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Hallam Bridge

ISSUE
15
March 2024

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



See Page 7

Join the Lourdes Pilgrimage

Find out more about how to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes on page 12



Reunion for Young Rome Pilgrims



Pilgrims who travelled to Rome last October meet up to reflect on the experience
Find out more on page 5

A Year of Encounter

USING OUR CATHOLIC VOICE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

YOUR VOICE

Cafod and SVP have produced a joint campaign booklet to inspire members and supporters to reach out to their prospective candidates and advocate for more robust measures to tackle poverty, a priority for both charities, at the next parliament.
Find out more on page 6

A blessed Easter to All our Readers

Upcoming Events

27 April, 11 & 18 May-9:00 – 12:30pm CCRS Hallam Pastoral Centre
 30 April Annual Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse
 28 June -4 July Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage
 6 July Annual Safeguarding Event
 7 July Interdiocesan Padley Pilgrimage
 13 July 11:00am – 4:00pm Summer Retreat Day Hallam Pastoral Centre

Welcome to the March edition of Hallam Bridge

This month we remind you of the request from Bishop Ralph and your parish priest to engage with the reflections and Conversations in the Spirit that are needed in order to develop the vision for the Church in Hallam. You are the People of God, and you are being invited to contribute your thoughts and the fruits of your prayers and discussions to the planning for the future. Bishop Ralph is very clear that this is not just about living within our means as parishes and as a diocese. (Although The McCawber Principle applies here as elsewhere:

Mr McCawber: "Annual income £20, annual expenditure £19.19s 6d, result happiness. Annual income £20 annual expenditure £20.0s.6d. result misery." David Copperfield (1850))

The important driving force of the Bishop's consultation must rather be our Mission. How can we arrange our scarce resources to best fulfil our mission of spreading the Good News? That is the discussion which will be ongoing among you, and as people said of the Synod, 'it is good to be asked'. Synodality, listening deeply to each other, discerning together is the new way of attending to our prophetic responsibilities as Christians and as part of the diocesan community, and we look forward to hearing what you have to say. If you feel you would like more training in the synodal method, follow up on the resources listed from the Vatican Synod office and School for synodality or get in touch with formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com

Reports from the Prison and Advice Care Trust (PACT) and St Vincent de Paul Society's (SVP) show that people are willing to donate time and care as well as cash to support those who need help. See the report on the PACT Mass and information session at St Marie's Cathedral this month. Do get involved if you have feel called to these aspects of mission. The joint SVP and CAFOD pre-election campaign is described

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 Please send your articles or feedback to communications@hallam-diocese.com or to Hallam Pastoral Centre
 St Charles St, Sheffield
 S9 9WU

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on Page [6]. Those who think religion should stay out of politics might like to reflect on the Vatican documents on Catholic Social Teaching, (CST) which is part of moral theology. The three cornerstones of CST are human dignity, solidarity and subsidiarity. Building a charitable world for the good of all are the criteria for Christians to assess the political programmes of their leaders, as Pope Benedict XVI points out. But of course, these are not solely rational ethical choices but based on the fact that we have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us and loving our neighbour is our response to God's gratuitous gift of love. There will undoubtedly be more of these discussions in the months ahead. A report on the activities of the young members of SVP is inspirational as they learn to SEE-JUDGE-ACT.

Elsewhere around the diocese we hear from the indefatigable Union of Catholic Mothers and the interesting talk on Medjugorje at their AGM on Page 9. This also introduces the hot topic of pilgrimages. Follow the activities of the Friends of Padley, consider joining the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes and look out for more pilgrimage news.

And another invitation, if you have been on a pilgrimage to anywhere, we want to hear all about it. Write your own piece or get in touch and we can arrange to interview you. We want to hear what you think pilgrimage is all about, why you went on pilgrimage and how were you transformed by the experience.

