

Hallam Bridge



ISSUE 35
January 2026

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



National Board of Catholic Women Today make connections in Hallam



Today, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, is Sunday of the Word of God



see page 9 for links to resources from the God who Speaks

Upcoming Events

31 January, 7, 14 & 28 February Spiritual Reading Group at 10:00-12:00 at Pastoral Centre,
31 January, 7, 14 & 28 February CCRS Pastoral Centre
18 February Ash Wednesday
21 March Lenten Recollection, St Vincents, Crookes
5 April Easter Sunday
17 April Fr Casey Cole OFM St Francis, Sheffield

Welcome to the January edition of the Hallam Bridge

Thinking about Faith, Community and Care Across Our Diocese, we look forward to the new year with Hope. We look forward to what might unfold in the Implementation Phase of the Synod in Hallam. (Page 3)

Word of God Sunday (p.3)

This year we celebrate Sunday of the Word for the seventh occasion since Pope Francis instituted it in his Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis* in 2019. It highlights the call to place the Gospel at the centre of Christian life. The celebration aligns with the Conversion of Saint Paul and encourages renewal through attentive listening and witness. Resources are available online to support parish engagement.

Render unto Caesar (p.5)

The Department for Social Justice of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has published a document on taxation called 'Render Unto Caesar'. It offers perspectives on taxation from Catholic social thought and teaching.

Education and Inclusion (p.5)

New autism-friendly resources have been published by Birmingham Archdiocese for teachers and catechists, aimed at supporting pupils in both mainstream and specialist settings. Authored by Deacon Mark Paine, they draw on current best practice and are free to download. They include guidance for RE teaching and sacramental preparation.

Celebrating Service and Community (pp. 6 &7)

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School has marked the retirement of Mrs Jeannie Kingston-White after 36 years of dedicated service. The parish and school community gathered in gratitude, recognising her long-lasting impact and her continued involvement through the Friends of St Patrick's group. Meanwhile, women in the diocese are invited to connect

Follow all the Hallam news and stories on:
 Diocese of Hallam
 @HallamDioceseCC, @SynodHallam1
 Hallam Diocese
 @HallamDiocese

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

CONTACT

through the National Board of Catholic Women, offering a forum for shared experience and representation.

Care for Creation (p 7)

Hopeful environmental developments include steps toward fairer energy transition, reduced plastic pollution, and positive conservation news, with wildlife returning and habitats restored. These stories highlight meaningful change through cooperation across society.

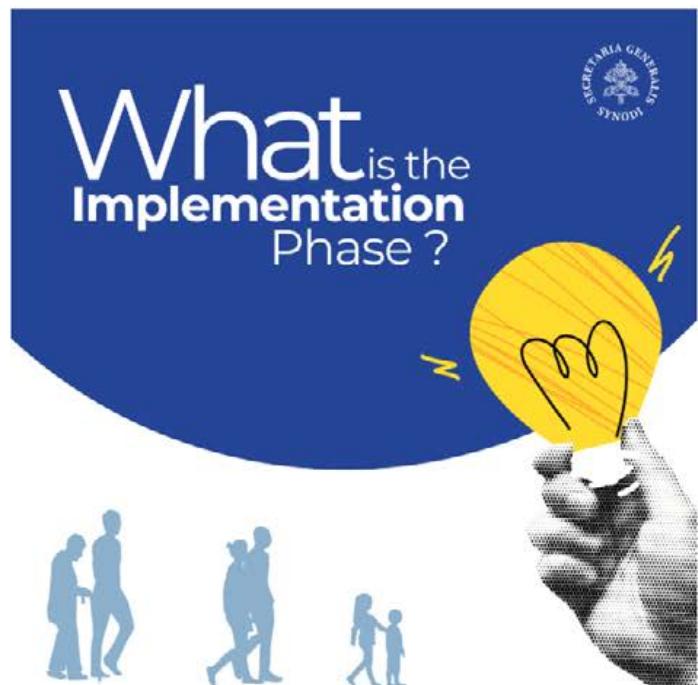
Formation, Retreats and Events (pp.8–11)

Upcoming opportunities include a Spiritual Growth and Transformation course, a Lenten Day of Recollection, and Saturday Lent Breakfasts in Penistone. Retreat options range from the Gries Path contemplative retreat to Quiet Days at St Paul's Convent in Birmingham.

