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Hallam Bridge



ISSUE 22
November 2024

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



Thirteen Altar Servers Enrolled at St Oswald's

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Synodality in Hallam; from listening phase to Final Document



As the Final Document of the Synod is published we reflect on our diocesan Journey Find out more on page 6

My God I am yours for time and eternity...

Thanksgiving Mass for the Sisters of Mercy Find out more on page 5



Live Simply Award Mass. St. Vincent's, Sheffield on page 7



Upcoming Events

30 November CCRS - Pastoral Centre

1-7 December Week of Guided Prayer - Jesuit Institute - Online

7 December CCRS - Pastoral Centre

14 December Advent day of Recollection Fr Eamonn Mulcahy
- Pastoral Centre

Welcome to the November edition of Hallam Bridge

Welcome to the November edition of Hallam Bridge. This November, many prayers for the dead and candles were lit in services across the diocese. At St Williams church, and perhaps in others, the names of those who died this year were read aloud and space given to remember them. Page 2 is a moving and generous offering of a poem mourning an infant. We continue to pray for all who have died.

This month too marked the beginning of the aftermath following the end of the final meeting in Rome of the Synod on Synodality. It isn't the end of the process. As a diocese, we are invited to develop as a synodal church, under the guidance of the Bishop. Take opportunities to understand what is being signposted in the Synod final document, particularly the emphasis on ecclesial discernment ie what it is the church is deciding to do. What is startling and new for the Catholic Church and emerges from the Synod, is the emphasis on the commitment to accountability and care and evaluation in decision-making. Bishop Ralph's pastoral letter (page 3) invites you to pray for the formation of a Diocesan Pastoral Council to assist him in this work of ecclesial discernment.

This missionary Church bore witness to the Gospel message through other activities. St Vincent's proudly continue their message of care for creation (page 4), Caritas and CAFOD point us toward the upcoming Jubilee year. A strong message from Synod was the request for laity and clergy for formation. There are opportunities for learning more (School of Synodality), praying more (week of Guided Prayer), reflecting and sharing more (day of Reflection) and look out for opportunities for celebrating more. Page 5 carries a report on the lovely honouring and farewell to the Sisters of Mercy who leave the diocese after more than 100 years of ministry to teaching, to the poor, lonely, those in need of pastoral care. Perhaps there are aspects of their ministry the laity are now being called to eg food banks. The 13 Altar Servers at St Oswald also celebrated, (page 3). The Bishops are reminding us to speak out against Assisted Dying and there is plenty of information available to help you with that. Next month, Advent reflections, more on Synodality and anything else you send in to enrich the lives of the People of God with your thoughts and reflections about our missionary journey.

Wishing you Grace and Peace

Editor



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Diocese of Hallam



@HallamDioceseCC, @SynodHallam1



Hallam Diocese

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In November we pray for our loved ones who have died. Yvonne O'Donovan, (St Marie's parish) offers a poem on the death of a child

No Words

There is no syllable or sound to keen the surface of the ground
wherein a daughter lies, or son.

There is no cry begins to tell the soldiering shouldering march to hell,
Whereupon, one step at a time, I place a foot upon landmines
of detonating sympathy.

No healthy baby on my knee, my breasts tug still the deeper rhythm
of his tiny heart, as up I started in the nights thereafter,
Hearing cries that once delighted, laced with laughter,
and exhausted, through the mists of tired dreams,
Streams of milk and honey, funny that now dry as desert sands,
for weeks they leaked, no hands to hold or fingertips to grip
-the riptide of your slaughter-
so tight to life and me.

How can death prowl by playgrounds careless roundabouts of clapping hands
and shouts ' Take care, beware, there.. there ? . ?

His lusty yells of instant here demands:

Feed me, Hold me, Love me Warm me Feed me Clean me Cuddle me
Swaddle me Need me Tickle me Squeeze me Rock me Feed me Hold me
Snuggle me Warm me.

We were as one, a mother and a son.

Flesh of flesh and bone of bone undone

Torn out of time before the time was ripe

And reason fled this vale of tears
unseasonably
early.

I see the life he would've lived in every passing year,

the birthdays never celebrated near or far away

The other babies grown to be the 'twens n teens n men he would've been,
or could become, if only he might live
to stay.

But I have just an empty space, an absence instead of a place,

to put my arms and lace them through the body

where a boy should be.