Wishing you all a holy and peaceful Easter season.
 Editor



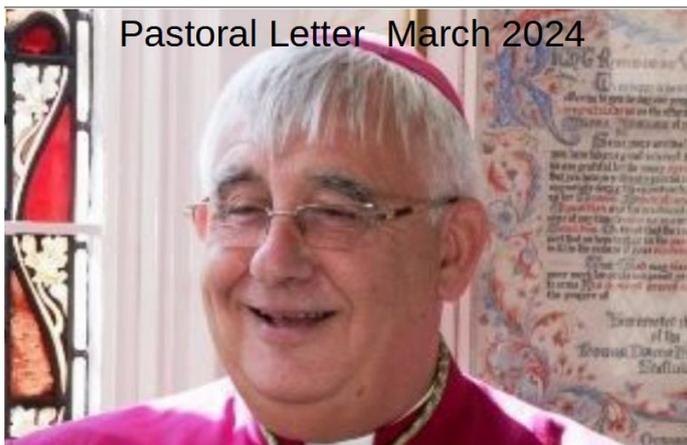
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Around the Diocese

Pastoral Letter 2/3 March 2024



RALPH
BISHOP OF HALLAM
Pastoral Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Today, I wish to speak with you about something that is important and affects us all.

When we think of parishes we naturally tend to think of people, priests, and a parish church; a building that contains memories of our lives. A sense of place is of foremost importance, but it is the community of Christ's faithful, together with a parish priest, that makes up a parish. The celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of life in the Church, and the Mass of Sunday, an obligation in love, will always be at the heart of parish life.

To say that we live in difficult times is a gross understatement. Life today has its challenges for the world at large and for our communities. Among other things, families and individuals must cope with increases in the cost of living. This includes our parishes as they face increased running costs, maintenance costs and finding resources for both communion and mission. This, combined with the reduction in the number of priests and the size of our parish communities now presents us with both challenges and opportunities.

The many changes and challenges of the past few years and, indeed, what is still to come, are indicators that leaving things as they are will not serve us well as the People of God or help us to

proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the wider community.

Pope Francis has set the theme of the Jubilee Year of 2025 as "Pilgrims of Hope". In this spirit we need to fan the flame of hope for each other and look to the future with an open heart, a trusting spirit, and a vision of the future.

Today, at the end of Mass, you will be given a copy of the Diocesan Statistics (which can be found on the website)

that have been prepared by the Council of Priests. This information marks the beginning of a reflection and conversation in the Spirit, about how we develop the vision we need for the Church in Hallam.

It is important that we all engage with this venture prayerfully, humbly and with generosity of mind and heart and be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

I hope that your Lenten journey has begun well as you look forward to celebrating the great Feast of Easter and the Resurrection of the Lord, and that the Lord will continue to bless you as you continue on your way through Lent.

May Our Lady of Perpetual Help be our intercessor.

Yours sincerely in Christ, the Redeemer
Bishop Ralph

School For Synodality Resources



The School for Synodality is Offering a Range of Resources to help us become more synodal. Check out their website.

Around the Diocese

Pact Sends a Big Message of Thanks to Hallam Diocese



Pact, the national Catholic prison charity, held an event on 22nd February at St Marie's Cathedral. Pact CEO Andy Keen-Downs and three members of staff were present at a Mass for People in Prison, celebrated by Bishop Ralph.

Andy Keen-Downs spoke at Mass about the work Pact does in four prisons in the diocese and in the community. He recalled his visit earlier in the day to Lindholme and Moorland prisons and the children and families he met who were visiting their loved ones inside. Andy explained how Pact staff and volunteers support people in prison and their families to stay connected, where appropriate. Strong family relationships during the horrible time of having a loved one in prison, reduce the risk of someone returning to crime after prison, by 39%. Keeping families together in these situations is a work of the common good and makes our communities safer for everyone.

After the well-attended Mass more than 30 people gathered in Houlden Hall to talk further about supporting people in prison and their families, and the work of Pact locally. Pact's Faith in Action team were delighted by the goodwill, solidarity, and willingness to support this work, which so many people expressed. People wanted to know more about volunteering with Pact and about becoming a Pact parish rep. The Pact team shared copies of our Stations of the Cross liturgy which is illuminated with the words of people in prison and their families. We asked people to take away a poster about the National Prisoners' Families Helpline which Pact operates on behalf of HMPPS. Displaying the poster in public places, such as churches and halls and

community hubs, mean that someone might see that information just when they need it - and be able to get some help. Pact responded to 36,000 calls to the Helpline last year.