Global Mission and Outreach (pp.10–11)

World Leprosy Day invites support for St Francis Leprosy Guild, with toolkits and resources available. Parishes may also note the World Day of Prayer service prepared by women of Nigeria. CAFOD's Lent Appeal focuses on helping families facing hunger in regions affected by conflict, drought or flooding. Marriage Week encourages reflection on the role of marriage and family life in Church and society.

We welcome articles, news, information, reviews, letters, poems and feedback from our readers. We would be particularly interested to hear about your parishes implementation of synodality in different contexts and there will be a monthly Synodal Success award available for one successful account. Get in touch. Editor



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

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Sunday of the Word of God 25 January 2026



The biblical expression chosen for the celebration of the seventh edition of the Sunday of the Word of God is taken from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians: "The word of Christ dwells among you" (3:16). What we have received from the Apostle is not a simple moral exhortation, but the indication of a new way of living. Paul does not ask that the Word be merely listened to or studied; he wants it to dwell, that is, to take up stable residence, to shape our thoughts, guide our desires, and make credible the witness of the disciples. The Word of Christ remains a sure criterion that unifies and renders fruitful the life of the Christian community.

After the Holy Year, this motto remains for us a precious inheritance: an invitation addressed to the whole Church to place the Gospel once more at the centre, since every true renewal is born from docile listening to the Word. To welcome it means allowing ourselves to be accompanied by the One who does not deceive, because He gives life and hope. To be inhabited by the Word ultimately means permitting Christ to speak even today through our lives, so that every person may recognize His presence, which continues to illuminate the journey of history.

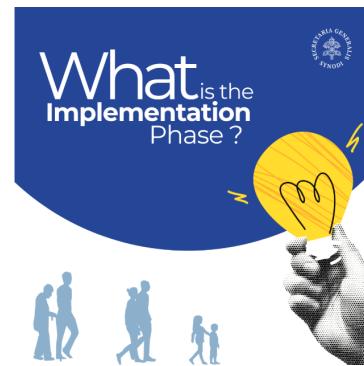
Every Christian and every community must rediscover the primacy of the Word of God. Its sincere and profound listening is an essential path through which human beings encounter God. When space is given to the Word, each person discovers that the Word of God dwells in the heart like a seed that, in due time, sprouts and bears fruit. Indeed, all of us are invited to nourish ourselves with the daily bread of the Word and, afterwards, to proclaim it to our

brothers and sisters, for proclamation flows from the abundance of the heart, according to the Gospel saying: "from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks" (Mt 12:34; Lk 6:45).

It is particularly significant that this year the celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God coincides with the celebration of the Conversion of Saint Paul, the day that concludes the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Word that Christ addressed to Paul on the road to Damascus struck his heart so deeply that it made him the great evangelizer we know. Today it is up to us to ensure that the same Word reaches the ends of the earth, so as to transform the life of all peoples by dwelling among us. Archbishop Rino Fisichella Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization

A range of resources for the day are available on the Gpd who Speaks Webpages <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/sunday-of-the-word-of-god-resources/>

Implementation Phase of the Synod on Synodality in Hallam



The Synod on Synodality is now entering an active stage called the "Implementation Phase." This follows the listening and celebration phases and focuses on putting into practice the conclusions of the Synod's work, especially the Final Document For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission. The aim is to involve the entire Church — from bishops to parishioners — in walking together in a synodal way.

Pope Francis, then Pope Leo, and the Synod's leadership have emphasised that this phase is not about following instructions from Rome but

about receiving the Synod's worldwide insights and living them out locally. Parishes, dioceses, priests and bishops are encouraged to discern how synodality can take shape in ways that meet the needs and context of their communities.

A key reference for this phase is Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod, published by the General Secretariat of the Synod. It explains what the implementation phase involves, who participates, and how it should proceed. The Synod's Final Document remains the primary guide, and local churches are invited to reread it to explore practical ways to bring its proposals into parish life.

