

"Only after the Last Judgement will Mary get any rest; from now until then, she is much too busy with her children."
St John Marie Vianney,
1786-1859



UCM News

The
Newspaper
of the Union
of Catholic
Mothers

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Winter 2022



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Pro ecclesia et Pontifice Cross

Ladies what a wonderful surprise we had our last bi-monthly Mass at St Georges Maghull. Archbishop Malcolm presented Mrs Margaret McDonald with the Pro ecclesia et Pontifice Cross. This is the highest award given to a lay person from Pope Francis. Margaret received this for her service to UCM and her charity works.

Margaret was a member of St Paul's UCM for many years until its closure a few years ago. She then joined St Margaret Mary's foundation where she still attends on a weekly basis.

Margaret was born in Hawarden Cheshire, to parents Frank and Margaret Wood, and has one sister Isabelle. She was christened into the Anglican faith. After leaving school she joined the Police force in Moss Side Manchester, where she met her prospective husband James Brian McDonald. Margaret became a Convert to the Catholic faith in 1962. She married Brian on 7th September 1963. They settled into married life in St Paul's parish, West Derby, Liverpool. They would soon become proud parents of Susan, Kathryn, Margaret, Andrew and Helen. In the years following they were blessed with five grandchildren, James, Beth, Rebecca, Scott and Amy. Sadly, in November 2020, they lost a beloved daughter Kathryn to Covid 19. Then four months later, their beloved youngest daughter Helen through terminal cancer. But their faith although tested has been strong, and their trust in God's promise is helping them through. In 2021 they were blessed with a precious gift, their great granddaughter Annabell, a joy to them all.

Margaret has been a member of The Union of Catholic Mothers for forty eight years, during that time she has served her foundation, as President, Secretary, Treasurer. She became Archdiocesan Secretary in 1998, and went on to become Archdiocesan President, which during her term of office, she worked on The Women's desk at LACE. She was UCM Archdiocesan representative on The National Board of Catholic Women. In 2018 she was appointed as National President and has just completed her term of office, which included an extra year due to Covid 19. During her term she attended The Bishop's conference for Education. She is now fulfilling her role as Deputy National President.

Margaret has been active in her parish as a Catechist, Eucharistic Minister, Reader and has been a Gift aid co-ordinator for over twenty years. As Brown Owl, she started up a Rainbow group. She was a Parent Governor at Cardinal Allen, a Foundation Governor at St Cecelia's Primary school, also helping children with their reading. A

member of the PTA at Mary Help of Christians school.

Margaret worked as a Higher Executive Officer in the Civil service. After her retirement she became a WRVS volunteer at the Linda McCartney centre, at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, after she had been diagnosed and recovered from Breast Cancer. Then in 2019 Cancer returned and once again Margaret fought it and dealt with it in her quiet dignified manner.

In December 2021, Brian suffered a stroke, and needs full time care at Abbey Wood Park Nursing home. Margaret and their family visit regularly.

In August 2022, their son Andrew was diagnosed with MND, something they will deal with as a family, and our prayers and support.

Margaret has been awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, a decoration of the Holy See, the highest award conferred for distinguished service to the Catholic Church.

Congratulations Margaret, We your UCM family couldn't be more proud.

Maria Pimblett

On Wednesday Night 14th September the Archbishop of Liverpool His Grace Malcolm McMahon invested our former National President now Deputy National President with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice cross, (for Church and Pontiff) The Presentation was made at the Liverpool UCM Archdiocesan bi-monthly Mass at St Georges Maghull in front of the members of the Liverpool Archdiocesan UCM and family and friends of Margaret.

I'm sure we all join in congratulating Margaret on a well-deserved honour.

We had a lovely evening with the Archbishop who had never attended one of our bi-monthly Masses before and was I think very impressed he spoke to lots of members, and did not leave early, he also won one of the raffle prizes.

Cath Lydon National Secretary

The photos taken by Kevin Gilchrist during the ceremony yesterday to award Margaret McDonald, the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal. Presentation by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool Diocese at St George's RC Church in Maghull. Margaret was the President of the UCM in England. The medal can be seen on Margaret's lapel.

Present at the ceremony were some of Margaret's family and Isabel and Kevin Gilchrist from Our Lady & St Edwards Parish in Fulwood Preston. Also present were ~ Salesian Nuns, and over 150 members of the UCM.

Kevin Gilchrist Brother in Law



Photos, copy and distribution queries for The UCM News should be sent by email to ucmnews@yahoo.com. For further details about the Union of Catholic Mothers please contact the National Secretary at ucmnatsec@yahoo.co.uk

Congratulations

99th BIRTHDAY

Olwyn Siolo, St Dominic's Foundation, Clifton

90th BIRTHDAYS

Beryl Foster, Holy Apostles and Martyrs evening group, Birkenhead, Shrewsbury

80th BIRTHDAYS

Eileen Hartley, St Patricks Foundation Birstall, Leeds

Anne Hill, St Patricks Foundation Birstall, Leeds

Veronica Lynch, St Patricks Foundation Birstall, Leeds

Sheila Green, Guardian Angels Foundation, Bury, Salford

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mary & Deacon Philip Pond, St Columba's Church, Selsdon, Southwark Archdiocese

Mary and Reid Campbell, St Columba's Church, Selsdon, Southwark Archdiocese

Tina & Ken Lee, St Columba's Church, Selsdon, Southwark Archdiocese

Gillian & Phillip Tomei, St Columba's Church, Selsdon, Southwark Archdiocese

Lin and Dave Titterton, St John the Baptist Tamworth Birmingham Archdiocese

Angela and Mick Foster, St John the Baptist Tamworth Birmingham Archdiocese

Margaret and Kevin Dilger, Guardian Angels Foundation, Bury, Salford Diocese

Marian and Jeff Hughes, St Joseph Foundation in Malpas, Shrewsbury Diocese

Mary and Paul Dearden, St Anne's Foundation in Rock Ferry, Shrewsbury Diocese

Christina and Patrick McManamon, Holy Apostles and Martyrs evening group Birkenhead, Shrewsbury Diocese

Pope beatifies John Paul 1:

Pope Francis presided over the beatification Mass of Pope John Paul I, recalling how his smile communicated the goodness of the Lord. He encouraged everyone to learn from the Lord on how to love without limits and be a Church with a happy, serene, and smiling face, that never closes doors.

Recalling the example of the "smiling pope," John Paul I, Pope Francis presided over his beatification in Saint Peter's Square on Sunday. The Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, with 25 thousand faithful participating in a rainy and later sun-filled square.

In his homily, Pope Francis recalled how in today's Gospel we hear of large crowds following Jesus who gives them a challenging message: to become His disciple means to put aside earthly attachments, to love Him more than his or her own family, to carry the cross we bear in our lives.

The Pope observed that this admonition of the Lord contrasts with what we often see in our world, where the crowds are taken by the charisma of a teacher or leader, attaching their hopes for the future based on emotions, but they become more susceptible to those who instead shrewdly take advantage of them, telling them what they want to

hear for their own profit, glory or power, profiting on society's fears and needs.

God's style is different

The Pope explained that God's way is different, as he does not exploit our needs or vulnerabilities, or offer easy promises and favours. The Lord is not interested in huge crowds, or seeking approval, the Pope went on to say, pointing out that the Lord appears more worried about those who follow with easy enthusiasm but without a more profound understanding of what is needed.

"Instead of yielding to the allure of popularity, (Jesus) asks each person to discern carefully their reason for following him and the consequences that it will entail."

Many in the crowds recounted in the Gospel reading were hoping Jesus would become their leader and free them from their enemies, the Pope observed, someone who could easily fix all their problems. This worldly focus on only one's needs, of gaining prestige and status, power and privilege, needs to be challenged he pointed out, as "this is not the style of Jesus...and cannot be the style of his disciples and of his Church."

Carrying one's cross



Submitting copy for next issue
The deadline for articles and photos
for the next edition of the UCM News is
15 February 2023

Please send copy to ucmnews@yahoo.com

Thank you

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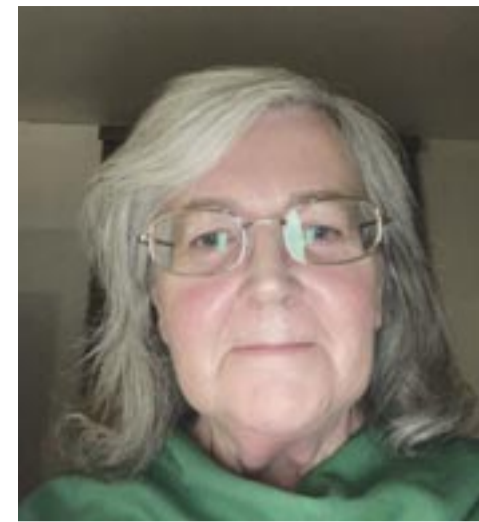
Editorial

Where does the year go! From Jubilee to Sorrow with the passing of Queen Elizabeth 11 so soon after her Jubilee, our prayers go out to the royal family, may she rest in peace.

Our wonderful return to Walsingham, so good to be meeting up in person. The Relics of St Bernadette coming to Britain, I'm sure there are more snippets from you all to come. I managed to get to St George's Cathedral Southwark for their Rally Mass, so glad I made it!

Please remember to make your items interesting not just a photo.

Finally, an apology to Kathleen Henderson-Playfair who, in the last edition, I managed to turn into 3 separate persons, just didn't make the connection.



Jean Lopez Lopez
National Media Officer

STOP PRESS URGENT

WALSINGHAM SUB-COMMITTEE - VACANCIES

Treasurer plus 2 Committee Members

Job Descriptions and Appointed Office forms from National Secretary

Walsingham 2024 will NOT happen if we have NO applications

BEFORE 31st December 2022

Send CV and completed form for Appointed Office to National Secretary



Beatification of John Paul I in St. Peter's Square

The Lord asks a different attitude of us, the Pope said, he wants his disciples to prefer nothing other than this love, even over their deepest affections and greatest treasures.

"To follow him does not mean to become part of a court or a triumphal procession, or even to receive a lifetime insurance policy. On the contrary, it means "carrying one's cross" (Lk 14:27): shouldering, like him, one's own burdens and those of others, making one's life a gift, spending it in imitation of his own generous and merciful love for us. These are decisions that engage the totality of our lives."

Love without measure

To commit as a disciple of Jesus means to look to the Lord more than ourselves, to learn how to love from the Crucified One, "the love that bestows itself to the very end, without measure and without limits."

"In the words of Pope John Paul, "we are the objects of undying love on the part of God." An undying love: it never sinks beneath the horizon of our lives; it constantly shines upon us and illumines even our darkest nights."

When we look upon the Crucified Lord, the Pope continued, we are called to overcome the focus on ourselves, to love God and others everywhere, even those who see things differently, even our enemies.

Love calls for sacrifice

To love can involve "sacrifice, silence, misunderstanding, solitude, resistance and persecution," the Pope pointed out, and it calls on

us to take risks, and never to settle for less or we can end up living life "halfway," without taking the decisive steps needed to be the Lord's disciples, truly committing ourselves to Him and helping others.

"As Pope John Paul also said, if you want to kiss Jesus crucified, "you cannot help bending over the cross and letting yourself be pricked by a few thorns of the crown on the Lord's head." A love that perseveres to the end, thorns and all: no leaving things half done, no cutting corners, no fleeing difficulties."

Love without compromise

Recalling the example of Blessed John Paul I, Pope Francis recalled how the new Blessed lived the joy of the Gospel, "without compromises, loving to the very end." He did not seek his own glory but lived as a "meek and humble pastor."

"With a smile, Pope John Paul managed to communicate the goodness of the Lord. How beautiful is a Church with a happy, serene and smiling face, that never closes doors, never hardens hearts, never complains or harbours resentment, does not grow angry or impatient, does not look dour or suffer nostalgia for the past."

In conclusion, the Pope encouraged us to ask Blessed John Paul I to help us obtain from the Lord "the smile of the soul" and to pray in his own words: "Lord take me as I am, with my defects, with my shortcomings, but make me become what you want me to be."

