherinefish@greenchristian.org.uk)**  
**or 07507111189**

## Discussion of the synod's instrumentum laboris

DISCUSSION ON

**The Synod's Instrumentum Laboris**

led by Dr Peter Coughlan & Anne Marie O'Riordan

**THU** 5 OCTOBER 2023 **L** 5 Pm BST

FREE EVENT ONLINE



The Synod on Synodality, launched in October 2021, is one of the most important initiatives of Pope Francis' pontificate. It also represents the widest process of listening/consultation ever to have taken place across the worldwide Catholic Church. Its purpose – as the word "synod" signifies – is to enable all the members of the Church to learn better how to journey together, a journeying together that seeks to give witness to the mission entrusted to it by the Risen Christ. Through the gift and guidance of the Spirit the whole process seeks to open horizons of hope for the fulfilment of the Church's mission.

Following the first phase of the Synod, namely the diocesan, national and continental synodal consultations over the last two years, a second phase now opens. This consists of two Synodal Assemblies at the international level (October 2023 and October 2024): the aim 'will be to animate the synodal process in the ordinary life

of the Church, identifying which pathways the Spirit invites us to walk along more decisively as one People of God'.

The basis for discussion in the October 2023 Synodal Assembly is the

### ***Instrumentum Laboris***

(IL) or Working Paper. The aim and value of this paper is that: firstly, it articulates priorities - 'pathways the Spirit invites us to walk along' - that have emerged in the worldwide listening process; secondly, it presents these priorities not as solutions or decisions, but as questions/paths that require further discernment and action in the years ahead.

### **What is meant by Communion Participation and Mission?**

**Communion:** Bringing people together as communities in the local Church begins this prayerful insight into the ways of the Holy Spirit. When the Church gathers for the Eucharist, and what flows from it, is when the necessary self-understanding of the mission of the Church is best understood. Thus the dialogue at this level is rooted in the life of the ecclesial communities and parishes. **Participation:** The reflections that the local Churches are undertaking regarding the past 15 months of pandemic from the context of how the Church in England and Wales looks forward, not backwards, to revitalising its mission of bringing the Good News to all. The gentle invitation to the full practice of Catholic life, with the Eucharist at the centre of all the Church does, is an integral part of the "walking together". **Mission:** Understanding the local situation will feed necessarily into an overview of the mission in the whole diocese. Like the tesserae of mosaic, the picture is built up of the needs for renewal so that mission to all is firmly rooted in the life of the local community who gather, by the gentle invitation of the Lord, to worship him, to be sanctified by him and to exercise both an individual and collective prophetic voice.

## **TOGETHER for youth**

Diocese of Hallam SVP CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

# TOGETHER FOR YOUTH!

1st October 2023  
2:30-6pm

Venue: St Peter in Chains, Doncaster

Who? Young people in Secondary School

Together Gathering of the People of God

You are invited to share your thoughts as a young person and meet with other young people from around the Diocese .

There will be opportunity to choose different workshops in the afternoon and time for prayer  
Come and join us for an afternoon and get your voice heard!

For more information  
email: smcdonald@hallam-diocese.com  
Whatsapp: 07717014488

## **National SVP 1833 Young Adult's Retreat**



***Come and join us for a weekend of meeting others who are passionate about making a difference in their local communities. It will be a weekend of prayer and reflection with times of volunteering and action, including a visit to***

**St Vincent's, Ely Bridge.**

**Place: Hebron Hall Christian Centre Cross**

**Common Road Dinas Powys CF64 4YB**

**25 minute train/car journey from Cardiff**

**Cost: £50**

**To find out more and to book,**

**email: [youngvincentians@svp.org.uk](mailto:youngvincentians@svp.org.uk)**

**Thinking about getting married ...  
Engaged Encounter Weekend in  
Sheffield**



Join us for a journey of discovery and celebration of all that you will both share during the rest of your lives together.

The design and content of the marriage preparation course follows the "Guidelines for the Preparation of Couples for Marriage" as set down by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales.

We extend a warm welcome and invitation to book on our course.

The Non- Residential Engaged Encounter marriage preparation courses are held over the weekend of 18-19 November 2023 at the Hallam Pastoral Centre. You can book this particular weekend in November: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ee-weekend-18th-19th-november-2023-sheffield-hallam-centre-tickets-623259745677?aff=oddtcreator>

If you would like to find out about other options for preparing for your marriage in Hallam Diocese check out this page <https://hallam-diocese.com/departments/adult-formation/family-focus/> and submit your details <https://forms.gle/QkVLne3mWctvqJpJ6>

Wishing you all the very best!