In the Diocese of Hallam, Bishop Ralph leads the process, initiating, accompanying, and guiding implementation. He is supported by the Synod Formation and Mission team, participatory bodies, clergy, lay people, and parish groups. These groups need to help plan and facilitate activities that allow parishes to practice synodality in everyday life. Parish meetings, pastoral councils, deanery gatherings, and various ministry groups such as SVP, Caritas, and Communication Teams can all participate. The goal is to embed synodality in the life of the Church across Hallam. The Synod Formation and Mission Team overseeing this phase welcomes interested parishes and individuals to join the synod team and provides training, facilitation, and support to help introduce the synodal method in local contexts.

This phase will run until 2028, with periodic evaluations. Local implementation starts in 2026, with assemblies reviewing progress in 2027. The journey will culminate in October 2028 at an Ecclesial Assembly in Rome, where experiences will be shared, lessons assessed, and future directions considered.

The focus is experiential and missionary: to walk together, listen to one another, include diverse voices, and foster communion. The aim is for synodality to become a lived reality in parish life, pastoral planning, and mission.

Implementation Phase Summary

What Is the Implementation Phase?

Final stage of the synodal journey (after listening and celebration) Focuses on turning the Synod's Final Document into practical action

Encourages local adaptation of synodal principles

Guiding Documents

Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod is the primary guide Provides direction on what to do, who is involved, and how to proceed Synod's Final Document For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission is the main reference Website School for Synodality provides helpful training videos.

Who Participates

Bishop Ralph leads and accompanies the process in Hallam Synodal teams and participatory bodies support and facilitate planning and action Clergy, lay people, young people, are invited to contribute and also to find ways of including marginalised groups or individuals

How It Works Locally

Parishes, groups, participatory bodies eg Council of Priests, Trustees, SVP, Caritas, Communications Deanery meetings, can explore ways to walk together, listen, and discern, deal with differences, make decisions and take action Activities can include a wide range of actions, with dialogue, shared mission projects, and parish-level initiatives. For example, a conference on Care for Creation has been initiated by a group at St Vincent's Parish.

The emphasis is on practical, lived experience and listening carefully to each other rather than following a theory

Timeline

2026: Local implementation begins 2027: Evaluation at diocesan, national, and regional levels October 2028: Ecclesial Assembly in Rome concludes the phase and reviews progress

Synod Formation and Mission Team

Render Unto Caesar



The Department for Social Justice of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has published a document on taxation called 'Render Unto Caesar'. It offers perspectives on taxation from Catholic social thought and teaching.

Questions related to taxation and government spending are hotly contested in the political sphere.

It may be thought that the Catholic Church should keep out of such debates and leave them to politicians. However, as was said at the presentation of the

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church by Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino: "The Church is an expert in humanity". And so, the light of faith, scripture and tradition can and should help us understand better how to address challenges in the area of politics and economics. When entering these arenas, however, the Church's moral teaching has to be blended with technical expertise and practical wisdom.

It is in this spirit that the Department for Social Justice offers this new document on taxation. The authors have been chosen to provide a range of views so as to promote debate on, and better understanding of, this important subject. All the authors employ Catholic social teaching and their own expertise to help us understand how we can engage in debates about taxation and the role of government in economic and social life. We are very grateful to the authors of the different chapters, who come from many different walks of life.

In the first part of the document, the authors focus more on issues of principle. In the second part, there is a set of reflections in which authors look at more practical challenges such as tax avoidance and evasion; inter-generational justice and government borrowing; taxation and the family; the importance of employers paying

a just wage; and the provision of welfare.

For many reasons, this is a challenging time for governments across Europe, and difficult decisions may well have to be taken. It is vital that such decisions are informed by Christian moral teaching. We need the contributions of so many Catholics who work to promote the common good in the world of politics, guided by the Church's teaching and by careful consideration of the complex issues they are working to address. As the late Pope Francis wrote, politics is a "lofty vocation" and one of the highest forms of charity insofar as political activity seeks the common good.

I trust that the perspectives outlined in this document will inform debate in the public square, and that Catholics up and down the country will engage in and enrich the debates that take place in Westminster, the devolved assemblies and at local level.