Vatican News Thaddeus Jones

There can be no moral renewal of public life without respect for God and Man

In July 2022, just before Boris Johnson's resignation, Nick Timothy—Theresa May's former Chief of Staff—surveyed in the Daily Telegraph the detritus of law-breaking by lawmakers, parliamentary sleaze, cash-for-honours and the possible misleading of Parliament and called for moral renewal in our nation and among our elected representatives.



It is a highly laudable call, but how is such a renewal to come about, and what might be its features? At this time of a leadership contest in the Conservative Party (brought about at least in part by failures in moral leadership), these are questions that need to be asked of ourselves and of those seeking to lead us. Questions cannot be limited to who is going to cut taxes the most, or to curb illegal immigration more strictly.

Knowing the difference between right and wrong cannot just be a matter of returning to old political and social conventions. Such discernment must be made on the basis of right belief about ourselves, our place in the universe, and our relations with our fellow human beings. We become persons through our relationships with others: family, friends, and even adversaries. Radical views of autonomy will only lead to selfishness and greed.

Decisions about assisted suicide, for example, cannot be taken just because I might feel guilty or embarrassed if I became dependent on others for help in daily living. I would have to take into consideration the feelings and future of my spouse, my children, our wider family, and even my friends—not to mention the vulnerable in society at large who would be placed in further danger by my decision. The strengthening of palliative care in general, and the hospice movement in particular, would assist in the management of pain and in end-of-life care; I would need to remember that "last days are not lost days".

One feature of moral renewal must, therefore, be respect for the inviolable dignity of the person, especially at the earliest and the latest stages of life, and during serious illness. The presumption must always be in favour of life, even if sometimes it is right not to "officially keep alive". Such a view of the person cannot, of course, be derived from merely utilitarian principles, or from focus groups and opinion polls. Instead, it is firmly rooted in a spiritual view of humanity, based on the Judaeo-Christian teaching that humans are created in the image and likeness of God.

That concept of imago Dei leads us to our commitment to equality. Again, this is based on the insight—shared both by faith and science—that humans have a common origin. It is this which commits us to equality of persons, to equality of civil and political rights, and to equality of opportunity. In a society that values education, effort, and enterprise, it cannot be about equality of outcomes, even if the poorest are cared for in every possible way. Nor can it be about equal regard for every kind of lifestyle and preference, of which there is no end.

The Centre for Social Justice and the Marriage Foundation, for instance, has provided us with abundant evidence that children fare best when they are brought up in stable families, with both parents present and involved in their upbringing. This is in no way to devalue the heroic work of single parents in bringing up their children on their own. It is simply to state that society must recognise a social norm for human flourishing. Children relate differently to their mothers and fathers, and the due involvement of both in play, work and role modelling is highly desirable. Government needs to support stable families, particularly through tax and benefits structures. This will have a significant impact not only in our schools but also on our streets.

We should be not only a just society, but also a compassionate society. This requires us to treat asylum seekers with compassion and humanity, making sure that they have food, clothing, and shelter. Christians are bound to do so themselves and to persuade their fellow citizens to do so as well. This does not, however, amount to state policy. Every

state is obliged to take account of the well-being of those already living within its boundaries when assessing how many more people it can accommodate. When claims are judged to be false by competent authority, there should be no inordinate delays in returning people to their countries of origin or in sending them to safe countries who are willing to have them.

Some of those coming to our shores in small boats from the Continent are manifestly coming from a safe country. Some may indeed have suffered persecution, but others may be young men hoping to escape conscription or acquire a better life in the West. These are understandable reasons for risking dangerous journeys, but are they sufficient for the granting of asylum in this country? There can be, and should be, vigorous debate around these issues. Politicians, who have to make tough decisions, should not easily be demonised—unless it can be shown that they are manifestly acting inhumanely or against the national interest.

As the father of modern conservatism, Edmund Burke, pointed out, liberty needs to be attended by responsibility if it is not to lapse into mere libertarianism. Such liberty is grounded in the cumulative tradition of our nation, going back to King Alfred's Laws, the Charter of Liberties, Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights and the successive repeal of the Test Acts for religious conformity. Any claim to base it on radical Enlightenment claims that it is "self-evident" to "pure reason" will not withstand critical scrutiny. Those wanting to lead Britain today need, at least, to be aware of the tradition in which our valuing of liberty is rooted.

One way in which responsibility can be exercised is that of delaying gratification. For too long, the "bread-and-circuses" bandwagon has given people the impression that there is endless entertainment on tap and no need for people to wait for the fulfilment of their desires. We know, however, that duty to the nation—in times of war or in the cause of peace, for example—can demand that we delay the satisfaction of some of our desires: for marriage and children, the purchase of a home, and many other matters.

If we are called to serve the poor and needy, at home or abroad, this may also mean self-denial, at least for a period, of the immediate gratification of our desires. More and more people are discovering that a proper stewardship of creation also involves denying ourselves the fruits of its exploitation, degradation, and denudation. It will take brave leadership to show a jaded public that not every desire can be met immediately, but that some will have to be postponed or even denied for the sake of the common good.

It is clear that parliamentary and public accountability of politicians and public officials needs to be enhanced. There should be due provision for independent assessments of probity in national life. Without being invasive or prurient, we should nevertheless expect all-round personal integrity and honourable behaviour in the lives of those who wish to lead us. Finally, as even Immanuel Kant had to admit, we must all remember that there is a higher tribunal which no one can escape, however adept they may have been in evading human scrutiny.

Mgr Michael Nazir-Ali is a priest of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, and a Prelate of Honour to His Holiness the Pope. He is a former Anglican Bishop of Rochester.

Dr Michael Nasir Ali Catholic Herald



FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Dear Friends in UCM

My thanks to all who helped to celebrate our 75th Pilgrimage to Walsingham, such a great occasion and weren't we blessed with such lovely weather.

My apologies to all members for the meetings I have had to miss because of train strikes, I hope that I can come and visit you all in the New Year, please let me know your Diocesan dates as soon as possible.

I have just returned from the WUCWO conference in Greece and heard both horrendous and uplifting testimonies from ladies living in the Middle East, we have to be grateful for our lives here in England.

As it will soon be Advent may I wish you and your families a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a Joyful New Year.

With my love and prayers

**Joan Hodge
National President**

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Pope issues new Letter on meaning and beauty of the Mass

Pope Francis on Wednesday 29 June 2022 published an Apostolic Letter: 'Desiderio desideravi' on the Liturgy, recalling the profound meaning of Eucharistic celebrations and encouraging liturgical formation.

The Letter elaborates on the results of the February 2019 plenary of the Dicastery of Divine Worship and follows the motu proprio 'Traditionis custodes.'

In his Apostolic Letter Pope Francis reaffirms the importance of ecclesial communion around the rite that emerged from the post-conciliar liturgical reform. It is not a new instruction or a directive, but rather a meditation on understanding the beauty of liturgical celebration and its role in evangelization. It concludes with an appeal: "Let us abandon our polemics to listen together to what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Let us safeguard our communion. Let us continue to be astonished at the beauty of the Liturgy" (65).

Pope Francis writes, the Christian faith is either an encounter with the living Jesus or it is not. "The Liturgy guarantees for us the possibility of such an encounter. For us a vague memory of the Last Supper would do no good. We need to be present at that Supper."

Recalling the importance of Vatican II's constitution 'Sacrosanctum Concilium', which led to the rediscovery of the theological understanding of the liturgy, the Pope adds: "I want the beauty of the Christian celebration and its necessary consequences for the life of the Church not to be spoiled by a superficial and foreshortened understanding of its value or, worse yet, by its being exploited in service of some ideological vision, no matter what the hue" (16).

After warning against "spiritual worldliness" and the Gnosticism and neo-Pelagianism that fuel it, Pope Francis explains that "Participating in the Eucharistic sacrifice is not our own achievement, as if because of it we could boast before God or before our brothers and sisters" and that "the Liturgy has nothing to do with an ascetical moralism. It is the gift of the Paschal Mystery of the Lord which, received with docility, makes our life new. The cenacle is not entered except through the power of attraction of his desire to eat the Passover with us" (20).

To recover from spiritual worldliness, we need to rediscover the beauty of the liturgy, but this rediscovery "is not the search for a ritual aesthetic which is content by only a careful exterior observance of a rite or is satisfied by a scrupulous observance of the rubrics. Obviously, what I am saying here does not wish in any way to approve the opposite attitude, which confuses simplicity with a careless banality, or what is essential with an ignorant superficiality, or the concreteness of ritual action with an exasperating practical functionalism" (22).

The Pope explains that "every aspect of the celebration must be carefully tended to (space, time, gestures, words, objects, vestments, song, music...) and every rubric must be observed. Such attention would be enough to prevent robbing from the assembly what is owed to it; namely, the paschal mystery celebrated according to the ritual that the Church sets down. But even if the quality and the proper action of the celebration were guaranteed, that would not be enough to make our participation full." In fact, if "astonishment at the fact that the paschal mystery is rendered present in the concreteness of sacramental signs, we would truly risk being impermeable to the ocean of grace that floods every celebration." (24). This amazement, the Pope clarifies, has nothing to do "the vague expression 'sense of mystery' which is sometimes among the presumed chief accusations

against the liturgical reform."

The amazement of which the Pope speaks of is not a kind of bewilderment before an obscure reality or an enigmatic rite, but is, "on the contrary, marvelling at the fact that the salvific plan of God has been revealed in the paschal deed of Jesus" (25).

How, then, can we regain the ability to live liturgical action in its fullness? In the face of the bewilderment of post-modernity, individualism, subjectivism and abstract spiritualism, the Pope invites us to return to the great conciliar constitutions, which are not separable from one another.

He writes that "it would be trivial to read the tensions, unfortunately present around the celebration, as a simple divergence between different tastes concerning a particular ritual form. The problematic is primarily ecclesiological." (31)

Behind the battles over the rite, in short, lie different conceptions of the Church. The Pope points out he does not see how it is possible to say that one recognizes the validity of the Council, and at the same time not accept the liturgical reform born out of Sacrosanctum Concilium.

Quoting the theologian Romano Guardini, Pope Francis says that without liturgical formation, "ritual and textual reforms won't help much" (34).

He insists on the importance of formation, first of all in seminaries: "A liturgical-sapiential plan of studies in the theological formation of seminaries would certainly have positive effects in pastoral action. There is no aspect of ecclesial life that does not find its summit and its source in the Liturgy. More than being the result of elaborate programs, a comprehensive, organic, and integrated pastoral practice is the consequence of placing the Sunday Eucharist, the foundation of communion, at the centre of the life of the community. The theological understanding of the Liturgy does not in any way permit that these words be understood to mean to reduce everything to the aspect of worship. A celebration that does not evangelize is not authentic, just as a proclamation that does not lead to an encounter with the risen Lord in the celebration is not authentic. And then both of these, without the testimony of charity, are like sounding a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal" (37).

The Pope further highlights the need to educate in the understanding of symbols, which is increasingly difficult for the modern person. One way to do this is to care for the "art of celebrating", which "cannot be reduced to only a rubrical mechanism, much less should it be thought of as imaginative - sometimes wild - creativity without rules. The rite is in itself a norm, and the norm is never an end in itself, but it is always at the service of a higher reality that it means to protect." (48) The art of celebrating cannot be learned by "frequenting a course in public speaking or in persuasive techniques of communication", it requires "a diligent dedication to the celebration, allowing the celebration itself to convey to us its art" (50).

"Among the ritual acts that belong to the whole assembly, silence occupies a place of absolute importance" which "moves to sorrow for sin and the desire for conversion. It awakens a readiness to hear the Word and awakens prayer. It disposes us to adore the Body and Blood of Christ" (52).

Pope Francis then observes that in Christian communities their way of living out the celebration "is conditioned - for better or, unfortunately, for worse - by the way in which their pastor presides in



Photo by Lennon Caranzo on Unsplash

the assembly". He lists several "models" of inadequate presiding, albeit of contrasting features: "rigid austerity or an exasperating creativity, a spiritualizing mysticism or a practical functionalism, a rushed briskness or an over-emphasized slowness, a sloppy carelessness or an excessive finickiness, a superabundant friendliness or priestly impassibility."