**Prisoners' Sunday 8th October 2023  
'This day...with me...paradise'**



**Luke 23:43**

A message from Cardinal Vincent Nichols Christmas family visits for the women inside HMP Send on the 22nd of December 2022, at HMP Send, Woking, United Kingdom. Christmas time is particularly tough for people in prison but sometimes tougher for those family members, especially children that have a parent locked up. (photo by Andy Aitchison)

'As President of Pact, I invite you to join with me in supporting Prisoners' Sunday on 8th October 2023. Pact is the national Catholic charity providing support to prisoners and their families. It is good to know that Pact is there for people of all faiths and none, supporting prisoners and their families on our behalf and with our help. I encourage you to play your part in this work of the Gospel for the common good of all.'

Pact posts out a Prisoners' Sunday pack to every parish in England & Wales – arriving around 18th September. It contains a poster, bidding prayers, information about our work and second collection details.

Pact works in four prisons in the diocese, as well as in the community. As part of our work supporting family relationships, we work in the

Pact Visitors' Centres welcoming families arriving to visit a loved one inside, helping them to prepare for their visit and explaining what to expect. This is especially important for the children who can find the prison environment overwhelming.

We organise special Family Visit Days when the normal rules can be relaxed a little. Pact staff and volunteers organised a Family Sports Day recently. Dads wore team T-shirts that their children had coloured in for them. There were Spacehopper races, egg and spoon races, bean bag throwing, an agility course and fairground games like 'hook a duck'.

By organising events like this, Pact can bring some sort of normality to the children's life and dads don't need to miss out on their children's annual sports day or other milestones.

Pact's CEO, Andy Keen-Downs explains, 'Our work in prisons and communities across England & Wales ensures that prisoners, children and families are supported; and their dignity is respected and upheld. Where appropriate we help families to make a fresh start together and live lives which bear good fruit. By supporting prisoners to be restored to the community, our work makes communities safer - research shows that prisoners who have good family relationships are 39% less likely to return to crime.'

We humbly request that parishes consider taking up a second collection to support the work of Pact in the year ahead. Your support means we can do more for prisoners and their families. You can choose a nearby Sunday for the second collection if that helps.

Get in touch if you would like someone to speak briefly about Pact's work at Mass on Prisoners' Sunday where you are: [parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk](mailto:parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk)

More information

Pact Prisoners' Sunday information and resources: [Marking Prisoners' Sunday | Prison Advice and Care Trust](#)

Our Faith in Action team supports Catholic people and parishes to encounter the voices of people in our communities with lived experience of the criminal justice system, to reflect on Catholic Social Teaching, and to put faith into

action. We offer our JustPeople workshops, Diocesan events, and a network of Pact Parish Reps Events | Prison Advice and Care Trust

## Renewal Night 13 October 2023



Our hearts and minds ache for more in life. Our work and family situations can be overwhelming, we carry around broken hearts, weary bodies and spend a lot of time getting buffeted around by the winds of the everyday. On this night we invite you to come and encounter Jesus in a new way, to experience his transformational love so that we wouldn't just be passing through but that we would experience life fully alive! Join us this night for a special night of worship, teaching and ministry - to be renewed by the Lord, to experience the living Lord Jesus so that he might live in us.

### Renewal Night

#### When

: Friday, 13th October 2023 • 7-9 PM

#### Venue

: St Peter & St Paul's St George's Walk, Standbridge Lane, Wakefield, WF2 7NR

#### Cost

: Free

#### Audience

: For anyone from neighbouring parishes who desires a deeper encounter with Jesus

#### Families

: The Mark 10 Mission will also be running a children's session during this event, open to primary school-aged children accompanied by an adult.

Could you use a moment to be renewed in your faith? Join Divine Renovation, One Hope Project,

Max Ford and the team at St. Peter & Paul's Wakefield for Renewal Night on Friday, 13th October 2023 from 7-9 PM. This is a time for us to come together to worship Jesus and be filled with the Spirit. There's no need to register — just come and join us in prayer. We look forward to seeing you all there!!

### St Francis Chronicle



St Francis PPC have decided to produce a bi-monthly Chronicle which records events in the Parish, You can see the and first issue the parish website

St Francis Parish – St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church (stfrancisrc-sheffield.org.uk)

### Catholic certificate in religious studies starts 23 September 2023

Board of Religious Studies

**The Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies**

Make yourself indispensable with CCRS...