Archbishop Elect Richard Moth

Chair, Department for Social Justice Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales
The document can be accessed here
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/render-unto-caesar/>

Autism-friendly resources published for teachers and catechists



The Archdiocese of Birmingham is promoting new autism-friendly resources which have been authored by one of its deacons. The two new resources draw on current best practice in inclusive and adaptive religious education and catechesis. They are free and available to download now, and include a Foreword from Archbishop Bernard Longley. Called By Name: Guide to Religious Education with Autistic Pupils

aged 5-11 years is aimed at staff in mainstream schools to support their teaching of RE. It can also be used in parishes, particularly with pupils who attend specialist settings, and therefore may not have access to Catholic RE.

Called By Name

The second resource, Radical Belonging: Guide to Sacramental Preparation with Autistic Young People is primarily for catechists in parishes and those responsible for sacramental preparation in schools.

Radical Belonging

The author, Deacon Mark Paine, is the Lead Officer of Birmingham SENDIASS (SEND Information, Advice and Support Services) and a member of the global disability theology network, 'The Catholic Stream'. Deacon Mark is autistic himself and a father to autistic children - **CBCEW**

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/autism-friendly-resources-published-for-teachers-and-catechists/>

Celebrating 36 Years of Service



Mrs Kingston-White retires from St Patrick's Catholic Primary School.

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Bircotes and Harworth has bid a fond and grateful farewell to Mrs Jeannie Kingston-White, who is retiring after an incredible 36 years of dedicated service to the school community.

Throughout her career, Jeannie has brought love, joy and care through the doors of St

Patrick's for generations of families. From inspiring creativity as a fantastic art teacher to patiently and skilfully teaching children how to read, her influence can be seen and felt across the school community. Her unwavering kindness, patience and dedication to every single child has ensured that all pupils felt valued, supported and encouraged to achieve their very best.

To mark this very special occasion, pupils, staff (past and present), parishioners and families came together for a celebratory assembly in Jeannie's honour. The assembly was filled with memories and heartfelt thanks, recognising the remarkable contribution that she has made for more than three decades. The school would like to extend sincere thanks to everyone who helped us to mark this occasion, making it a memorable celebration.

Although Jeannie is retiring from her role in school, she will not be saying goodbye entirely. We are delighted that she will continue to be involved as a valued member of the *Friends of St Patrick's*, group. The group supports school projects, raises funds and create memorable experiences for our learners.

We are immensely grateful for Jeannie's many years of dedication, service and love for St Patrick's Catholic Primary School. She leaves behind a legacy of learning, creativity and care that will continue to inspire for many years to come. We wish her every happiness in her well-earned retirement! Her passion, kindness and commitment will have a lasting impact on the lives of many pupils and their families.

Mary Shelton

Connecting Catholic Women Across Hallam



Introducing the National Board of Catholic Women for all women in Hallam Diocese.

Hi I'm Judith Green....that's me in the photo at my first NBCW event!

I'm based at Mother of God Parish in Sheffield and I've recently agreed to take on the role of Diocesan Link. I knew little about the organisation beforehand and I'd been thinking for some time it would be good to have an opportunity for women within Hallam to meet and get to know each other, in addition to being members of our own parishes.

NBCW is a forum for Catholic women to support each other, exchange experiences and express views and concerns. It works to amplify women's voices so we are heard by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales.

I plan to organise a get together soon so we can meet each other and hope that lots of you will come along! You are welcome to email me at vinandjude@gmail.com with any questions, comments or ideas in the meantime. I also have NBCW information leaflets available for your parishes and you can of course google 'NBCW' for more information.

Judith Green

Care For Creation - Good News for Creation



As we begin a new year, it is encouraging to reflect on signs of hope for God's creation. Across the UK and beyond, communities, scientists, and governments are taking steps that show meaningful change is possible when we work together for the common good.

Climate Justice and Energy

The UK government has announced it will issue no new oil and gas exploration licences, making Britain the world's largest economy to take this step. While previously licensed fields, such as Rosebank, remain under consideration, the decision sends a strong signal that the future lies in renewable energy.

As the green transition continues, it is vital that it is fair. North Sea workers and communities must be supported through investment in secure green jobs and strengthened local economies.