Not only me, but many of us mothers, fathers too,

have only silence where a song should play

His ghost now frozen in a tomb as on that morning in his cot

I saw his yellow face and knew

that grace had fled,

and he was dead,

that he was not.

My grief is not unique; indeed it speaks from every media and storefront.

How much more must we endure of the sobs of those still living when their child
is dead?

Whether from small boats in the Med or Gaza, Yemen, Sea of Red,

The list of children's names unknown flutter to the floor

In endless wars and crying of the poor.

The enormity of sorrow, no tomorrow, small white shrouds as small as sparrows

Wings cut off pre-flight, a darkening night.

The silence of those we never knew

Or worse, forgot.

There is no syllable or sound to keen the surface of the ground

wherein a daughter lies, or son.

There is no cry begins to tell the soldiering shouldering march to hell,

Whereupon, one step at a time, we place our feet upon landmines
of detonating sympathy.

Yvonne O'Donovan November 9th 2024

This is a publication by Hallam Diocese.
Please send your articles or Feedback to
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Around the Diocese

Pastoral Letter - November 2024



Ralph Bishop of Hallam

Pastoral Letter

To be read at all Masses on the weekend of 2/3 November 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ
29 October 2024

May I begin by thanking everyone once again for their cooperation with the Pastoral Survey that took place between Lent and the end of June this year. Also, I appreciate your patience in waiting for information on our next steps. Deanery Summaries with your response to the Survey, I understand, can now be found on the Diocesan Website.

There were many positive ideas and messages received as a result of the consultation, and several challenging ones as well. One thing is clear above all else: these challenges must be addressed, and difficult decisions must be made. These decisions will be met in the synodal sense of consulting, listening and praying. This process will help me to discern the vision for the diocese and the actions which must be taken.

Firstly, and as a direct result of the consultation, the Council of Priests has asked me to form a Diocesan Pastoral Council to assist me in this task. A Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) is an advisory group composed of members of the faithful, clerics and religious who collaborate, offer support, and help the Bishop to clarify a vision for the diocese. The DPC has three primary responsibilities: to study the pastoral reality of the diocese as determined by the Bishop, reflect on it, and make

recommendations to the Bishop.

I have therefore asked the priests to nominate suitable candidates for the new Diocesan Pastoral Council. Later, and after prayerful reflection, I will be selecting members to take their places on the new DPC. I hope to be able to form the Council during the Advent season and then convene our first meeting in January 2025.

Finally, may I ask you to pray earnestly to the Holy Spirit to guide us in the formation of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, stepping forward on our pilgrimage together into the Holy Year with generosity and hope in our hearts. May Our Lady of Perpetual Succour continue to keep us in her prayers.

Yours sincerely in Christ, the Redeemer,
+ Ralph

Deanery Consultation Documents
Consultation SummariesDownload

Thirteen Altar Servers enrolled at St Oswald's Parish



The guild of St Stephen is one way to bring young people into the service of the altar. Here, they acquire the skills to assist the priest at Mass and other Liturgical and para-liturgical activities. They also learn to become the future leaders of the church. Here at Our Lady Queen of Heaven and St Oswald's church, we are privileged to have thirteen altar servers enrolled on the Guild of St Stephen on the 10 November. From their desire to be close to God on the altar, some of them might further develop aspirations to commit to God in some permanent vocations such as the priesthood and religious life. To be

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enrolled as Altar servers is a blessing for the parish community in which the newly enrolled will in their little way inspire many more individuals. Part of this inspiration is ingrained in their activities. This includes preparing the sacristy and the Altar before mass. Carrying the cross and candles during services, holding the Missal, and guiding the readers on the sanctuary. They will also help with the presentation of gifts. That said, they will need our prayers and support. We are happy to welcome them to the parish community and the church looks forward to their continued participation in the life of the church. Sr Anne Ihunnia

The People of God Gathered with Bishop Ralph discover more about the New Lectionary



In preparation for the use of the New Lectionary, the People of God including a deacon and priests and people from afar afield as Athersley, Dinnington, Rossington, Goldthorpe, Sheffield and Doncaster came together with Bishop Ralph for two events to hear about the new Lectionary which comes into use on 1 December.

They heard about some of the developments that have taken place since the Second Vatican Council in translating the liturgy into English and especially how this has impacted on the how we hear the Word of God in the Liturgical Assembly at Mass.