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) is important and relevant for all. The parish community, in collaboration with the home and school, has a privileged opportunity and responsibility to help all concerned to grow in their faith. This is a lifelong process. To achieve this we need to help those involved with parish catechesis to share this vision and have an adult understanding of their faith.

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) is designed for people who are engaged in the communication of their Catholic Faith, whether directly or indirectly. It is open to catechists, people involved in liturgical work and other interested adults.

The CCRS can provide general theological knowledge and offer a better understanding of the Catholic faith. It will help participants to increase their practical application of the faith in their ministry in the Church. It provides the means to accurately and effectively communicate the principles of Catholic teaching.

**Diocese of Hallam**

CCRS in Hallam starts in September. To register use the QR code, or to find out more contact: [formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com)

or call us 0114 2566410

### HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE EMERGING CATHOLIC CHURCH



OCTOBER 2023  
**8-14**  
LIVE AND ONLINE

### HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

JOIN  
SPIRIT UNBOUNDED  
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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS  
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and  
a host of international leaders, thinkers, activists  
and reform-minded Companions from around the world  
to coincide with the International Synod in Rome.

ONLINE  
all week  
8 - 14th October 2023



LIVE and ONLINE  
ROME, IT and BRISTOL, UK  
13- 14th October, 2023

[www.spiritunbounded.org/event](http://www.spiritunbounded.org/event)

8-14 October online all week and 13-14 live and online, ROME and Bristol UK

As the world's Bishops are gathering this October for their XVI Synod in Rome, to discuss our own worldwide responses to the Synod on Synodality, this event will be running alongside live in Rome and in Bristol UK, and of course online all the time addressing the issues raised. There will even be opportunities to join in by Zoom- with a couple of friends from your living room, in a group from your parish hall, or from your village gathering anywhere in the worldwide that has an internet connection.

Pray with us, share with us, celebrate with us to nurture the emerging Church. One that's safe, inclusive and just. One that lives by the teachings of Jesus. One that prays.

Dr. Mary McAleese, former president of Ireland and Canon Lawyer, and Benedictine Joan Chittister, one of the world's foremost spiritual

speakers and writers, will headline and over 100 international thinkers, writers and activists will be joining them to represent the diversity of the global church at the event, particularly Indigenous Communities and presenters from Central and South America, Africa and Asia as well as Europe.

To find out more and register for tickets visit [www.spiritunbounded.org](http://www.spiritunbounded.org)

## Benedictine Monks launch Podcast



The Benedictine monks of Ampleforth Abbey, North Yorkshire, have recently ventured into the world of audio media as they celebrate the release of their new podcast channel *Ampleforth Abbey Podcast*.

Each week a different member of the monastic community will upload a new episode of 'Home Retreat' in which they will offer a challenging reflection for 10 – 15 minutes. Home Retreats are offered as an opportunity to pause and reflect wherever you are.

Podcasts have risen in popularity over the years and the monks of the Abbey saw the perfect opportunity to spread God's word and insights from their journey of faith to listeners across the globe.

Reflecting on this new endeavour, Abbot Robert Igo of Ampleforth Abbey says "It's great to connect with new and evolving audiences and we believe the podcast provides us with an important opportunity to reach many people with the good news of the Gospel".

*Ampleforth Abbey Podcast*

is available to listen to on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music and Google Podcasts.

## Learning through action: Reflection on a visit to Calais



*Kirsty, a sixth form student from a Catholic school in Hallam, travelled to Calais last weekend with other young people and teachers. The four-day visit was part of a programme exploring the 'crisis of welcome' for refugees at our borders. It was led by the Columbans and the Diocese of Hallam. She writes:*

Before volunteering in Calais, I had an idea of what it would be like: what I would hear, see and learn. These preconceived ideas were mostly incorrect. Because of this, I firstly urge everyone to look into working with refugees - particularly those intending to cross the channel.

"Why would we fight when we've all come here to flee war and conflict?" A common belief is that the camps are full of violence and separation between groups. This is in fact a complete juxtaposition of the truth. I was overwhelmed by the camaraderie and community spirit all around me. The refugees shared in each other's hopes and aspirations, despite their different beliefs, faiths and nationalities. Before listening to their stories, I didn't understand quite how difficult and long a venture it was. I heard numerous stories of journeys of up to 10 years just to get to Calais, making it abundantly clear that the decision to leave their homes was not made lightly and was out of necessity.