The UK has also withdrawn its planned financial support for a major gas project in Mozambique, citing security and climate concerns. The Windfall Tax on oil and gas companies remains in place, ensuring major polluters continue contributing towards the green transition.

Tackling Plastic Pollution

Scientists have published a new roadmap for tackling plastic pollution worldwide. The report warns that without urgent action, plastic pollution could double by 2040. However, it also shows that solutions already available could

almost eliminate plastic pollution while creating millions of jobs.

One of the most effective solutions identified is the widespread use of refill schemes. France has already introduced a law requiring supermarkets to provide dedicated refill areas where customers can bring their own containers. The report suggests that large-scale adoption of refill systems could cut plastic pollution by 83%, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and significantly lower health impacts linked to plastics.

In the UK, a Deposit Return Scheme for single-use plastic bottles and metal drinks cans will be introduced in October 2027 across England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland - Wales will align its own scheme. Shoppers will pay a small refundable deposit and receive it back when containers are returned for recycling.

In further good news, the sale of plastic-containing wet wipes was banned in England in November 2025, helping to protect rivers, lakes, and seas. The ban will cover the whole of the UK from 2027.

Wins for Wildlife

Despite ongoing challenges, conservation efforts are delivering encouraging results. In 2025, Atlantic salmon returned and successfully spawned in several UK rivers for the first time in decades, including Derbyshire's River Ecclesbourne and Yorkshire's River Don, following major habitat restoration work.

Beavers, often described as "nature's engineers," are also making a comeback. Their ability to shape landscapes benefits many species, improves water quality, reduces flooding, and stores carbon. Following licensed releases into the wild, beavers at Willington Wetlands Nature Reserve in Derbyshire are now breeding, with two more new kits seen this year.

In Scotland, the Highland red squirrel population increased by more than 25%, offering renewed hope for this much-loved native species.

A Message of Hope

These stories remind us that caring for creation is not only about responding to crisis, but also about hope, responsibility, and renewal.

"The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." (Psalm 24:1)-

Christine Parrott

Spiritual Growth and Transformation

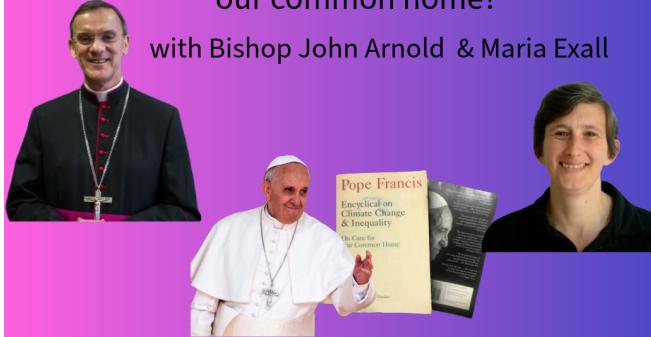
Are you looking for more in your faith? Or feeling called to walk alongside others in their journeys of faith?

This course offers a programme of prayer, listening and reflection through which participants are supported in drawing closer to God. It has been a turning point for many, in their own lives and in their support of others. It also forms the first part of the Sheffield Anglican Diocese's programme for authorised Spiritual Accompaniers. It is happening from March to July 2026 and this time it's partly online with 14 Wednesday evening sessions on Zoom plus three Saturdays at Whirlow and a weekend retreat at Ilkley. The closing date for applications is 1 December 2025. The total cost is subsidised at just £200. For more information, including dates, and a downloadable leaflet, see <https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/learning/courses/spiritual-growth-transformation>.

Looking Ahead

Lenten Day of Recollection

Lenten Day of Recollection
Everything is connected - how do we care for our common home?
with Bishop John Arnold & Maria Exall



21 March 2026
11:00-3:00 PM
St Vincent's,
40 Pickmere Road, Crookes, Sheffield, S10 1GY

Book using this QR code or hyperlink to the Formation & Mission Eventbrite Page



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

Everything is connected - how do we care for our common home?

At St Vincent's Church, 40 Pickmere Road, Crookes, Sheffield, S10 1GY

Saturday 21 March, 11:00am-3:00pm. Tea/coffee from 10:30am

Speakers

Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford, spokesperson for the Bishops Conference on the Environment, and President of Pax Christi.
Dr Maria Exall, Honorary Fellow at the Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice in the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University.