Pact's Deputy Head of Services for the region, Chloe Duxbury, was able to tell people about our work in more detail. Chloe also connected with Hallam diocesan SVP through Liz Salmon and colleagues, who were keen to explore ways of working together. A number of people are going to attend the next Pact Just People workshop to spend more time in prayer and discernment, reflecting on Catholic Social Teaching through the lens of imprisonment, and considering how they might draw closer to the work of Pact.

Pact would like to thank everyone in the Hallam diocese who came along to this event. We deeply appreciate Bishop Ralph's support, and the help of diocesan staff. We look forward to working with this wonderful diocese and its people in the coming months and years.

Note that Prisoners' Sunday will be on 13th October this year. This is a National Day of Prayer for all affected by imprisonment and an opportunity to support the work of Pact by making a donation if you can.

Find out more: prisonadvice.org.uk

Contact Pact: parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk

Climate Prayer Vigil Lent 2024



A 'No Faith in Fossil Fuels' Prayer Vigil took place outside Parliament, day and night, from

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February 14th- 24th, the first 10 days of Lent. Christian Climate Action was the overall organizer, and the vigil was supported by many Christian groups, including Cafod, Christian Aid, Operation Noah and the Salvation Army, to name a few.

The purpose was prayer and public witness outside the UK's main seat of power: to urge the government to give up fossil fuel expansion, make the UK's large fossil fuel companies contribute money for climate action, and deliver on the UK's pledges to pay into the United Nations Loss and Damage fund, which assists countries who have done least to cause climate change but are suffering the most.

Catholic CCA members led a daily Novena to Our Lady Help of Christians. The rosary was said at noon each day after the chimes of Big Ben, led by Columban Sr Kate Midgley, with a plea for creation introducing each mystery. I travelled to London on the second Wednesday, in time to join the rosary and stay with the vigil for a few (very wet!) hours. Several people around, with no tradition of the rosary, said how they had appreciated its rhythm and prayerfulness over the days of vigil, and Kate said many joined in.

It was heartening to see the flow of people of faith joining and leaving, to ensure there was always someone present, even overnight, and to hear conversations with passersby, who often expressed appreciation for this steadfast witness.

Reminder:

There is regular ecumenical silent climate vigil in Sheffield City Centre twice a month: First Monday at 5-6 pm on Howard St. outside Hallam University Owen Building; Third Monday on the steps of the Town Hall 12-1pm. Columba Timmins.

Reunion for Rome young pilgrims



In March we had our Reunion for the young pilgrims who went to Rome last October. Josh reflects on the pilgrimage.

In October of 2023 we as a diocese had the privilege of leading a youth pilgrimage to the geographical and spiritual heart of our Catholic faith: Rome!

The trip was a great success! We visited various different churches and followed in the footsteps of the martyrs of the faith as we navigated the eternal city. Initially, we planned for the trip to be one of prayer and formation for our young people to become leaders within their own parish communities as well as at a diocesan level. What we found is that in Rome, we encounter the martyrs who showed their servant leadership through their witness; ultimately through the biggest sacrifice.

A highlight which resonated particularly with our young people was when we visited the catacombs on the outskirts of Rome. Here, we encountered the witness of faith where the martyrs and faithful were exiled for being practising Christians. Reflecting upon this, the young people were led to think about how they bear authentic witness within their school communities or in the general population. Inspired by the reoccurring theme of a 'white martyrdom', we prayed about the earthly things we exchange in order to live for the heavenly things that we are blessed in this life to have, and, too, the ones yet to come.