They were introduced to some of the changes that we will hear as the scripture is proclaimed

and also had an opportunity to look at the way the lectionaries are presented. Readers who were present were encouraged to think about the importance of preparing well to proclaim the Word of God and the importance of looking at these new translations of familiar texts before reading them. Deacon Bill Burleigh who was invited to use the new translation to read the gospel of the day (Luke 18:1-8) said that he had to read the text over 3 or 4 times before proclaiming it.

Val Monti Holland, a Reader at St Marie's and a professional actor, provided an opportunity to do some practical work about reading in public. She said that we are not acting when reading but that effective breathing, posture, and eye contact when proclaiming the Word at Mass will help those listening to hear God speaking to us today. The sessions concluded with an invitation for any readers (or others) to join the Advent Day of Recollection on the Vatican Council's document on the Word of God, Dei Verbum, on 14 December at the Pastoral Centre. Booking details can be found on the Formation & Mission Eventbrite page <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hallam-formation-and-mission-46212155433>

Live Simply Award Mass. St. Vincent's, Sheffield



In September 2022 a group of St. Vincent's parishioners came together to consider how we might use Cafod's Live Simply Award to help us live our faith as a parish community. We would need to form a plan based on three themes: Living Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with

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poorer communities. This task seemed a bit daunting at first, but Cafod provides a template and helpful pointers, and it turned out that the very process was a truly interesting and encouraging exercise. We could see several things the parish was doing already that fitted the themes: supporting charities like St. Wilfrid's and Cafod; using fair-trade coffee and tea for drinks after Sunday morning Mass; gardening with care for creation; regularly suggesting appropriate bidding prayers. Between building on these and the blessings of further inspiration, our problem if anything became putting a limit on our ideas.

By November 2022 we had our plan, which Father Walsh signed and Cafod accepted.

It has to be admitted that one or two of our ideas proved difficult to follow through. Yet as is often the case, the very obstacles we encountered were instructive. They produced unexpected rewards and provided a great exercise in waiting patiently on the Holy Spirit for her true and good fruits. After 18 months or so, we felt ready to ask Cafod for an assessment, and in May 2024 were thrilled to find our parish had successfully earned the Live Simply Award.

Bishop Ralph concelebrated a special Sunday Mass for us in September, as the Season of Creation was drawing to a close. He blessed our lovely award plaque, made in Cambodia by skilled artisans and carrying its own story of faith.

It provides joyful sustenance on our parish Pilgrimage of Hope.
Columba Timmins



My God I am yours for time and eternity...



Was the refrain of the Sisters as they sang the Suscipe of Catherine McAuley at the Thanksgiving Mass for the Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy in the Diocese of Hallam celebrated at St William of York, Sheffield on 17 November. Sr Clare and Sr Brendan were joined by other Sisters who had served in Denaby and Doncaster, together with sisters from Hull, Derby and Yeadon. In his homily Bishop John Rawsthorne spoke about the work that the Sisters had done over the past hundred and forty one years. In the world of education, by founding schools in Doncaster and Sheffield, and in healthcare in their work at Claremont Hospital and their active involvement in the foundation of St Luke's Hospice. More particularly he spoke about their simple witness to Gospel values in caring for the needy and their constant prayer in many locations around the diocese.

The Mass was followed by refreshments in the parish hall and an opportunity to

Give thanks with a grateful heart;
give thanks to the holy one.
Give thanks because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.



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Synodality in Hallam; from listening phase to Final Document



Reminder of the Background: the synodal journey over the past 3 years

The Synod on Synodality (or the 16th Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops) has ended following its second sitting in Rome. The outcome of the deliberations is captured in a final document which Pope Francis has approved and which now becomes the teaching of the Catholic Church. This process “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission”, started in October 2021. Here in Hallam we had a service at St Marie’s Cathedral to welcome all to become involved. There followed some months of consultation in various ways; with meetings, discussions, cards, questionnaires and personal encounters. The People of God were invited to respond to the questions Pope Francis asked:

“How does this “journeying together” which takes place today on different levels (from the local level to the universal one), allow the Church to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the mission entrusted to Her; and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?”

One year later, the Synod Office at the Vatican, having collated the local contributions from 112 out of 114 Bishops Conferences from around the world, produced a Working Document for the Continental Stage. This was presented back in dioceses and parishes, and a further period of discernment was invited, to reflect on these three questions:

“What resonates from the Document for the Continental Stage with the realities of your Church? What tensions or divergences

emerge and questions should be raised in this next step of the process? What are the priorities, recurring themes and calls to action that can be shared and discussed in the first session of the synodal assembly in October 2023?”