These are all models that have a single root: "a heightened personalism of the celebrating style which at times expresses a poorly concealed mania to be the centre of attention" (54), amplified when celebrations are broadcast online. Whereas "to preside at Eucharist is to be plunged into the furnace of God's love. When we are given to understand this reality, or even just to intuit something of it, we certainly would no longer need a Directory that would impose the proper behaviour" (57).

Concluding his Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis asks "all bishops, priests, and deacons, formators in seminaries, instructors in theological faculties and schools of theology, and all catechists, to help the holy people of God to draw from what is the first wellspring of Christian spirituality," reaffirming what is established in 'Traditionis custodes' so that "the Church may lift up, in the variety of so many languages, one and the same prayer capable of expressing her unity," and this single prayer is the Roman Rite that resulted from the conciliar reform and was established by the saintly pontiffs Paul VI and John Paul II.

Pope Francis ends his Apostolic Letter with a prayer of St Francis of Assisi:

*Let everyone be struck with fear, let the whole world tremble,
and let the heavens exult
when Christ, the Son of the living God, is present on the altar
in the hands of a priest!
O wonderful loftiness and stupendous dignity!
O sublime humility! O humble sublimity!
The Lord of the universe, God and the Son of God,
so humbles Himself that for our salvation
He hides Himself under an ordinary piece of bread!
Brothers, look at the humility of God,
and pour out your hearts before Him!
Humble yourselves that you may be exalted by Him!
Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves,
that He Who gives Himself totally to you may receive you totally!
Saint Francis of Assisi
A Letter to the Entire Order II, 26-29*

Source Thaddeus Jones Vatican News

Clifton parish unveils stained glass window for Millennial Saint

A parish in Wiltshire is believed to be one of the first in the country to commission a stained glass window dedicated to 'Millennial Saint' Blessed Carlo Acutis.

Artist Michael Vincent created the piece for St Aldhelm's in Malmesbury using methods that have remained unchanged for hundreds of years.

Millennial Saint

Blessed Carlo was just 15 when he died of leukaemia but the millennial, an avid computer programmer, was a devout child with a great affection for the Blessed Sacrament and for reciting the Rosary. He rarely missed an opportunity to attend daily Mass and to this day inspires thousands of young people worldwide.

Although not yet a saint, London-born Carlo can be venerated in a church with special permission from the local diocese.

Artwork

The stained glass at St Aldhelm's shows a smiling Blessed Carlo with a mobile phone in the strap of his rucksack, a watch on his left arm and the IHS symbol on his top. One of Blessed Carlo's

most popular quotes can be read under the image: "The Eucharist is the highway to heaven."

Futureproofing

A second miracle needs to be attributed to the intercession of a man or woman on the path to sainthood so some time may pass before Blessed Carlo Acutis is canonised and declared a saint. This is something the parish has considered. A replacement pane of glass that modifies the 'Bl.' before his name to 'St.' will be kept safe until that joyous time arrives.

The window has been created with the structure of the church and its other windows in mind. There are already stained glass windows installed dedicated to St Aldhelm, Our Lady, the Sacred Heart, St Joseph and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Process

After the initial design, artist Michael Vincent produced a full-sized drawing called a 'cartoon' that offered a blueprint of the window that could be used for glass cutting and lead lines.

At this stage the glass was chosen and cut to suit the lead matrix. In this case, Mr Vincent used a

variety of glass - mostly mouth-blown glass from the UK and Germany - including some flashed glass where the flashed surface is dissolved using hydrofluoric acid so more colours can be used within one pane of glass.

After this, painting begins. The aim here is to essentially paint with light, first by painting the trace lines to give an outline to work with. Next the glass is waxed up onto a large sheet of clear glass which can be put up to the studio window utilising a natural light source.

'Matting' comes next, where several layers of paint are applied to the glass using various brushes and techniques. When the paint is dry it can be removed and worked with stiff or soft brushes to let light through where needed. Various techniques can be used to achieve different effects.

Between applications of paint, the glass is removed from the easel and placed in a kiln. Firing in the kiln, at temperatures of up to 650°C, fuses the paint to the surface of the glass creating a permanent bond. The majority of the glass paint used is black, bistre, amber and silver stain.



Clifton parish unveils Stained glass window of Blessed Carlo Acutis at St Aldhelm's

Interestingly, many of the colours you see are generated by the raw glass itself and not the paint.

When this stage is complete it can then be leaded together using Comes; a U-Channel shaped lead section the glass slots into which then is bonded together with a gas iron forming the structure of the window.

The window is then cemented using a form of runny black putty that is used to waterproof and strengthen the window when cured. Finally, a thorough clean and polish takes place, and the window is ready for installation.

Source CBCW July 2022

A bouquet for Our Lady

The ladies of the UCM were asked to wear yellow roses for the 75th Anniversary Pilgrimage and boy did they! They knitted, crocheted, felted, papered and fabricated their roses. They wore them on lapels, bags, in their hair and on hats. They were a delight to see and reflected the theme of the Pilgrimage JOY.
Jean Lopez Lopez



Bishop of Wrexham leads pilgrimage

A national pilgrimage to a famous shrine in north east Wales resumes this summer after the Covid pandemic briefly interrupted a 1,300-year unbroken line of pilgrimage.

Over the years, St Winefride's Shrine and Well in Holywell, 20 miles north of Wrexham, has attracted thousands of Catholic faithful, including royal pilgrims who have visited since 1416, despite the Reformation and countless threats of persecution.

On Sunday, 26 June Bishop Peter Brignall, Bishop of Wrexham, will lead the National Pilgrimage to the Shrine and Well offering it as an opportunity to give thanks and offer prayers for those who continue to be affected by Covid and for those who died from the virus.

The Sunday falls during the World Meeting of Families and starts with a procession from the Church of St Winefride at 2.30pm down to the Well, followed by Mass at 3pm in the Shrine Grounds.

Find out more, further details can be found by visiting the Shrine and Well website.

St Winefride's Shrine and Well, Greenfield Street, Holywell CH8 7PN

St Winefride

Stories of St Winefride vary but here's a short account of the main features of the legend:

Winefride, Gwenfrewi, was the daughter of a local prince named Tewyth and his wife Gwenlo. Her uncle was St. Beuno. One day, around the year 630, Caradoc, a chieftain from Hawarden attempted to seduce Winefride. She ran from him towards the church which had been built by her uncle. Caradoc pursued her and cut off her head. In the place where her head fell, a spring of water came up. St Beuno came out from the church, took up her head and placed it back on her body. He then prayed and restored her to life. A white scar encircled her neck, witness to her martyrdom. Caradoc sank to the ground and was never seen again. Winefride became a nun and, after her uncle's departure from Holywell for the Monastery of Clynnog Fawr, joined a community at Gwtherin where she became the Abbess. She died there some 22 years later.

Source CWR June 2022



Bishop of Wrexham leads national Pilgrimage to the Shrine and Well of St Winefride Holywell



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Official Logo of Jubilee unveiled

The Vatican reveals the official Logo of the upcoming Jubilee Year due to be held in 2025 on the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope' and reflects on some of the Holy Year's early initiatives and plans.

By Deborah Castellano Lubov

The official Logo of the upcoming Jubilee due to be held in 2025 has been unveiled.

In a press conference held on Tuesday in the Sala Regia of the Vatican's Apostolic Palace, the Vatican revealed the official Logo for the upcoming Jubilee year.

The then-Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization, now contained within the new Dicastery for Evangelization, was entrusted with coordinating the Holy See's preparations for the Holy Year 2025 with the motto: "Pilgrims of Hope."

The former Council's President, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, revealed the logo and reminded that as preparations begin within the Church for the Holy Year, their Dicastery launched a competition, open to all, for the Logo's creation.

A total of 294 entries were received from 213 cities and 48 different countries, he said, noting participants ranged in age from 6 to 83.

"In fact, many hand-drawn designs were received from children from all over the world, and it was really moving to go through these drawings which were the fruit of imagination and simple faith."

During the judging, the works were identified only by a number so that the author remained anonymous.

On June 11th, Archbishop Fisichella submitted the three final projects to Pope Francis to select the one that struck him the most.

"After looking at the projects several times and expressing his preference, the project of Giacomo Travisani was chosen," Archbishop Fisichella said.

Giacomo Travisani, present this evening, reflected on what motivated his submission. He said how he had imagined all people moving forward together, able to push ahead "thanks to the wind of Hope that is the Cross of Christ and Christ himself."

Winning Logo

The Logo shows four stylized figures to indicate all of humanity from the four corners of the earth. They each embrace one another, indicating the solidarity and brotherhood that must unite peoples. The first figure is clinging to the Cross. The underlying waves are choppy to indicate that the pilgrimage of life is not always on calm waters.

Because often personal circumstances and world events call for a greater sense of hope, a description of the Logo says, the lower part of the Cross is elongated turning into an anchor, which dominates the movement of the waves.

Anchors often have been used as metaphors for hope.

The image shows how the pilgrim's journey is not individual, but rather communal, with the signs of a growing dynamism that moves more and more toward the Cross.

"The Cross is not static," Fisichella suggested, "but dynamic, bending toward and meeting humanity as if not to leave it alone, but rather offering the certainty of its presence and the reassurance of hope."

The Jubilee 2025 Motto, Peregrinantes in Spem is also clearly visible in the color green.

Urgency to live Jubilee in light of hope

Archbishop Fisichella reflected on Jubilees and why the upcoming one is significant.

"Every Holy Year in the history of the Church," he said, "has taken on its full meaning when it is placed within the historical context that humanity is experiencing at that time and particularly when it is able to read the signs of anxiety and unrest combined with people's perceived expectations."

"The vulnerability experienced in recent years, together with the fear of the violence of wars," he continued, "only makes the human condition more paradoxical: on the one hand, to feel the overwhelming power of technology which determines their days; on the other hand, to feel uncertain and confused about their future."

"This has given rise to the urgency to live the upcoming Jubilee in the light of hope."

In this context, Archbishop Fisichella reminded, "Pilgrims of Hope" was chosen for the Jubilee's theme.

"It expresses the need to make sense of the present so that it can be preparatory for a real thrust into the future in order to embrace and respond to the various challenges that arise from time to time."

Jubilees' importance to life of the Church

In a recent letter addressed to Archbishop Fisichella, Pope Francis noted that "the Jubilee has always been an event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church."

He recalled that ever since the year 1300, which marked the first Holy Year, "God's holy and faithful people has experienced this celebration as a special gift of grace, characterized by the forgiveness of sins and in particular by the indulgence, which is a full expression of the mercy of God."

In the Church, a Jubilee, or Holy Year, is a great religious event.

A Jubilee is "ordinary" if it falls after the



customary 25-year period, and "extraordinary" when it is proclaimed by for some outstanding event.

The last ordinary Jubilee took place in the year 2000 during the pontificate of Pope St. John Paul I. In 2015, Pope Francis proclaimed an Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.

What to expect soon

After the summer, Archbishop Fisichella noted, the official Jubilee website and related app will be available.

"Both will be tools to help pilgrims participate fully in the proposed events, facilitating the spiritual and cultural experience of the city of Rome. In fact, in addition to the important Pilgrim's Charter, the Jubilee portal will contain news, historical notes, practical information, services and multimedia tools, in ten languages available to the pilgrim and easily accessible for people with disabilities."

The Dicastery is already envisioning major events, and highlighted that special attention will be given to the following categories: "Families, Children, Youth, Movements and Associations, Elderly, Grandparents, Disabled, Sports, Sick and Health Care, Universities, World of Work, Choirs and Choruses, Confraternities, Priests, Consecrated Persons, Eastern Catholics, Catechists, the Poor, Prisoners, and many others..."

A calendar will be ready by the end of the year to allow adequate organizational time for pilgrims and related agencies.

Source ICN July 2022

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Papal present to indigenous people: 'Mary, Untier of Knots'

A statue Pope Francis unveiled during his visit to Alberta in Canada last week showed, 'Mary, Untier of Knots' and it was gifted to the indigenous people.

Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz was commissioned by the Vatican. He said, "the Vatican loved it and then they showed pictures of it to Pope Francis and he decided he wanted to give it to the Indigenous people." Following Pope Francis' prayer service at Lac St Anne in Alberta on 26 July, he unveiled and blessed the life-size sculpture. "It's a sculpture of Mary untying a knot around the world,

and, in a sense, that's what Pope Francis is coming here to do, Schmalz explained.

The statue has an interactive component to it as well. Orange ribbon, the colour that represents Indigenous people and residential schools, was placed around the globe Mary is standing over. It allows people to tie or untie their own knots.

Schmalz, who is widely known for his 'homeless Jesus' statues, said it took him a year to make the new statue. The sculpture will become a permanent fixture at Lac St Anne, a major pilgrim site for Indigenous Catholics.



Statue: Mary, Untier of Knots, Credit: Timothy Schmalz

SOUTHWARK'

Southwark Diocesan Rally Mass

The Southwark Diocesan Rally Mass was held on Saturday October 15th at St Georges Cathedral, the mass was celebrated by our Spiritual Adviser Fr Doug Bull. It was as always, a very warm and lively occasion. The UCM friendship and fellowship of the members was strong as we prayed and sang together and carried our Banners. After the mass we all enjoyed a cup of tea and a chat. It was good to welcome our old friends from the Catholic Women's League and to meet our new National Media Officer Jean Lopez Lopez. Thank you to everyone who came and made it an enjoyable occasion.

Catherine Rooms Southwark Diocese



Annual Fundraiser

Addiscombe Foundation recently held their annual fundraiser, a curry night. The evening raised £1000 which was donated to the Addiscombe Resettlement Community Group to help a family from Afghanistan who have recently moved to the Parish. The evening was attended by the Southwark Diocesan President Sharon Bishop and Secretary Mary Piper.

During the evening Sharon Bishop presented three of their members Pat Fernandez, Ethel Corduff and Mary O'Sullivan with 30 year, long service certificates.



Pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory

Southwark held their Annual Pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory for the first time in 3 years on May 31st. It was a beautiful day and so wonderful to be back together at Aylesford. We were honoured to have The Most Reverend John Wilson Archbishop of Southwark and Metropolitan as our principal celebrant for the day. He presented our Diocesan President Sharon Bishop with a commemorative medal and said he enjoyed the day so much he will be back next year.

Joanne Pavitt Media Officer



Westgate and Birchington

At a lunch party held on the 7th September a cheque for £500 was given to Dee Neligan (Senior Charity Officer) for the East Kent Hospitals Charity to be used for Dementia patients in QUQM hospital.

The funds were raised by members of the Westgate and Birchington UCM foundation.

The lunch was attended by our Diocesan President Sharon Bishop and Secretary Mary Piper as well as other guests from the parish. Danielle gave a very interesting talk about her work with the charity and was delighted with the cheque handed to her by Sue Maharry president of the UCM foundation. Everyone stated that the lunch was delicious and the whole afternoon was a great success.



Congratulations to Betty Borfiga

On October 2nd Father Keith of Our Lady's Addiscombe presented Betty Borfiga a surprise anniversary certificate for an amazing 65 years of UCM membership. Congratulations Betty. Southwark Archdiocese.



Sheppey Foundation Day Out

On a glorious Friday in September some members of the Sheppey Foundation enjoyed a relaxing boat trip on the river in Maidstone followed by a delicious fish and chip lunch. The day was organised by our lovely events coordinator Sandra Forster pictured in the middle of the back row; also on the trip was our Diocesan President Sharon Bishop. A wonderful day was enjoyed by all.



MIDDLESBROUGH



Visit to Madonna House

Members of St. Peter's Foundation, Scarborough were delighted to be able after a three-year absence to visit Madonna House to join in the farewell mass and shared supper for Cheryl Ann the Director of the Madonna House Community in Robin Hoods Bay. Cheryl Ann having spent 12 years as Director, is returning to Canada. Over the years St. Peter's have always had a close connection with Madonna House. In August their members had a wonderful afternoon visiting Scampston House and Walled Gardens near Malton, North Yorkshire. Scampston House one of the finest regency country homes in North Yorkshire. Following a Concelebrated Mass held to celebrate their Parish Priest's Canon Edmund Gubbins 40th Anniversary of his Ordination to the priesthood the members were pleased to provide the meal for the 16 priests who had taken part in the celebrations.

St. Aelred's UCM at Thicket Priory

After a Covid induced interval of three years we were delighted to be able to visit the Carmelite sisters at Thicket Priory once again. On a beautiful spring evening we travelled to Thicket, accompanied by Father Bill Serplus, who celebrated Mass in the chapel. The peace of the countryside and the sisters' singing made for a very special occasion and the troubles of recent times seemed to drop away as we listened to them singing the "Salve Regina" after Mass. We had a great get together, with so much to catch up on, and we enjoyed their warm welcome and hospitality. We hope we shall never have to stay away for so long again. Time spent at Thicket with the sisters is always a joy.

Mount Grace Priory

It was with great excitement that Holy Name Foundation; Middlesbrough, planned their first visit since Covid epidemic struck. They decided on Mount Grace Priory which is very near to Middlesbrough and was one place none of the members had been previously. Founded in 1398 and is the best preserved Carthusian Monastery in England. Unlike other monks who lived communally, the Carthusians lived as hermits. They worked, meditated, and said daily offices in solitude in their own cells and only encountered each other for daily Matins and Vespers and less frequently at convent mass.

They saw the reconstructed and furnished monk's cell and the layout of the whole priory, the medieval guest house and the beautiful gardens recently renovated under the direction of Chris Beardshaw a well know gardener.

A wonderfully interesting visit informing the members about the medieval church and the local history. Thoroughly enjoyed what they hoped was their first of many such trips in the future.



Blessing of Flower Stand

At Mass on Saturday 2 July, the 2nd Anniversary of Fr. Bill East's death, Fr Bill Serplus blessed a new flower stand for the altar in his memory. The stand presented by his wife Betty a UCM member, made by a friend of the parish and is in bleached Oak, embellished with the honeycomb cross to match the other altar furnishings, originally designed by the architect George Pace, and also the windows in the church



BIRMINGHAM

Ruby Anniversary for Parish Priest

On the 19th of June Father Douglas Lamb will celebrate his 40 years anniversary of being ordained as a Priest. He has spent 30 of them as Parish Priest of St Ambrose's Catholic Church in Kidderminster and Sacred Heart Church in Tenbury, as well as Our Lady and St Pius X Church in Habberley until its closure. Prior to this he was Parish Priest at St Wulstan's Church in Stourport. During his time as Parish Priest, Father Lamb has worked tirelessly to create a wonderful parish community. As well as looking after the spiritual side of the parish he has encouraged the development of a wide variety of groups within the parish including The Catholic Men's Society of which he is a member and The Union of Catholic Mothers for which he is the Wolverhampton Section Spiritual Director. He founded the Montini group (for Spiritual study). The social aspect of parish life has not been neglected with many varied and lively events over the years. These have included Royal Jubilee parties (he is a big fan of her Majesty the Queen), and a big Millennium party. He has also celebrated his own Silver Jubilee in 2007 with a big parish party. His love of classical music led him to organise trips to the opera to see amongst others "Madame Butterfly" and "The Dream of Gerontius". He has also performed solos himself at a Gilbert and Sullivan evening held at the parish centre. Father Lamb has a great love of dogs and during his time at St Ambrose's he has had three canine companions, Maggie, Maisie and Molly. To celebrate his 40 years, there will be a special Mass conducted by the Abbot of Belmont Abbey on Monday 20th June at 7pm at St Ambrose's.



Miriam Cunliffe, Kidderminster Foundation

Missed each other so much



On Bank holiday Monday after the morning mass our President Mary Hales (sitting on the right) arranged for 10 of us to have lunch out and a social get together which was so needed after another difficult year, we had all missed each other so much.

Iris Edwards Sec at St Maries, Rugby

PORTSMOUTH

Maidenhead celebrates 60 years



Maidenhead Foundation celebrated its Diamond Anniversary in St Joseph's Church, on Wednesday, 21st September. Our Founder-Member, Maureen Francis, attended as our guest-of-honour. The late Elspeth Orchard, formerly of Maidenhead Foundation, was one of the Founders of the Family Fast Day, which later developed into the marvellous charity, CAFOD. Prayers were said for the work of CAFOD during the Mass. Former Diocesan President, Carol Willis, presented Joan Boland, Maidenhead President, with a framed certificate to mark this 60-year milestone. Maureen Francis was given a beautiful orchid to thank her for starting our Foundation and for joining us on this day. The special UCM Mass was celebrated on the Feast of St Matthew the Apostle. In his inspiring Homily, Fr Liam Cummins MHM, encouraged us to think of changes and turning points in our own lives - so far. Fr Ephraim Odhiambo MHM concelebrated and Fr Joe Gruskiewicz, UCM Spiritual Director, gave a short address. Sixty guests from across the Diocese shared a delicious afternoon tea. There was lots of chatting and laughter as long-time friends met up and reminisced. Thanks go to all the visiting Foundations for travelling to the far north of the Diocese and for their kind and thoughtful gifts and prayers. The wonderful celebration cake, expertly made and decorated by Parishioner, Marlene Nicholls, was ceremonially cut by the priests. It was shared out, along with glasses of bubbly, to toast this special occasion. All the food was generously donated by Parishioners, members of Mothers Prayers Group, Vision Group and the UCM. Extra special thanks go to a small team from MPG and VG who worked hard serving the food and drinks and clearing up afterwards. Thanks also go to Paddy, the ubiquitous photographer and to Terry, our octogenarian altar boy! Photo Left Carol Willis, Past Diocesan President, Joan Boland President St Joseph's Maidenhead, Isobel Flynn Portsmouth Diocesan President.

By Isobel Flynn, Portsmouth Diocesan President. (Former President Maidenhead UCM)

Fascinating and informative talk

After a fascinating and informative talk by a local expert in pollinators the ladies caught up with some overseas news!! It is lovely to see such lively and interesting topics in our UCM NEWS. A really big thank you Joan for accepting the role as National President, a true leap of faith. Our prayers are with you as you start your term of office. Many good wishes from Guernsey, love and prayers. **Shelley Greenfield Media Officer Guernsey Foundation**



Summer/Autumn News

Sadly, of late, we have been more used to closing long-established Foundations. This has been owing to dwindling numbers or, sometimes, to the lack of a suitable space to meet regularly within the Parish buildings. However, we are looking forward with hope for a good post covid recovery. We are pleased to welcome a new foundation in our diocese, in Sacred Heart Parish, Hook, Hampshire. Thanks go to Fr Paul Leonard, Parish Priest, for his enthusiastic support and encouragement for the UCM's new venture. Almost twenty members have been enrolled already, and they expect more very soon! The Hook Foundation President, Anne da Silva, organised two wonderful and prayerful enrolment services which took place during the Masses of 18th and 19th June. As a sign of their commitment to join our organisation, they have invited us to come to Hook for the September Diocesan meeting. All the Foundations in Portsmouth Diocese look forward to welcoming our newest members and praying with them, for their and our success and continued growth.



Bel Flynn, Portsmouth Diocesan President.

LEEDS

Food Bank receives an Award

Christine Woodhouse, Foundation Treasurer at UCM St. Ignatius Ossett volunteers at our local food bank twice a week. Recently the volunteers have been the recipients of the Good Citizen Award from the Ossett & Horbury Rotary Club. Congratulations Christine & the rest of the volunteers.

Eileen Goodwin Media Officer Leeds Diocese



Reopened Foundation in Castleford

St. Josephs UCM closed just before the start of the Covid pandemic. It was a sad occasion in the parish as the foundation had been active since the 1950s, but lack of members forced the closure. But good news as at the beginning of this year several ladies of the parish, with encouragement from Fr. John Aveyard their parish priest brought UCM back to Castleford. Canon Laurie Hulme and Leeds Diocesan committee gave lots of help and in May this year an inaugural mass was held in St. Joseph's. 14 new members now meet, and a foundation committee has been elected. Well done, Castleford.

Eileen Goodwin Media Officer.