An important element of the trip was to give

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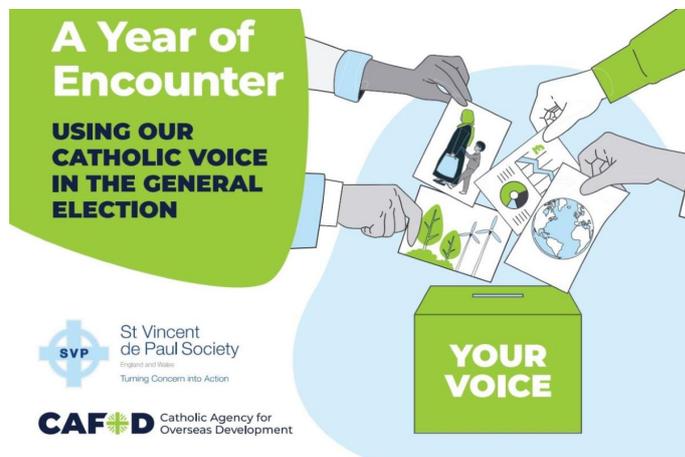
opportunity to the young people to socialise and build good, faith-filled friendships and fellowship. Through the sharing of meals and social time in the city, conversations flourished about what we can do back home to show the authentic happiness our faith gives us to others. It turns out that gelato is a great facilitator of idea inducing conversation!

We had the pleasure of having, Fr Henry Woodhouse of St. Peter's, Doncaster, and Sr. Mary-John FDC, who is a sister of the Congregation of Daughters of Divine Charity in Chesterfield, assisting the leading of our pilgrimage. Together, we shared in the Eucharist every day, as well as stopping throughout the pilgrimage to pray the Angelus, signalled by the stunning chimes of the bells across the city. This gave us the perfect opportunity to reflect on the need to stop, not just throughout the day, but in many periods of life to recollect oneself and be able to serve in a capacity where all things ultimately come from God.

Prayer, formation, and fellowship were all elements that made this pilgrimage highly successful and ultimately faith-filled. In our recent reunion, it was great to catch up and hear the fruits of the trip months since we departed Rome. Together we shared what we enjoyed (where there was a lot of mention of the Italian cuisine), but also how we can improve the trip for this year and beyond.

This is a great opportunity for young people who want to develop in their parish leadership and meet others who share in our Catholic faith. If you are in the age bracket specified for this pilgrimage and want to come along this year, do not hesitate to apply when the sign up form is available - you won't want to miss it! Alla Prossima! Josh Glicklich

SVP recently launched new election year campaign in partnership with CAFOD on World Social Justice Day



The St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) recently launched their 'A Year of Encounter' campaign in partnership with the Catholic international development charity, CAFOD, to encourage people to engage with their local parliamentary candidates during this general election year.

The two faith organisations have produced a joint campaign booklet that hopes to inspire members and supporters to reach out to their prospective candidates and advocate for more robust measures to tackle poverty, a priority for both charities, at the next parliament.

Alessandra Sciarra, Policy and Public Affairs Manager at the St Vincent De Paul Society (England and Wales) said:

"The main aim of the campaign is to strengthen community participation and build strong community links by local faith groups at parish and constituency level with candidates.

"Our partnership with CAFOD is integral to ensuring we encourage people of faith to reach out to their local candidates to find out more about the issues that, as people of faith, we care about. And our Year of Encounter booklet provides some easy steps on how to reach out to them.

Andrea Speranza, Campaigns Engagement manager at CAFOD said:

"This initiative is not about political affiliations, but is about encouraging and supporting communities to engage with the local

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candidates ahead of the next election and to raise their voices as a faith group about the issues that will bring about a fairer world, from tackling global poverty to stopping climate change.

“Pope Francis tells us we must foster a culture of encounter, where we don’t simply pass each other in the street, but engage in true dialogue, and the Year of Encounter initiative aims at supporting communities to do this.”

2024, the SVP’s 180th anniversary year, is a celebration of their long-standing social justice tradition of working to tackle poverty and its causes by bringing a blend of services and support to people in need in local communities.

To find out more and to access the ‘A Year of Encounter’ resources please visit:

<https://svp.org.uk/encounter#:~:text=The%20common%20good%20is%20reached,and%20in%20the%20wider%20world>

St Vincent’s Crookes: Parish Urban Pilgrimage – in aid of the Cafod Big Lent Walk



At St. Vincent’s we have joined in Cafod’s Big Lent Walk in various ways for a few years now.