This period of discernment led to a document from Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales which was sent to Rome. Then contributions from the seven continental assemblies were used to draft the “Instrumentum Laboris” (or Working Document) for the first session of the Synod on Synodality in October 2023.

Learning from all this that there was such work to be done, Pope Francis extended the Synod to another session, to be held the following October 2024 and asked for people to read and work on the documents so far. Reminding us that the Synod itself was on the theme of Synodality, and was not to address the various ‘hot button’ issues that inevitably has risen as sources of concern within the Church, he didn’t just abandon them but established 10 working groups to provide more theological and expert study on those issues, to be presented to the second session of Synod in October 2024 which has just concluded. These groups were Aspects of relations between the Eastern Catholic Churches and the Latin Church. Listening to the cry of the poor The Mission in the Digital Environment The revision of the *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* in a missionary synodal perspective Theological and canonical questions about specific ministerial forms Revision, in a synodal missionary perspective, of the documents on the relations between Bishops, Consecrated life, Ecclesial aggregations The person and ministry of the Bishop The role of Papal Representatives in a missionary synodal perspective Theological criteria and synodal methodologies as a basis for shared discernment of controversial doctrinal, pastoral, and ethical issues The reception of the fruits of the ecumenical journey in ecclesial practices

How does the final document reflect the concerns that were expressed in our diocese?

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The final document is now available on the Hallam website synod pages <https://hallam-diocese.com/synod/> or on the Vatican's Synod website <https://www.synod.va/en/news/final-document-of-the-xvi-assembly.html>. It is worth reading.

When you have read it, you could also look at that first Hallam response document (on the website) and the results of the Priests Consultation about the vision for the diocese which followed on from the first phase of the synod.

What happens now?

After Christmas, when you have had a chance to read, pray and reflect on what has been gathered from around the world, from the Synod, from the diocese you will have the opportunity to think with others about what it means for you and what it might mean for us as a diocese. We plan to arrange a series of meetings to facilitate this so make sure you check the Hallam Bridge or Diocesan Socials.

Pastoral Council Starter Kit -School for Synodality Launches A New resource



School of Synodality are thrilled to announce the launch of 'Reimagining Pastoral Councils, a Starter Kit'. This free, downloadable resource offers a reimagined style using the synodal process and aims to reignite a passion for Pastoral Councils - either to begin completely new, or to refresh current frameworks. This was developed together with four dioceses and the Jesuit Institute and offers a distinctively Catholic model of local engagement and decision-making.

The Pastoral Council Starter Kit is designed to be used in any context, and is available via the School for Synodality website, see here: <https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/news/new-resource-re-imagining-pastoral-councils-starter-kit>

Workshop about the Pastoral Starter Kit

The School for Synodality will also be holding an **online 'Re-imagining Pastoral Councils Workshop' on the 23 November.**

Open to all, there will be an opportunity to talk through the practicalities, as well as have the chance to share hopes for re-imagined pastoral councils in a synodal style in any community.

Date : Saturday 23 November

Time : 10:30am - 1:00pm GMT Free

tickets are available, just register below:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/schoolforsynodality/1427151>

What is Synodality? Video explainer resource

As the Rome Assembly closes the three-year Synod process, an important next step is to continue embedding practices of listening and discernment in our local communities. However, synodality can feel a very abstract notion.

The School for Synodality has produced a short, animated explainer, exploring the Gospel roots of synodality and how it can transform our communities today. We hope this will be useful in a variety of contexts, including pastoral councils, parishes, schools and Catholic organisations.

Watch on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lckg8GSzvc8>

A Jubilee Year, pilgrims of the hope that does not fade



Bante Galgallo works as Emergency Response Manager for Caritas Marsabit. Credit Thom Flint, CAFOD

December 24 this year will be more than simply Christmas Eve. It will mark the beginning of the Church's Jubilee year. Throughout 2025, and until January 6, 2026, Catholics will be urged to reflect, to seek reconciliation with their fellow human beings, and with God.

The theme of this Jubilee is Pilgrims of Hope. For CAFOD as an agency of the Church, hope is one of our core values. Our hope is based on scripture and God's promise, but also on the daily living out and witnessing to hope by our partners, and the communities they serve, in the midst of conflict, oppression, injustice and environmental degradation.

Many might associate the word "jubilee" with our late Queen, who reigned longer than any of her predecessors, but in the Old Testament, it meant a radical reset every 50th year. Land and property which had been sold was returned to the original owner or their descendants, debts were cancelled, and enslaved people and prisoners were freed. As a year of restoration, freedom and celebration it was the most sweeping system of social reform in the pre-Christian era.