Mass with Fr. John, members and Diocesan officers

HALLAM

Ordained to the Sacred Priesthood

On Saturday 9th July 2022 Deacon Henry Woodhouse was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood at St. Peter-in-Chains, Doncaster in the Hallam Diocese.

During Holy Mass Fr. John Metcalfe of the Hathersage Parish presented Henry to Bishop Ralph Heskett. Many priests, family members, friends and parishioners were present on this memorable day.

The glorious weather permitted everyone to mingle and chat afterwards enjoying refreshments in the Church grounds. Congratulations to Father Henry and may he be given strength and God's abundant blessings throughout his priesthood.

Dorothy Anderson (Media Officer for the Diocese of Hallam)



SALFORD

Hosting Afternoon Tea again

For the first time in three years St Luke's UCM were able to host their popular Afternoon Tea again, It was a great success catering for 115 people and raising over a thousand pounds for Francis House Children's Hospice.

Entertainment was provided by two talented young boys John and Brendon, grandsons of UCM members. Since then, together with another talented lad Ted they have formed a group. Which they have called "The Height". Keep your eyes on Look North and you may well see them one day the clue is in the name it all started here.

As well as the above we had the usual raffle all the prizes, being bottles make what you will of that (but scouts honour, or in this case UCM's honour they were not all alcoholic). Also, the obligatory game of Bingo, where those pesky round balls kept rolling off the table causing much hilarity. Altogether it was a very happy and successful occasion after the long-enforced break, it was lovely to see members and parishioners meeting again and enjoying the Craic as the Irish would say.

I would like to add that St Luke's and St Peter and Paul are now one parish Our Lady of Hope

Maureen Mayers, Past National President



Vote of Thanks was given

At the Hallam UCM Diocesan meeting on 1st October a presentation and vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Sheila Godley, the Diocesan Treasurer to Mrs. Angela Higginson for her four years' service as Study Day Officer.

This role is now being taken over by Mrs. Louise George in the St. Joseph, Handsworth Foundation of the Hallam Diocese.

Congratulations and thanks to both ladies.



Padley Martyrs Pilgrimage

During the afternoon of Sunday 10th July 2022, Padley Chapel in Grindleford Derbyshire, was the country setting where pilgrims from the Dioceses of Nottingham and Hallam gathered.

In July 1588 two travelling priests were discovered whilst staying overnight at Padley Manor. Everyone at the hall was arrested. Garlick and Ludlam with another priest Richard Simpson, were gruesomely executed in Derby two weeks later.

An annual pilgrimage honouring the two martyrs began in the late 19th century. The Diocese of Nottingham bought Padley in 1931 and it is now owned by the Diocese of Hallam.

Holy Mass was offered in honour of Blessed Robert Ludlam and Blessed Nicholas Garlick.

Bishop Ralph Heskett was the main celebrant assisted by Bishop Patrick McKinney of Nottingham and Bishop John Arnold of Salford who gave the homily.

It was glorious weather and many pilgrims from the two dioceses were able to sit outside.

The day was also blessed with a child from the Bamford church who received his first Holy communion and Bishop Ralph who was celebrating 46 years of his ministry in the priesthood.



Dorothy Anderson (Media Officer for the Diocese of Hallam)

NOTTINGHAM

Holy Spirit Foundation disbanding

At the end of summer, the UCM Holy Spirit Foundation West Bridgford are disbanding after being in the Parish since 1945. On the 27th of July we had a special Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by our Parish Priest, Fr. Michael Brown, when we prayed for all deceased and living members. Fr. Michael thanked the UCM for all we have done in the parish over the years, and we all prayed for the success of our new parish Friendship Group which is being launched in September. After Mass everyone went into the Social Centre for tea, coffee and cake.

Our UCM final outing took place in July when we visited the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield. It was a near perfect day and we arrived just in time for a talk in the Chapel. We then wandered through the impressive space dedicated mainly to the armed forces. A trip on a little train took us to the far corners of the Arboretum. It was an interesting visit that gave us plenty to think about.

Kathy Gelling Nottingham Diocese



NORTHAMPTON

A Tale of Two Boat Trips ...

Perhaps it's because the north of the Northampton Diocese is more landlocked than almost anywhere else in England, we members of Kettering St. Edward's Foundation just love a day away, as and when, to indulge ourselves in taking to the water on a boat trip.

So, with no Covid restrictions in place, on 28th June we set out for a day in Windsor. It was an early start, however, once there at leisure we could take in all the sights, meander, or just 'do the shops' albeit that being a somewhat pricey decision; one of our ladies together with her teenage granddaughter 'did the long walk', well deserving our congratulations!

At the appointed time, we all met up for a cruise along the Thames, which was a real delight, taking in, on the right, views of Windsor Castle and its vast estates, and to the left, in which lies the very south of Northampton Diocese, much fascinating history of the area, complete with battle tales between the north of the Thames versus its south.

Additionally, we were served with a really delicious afternoon high tea; the tiny sandwiches and varieties of cakes were pronounced 'fab' and most appreciated by all. In late July we again ventured out, but this time much nearer to home, to the very peaceful and calming Rutland Water. It may now seem a natural wonder, but not so. It's a manmade reservoir constructed in the 1970s to supply Northamptonshire's overspill towns (no pun intended), Peterborough and beyond, regrettably drowning and destroying the beautiful village of Nether Hambleton dating to at least the days before the Domesday Book. All its residents were forced to leave to live in nearby villages which still angers them and their descendants to this day.

Following (another!) on board cream tea, we were taken to the heart of the very heart of England, the beautiful, quintessentially English town of Oakham, Rutland. Some of us shopped or visited its heritage sights. Some members were delighted to visit the parish church to enjoy an exquisite lunchtime classical guitar recital, and then 'take tea', before our journey home through the very picturesque Welland Valley.

Trust we ladies from St. Edward's Foundation Kettering, please. There is no 'yawn factor' in this part of the East Midlands, for this corner of the region is not at all boring. Come and visit us sometime and we'll show you our local history and how lovely the countryside around us is. You will be so welcome and not disappointed.



**Margaret Anderson, President,
St. Edward's Kettering Foundation and Media Officer, Diocese of Northampton**

Our Lady not in one place, but two!

Two countries, divided by the English Channel, but solely with one aim – to pray to Our Lady in all Her glory and with our devoted thanks for Her unending tenderness being the mother to us all, and extending the love and care only a mother knows. From St. Edward's Foundation (Diocese of Northampton) 'the Kettering Five', Breege, Daisy, Margaret, Marilyn, and Sue joined with UCM members countrywide on the National Pilgrimage to Banneux, Belgium's National Shrine to Our Lady.

We had all waited for two years, due to the Covid pandemic, to visit Banneux, which did not disappoint. None of us had any preconceptions of this delightful, and highly spiritual place of pilgrimage which 'ticked all our boxes' and more. What a glorious day! (Apart from unrelenting rain, and so cold (9 degrees) - it felt more like one of those awful days we must endure in early February!) The weather during the rest of the pilgrimage abated somewhat, being what a pilgrimage should be; convivial, with camaraderie, good food, full of laughter, and many of those personal tales with UCM strangers, now friends, by which our faith is enriched, exchanged over a glass after dinner.

The return journey from our 'swish' hotel in Charleroi coincided with Northampton's Diocesan Rosary Rally held, for the first time, at Our Lady Help of Christians and St. Lawrence, Olney, Buckinghamshire, by kind invitation of its P.P., Fr. David Barrett, whom all parishioners at St. Edward's, Kettering, always hold in great affection, his having been our Assistant Priest for five years following his Ordination.

All went very well at Our Lady's, as we had anticipated. Sue received the following text message from Mariann French (St. Peter's Foundation, Rushden and newly elected National Vice-President), whilst the Banneux pilgrims were being smoothly driven along the M25, thanks to our 'super- skillful' driver, Justin:-

'Our Rosary Rally this year was held at Our Lady's and St. Lawrence in Olney, Buckinghamshire. Fr. David said it was wonderful like a day retreat! Thank you to all the Ladies who attended, and we prayed for all our members who were unable to be there.

It had been two years since we had all met up, so it was lovely meeting up again. Keep in your prayers a Foundation to open in Olney!'

Two countries, the same intent, and prayers. D.G.



**Margaret Anderson, President,
St. Edward's Kettering Foundation and Media Officer, Diocese of Northampton**

WESTMINSTER

Relics of St Bernadette

Mums from Hounslow Foundation went to see the Relic of St. Bernadette at Westminster Cathedral and we prayed for all the UCM Mums who could not see the Relic and who have never been to Lourdes before. What a wonderful opportunity for all of us. We were privileged to have the Relic at 2 different locations in our area, so I know that quite a few Mums made the effort to go and see the Relic."



Lovely Chapel at Heathrow

One of our UCM Mums lost 2 of her brothers within a short space of time and Hounslow UCM offered a Mass for them at the airport. Did you know that Heathrow Airport has a lovely Chapel called St. George's Chapel with a Remembrance Garden right in front of it? The Mass was held in the open air and the Chaplain is an Assistant Priest at St. Michael & St. Martin's Church Hounslow. His name is Fr. Damian-Mary Moneke, CSSp. Mass is held at the Chapel in the open air for the time being on certain days of the week while it is being renovated. Do visit if you are passing through Heathrow"



Ware Foundation raise nearly £5000

Ware Foundation, one of the smallest in Westminster Diocese with at present only 5 active members and the only Foundation still in existence in Hertfordshire, not just Knitters and Natterers, but Makers and Doers all enclosed in Prayer and Love, initiated a Parish Project to raise much needed funds for the Parish. They worked on one event with active co-operation from the local circle of Broxbourne Catenians and a craft group of largely parish people: The other events were just 3 active and 2 support members. Since the A.G.M. in March they have raised nearly £5,000 and have an International Harvest Supper, a Christmas Craft and Produce Sale and a Burn's Night Supper and Social in their sights before the A.G.M. next April.

Janette Woodford – Westminster Diocesan Media Officer

Cardinal Nichols reflects on the synodal process in his homily on the feast day of St Peter and St Paul

Today, as we celebrate this great feast, we rejoice in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

It was this gift, given to the first apostles in the upper room, which transformed Peter from fear into great fortitude and directness, as did his release from prison as we heard in the first reading. 'Now I know it is all true' he proclaimed. Yes, earlier at Caesarea Philippi, standing in front of the marble temple erected to mark the claims of the Roman Emperor to be divine, he had spoken the truth of Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God. But now he is truly set free.

The Holy Spirit came to Paul on the road to Damascus and at the hand of Ananias, not forgetting the earlier witness of Stephen. Then he began preaching 'Jesus is the Son of God' (Acts 9).

At this time, as bishops, we are trying prayerfully to absorb and discern the presence of the Holy Spirit in all the voices we have been listening to on this Synodal Pathway to which Pope Francis has called us. We will shortly complete our own reflections on all we have received. There are many different voices, and many different gifts of the Holy Spirit.

So too Peter and Paul are very different.

Peter, a steadfast fisherman, used to boats and market places, capable of obstinacy and hot-headedness. He followed the Lord in stolid faithfulness, never making a fuss about himself, yet open to challenge and change, and immensely brave.

Paul, a real high-flyer, academically talented, imaginative, full of ideas and re-interpretations and so able with those quick-silver responses to difficult situations. As we heard in the second reading, he was always ready to defend and justify himself and the mission he had been given.

These voices still find clear resonance in our Church today. The range is similar: quiet voices that have emerged only with much encouragement and prayerful listening, in contrast to voices that

did not hesitate for a moment in making their views known. So it is good to remember that early teaching of Peter: 'Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation, anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to God' (Acts 10:34). And let's not forget that it is Peter, described as 'uneducated and common' (Acts 4:13), who is chosen to be the Rock of our faith.

As we bishops ponder all the responses we have received – over 700 pages – we are most open to the key characteristics of the work of the Holy Spirit. And there is no doubt that the first and essential gift of the Spirit is a closeness to Christ, a holiness of life. It is the Spirit who binds us to him, who alone is our way, truth and life. And the holy way of life is marked by a profound peace, by a willing repentance and by great fervour for the Lord. This comes across in really good measure in so many of the voices to which we are attending. There is here a fine measure of compassion and shared pain, especially for those who experience themselves, or are seen by others, to be 'outside' or excluded. In addition, there is the great concern for the urgent care of our created world.