When discussing what to do this year, St. Vincent’s Live Simply group was inspired to organize a Parish Urban Walk. It would start and finish in the church garden after Sunday morning Mass, with prayer stops at various sites in or near the city centre which offer welcome and help for the vulnerable, the stranger and those experiencing poverty in Sheffield. All were welcome to join, and of course it was not

compulsory to do the whole walk of just over 11 km!

Reflection in the garden before the Walk.

Our first prayer stop was at Ben’s Centre in Broomhall, a place of sanctuary for the vulnerable and the homeless. From there we walked on to St. Wilfrid’s, where we were welcomed with hot drinks and a comfortable space to eat our packed lunch. Louise gave us a tour of the multiple, wonderful facilities it offers (‘no space left unused here!’) and from an upstairs balcony, pointed along the street to St. Wilfrid’s Place, where people with a history of homelessness can be offered up to two years supported accommodation, and assisted into increasing self-sufficiency. A short walk and another prayer stop at St. Vincent’s Furniture Store, and then on into the town centre. On Chapel Walk we prayed outside Victoria Hall which welcomes asylum seekers and refugees and signposts them to services that may help them. A little further along we stopped outside the lovely City of Sanctuary with its bright windows and offer of welcome, company and food. Here, Melinda explained their efforts to help people who often arrive in Sheffield with nothing but the clothes they stand up in, and frequently nothing for their feet but flipflops. We walked round the corner to the Cathedral – bells pealing as if in welcome - and looked at the beautiful Hallam Window, depicting Our Lady and the Padley Martyrs and installed to mark the creation of the Diocese in 1980. Our final stops were at St. Vincent’s Place, where the history of St. Vincent’s parish began, and St. Vincent’s Mission Hub. Here we were welcomed by Fr. Lee with hot drinks and time and space to recover our energy. We were able to sit a while in the chapel, where a 24 hour vigil before the Blessed Sacrament was nearing its close. Father Lee blessed us and our pilgrimage, and we made our way back up the hill to our own St. Vincent’s, Crookes. It was a wonderful walk. It brought home to us the kindness offered by so many Sheffielders to their fellow sisters and brothers in trouble, the hard work done and the companionship shared. It provided encouragement to persist in prayer and

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practical effort to provide support. Moreover it supplied a historical perspective of poverty and immigration to the city over the past 2 centuries, and of the Irish Vincentian Mission's steadfast spiritual and practical work to better the appalling living conditions existing in the Solly Street area in the mid 19th Century. It was a lovely privilege to pray, talk and learn together. It inspired a true sense of pilgrimage, and we consider we may well repeat it next year. Especial thanks are due to Tim and Katharine for organising the route, to Catherine for providing prayers, to Louise and Jo at St. Wilfrid's, and Father Lee at St. Vincent's Mission Hub, for their hospitality. Columba Timmins

Walking the Padley Pilgrim Ways March



The Padley Chapel 'standing stone'

Well it's a stone and it's standing. Beyond that, there isn't any certainty about the origins and purpose of this stone.

Early photographs of Padley Chapel show it as the barn of a busy, working farmyard. That reality was a factor in ensuring Padley Chapel's survival, when the rest of the Manor House was demolished, in the mid 17th century. Therefore, the stone could have been a gatepost. Grooves cut into it, suggest this.

It could have served another purpose, centuries earlier. Beauchief Abbey, was dedicated to "God and St Mary and St Thomas the Martyr and to the brothers of the Premonstratensian order", 21st December 1183. These 'white Canons', travelled across the countryside, bringing mass to the communities of their Grange Farms.

They were gifted lands, reaching out across the Derbyshire Eastern Moors eg at Strawberry Lea, Sheffield Plantation, Padley and Hathersage.

Could the stone at Padley have been a 'guide stoop', a route marker? Or a prayer or mass stone, marking a place to rest and pray. We simply will never know.

However, the 'stone' stands rather incongruously on its own. It could easily have been cleared from the site. But it is directly below the Chapel's medieval altar and piscina. Is it possible that when Robert and Joan Eyre built the Padley gatehouse, with chapel c1450, that this stone held a faith significance that they wanted to respect, by leaving it stand where it stood?