Today jubilees generally happen every 25 years. You might remember the last 'ordinary' Jubilee, at the turn of the millennium, when many thousands of people campaigned and acted for debt relief. This secured more than \$130 billion of debt cancellation for developing countries between 2000 and 2015 – money they could spend on health and education instead of

paying crippling interest bills.

Today, CAFOD is working with Debt Justice (what the Jubilee Debt campaign became) and others, because about 3.3 billion people live in countries where debt-related payments are greater than their expenditure on health or education. This debt burden also leaves countries less able to cope with the increasing effects of the climate crisis. The difference between the situation now and in 2000 is that most developing-country debt is owed to private banks rather than other governments or multinational institutions. If we can use our influence to get these lenders to ease the burden on developing countries, it would give hope to millions of people.

Over the last hundred years we've seen amazing strides forward in our struggles against poverty but the last couple of years since Covid-19, have seen more people in poverty around the world, more people displaced from their homes, more people affected by war. The impact of continued debt, the ongoing effects of the pandemic and, of course, the increased threats to the climate, can add to a feeling of hopelessness.

Yet there is always reason to hope. A couple of years ago I visited Marsabit in Kenya, which was suffering from the worst drought for many years. Thousands of livestock had died, and pastoralists had been forced to travel for miles to find food for their animals, which meant that only women and children remained in communities.

We were supporting Caritas Marsabit in emergency food distribution. I went with their resilience officer, Bante, to see a huge water collection site. He had worked with this particular community to fix it up – clearing channels, fixing the cracks with concrete, mending the iron bars to stop animals and children falling in. There was no sign of rain, though, and there was laughter because some people in the community felt it was all a waste of time.

For another few months it seemed those people were right. Then the rains came, and the facility was filled to the top. While in most places the land had been baked so dry that the water ran off, and created flooding, this community had

the water they needed to recover.

Our supporters and volunteers within the Catholic community here in England and Wales give us huge hope too. They show the same steadfastness in supporting us, raising money, raising awareness, taking campaign action, baking cakes, doing walks – and, of course, praying for our work.

This Jubilee year is an opportunity for people to recommit to standing together with our brothers and sisters around the world. Perhaps we can even engender a pandemic of hope! I think that the Church, can provide a moment to take a step back and think about the sort of changes we can make, so that all have a fair share in our common home. Our schools have some fantastic plans for doing this.

A better world needs all of us, and there are some very simple things we can do:

Make a regular gift to CAFOD in solidarity with people who are doing all they can to overcome poverty and injustice. Work together to ensure those in power take action on cancelling unfair debt: there is a lot of energy and momentum around this for next year, and I am hopeful that we will see change. Recognise and reflect on the signs of hope in the world around us. Pray for a world transformed and use our reflection guide to explore the meaning of the Jubilee Year. Volunteer with us during the Jubilee Year.

Pope Francis tells us that in 2025, we must look towards the next 25 years, “marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require ... in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God’s gift of creation.”

Spes non Confundit, 25.

Francis reminds us of the scriptural basis. In the gospel of Luke, Jesus outlines his own mission to bring Jubilee – to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour. This means good news to those who are poor, freedom from oppression, the restoring of sight.

In this scripture we can see what God’s kingdom of justice, compassion and freedom looks like. We are called to join him in that Jubilee and play our part in making that good news a reality. For we know what good news means today. It

means enough food, the opportunity to thrive, the chance for peace. It means a fairer, better world.

I hope, I believe that this is possible.

Join us for our online A Year of Hope, on Saturday 18 Jan 10:30-midday. Introduction to Jubilee Year open to all.

We are also offering a free CAFOD Jubilee Reflection guide on different themes of Jubilee within Luke 4:16-21, to help parishes prepare for the Jubilee year, suitable for individual or group use. And to help people to use this Jubilee Guide ‘taster’ webinar on 4 December 2024

Christine Allen

Be compassionate



Catholic Bishops of England, Wales, and Scotland Statement on Assisted Suicide

As Catholic Bishops in England and Wales, and in Scotland, we believe that genuine compassion is under threat because of the attempts in Parliament to legalise assisted suicide. ‘Compassion’ means to enter into and share the suffering of another person. It means never giving up on anyone or abandoning them. It means loving them to the natural end of their life, even if and when they struggle to find meaning and purpose. Compassion means accompanying people, especially during sickness, disability, and old age. This kind of genuine compassion is witnessed through the care and respect we show to people with terminal illness as they complete their journey in this life.