These responses give rise to a most important challenge: that as a church we learn how to accompany each other, especially through those difficult times and places. As Pope Francis said at the beginning of his years of service as Pope:

'The Church will have to initiate everyone – priests, religious, laity – into this "art of accompaniment", which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (cf Exodus 3:5). The pace of this accompaniment must be steady and reassuring, reflecting our closeness and our compassionate gaze, which also heals, liberates and encourages growth in the Christian life' (Evangelii Gaudium 169).

Such accompaniment is a challenge for every parish. Who are those who feel that they do not belong, or fear they may not be made welcome?

Can we reach out and say, 'No, we are close'?

It is a challenge for every organisation to look at itself and ask how easy is it for those who are different to join in our activities.

It is a question for each one of us: do we try to be close to those we meet regularly, with whom we might work or live, simply making it clear that no matter what happens we will not turn away, not in judgement, nor in disdain, nor in fear?

This requires a strength of purpose, certainly. But more than that it requires our closeness to our Blessed Lord, who not only invites us to live in this way, after his own example, but asks us to see himself in the other person, in every other person, polished or disfigured, erudite or confused, buoyant or depressed. Only in knowing his acceptance of each of us, with all our faults and failings, will we understand that he accepts everyone else too and that we also must learn to do so.

Closeness to Christ is our first and last criterion. Without that we can look like no more than a debating society, interesting – perhaps – but closed-in. But our faith is so much more than ideas and processes. It is a living, life-changing relationship with and in the mystery of God. St John Henry Newman expresses this so eloquently in his confessional hymn which we will sing shortly. It begins: 'Firmly I believe and truly, God is three and God is one, and I next acknowledge duly manhood taken by the Son.' He then goes on to proclaim, most tellingly: 'And I hold in veneration, for the love of him alone, Holy Church as his creation and her teachings as his own.' That, too, is part of our love of the Lord. That too is the fruit of the Holy Spirit for which we search and for which we pray.

Today's Feast, and this Synodal Pathway on which we have embarked, can renew our purpose and our life. Its keywords are 'participation, communion and mission', and Christ is at the centre of all three. We seek participation in the life



of God in him, through the Holy Spirit; we find communion of life with him in the Church; and are called by him to a willing share in his mission in the world.

There is, then, a radical appeal to be heard at this moment. It is clear. Each of us can make this appeal, gently, respectfully, to those we know. It is simple:

Come, come to the Lord. In him, you will find your heart's desire, your refuge and your strength. Come with me, do not be afraid for he will tell you that your face is beautiful and your voice is sweet (cf Song of Songs 2:14).

And let us not forget that just as he rescued Peter while asleep, the Lord will pour gifts on all his beloved while they slumber (Psalm 127).

Indeed, as we strive to be 'the Church we wish to be', we remember the words of St Augustine: 'You will be taught much better by the one who speaks to you even when I am not here; the one about whom you think loving thoughts; the one whom you have taken into your hearts and whose temple you have become.'

**Praised be Jesus Christ. Amen.
H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster**

Premier of The Letter: Laudato Si film

Source: Laudato Si' Movement

Today, 4 October, is the premiere of The Letter - Laudato Si' Movement's film, in which top leaders travel to Rome to speak with Pope Francis about Laudato Si' and present how the climate crisis impacts their own lives and that of their communities.

For the first time, a film featuring Pope Francis and telling the story of how the climate crisis is affecting life on Earth will be available for free and accessible to everyone thanks to Youtube Originals.

This film is the fruit of many years of work between Laudato Si' Movement, Off the Fence, the Oscar-winning production company for My Octopus Teacher, and the Vatican.

We invite you to watch and share the trailer here and get ready to watch the entire film tomorrow on this link:



Her Majesty held a lunch for some veterans of WW2

In 2005, her majesty held a lunch for some veterans of WW2. My mother Kathleen Smith was invited as she had been a young nurse in India, nursing POW's from the Japanese camps.

I went ad her companion. It was a beautiful hot day, when we arrived in the gardens of Buckingham Palace, we were given cold drinks on the lawn as a military band played. Mum was delighted to meet Vera Lyn, and they had a good chat. Then we were directed to our table in one of two marquees. There were a lot of dignitaries, including Margaret

Thatcher and The Blairs. The national anthem was played, and the Royal party came in, the Queen in Lemon yellow, followed by Prince Philip, and other members of the Royal family. We were only one table away from the Queen, I sat back-to-back with the Countess of Wessex. The food was delicious, and the glasses never empty. The lunch lasted for about an hour and a quarter. After we were allowed to walk around the gardens. Altogether a wonderful and unforgettable experience.

Jane Parker



**£1.80 provides a child with a meal every weekday for a month
Donate Now at www.reachfoundationuk.org
THE REACH FOUNDATION UK**

Queen Elizabeth II

National President at Buckingham Palace

For several years in the 1980s the UCM National President received an invitation from HRH the Queen to a Royal Garden party at Buckingham Palace.

Invitations are to those who serve their communities and is a way of recognising and awarding public service. Historically these parties replaced presentation parties attended by debutantes. Garden parties had been of feature of the Royal calendar

Since the reign of Queen Victoria but had been cancelled over the past two years due to the pandemic. This year 2022 it took place in May but the Queen was not in attendance due to her mobility problems.

When I was National President (1988-1991) I was pleased to receive an invitation to

Represent the UCM at a Royal Garden party at Buckingham Palace accompanied by

Three National officers who do not usually receive social invitations - these were Gill Badcox International and WUCWO, May Shippam (RIP) Welfare - mother of Terri Coombs past National Secretary and Jean Longley Public Service Officer and a bonus due to protocol Jeans daughter over 18 and unmarried!

At that time no photography was allowed and to obtain a memorial of the day it was necessary to obtain an official photo of guests but not the Royals.

Nowadays there is still a strict instruction not to bring big cameras but phones seem to be acceptable so there are probably lots of selfies in existence to commemorate the day.

We were lucky on our Royal day that all the Royal family were present and although we did not shake hands with the Queen, we were very close as she made her way down the lines of guests



It was a fascinating afternoon of Royal and people watching to see the latest fashions, hats of every shape and colour, many in the traditional dress of their home country as well as all types of uniforms and also clergy with a few Bishops

Later we sampled the elegant small sandwiches and cakes and then took the opportunity to view the Palace gardens. Finally with very tired legs we made our way home.

In so many ways our Queen Elizabeth was magnificent but for me it is how well in her 70 year reign she managed standing for hours at ceremonies and events such as garden parties.

We are so fortunate to have had her as Our Queen

Val James
Past National President



Garden Party

I am a member of Penketh St Joseph's UCM. I had the privilege to be invited to the Queen's Garden party in July 2008.

Although I was not presented to the Queen, she passed very close to me. It was a day I will never forget, truly magical. The Queen looked beautiful and members of her family were also there. We saw members of the commonwealth some in their colourful outfits, as I said a day to remember.

Christine McDermott

The day I met the Queen

Enid Cain, most senior member of St Thomas of Canterbury foundation, Liverpool, was born in the same year as Queen Elizabeth II, and remembers her Coronation, and she recalls listening to the commentary on the radio. No-one nearby had a TV then, so she and her husband of three years, with many others went to the cinema to watch a film of the occasion. Enid particularly remembers how colourful the scene was.

In 2008, Aintree Hospital Volunteers Service was nominated for and achieved the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Enid, then 81, who had been a volunteer there for 13 years, was one of the two lucky volunteers to be chosen to represent the group at an Evening Reception at Buckingham Palace.

On 20th May 2008, Enid and the other volunteer boarded the train, first class of course, to Euston, with breakfast served on the train. After taking a taxi to the hotel and booking in, they went for a wander around Marble Arch, Hyde Park and Harrods. Then they enjoyed an ice cream, before heading back to the Hotel, to prepare for the Evening Reception.

They then took a taxi to Buckingham Palace. They entered by a single gate after showing their tickets. Everyone was introduced to HRH Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, before being shown into a large lounge area, where, apparently, 350 people were mingling with other members of the Royal Family and being served canapes and drinks by numerous staff. Enid remembers

speaking to Princess Anne, as the Royals mingled with the guests. She particularly remembers one guest who was in a wheelchair and had a dog with him. The Queen spoke to him several times, and then sent one of the waiters to the kitchen for some biscuits for the dog.

After a good few drinks and several tasty nibbles, they retired to their hotel, and so ended the day Enid met the Queen, a day she will never forget.

Margaret Kerbey, St Thomas of Canterbury foundation Liverpool



The day we attended the Royal Garden Party'

In 2016 together with our National President secretary and treasurer, I was privileged to attend the Queens Garden Party.

As we set out that morning, we were all saddened and shocked to hear the news of the bomb at the Manchester Arena.

On arriving at the palace, the royal party held a minute's silence.

It was a very special day for us the weather was perfect, so many people from different walks of life mingling and enjoying the occasion.

There was a lovely atmosphere. At one point not being able to see much (being small) I found myself next to a chaplain of the Queen who realising the situation kindly advised me where to stand later in the afternoon to get a good view, and as a result I was able to take a photograph quite close.

Queen Elizabeth looked as beautiful and serene as usual dressed in yellow and with the obligatory see-through umbrella trimmed to match her outfit.



Camilla also looked beautiful and The Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Charles so smart beside them. We all agreed what a special day it was never to be forgotten.

Even more poignant now in the light of what has happened. May she rest in peace, reunited with her life's companion Prince Phillip.

Maureen Mayers
Past National President

Meeting Her Majesty

I had been attending the college at Windsor for a few years completing a City & Guild's Level 3 Certificate and then Diploma in Design and Craft.

I began my studies in the 'old' building and over a few years watched as the new complex began to take shape. In March 2007, the building was completed, and Her Majesty the Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh officially opened the new campus. It was an exciting day for all the staff and students who were involved. The Royal Party toured the campus and spoke to many students including me! I was working on part of my Wall Hanging and Her Majesty wanted to know about my design source and the techniques that I had been using on my work. I was amazed that she stopped to speak to me, and I must say that she was generally interested in, not just my work, but everything that was going on in the college. The Duke of Edinburgh spent time speaking with the architects and studying the drawings of the campus. It was a wonderful day and something that I shall never forget especially as Her Majesty the Queen spoke to me.

The Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace

On 23rd May 2017, The UCM Trustees of the time, Mrs Val Ward, Mrs Angela Higginson, Mrs Irene Mitchell and the UCM Deputy National President, Mrs Maureen Mayers, travelled to London to attend the Royal Garden Party of Her Majesty the Queen in the gardens of Buckingham Palace. This day was tinged with sadness as it was the day after the terrorist attack in Manchester. We were all united in a minute's silence as we remembered that so many young people had been killed or seriously injured. However, we all have special memories of that day that we shall treasure forever, seeing Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Party so very close to us, enjoying the company of so many friendly people and spreading the word about The Union of Catholic Mothers. It was wonderful to walk around the gardens and enjoy the Afternoon Tea sitting in the sunshine.

Best Regards
Irene Mitchell, UCM Past National Secretary

Memories of the late queen

Went to a Royal Garden Party the last time that U.C.M. got an invitation, I was with Pat Durrant and Tina Huckle.

Also met her in 1950 at a Royal School re-union in Windsor Great Park, my father was a pupil there since my grandparents worked and lived in the Park.

Our Whole family were in The Mall for Her 1st ever Walkabout at Her Silver Jubilee.

Janette Woodford Past National President

Maunday Money

I am a past President of Liverpool Arch Diocese, in 2004 her Majesty came to Liverpool Cathedral to distribute the Maunday money, I was privileged to be one of the recipient's. I am 92 years old but that was a day I will never forget.

We were not allowed to take photos. I look forward to reading our newspaper and am still a very active UCM member.