You decide for yourself, as to what the possibilities are for the origins and purpose, of this part of the spiritual treasure, that is Padley Chapel.

If you would like help make Padley Chapel more available to visitors

(April-September 2024) then contact friendsofpadley@hallam-diocese.com

Friends of Padley Chapel

Gerard Bonner March 2024

Around the Diocese

UCM News



Deacon Peter Marshall the UCM chaplain and his wife Susan gave a talk on Medjugorje to the AGM on Saturday 10 February 2024. Since about the year 2000 Pete and his wife Sue have been arranging for pilgrims to travel to visit the Marian shrine in Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Although the church of St James in Medjugorje is Catholic, Christians of every denomination flock there, together with many non-Christians.

In 1981 on 24 June, four young people were reported to have witnessed an apparition on a hill outside the village. The following day two more also said they saw it. These children were aged between 10 and 16. They described in a brilliant light the figure of a beautiful young woman. During the third apparition she told them that she was the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace. Since these events thirty million pilgrims from every corner of the globe have flocked to Medjugorje.

As news of these extraordinary events in Medjugorje spread, the Communist government reacted with repression. Police and troops were sent to the village, the visionaries were detained for psychiatric examination and the village people harassed. The parish priest at the time Fr. Jozo Zovko a Franciscan, was arrested by the secret police and imprisoned for 18 months. Throughout that troubled period, the visionaries said that the Virgin continued to appear to them daily. The authorities ceased harassment and finally visitors were welcomed.

Medjugorje is not about signs and wonders, although many have been reported. The most

important and numerous wonders have been the spiritual healings and conversions in which people have changed their lives and become reconciled with God and each other. In this holy place of Medjugorje there is a great feeling of peace and joy. Often, one pilgrimage is not enough and pilgrims find themselves returning there again and again. The basic message of Medjugorje is Peace, through commitment to God, Reconciliation, Prayer and Fasting.



Looking Ahead

An Invitation to Join a Retreat Opportunity at Mount St Bernard's Abbey



Saturday 27 April 2024

In a bid to strengthen their spiritual journey, parishioners from St Mary's High Green and St Thomas More Parishes are gearing up for a transformative retreat day at the serene Mount St Bernard's Cistercian Abbey in Coalville, Leicestershire.

Departing promptly at 08:00 from St Mary's by coach on Saturday, April 27, the retreat promises a profound and transformative experience of contemplation, prayer, and liturgy, in the tranquil surroundings of the Cistercian monastic community.

St Mary's Synod journey saw the formation of a dedicated Bible Study Group which meets each month. The retreat day is one of the fruits of their prayer and seeks to deepen the prayer life and spiritual growth of the Parish.

They want to share this with others and would like to extend a warm invitation to others seeking spiritual enrichment to parishioners from other churches. If you would like to join them on this transformative day then contact : sean.maloney@hotmail.co.uk.



Wednesday 17 April 2024, 7:00-8:15PM UK

Is your parish forming disciples activated for mission? Or is it stuck, serving only those already in the pews?

Your parish matters now more than ever. There's a world that counts on you to bring Jesus' presence to them. How can your parish step up and send out missionary disciples?

Join Fr. George Elsbett, Stephen Foster, and Pippa Baker on Wednesday, 17th April at 7 PM London in our free online event, Sent or Stuck: Where are your people going? Register today!

Free online course "Toward a Constitutively Synodal Church"



The third edition of a free, online course entitled "Toward a Constitutively Synodal Church" begins on March 2, and seeks to train pastoral workers, religious men and women, and bishops in light of the Synod on synodality.

By Vatican News

Several Latin American members of the Theological Commission of the General Secretariat of the Synod team up with the

Looking Ahead

Ibero-American Theology Group, along with the support of the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM) and the Latin American Confederation of Religious Men and Women (CLAR), to promote the free course "Toward a Constitutively Synodal Church."

The online course regarding the Synod on synodality kicks off on March 2, 2024.