The event is free. Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea and coffee provided.

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

Lent Breakfasts at St Mary's Penistone, Talbot Road, Penistone S36 9ED

Saturday Lent Breakfasts at St Mary's Penistone, Talbot Road, Penistone S36 9ED
Organised by Churches Together in Penistone

Start at 9.30 am with a provided Breakfast followed by a talk at 10am - concluded by 11a.m. Time for Q&A and chat.

Sat March 7th. Rev Jamie Kissack, Moderator URC Yorkshire Synod.
Sat March 14th Rev Kerry Tankard, Chair Yorkshire West Yorkshire Methodist District.
Sat March 21st Professor Frances Young, Methodist Preacher and Author.
Sat March 28th Revd Dr, Ian Wallis, Theologian, St Marks, Broomhill, Sheffield

Further details from Chris Wood drcbw@hotmail.co.uk



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Further details from Chris Wood drcbw@hotmail.co.uk

Oasis of Silence - St Hilda's Priory in Whitby Retreat Programme 2026



The Gries Path contemplative retreat is given to serve our communion with Christ. This

Looking Ahead

communion is more than spiritual, more than religious, and those of us who followed the 10 days silent path in July in St Hilda's, Whitby, realized the profound wisdom of our Christian mystical life.

It is founded on the ancient, Biblical call to "Love God with your whole heart, whole soul, whole mind and whole strength" The *whole*

person is drawn and lovingly united to Christ, more and more, step by step; though we know not all of us is yet completely united, we know all of our parts are drawn into the path, and all aspects of day to day life are involved and important.

Such is the cleverness of the Gries Path, steeped in the Ignatian charism of God present in all things. We were guided to use our awareness as prayer at all times, beginning in the open air, appreciating nature, the first language of our loving God. The 'strength' mentioned above (Dtn 6:5)

also refers to bodily life so that is where we began: meditation on nature and, when sitting in silence whether together or alone, on our body, in particular on our breathing, and our hands. As we were led into deeper silence, we became aware how our "souls" were engaged: our personal make-up, psychological and spiritual history, conscious and unconscious. This happened through the simple process of "listening": learning to be receptive, attentive, rather than in control mode, reciting à la mantra. Merely by listening we become more open to the healing action of the Holy Spirit, purging what is obstacle, uniting what makes for communion.

The mind is obviously involved in this form of meditation, but not as the thinking mind. The awareness mode with the fruit of faith enables an attending action: presence without pushing. So, when we were then guided to focus on a word and finally the Name of Jesus personal history and faith experience could rouse up inner life on these two fronts. On reflection, it has become clear to me that the mind carries on in its own thinking while we "detach" in good Ignatian style into awareness alone which in

turn leads us to a deeper silence. When this detachment fails, the loving discipline is simply to return, come back and start again on the deliberate focus.

In this way, the body, soul, and mind are schooled to serve the heart at the depth of attending. Listening to the inner whispered waves that carry the Name of Jesus in harmony with the breath, it becomes clear that *there*

the heart is open, awaiting what Christ's Spirit will enact from deep within the heart, where God dwells.

The evening reflections and talks by our retreat guide as well as the 1 to 1 conversations helped the progressive learning, so I could adjust mightily to "unthinking", "unplanning" and letting go so as to "let be" the active sharing by Christ as he has promised: to become more one with us, live in us, let love surround and penetrate all, answering the prayer made at the opening of the retreat. The examples given in the reflections were refreshingly about ordinary life and family, reverent but also wonderfully worldly and "unchurchy". The faith was presented so directly and straightforwardly when it came to the likes of having to accept suffering and to necessarily make a choice for Christ. Such content showed me that, although certainly open to anyone whatever their background, the Gries path is possibly more and particularly easily accessible to Christians with a certain level of active faith and some knowledge of the great themes of Scripture, as well as a readiness to have personal attachments challenged and to accept guidance in pursuing such ends.

God knows I had some struggles when some of my attachments were being sorted and purged (the ego does not give up lightly, even in surrendering to the union we have asked for!) But God knows also, how grateful I am for the grace from this retreat, and knowing that the Gries Path is a great gift for Catholics and other Christians wanting to enact the Vatican Council's mission to be Church in the Modern World.