Josie Cribbin

Walsingham 2022

The National President's Speech

Hello UCM Friends

It is with great Joy that we are meeting here together in this special place to celebrate 75 years of Pilgrimage to Our Blessed Mother by the members of The Union of Catholic Mothers led, this year, by the President of Salford Diocese Mrs Kathleen Henderson-Playfair.

It is a great honour to be here as your National President and I thought you might like to hear what I have done since taking office in May.

I was invited to attend the Annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady at Aylesford Priory in Kent in May, as the guest of Southwark Archdiocese at a beautiful outdoor Mass with the Principal Celebrant their new Archbishop John Wilson. Mass was followed by lunch and the day

ended with a Joyful Rosary Rally. A super day where I was accompanied by the National Welfare Officer and A&B President.

As UCM National President I had the privilege of Reading at the 60th Anniversary Mass of CAFOD at Southwark Cathedral joined by several UCM members including our Past National President Mrs Jan Woodford. I was introduced to the daughter of the founder of Family Fast Day, which was founded by UCM, who has since sent me some interesting Archive material for UCM.

Most recently I was invited by the CWL National President Jeanette Collins to their National Pilgrimage at Portsmouth Cathedral. Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Peter Doyle and their Chaplain Fr Marcin Drabik who gave us all bracelets from his visit to Poland and asked us to use them to pray for Ukraine and Poland. I also met the National President of the KSC. We then went to the Maritime Club for Afternoon Tea, where I also met Portsmouth UCM President Bel Flynn & Treasurer Sue Meese.

I, together Vivienne O'Byrne National Welfare Officer and Val Ward our WUCWO UK Board Member, are preparing to go to Athens in October to represent you at the WUCWO Assembly.

But its not all Mass & cakes, I have chaired Trustee & National Committee meetings on Zoom and Walsingham Planning meetings on Teams, modern technology does help!!

I would like to finish by giving thanks to the National Committee for all their support and work for our UCM and the Walsingham Committee led by Mary Wardle for all their work making this 75th Pilgrimage so special.



Members and parishioners from Hounslow Foundation enjoyed the day at our 75th Anniversary Pilgrimage at Walsingham



Mothers from Leeds diocese pictured in the abbey grounds before our long journey home. What a wonderful day we had. Eileen Goodwin Media Officer

75th Annual Pilgrimage of the Union of Catholic Mothers

National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham 4th – 5th July 2022. The theme 'Joy'

The Service of Light took place in the Chapel of Reconciliation which was followed

by the torchlight procession along the Pilgrims Way.

In the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham, her statue of Our Lady was carried onto the sanctuary where holy Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Alan Williams of the Brentwood Diocese and Bishop John Arnold of Salford.

Mass was attended by the past and present National Officers and representatives from each

subcommittee and UCM members from Sixteen dioceses together with many priests.

After lunch the 'silent procession' led by Salford, journeyed along the Holy Mile to the Abbey Grounds where there were prayers, addresses, Benediction and the blessing of the sick.

Having been denied the privilege of our Walsingham pilgrimage since 2019, this was one not to have missed. We were all truly blessed with glorious weather and the pleasure of meeting up with friends from the past and paying homage to Our heavenly Mother.

Dorothy Anderson (Media Officer for the Diocese of Hallam.)

Clifton and Plymouth social evening

At Walsingham the Dioceses of Clifton and Plymouth had our social evening on the Tuesday, with several members contributing songs, a quiz poems etc.

One of our Pilgrims, Michael Maclarnon, from Plymouth, recited several of his own poems. I asked if I could submit the attached poem. It is written from the perspective of a husband who has died, sending words of comfort to his grieving widow, and it is a poem that might be appreciated by many readers.

Monica Ovel, Clifton Diocese, St Josephs Foundation.

A Message for My Love

Do not grieve my love, for I am still here,
 Feel me in the breeze that embraces you and in the sun that warms you.
 In the dark, stretch out your hand and I will take it.
 Dream and I will visit you and love you.
 Turn to call and I will come.
 Run and I will chase, laugh and I will smile.
 Cry and I will cry, pray and I will pray.
 Smile for me when you greet our children and friends.
 And know that in danger I will protect you; in stress I will calm you.
 In sickness I will nurse you,
 In life I will guide you,
 And in death, I will come to meet you.

Leprosy an ancient disease of modern times

We might think of leprosy as a disease of ancient times, which was referred to in the Bible, destroyed many lives and feared by all.

Leprosy is mentioned many times in the Bible, in both the Old and New Testament. It is described as a scourge, a curse and a terrible affliction requiring cleansing. In Matthew 8:1, Mark 1:40 and Luke 5:12 we read how Jesus cured a man with leprosy. In all three Gospels, the man begged Jesus to cure him and Jesus, filled with compassion for the man's plight, cured him.

In the Middle Ages, St Francis of Assisi followed in the footsteps of Jesus. As a young man, a chance encounter with a man with leprosy transformed his life forever. He left his wealthy family and comfortable lifestyle and began a new life of poverty. Francis followed what he felt was God's calling. He rejected money and wealth and preached about returning to God and obedience to the church.

In more recent times, the Roman Catholic priest, Father Damien (1840 – 1889) now known as St Damien of Molokai, cared for leprosy outcasts on the island of Molokai. He arrived at the settlement on 10 May 1873, to find six hundred people with leprosy living in impoverished conditions. During his ministry, he shared his life with the community providing both medical and emotional support. He also built houses, schools, roads, hospitals, and churches. This incredible calling transformed the lives of those living in the community.

Many other notable individuals have dedicated their lives to caring for people with leprosy, including the nurse Kate Marsden (1859 – 1931) who founded St Francis Leprosy Guild, the philanthropist Raoul Follereau (1903 – 1997), who founded the leprosy charity Fondation, Mother Teresa of Pakistan, the physician, Dr Ruth Pfau (1929 – 2017).



What about leprosy now?

The World Health Organization recently reported that thousands of adults and children have been diagnosed with leprosy in 2021/2022. Many were diagnosed with visible disabilities such as blindness, clawed hands or lost digits, that will affect their lives forever. Moreover, it is readily acknowledged that millions more are undiagnosed, spreading infection within their communities or, living with its life-changing effects such as blindness, clawed hands, or chronic tropical ulcers.

Leprosy causes more disability than other infectious diseases. World Health Organization

Leprosy is also one of the most stigmatised diseases on earth. A leprosy diagnosis is a life sentence for some, often considered a curse from God and the result of sin. Many people with leprosy are thrown out of their homes, communities, or forced to leave their employment leading to a life of begging. Leprosy is still a legitimate reason to divorce in some countries.

It is also a reason that anyone fearing that they may have caught leprosy, is too frightened to ask for a diagnosis.

Think how often we hear the word "leper" used in a derogatory fashion.

Hundreds of leprosy communities, sometimes referred to as colonies, still exist in remote locations throughout the world where people ostracised by leprosy, live out the rest of their lives.

As Archbishop John Wilson said in his address at St Francis Leprosy Guild's 125th anniversary Mass in London last year: "If we think leprosy is a thing of the past, then we are sadly mistaken."

The reality experienced by millions of people today, is that leprosy is a disease of modern times, and one that is still destroying lives.

This is Dal Bahadur Pariyar (centre) who lives at the Lamatara Leprosy Settlement, south of Pokhara in Nepal. Dal has been affected by leprosy since he was five years old, and he has had no education. He said "I was abandoned when I was very small. I was isolated in a small cottage from the age of eight, where I lived for four years." Dal has had no education. By the time he was diagnosed and treated for leprosy, his eyes, face, hands, and feet were all disabled or affected by the disease. Dal moved to Lamatara about thirty years ago when the small settlement was built. He has nobody to care for him since his wife died of leprosy two years ago. He needs a walking stick to get around and his eyesight is failing. "I don't have limbs" he says about his lack of fingers "and my eyes are getting poorer. What will happen to me in a few years' time? How

will I wash, cook, or clean?"

So, what is leprosy?

Leprosy is a disease of the nerves which causes a lack of sensation in peripheral parts of the body such as the hands and feet. This lack of sensation leads to unintentional injury, chronic ulcers and, if left untreated, clawing of hands and feet, amputation, and blindness.

Is leprosy infectious and how is it spread?

There is a widespread fear that leprosy is a highly contagious disease. In reality, it is difficult to catch and ninety-five percent of us are naturally immune. Doctors and scientists are not sure exactly how leprosy is spread, but it is thought through airborne droplet infection such as from coughing and sneezing. Prolonged and close contact with someone with undiagnosed leprosy, such as between a parent and child, friends, or neighbours, may also contribute. People with depleted immune systems or who have poor nutrition, drink unsafe water, and live with inadequate sanitation are more likely to catch leprosy.

Can leprosy be cured?

A bacterium causes leprosy and, it can be cured by a combination of antibiotics, called multidrug therapy or MDT. MDT is available throughout the world to treat people with leprosy if they can be found and diagnosed. Since the 1980s, over sixteen million people have been cured of leprosy.

So why are so many people still affected by leprosy today?

There are many, complex reasons why people catch leprosy today and, even if treated, remain affected by the disease. For example, leprosy is difficult to diagnose at its early stages, before any visible disabilities start to appear. Initially leprosy shows on the skin as numb patches and is often misdiagnosed as other skin complaints such as eczema or scabies.

Although research is underway, there is no easy-to-use, diagnostic test to diagnose leprosy. The only reliable method to diagnose leprosy, is a skin biopsy that needs to be analysed in a laboratory. In some people, leprosy may incubate for up to twenty years before showing any visible signs. This long incubation phase means that undiagnosed individuals may unknowingly spread leprosy within their communities for years.

Unlike some neglected tropical diseases which can be cured by mass drug administration, leprosy is more complex, requiring longer drug treatment, more monitoring and long-term care. People with leprosy who have been cured of the disease and who are no longer infectious, may face considerable resistance from their families or communities and not be allowed to return to their homes.

Where is leprosy found?

It is no surprise, that leprosy is found in some of the poorest countries in the world, sometimes those with a troubled or war-torn past. Brazil, Indonesia, and India account for 80% of people with leprosy, but Angola, Bangladesh, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Tanzania are all endemic for leprosy.

Leprosy is reported in over one hundred out of 195 countries worldwide. That means over half of all countries in the world today have leprosy.

Another tragedy of leprosy is that thousands of children are diagnosed with the disease every year. Of this number, some are diagnosed with visible disabilities, that even with corrective surgery or assistive devices will affect them for life, even if the stigma does not.

How do we care for people with leprosy?

Caring for people with leprosy means treatment with MDT, surgery



to improve leprosy disabilities, the long-term treatment of leprosy ulcers, and reintegrating people affected by leprosy back into society.

Without social services in some countries, the provision of care for the elderly affected by leprosy is critical for their very survival. Some leprosy centres care for people affected by leprosy and their families, for their entire lives.

Thanks to the generosity of many people, leprosy centres and communities exist throughout the world to care for people living with leprosy. The doctors, nurses, nuns, and volunteers who work there often dedicate their entire lives or careers to caring for people with leprosy.

So, will we ever see an end to leprosy?

For us to see an end to leprosy, new strategies have been developed to find and treat everyone with the disease. This so-called active case-finding requires a complex combination of organisation and planning, healthcare skills, data collection and recording to find people who have leprosy, diagnose, and treat them, and their families, friends, and neighbours, and monitor their progress and health over time. The good news is that if we can find everyone with leprosy, village by village, town by town, city by city, and country by country, we can stop leprosy in its tracks. But we are not there yet, and far too many people are affected by leprosy in the world today.

What can I do to help see an end to leprosy?

Any kind of fundraising would be welcome such as a coffee morning, a quiz, "bring-and-buy," concert, a sponsored run or anything else that your congregation or friends might enjoy. Those funds will help rid the world of this terrible disease. And as always, your prayers would transform the lives of people with leprosy.

Following the recitation of the Angelus in St Peter's Square earlier this year, the Holy Father Pope Francis noted that it was 30th January, World Leprosy Day. This date was chosen by

Raoul Follereau, dating back to 1954, and used to increase awareness of leprosy every year. Pope Francis expressed his closeness to those who suffer from this disease and prayed that they will not lack spiritual support and healthcare. He said: "it is necessary to work together for the full integration of these people, overcoming any discrimination associated with a disease that unfortunately still affects so many, especially in the most disadvantaged social contexts."