Training within everyone's reach

According to the organizers—Rafael Luciani, Carlos Galli, Agenor Brighenti, Serena Noceti, and Felix Palazzi—this is the third intercontinental MOOC (Massive Open Online Course).

"All videos will be offered virtually for free to participants from all over the world during the month of March 2024," they say. "We use a totally online and asynchronous format."

Lectures are pre-recorded and are available at any time during the month of March in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, Polish, and German.

The initiative enjoys the support of the CELAM Formation Center – CEBITEPAL.

It seeks to promote synodality by creating alliances with various Church organizations, such as the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE), the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), and the Union of Superiors General (USG), as well as various Catholic universities.

"The program uses a digital platform created by the Department of Continuing Education of the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry," according to Rafael Luciani.

Flyer for the Synodal course

Global reach

Organizers say the two previous editions of the training program have offered formation to around 100,000 pastoral agents, religious men and women, bishops, laypeople, and priests from different continents.

To register for free, visit the platform: <https://formaciononline.bc.edu/en/home/>

Information about the training program and

lecturers can also be found at the link.

Thank you for reading our article. You can keep up-to-date by subscribing to our daily newsletter. Just click here

Carmel Care Centre is looking for a volunteer kitchen assistant

The role involves obtaining ingredients (paid for by the Centre) preparing and cooking a nutritious meal (shepherds pie, chili, stew etc), for those who use the Centre. The expected hours for the role would be 10.00am-2.00pm. All expenses and appropriate food hygiene training will be provided. For those who do not know about Carmel Care Centre, it was founded in 1986 by Fr. Hubert McNamara and Sr. Maire Morris, who recognised the need for support and counselling for people with addictions, emotional problems, social isolation and loneliness.

Based in Hillsborough, Sheffield the Centre has a Christian ethos welcoming people from all backgrounds and beliefs. The Centre has a team of dedicated volunteers who provide support, hospitality and administration. Together with those who use the Centre, they create an environment where everyone's contribution and presence is valued. The Centre provides a supportive and comfortable space in which people can, individually and together, experience spiritual and emotional growth through sharing their life experiences. People from all walks of life who are experiencing stress in their lives attend Carmel Care. This may be caused by depression, anxiety, problem drinking or similar addictions, isolation, bereavement or simply the pressures of life. The Centre does not require any referral and there is no charge to the user however, donations are welcome and gratefully received.

Visits to the Centre can be arranged. If you or anyone you know may be interested in this role or getting involved in any other way, then please do not hesitate to contact Janet Kent (Carmel Care Centre coordinator) on 07927 657462. A role description can be requested by email to amandachapman@hallam-diocese.com

Looking Ahead

2024 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes



Have you thought about going on pilgrimage to Lourdes in this Year of Prayer of preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025? All are welcome!

Part of the reason for a diocesan pilgrimage is to enable Assisted Pilgrims to travel with doctors, nurses, volunteer helpers and youth supporting them as an act of service. A diocesan pilgrimage, however, also exists to enable the diocese to join together as Church, in prayer, with the Bishop, on pilgrimage.

As well as joining in the larger international celebrations in the shrine such as the Eucharistic Procession, Torchlight Procession and International Mass, we join together as a diocese for Mass each day, for Holy Hour, and for the Sacraments of Anointing and Reconciliation. Healing and Reconciliation are a particular focus for any pilgrimage to Lourdes. Parishioners from around the diocese are warmly invited to join us for this pilgrimage experience.

The pilgrimage dates are Friday 28 June to Thursday 4 July 2024, flying from Leeds Bradford Airport direct to Lourdes, with 6 nights' full board in good quality hotels. The fare is £879 based on two people sharing. Around 330 pilgrims will travel including a large group of young people from every high school in the diocese.

Places are still available, and organisers would be very grateful if those who intend to travel could send their booking forms in as soon as possible so that plans can be made. Any details still to be obtained (e.g. new passport, or newGHIC card) can follow later on.

For further details, booking forms, and videos from previous pilgrimages, see our website www.hallam-lourdes.com or telephone 01302 247910 or 07724 650066 with your enquiry. Alex Prior Pilgrimage Director