August 1st 2025 This is a slightly edited version of an article written by Fr. Tony Slingo, Norris Green, Liverpool) **Sr Helen OHP**

Dupuis Retreat and Conference Centre



DUPUIS
RETREAT AND
CONFERENCE
CENTRE



ST. PAUL'S CONVENT

94 SELLY PARK ROAD B29 7LL

QUIET DAYS OF PRAYER 2026

4th March, 1st April, 6th May, 3rd June

7th October, 4th November, 2nd December

10.30am – 3.30pm

Led by Sr. Pauline Myers SP

Cost £20

Please bring own lunch

Tea and Coffee provided

For more information or to book a place contact

Sr. Margaret Mattison

0121 415 6100

or email

margaret.mattison@sellypark.org



St. Paul's Convent 94 Selly Park Road B29 7LL
 Quiet Days of Prayer 2026 4th March, 1st April, 6th May, 3rd June 7th October, 4th November, 2nd December 10.30am – 3.30pm Led by Sr. Pauline Myers SP Cost £20

Please bring own lunch Tea and Coffee provided
 For more information or to book a place contact
Sr. Margaret Mattison



Delighted to sponsor the Catholic Union's Weekly Briefing

The UK's Catholic Leprosy Charity, St Francis Leprosy Guild (SFLG) invites the Catholic community to support its mission, by dedicating a Sunday Service or short event in support of World Leprosy Day.

To make it easier to talk about leprosy or World Leprosy Day, SFLG can provide the following:
 About World Leprosy Day, Toolkit for information about leprosy, bidding prayers, text for newsletters, posters, a talk and more.

Everything above through this link to WeTransfer <https://we.tl/t-kxswha29oy>

Please contact Katharine Jones with any queries or for anything you might need on: Katharine.jones@stfrancisleprosy.org

Thank you for supporting SFLG's goal to see world free from leprosy.

Katharine Jones



World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer Annual Service on 6 March which this year has been prepared by women of Nigeria, with the theme of "I will give you rest, come". <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>

Please do let us know if your parish is holding this service and we will be happy to advertise it on the diocesan website and Hallam Bridge.

CAFOD Lent Appeal: help families put food on the table



This Lent, as we deepen and enliven our faith, we can reflect on Jesus' call to "love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31) and pray that we can give more help to families facing hunger today due to floods and droughts.

Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD says: "Last year I travelled to South Sudan. I would like to tell you about one person our local experts have been working with there, a young mother named Rejoice. Rejoice fled conflict twice to protect her children. Imagine losing everything and starting from scratch, only to be forced to do it all again. Then, after all she'd been through, Rejoice's new home was hit by severe flooding."

"The farmlands were submerged underwater," Rejoice told us. "Everything including livestock was completely destroyed."

With support from our local experts, Rejoice and her community created floating gardens. These are simple beds that rise above floodwaters, so amazingly, they can grow food even when the land is underwater.

Whether there is too much rain, or too little, crops around the world are being destroyed. In Zimbabwe, drought left Shorai and Hamunyare with nothing. They told us how the solar-powered water pump, funded by donations from people like you, allowed their community to grow a thriving, drought-resistant eco-garden. Now they can feed their family year-round and share food with neighbours. Shorai reflected that, "A good neighbour is someone who can help me in periods of need."

By fasting and giving this Lent, you'll be a good neighbour helping families find ways to grow enough food to eat. Donate online at cafod.org.uk or call 0303 303 3030 to help parents put food on the table today.

Angela Powell

Marriage Week 7-14 February



Marriage Week is an annual celebration offering the opportunity to support and promote marriage and family life. It is **celebrated from 7-14 February**

The Joy of Love: On Marriage and Family Life

On the Feast of St Joseph, 19 March 2026, will be the tenth anniversary of Pope Francis' Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* – "On Love in the Family." To prepare for this anniversary, we invite you from the beginning of National Marriage Week, 7-14 February until 19 March 2026, to reflect on the central role that marriage and family life play in our Church and in wider society.

There are three resources for you to read and share. Please visit **CBCEW**

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/marriage-week/>