We appeal to those who share our Catholic belief in human dignity and sanctity of life, including fellow Christians, other religious people, and people of reason and good will, to join with us in defending the weakest and most

vulnerable who are at risk through this proposed legislation.

Life is a gift to be protected, especially when threatened by sickness and death. Palliative care, with expert pain relief, and good human, spiritual, and pastoral support, is the right and best way to care for people towards the end of life. More adequate funding and resources for hospices and palliative care teams authentically serve and honour our shared human dignity. In the discussion around assisted suicide, so much is made of freedom of choice and autonomy; but autonomy is not absolute and must always be placed within the context of the common good of society as a whole. People who are suffering need to know they are loved and valued. They need compassionate care, not assistance to end their lives.

Assisted suicide raises serious issues of principle. The time given for Parliament to consider the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, which will permit assisted suicide is woefully inadequate. Although the Bill indicates safeguards will be in place, the experience of other countries where assisted suicide has been introduced shows that such promised safeguards are soon forgotten. In Belgium, the Netherlands, Canada, and parts of the USA, the criteria for assisted suicide have been expanded significantly, in law or in practice, often to include people with mental illness and others who have no terminal diagnosis. It is not always easy to predict the length of time a person with a terminal illness has to live, making this Bill unworkable.

We are alarmed by the impact that legalisation will have on the most vulnerable members of our society. The option to end life can quickly, and subtly, be experienced as a duty to die. Some may well feel their continued existence is a burden to others, and, implicitly or explicitly, be pressured into assisted suicide. This includes people who are elderly, infirm, and living with disabilities. The protection of such people is the foundation of civilised society. It is at the heart of good government.

We are also concerned that this Bill will fundamentally damage the relationship

between medical practitioners and their patients. It will potentially lead to pressure on medical staff to recommend or facilitate such procedures. Will the right to conscientious objection for individuals and institutions be guaranteed? The impact on hospices, care homes, and those who work in social and community care cannot be underestimated. It will radically alter the ethos of trust and support which underpins our service to those in need and their families.

We urge all people of good will to oppose this legislation and, instead, to advocate for better funded palliative care which is consistently available to everyone in need in England, Wales, and Scotland. Please inform yourself and others about this issue and contact your Member of Parliament to make your opposition known, asking him or her to oppose or not support the Bill.

As Catholic Bishops, we call upon all Catholics, and invite all those who share our Christian faith, to turn in prayer to God our Father. Please pray that the dignity of human life will be protected and defended. On the cross, Christ united Himself to every form of human suffering and every person who suffers. In Him, life is changed, not ended. He shows us, in His own crucified and risen body, that love is always stronger than death.

Looking Ahead

Spiritual Listening and Accompaniment

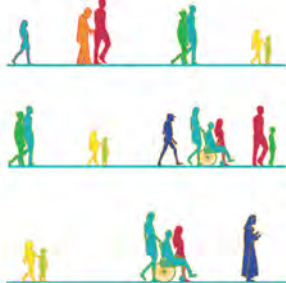
Spiritual Listening and Accompaniment

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

Intrumentum Laboris 2, Synod on Synodality 2024

"Where are you going?"

John13:36



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

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



What is it?

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

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

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

Week of guided prayer

Week of Guided Prayer

Sunday 1st to Friday 6th December



Perfect for busy people

Deepen your relationship with God
Explore new ways of praying
Find help with making decisions

Opening meeting

Online: Sunday 1st December - 3:30pm to 4:45pm
It is important to be at this to meet your guide for the week.

If you cannot be at this meeting please email Vron Smith: vrsmith@jesuit.org.uk or telephone 07548224359

Closing meeting:

Online: Friday 6th December - 8:00pm to 9:00pm

Guided group prayer sessions through the week (Optional)

Online up to 1 hour
Monday 6:00pm, Imaginative contemplation
Tuesday 6:00pm, Examen
Wednesday 6:00pm, Praying with images

REGISTER HERE!