St Francis Leprosy Guild

St Francis Leprosy Guild ("SFLG") is a UK-based, Roman Catholic charity that is working towards a leprosy-free world. The charity supports the work of over forty leprosy centres, clinics, hospitals, care homes and leprosy-related projects in thirteen countries where leprosy is endemic. The charity's TRACE operating strategy is putting an emphasis on active case-finding; early detection of leprosy followed by treatment with multidrug therapy.

For contact details, questions about leprosy or more information please email: administrator@stfrancisleprosy.org or visit: www.stfrancisleprosy.org



OBITUARIES

UCM SCOTLAND

On October 1st Mrs Pauline Potter, the past National President of UCM Scotland died after a short illness. She had been President for the past 7 years. Deepest sympathy go to her husband and family.

BIRMINGHAM ARCHDIOCESE

Jane McSweeney, St John the Baptist Foundation, Tamworth.

HALLAM

Pat McNally, St Vincent's Foundation, Sheffield

Sheila M Armstrong, St Joseph's Parish, Handsworth, Past Diocesan President

Christine Haigh, St Michael and All Angels, Wombwell, Barnsley

LEEDS

Mavis Fleming, Our Lady of Lourdes Foundation, Past Diocesan President

Margaret Vickers, St Ignatius Foundation, Ossett

Elizabeth Twohey, Our Lady of Lourdes foundation, then Independent

MIDDLESBOROUGH

Norma Beckett, Redcar then Independent, Past Diocesan Secretary

NOTTINGHAM

Anne Scanlon, Holy Spirit Foundation, West Bridgford

Judith Eve Martin, St Norbert's Spalding & Holy Trinity Holbeach Foundation, Past Diocesan Secretary,

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord

Your memories linger, Your smile that cared, Your listening ear Your goodness shared. In God's deepest love. In God's gentlest care This is my prayer.

The World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO)

Meeting with Women from the Middle East and the Mediterranean
7th – 10th October 2022 Athens

We arrived on Friday afternoon after a very early start. The delegates had come from all over the world as far as Australia, Canada, Africa, India, Asia and Europe.

The focus of the Conference was on the plight of women from the Middle East and the Mediterranean.

The Conference began with Mass celebrated by Father Marcelo Gidi Thumala, SJ Ecclesiastical Assistant to WUCWO followed by the key note speaker Professor Gabriella Gambino, one of the Under-Secretaries of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, appointed by Pope Francis in 2017.

She talked about the pastoral care of the family and how we can help families to live in full communion with God. Gabriella reminded us of the important message of Amoris Laetitia and how important it is for the laity and pastors to collaborate in supporting families.

The year of the family has just concluded and the document published last June by Pope Francis should be read in all Parishes.

It is important for Parishes to define priorities for the Family Ministry and to encourage young people to discover the true vocation to marriage. The pastoral care of the elderly is also vital as people are living so much longer these days. Pope Francis said that the beauty and richness of older people is not being used.

Professor Gambino said very few families realise that they represent the Domestic Church.

Gabriella reminded us that we all need to read 'Amoris Laetitia' as its message is so relevant to promoting the Ministry of the family.

On Saturday we began with Mass and then heard many testimonies from women who live in the Middle East and the Mediterranean.

Sandra from Palestine said that living under occupation made life very difficult. Many young people emigrate to find a better life. The church works hard to support the various institutions but needs are still rising. She quoted St James who said what good is Faith if not accompanied by actions.

Lucy from Palestine said women are experts in finding practical solutions. Resilience and hope keep them going in spite of obstacles. Brikena from Albania said many families have emigrated to Greece but in 2019 the country was hit by two earthquakes which were very destructive. The government provided very little support so women are struggling to support families.

The common message was that in spite of the huge challenges these women have to face they are so resilient. They believe that although they are so often in the minority God did not say his message is only for the majority. They have such a strong faith and they believe God will not let them down. Any small steps will help so long as they work together.

We heard about Caritas Albania a humanitarian organization that works to improve the living

conditions of people in need in Albania.

A lady from Nigeria said we should be the salt and the light of the world and be seen living life as Catholic women. We don't use salt if it loses its taste!

Violet from Nazareth talked about how living in Palestine as a refugee looking after displaced persons meant that when she went to study pharmacy in Rome, she suddenly discovered a whole new world of freedom and peace, which was a revelation. This then became her life mission.

Fatima from Jordan works in the media and has used this as a vehicle to spread the word of God.

We heard about projects where the main goal is to empower people to be able to support themselves rather than just create dependency.

In June 2021 WUCWO decided to create the World Women's Observatory (WVO) to give visibility to women, especially the most vulnerable, whose sufferings and potential seemed "invisible".

During the cultural dinner in the evening, we were entertained by Delegates to some wonderful singing and dancing from around the world.

On Sunday we were privileged to attend the celebration of the Divine Liturgy of Byzantine Greek Rite in the Cathedral Church of Holy Most Trinity of Athens presided over by the Bishop of Carcabia. It was a beautiful experience and afterwards we lit a candle for all the members of the UCM.

We were then driven to visit the Acropolis which was an amazing experience. In the evening, following dinner, Maria Lia Zervino Servidora, the President General asked any Presidents from the



various organisations around the world to come and say what they had expected and what they had learnt from their experience of the conference. Joan spoke to represent UCM.

The conference finished with a Mass in English organised by the ladies from the Asia-Pacific region.

It was a truly wonderful and very rich experience which has left us exhausted but spiritually and emotionally refreshed.

Joan Hodge - National President
Vivienne O'Byrne - National Welfare Officer

We're Party People -Celebrating Christmas the Catholic Way

A few years ago, a friend of mine was at the supermarket with her young son a few days after Christmas when a friendly stranger said to them, "Isn't it a shame Christmas is over?" Her son piped up, "It's still Christmas at our house!"

It's still Christmas at my house, too, and I hope at yours as well. We've only gotten started with the Christmas season! In the Catholic Church, the liturgical season of Christmas only begins on December 25 and lasts until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord January 8th this year and in some places and traditions until Candlemas, February 2nd. That's nearly 40 days to party and celebrate!

You see the liturgical season of Christmas begins for us Catholic Christians not in late October or November, or after Halloween, when the commercial world and office parties begin, but with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes in the Novus Order calendar on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with Him ... including the fact that He was born to die for us.

So, we don't pack up the tree and all the

decorations on December 26th because it's been up a month or two already. We don't stop singing Christmas carols (in fact, we've barely started!). None of this New Year dieting or giving up enjoying ourselves, we are 'Party People'. We keep celebrating and enjoying this season for a good long while yet.

But practically speaking, what does it look like to celebrate Christmas throughout the whole Christmas season? While the rest of the world is moving on to the next thing, how can we really savour the whole Christmas season in our lives and homes? Here are some strategies that I try to follow with my family.

Spread out your Christmas activities after the day itself

I was talking to a friend recently who seemed really stressed about "fitting it all in" before Christmas Day. I realized that she thought of Christmas Day as a deadline and felt that she had to have all possible activities, gifts, etc., completed before then.

What a weight off our minds it is to continue celebrating Christmas after December 25th! I love to save all the best activities for after the day itself, so they can become part of the joyful celebration of the Christmas season. There seems to be so

much more time to relax and enjoy that festive spirit, no deadlines, no pressure.

This year, I'm saving our gingerbread house decorating, ornament making, Christmas films and DVD watching (I like to watch an old one, they don't make them like that anymore!) and several favourite Christmas books, to enjoy after Christmas Day.

12 Days of Christmas

I know someone who actually comes up with "12 Days of Christmas" for her kids each year: Every day of the Christmas season, they do a different special activity, such as visiting grandparents, playing family games, going on a fun outing, or simply drinking hot chocolate together. This is such a great approach to celebrate the whole season!

So, if you didn't get to do all the things you wanted to do before Christmas Day, I have great news for you! You can enjoy them all at a more leisurely pace by making them part of your Christmas season celebrations.

Remember the Church makes sure there's a season for everything. This is one of our Party Seasons, so let's enjoy it!

Fr David Jones POOLW



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Message of the WUCWO President for the month of October 2022

The encounter with Francis as a moment of conversion

All WUCWO women are summoned to a private audience with Pope Francis on 13 May 2023; this event will be the threshold of our General Assembly in Assisi.

In this month of October, I entrust each one of you, women of our organisations, to Saint Therese of the Child Jesus (whom we celebrate on the 1st of this month) to guide our journey of conversion towards WUCWO with a synodal style that will be manifested in the audience with the Pope and in the Assembly 2023.

As I pray for these two events, I seem to glimpse the Holy Spirit offering us a historic gift for our lives and for the trajectory of WUCWO. We are at the historical crossroads of an epochal change in which women, both inside and outside the Church, can, if together, cultivate a social friendship, assume new responsibilities, and contribute effectively, together with men, to the universal brotherhood of the Church. (FT 99-117).

Every time a woman is discriminated, every time a young girl is raped, every time a mother is unable to feed her children, every time a worker is treated with indignity, every time a child in her mother's womb is eliminated, every time a woman is excluded from a co-responsible role because she is a woman, we feel a slap in the face that makes us react in unison.

We have set out, in our World Women's Observatory (WVO), little by little, to listen in order to be able to give visibility to women, who for many seem invisible, in particular the most vulnerable. We are already starting in Latin America and Africa. Why? To generate synergy between decision-makers at pastoral, civil society, government, and international agency levels. Raising awareness, encouraging and proposing solutions is part of our goal, which is why our motto is: Listening to transform lives.

In reality, "everything starts at home" and in this case, "everything starts at WUCWO". LISTENING and SOLIDARITY must be evident within WUCWO. Today, the preparation for the personal encounter with the Pope invites us to generate more communication between WUCWO member organisations, to learn from each other and to collaborate with each other. I therefore offer the following questions for our reflection:

- Am I sharing best practices and projects with other WUCWO organisations? WUCWO has opened a page for each full member organisation in the upcoming special issue of Women's Voice.
- Am I promoting a prayer campaign and organising a delegation

to participate in the audience with the Holy Father? WUCWO must give a voice to vulnerable women from different continents, so that the Pope can hear them face to face, and they must be supported by their organisations.

These actions may not yet be underway, but they are certainly part of Francis' exhortation to us in Evangelii Gaudium, 25: "I hope that all communities will devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of a pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are". Please, I ask you, let us get on with it!

We are many Catholic women united in the only International Public Association of the Faithful dedicated to women, recognised as

such by the Holy See: we are between 8 and 10 million. How much we can contribute if each of us allows ourselves to be creatively moved by the Holy Spirit! It is time to face or renew our own pastoral and missionary conversion.

It is my heartfelt wish that by taking concrete steps towards this conversion, we will all meet in Rome to celebrate WUCWO Day on 13 May 2023, together with Pope Francis.

With affection,

María Lía Zervino, Servidora

Saffron robes in Nottingham Cathedral

Ten Buddhist Monks joined interreligious coordinators at a meeting organised by Bishop Patrick McKinney on 11 October at Nottingham Cathedral. The Venerable Abbot Dr Laow Panyasir led his monks through Nottingham and joined the meeting after lunch, as the monks do not eat after 12 noon.

The monks – who were from Thailand, England and Wales – live at Wat Mahatthatt Buddhist Temple, in King's Bromley, Staffordshire. They spend their time chanting, meditating and studying Buddhist teachings. They live by 227 rules (novices have 10 rules and lay people five) and go out and collect alms from the Thai community who feed them.

Dr Laow was himself orphaned and brought up in a monastery. At the age of 13, he became a novice and at 20 a monk, which he has been for 43 years. He is a strong believer in education and wants to give back to society by helping people make sense of their lives and understand others.

The coordinators were astounded by the fact that one monk said that he had not been angry for three years. He achieved this by meditating and explained that we should not be led too much by our emotions. He added that being attached to possessions and opinions is rooted in delusion and ignorance – something for us all to ponder.

Once again, the interreligious co-ordinators expressed their gratitude to Bishop Patrick McKinney for organising such a positive encounter.





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