Advent Day of Reflection and Prayer with Fr Eamonn Mulcahy CSSp

14th December 2024

An opportunity to reflect prayerfully on Dei Verbum at the beginning of Advent



ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION AND PRAYER WITH FR EAMONN MULCAHY CSSP

14 December 2004 11:00 am-4:00 pm Hallam Pastoral Centre

Looking forward to Advent and as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of the Incarnate Word, Fr Eamonn Mulcahy CSSp will help us to

Looking Ahead

prayerfully reflect on the centrality of the Word of God through Dei Verbum, the Second Vatican Council's document on Divine Revelation...

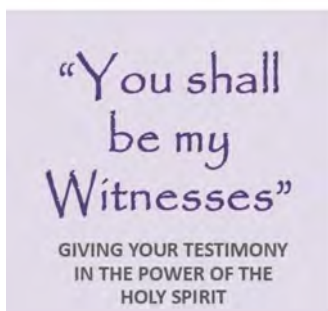
so that by hearing the message of salvation the whole world may believe, by believing it may hope, and by hoping it may love.

Eamonn Mulcahy is a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans). Originally from Manchester and a priest since 1980, he has been on mission in Congo-Brazzaville, Nigeria, and Kenya. He has extensive experience of deepening the Faith Formation of Adults in the UK and leading spiritual retreats to lay-people, priests and religious in Europe, North America, Australia, Africa, and Asia. He is passionate about communicating the beauty of our Faith to others and loves the interface between Scripture, Theology, Spirituality and Literature. Since October 2023, Eamonn is based in the Spiritan Parish of Hanley/Stoke-on-Trent.

You can book for this event on the Formation & Mission Eventbrite page:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hallam-formation-and-mission-46212155433>

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat



ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat 23 November 10.00-1.00 "YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES – giving your testimony in the power of the Holy Spirit." Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Allegra Mutanda. Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADORENOV2024 More information at www.altonrenewal.com

This is part of ADoRE's monthly Zoom course to inspire Catholics to respond to God's call "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy" (Leviticus 20:7). Details of the year's programme can be found at www.altonrenewal.com/2024. There is also a wide range of free information, resources and other videos on the website, explaining many aspects of renewal in the Holy Spirit.

People from all over the country (and beyond) have been joining the ADoRE mini-retreat Zoom mornings over the last four years and thoroughly enjoying them. Here is what two recent participants said about ADoRE:

"The whole experience of the meeting is very comforting and keeps me feeling alive and well in the Spirit."

"I genuinely feel that these meetings help me to change my life."

ADoRE (Alton Day of Renewal) is a monthly meeting of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Formed in 1975, it is now one of the longest continually running Charismatic Days of Renewal in Britain, dedicated to the encouragement of a personal relationship with God, through Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is affiliated with CHARIS, an international body established by Pope Francis in 2019 to support all those working to share the current of grace which is the charismatic renewal. "Charismatic Renewal is a great force at the service of the proclamation of the Gospel, in the joy of the Holy Spirit." - Pope Francis June 2014 Alastair Emblem

Looking Ahead

Heart warming gifts to share this year



As winter approaches and the nights draw in, we think of those affected by conflict and suffering in our global family. Our faith tells us that the light of Jesus will be reborn to all at Christmas. And so, as we look forward to Advent, our time to reflect and prepare, we can begin to think of ways to help shine that light of hope in troubled places. Currently, we are focusing on keeping warm in winter and helping others to have the basics that families need.

Freezing winter weather is still a danger for so many around the world – especially in countries torn apart by violent conflict: where homes are damaged and open to the elements, where displaced families struggle to find warmth and safety. For families in the Ukraine, where temperatures can drop to -20C, staying warm in winter is essential. Thankfully, we can do something powerful to help, for example, a donation for firewood or a Winter World Gift, costing £20, can support a family to keep warm and have hot meals this winter. If you are looking for a heart-warming Christmas gift for your loved ones, to make a world of difference to others, please support CAFOD’s Advent appeal or consider a World Gift.

To support CAFOD’s Advent appeal this winter, visit www.cafod.org.uk/give or check out CAFOD’s unique range of World Gifts www.cafod.org.uk/give/world-gifts



How can I get my article/story/poem/interview included in the Hallam Bridge?

Your articles should be completed as a Word document and be either 300 or 600 words in length which equates to 1 column or 1 page. If possible, add a photograph within the document and attach an additional copy of it with your article. Include your name at the end of the article and this will be included with your article. We reserve the right to edit your article and once it is sent to us, copyright belongs to us. Please ensure you have written permission to use any photographs. If you want any help or have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Deadline is 10th of each month.



Join Bishop Barron in the UK for the Evangelisation & Culture Conference

To proclaim Christ in the culture, we must know Christ; and to know Christ, we must know Scripture. As St. Jerome observed, "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ."

But in order to uncover the spiritual and theological meaning of the Bible, we need to take a genuinely Catholic approach: reading it within the context of the great and beautiful chorus of voices from across the centuries of the Church's tradition.

Join us in London this February for our first-ever conference on the Bible. This conference is for you if you are seeking to gain a deeper appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures and the beauty of the Catholic faith while growing in your evangelisation efforts.

When is it? 21-22 February 2025

Where is it? London, England at Excel London.

Meet the Speakers



wordonfire.org/the-bible-event

Caritas News

Mass for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

A "signed" Mass has been arranged by Caritas at St Marie's Cathedral for Sunday December 15 at 3:00 PM This will be fully signed by Jennifer Harris (BSL interpreter) along with one of the priests of the parish. Prior to Covid, there was a well attended Mass for this group of people and we are hoping to schedule a number of signed Masses throughout the Diocese. All are invited.

Annual Appeal 1 December

Caritas Hallam - provides a loving service to those within our communities for instance 10,000 hours of counselling was delivered last year which included supporting children and their families in 24 of our schools, 100 referrals for domestic abuse, 15 wellbeing courses, relationship counselling and family therapy across the whole of the Diocese.

Caritas is self funded and has to fundraise in order to generate all its own income, which is why this Parish Annual Appeal is so important. Pope Benedict also wrote: As a community, the Church must practise love. Love thus needs to be organized if it is to be an ordered service to the community. We hope that you will be able to support Caritas in sharing the message of the work we do within our Diocese, and encouraging our lay faithful to give us some much-needed financial support. To donate, simply hover over the QR code above with your phone camera or visit our donate via our web page "Donate" tab. <https://hallam-diocese.com/caritas>

Mandy Chapman

Parish Appeal 2024

Mental Health Matters

Caritas Hallam offers a professional Schools Service to support children's mental health and well-being within their educational setting. They also provide professional counselling and help and support to our communities.

But not everyone can afford to pay.

Which is why we need your help.

By donating via your Church on the 1st December you can help someone in our Diocese to receive the professional mental health support they need.

(to donate, simply hover your camera over the code to the right and follow the instructions)

Thank you.

easyfundraising

Christmas shopping = free funding!

amazon.co.uk | ebay | Sainsbury's | M&S | +8,000 others



Christmas comes early with Westminster Cathedral stamp Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

The Royal Mail is celebrating Christmas 2024 with a series of five special stamps, featuring original illustrations of cathedrals from across the UK. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster, is delighted – his cathedral is one of them! “We’re so proud because it means that the image will be seen by many, many people,” he says. “I hope that seeing the image, they’ll understand that a church is a place where God dwells and where that sense of God’s presence is intense, comforting and consoling.” As well as Westminster Cathedral, its full dedication, Anglican cathedrals in Edinburgh, Liverpool, Armagh, and Bangor also feature on the stamps. Westminster is the only Catholic cathedral and the only London church building in the collection. The illustrations are the work of Penzance-based British artist Judy Joel, whose popular paintings have been sold worldwide over the last 50 years. David Gold, the Royal Mail’s Director of External Affairs and Policy says: “Cathedrals are a hugely significant part of our cultural heritage and play an important role in local communities. They also offer space for peaceful reflection and a bit of an escape from the challenges of daily life, which can be especially important at Christmas.

“The real reason for the season is unsurprisingly not lost on Cardinal Nichols: “The presence of a church points directly to the birth of Jesus, because that is the way in which God comes into our world in flesh and blood. In order to honour and praise him, we create buildings of beauty –places of prayer – and Westminster Cathedral is an outstanding example of that.” The Cardinal also hopes the stamp will inspire people to visit Westminster Cathedral, and offers an open invitation:“If you’re in London over the Christmas period, come down Victoria Street and visit the Cathedral. It’s always open. There are thousands of visitors every day, and you’d be most welcome. Once inside, you’ll be touched by something of the beauty of God and of his delicate, humble, compassionate presence among us.” One thing we should perhaps remember, though, a Cathedral is for life, not just for Christmas.

The stamp that features Westminster Cathedral has a value of £2.80. That covers the new international standard rate for letters as of 1 October 2024. You can buy the Christmas stamps by visiting the Royal Mail website here: royalmail.com/christmas2024. You can also purchase from 7,000 Post Offices across the UK or by phoning 03457 641641.