



Autumn Council St Chad's Birmingham

October 11th was busy and productive meeting where we were able to elect new National Council Officers; We extend a warm welcome and thank them for coming forward.

Meet your new officers:



← **Sue Oldroyd**
National Secretary Elect,
shadowing Cath Lydon until
May Council 2026
Rose Cartledge
Vice President with
immediate effect →



← **Maria Burns**
Vice President with
immediate effect.



Louise George →
Appointed as Study Officer



CONGRATULATIONS

90th Birthday

Mabel Birmingham St. Mary and St. Philip Neri, Radcliffe, Salford Diocese?

50th Wedding Anniversary

Christine & Mark Woodhouse Foundation Secretary at St. Ignatius
UCM Leeds Diocese.

Deadline for Submission to next Newsletter - 6th/7th January 2026

Send to email: ucmnews@yahoo.com

Website: theucm.org.uk

A & B Diocese

AGM

At the meeting, we were fortunate to have National President, Joan Hodge and National Welfare Officer, Vivienne O'Byrne and Past President, Anne Ager join us, as well as President, Michele White from the [Mothers' Union Diocese of Chichester](#) and Rev Emma Ham-Riche, Chaplain to this group.

Our day began with an engaging and insightful talk from a retired female police officer.

One of the most moving moments of the day was the formal retirement of Diocesan Secretary, Judy Harkins, whose 8 years of dedicated service were recognised with warm applause and genuine gratitude. Judy's careful stewardship and organisational wisdom have been key to our work. Judy, in her final report, expressed deep gratitude for the years shared with the group, offering a moving farewell and blessings for the road ahead.

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed Mrs. Sue Mulligan as the new Diocesan Secretary. We look forward to collaborating with her.

Photo: Sue Mulligan, Judy Harkins, Eileen Harris MBE, Patricia Wilding and Anne Ager.



Trish Colley, Secretary St Peter's Hove

Photo: Janet Franklin

Diocesan Pilgrimage to West Grinstead on 24th September 2025

UCM and KSC enjoyed a dry, autumnal annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation at West Grinstead on the feast of Our Lady of Walsingham. There was a good number of Members attended along with guests from Portsmouth, South Croydon and CWL. Our Diocesan



Advisor, Canon Tom Treherne began by talking about the Millennium Saint Carlo Acutis, an English-born Italian Catholic teenager known for his devotion to the Eucharist and his use of digital media to promote Catholic devotion. We also learned about the redesigning of some parts of the church, with refurbished side-chapels from the former Seminary at Wonersh and a new penitential area next to the entrance of the church. Following the Angelus at noon, we celebrated Holy Mass, Rosary in the afternoon and ended our day

with Adoration.

Janet Franklin (Merstham Foundation President)

On Sunday 16th March 2025, we had our **Enrolment and Renewal Service**, where we officially welcomed Maria Marks to our foundation. Maria is one of our psalmists, and she also sang the psalm for this occasion. We were honoured to have Fr. Binoy Nilayattungal, from the Syro-Malabar community in our Parish of the Nativity of the Lord, who celebrated the mass for us. Our President, Janet Franklin, led us in our UCM prayers and renewal. We had all our badges blessed and it was good to be reminded of our aim and objects.

Photo: Fr. Binoy Nilayattungal, Maria Marks and Janet Franklin
Cecilia Thuy Cameron (Merstham Secretary / A&B Media)



Birmingham Archdiocese Kidderminster Foundation 50th Anniversary



The ladies of the Kidderminster Foundation, celebrated their 50th anniversary on Sunday 14th September. The mass on that morning was said for the intentions of the UCM, led by Canon Douglas Lamb, a long-time supporter and spiritual director of our foundation. It was a truly special occasion, as we enrolled a new member Dawn Brown. The celebrations

continued with a buffet in the Borromeo Hall afterwards where members were able to look at pictures and memorabilia from throughout the years. Jackie Whatley, a parishioner baked and decorated a lovely cake for us. This was finished off with a cake topper designed by our co-president Miriam Cunliffe. Diocesan members were invited but unfortunately they were unable to attend. However in their absence we received a beautiful framed certificate for our 50 years, which will take pride of place in the hall.



Liverpool Archdiocese

St Gregory the Great, Lydiate

At our bi-monthly mass at St Gregory the Great on Wednesday, 9th July Madalaine Donoghue was enrolled in the UCM.

The photograph shows Madalaine, Father David Potter (UCM Chaplain), Kathy Buck (Liverpool Archdiocesan President).

Susan Hurlock Archdiocesan Secretary Liverpool

Westminster Archdiocese

Westminster Archdiocese Annual retreat was held on Saturday 7th June 2025 at St Edmund of Canterbury Roman Catholic Church, Whitton. The retreat was led by Fr Michael Johnston. Fr Johnston gave

two very informative talks, the first one before lunch was about Prayer and the talk after lunch was about The Hail Mary. The Mass was of St Margaret of Clithrow. A lovely time was had by all.

Elizabeth Bottomley Diocesan Media Officer



Nottingham Diocese

Rosary Beads, Rain Clouds, and a Slice of Cake

On the 19th of July, the Loughborough foundation set off on a small but joyful pilgrimage. We began



the morning at St Mary of the Annunciation with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction where our parish priest Fr Paul gave an inspiring talk on the powers of Mothers prayers - something the UCM members know a thing or 2 about. After packed lunches and plenty of chatter in the parish hall we made our way (umbrellas in hand) to Mount St Bernard Abbey. There our spiritual director Fr David led us in a Rosary before we spent some quiet time in prayer - and perhaps not so quiet time in the gift shop. We then rounded the day off in true UCM style with tea,

cake, and good company at the nearby St Josphe's tearooms. Despite the rain, spirits were high, umbrellas were many, and the fellowship was warm. We were delighted to welcome friends from Northampton foundation and Sue Bickerstaffe made the even longer pilgrimage down from Liverpool to join us which with our own members made it a wonderful day; proving once again that prayer, friendship, and cake are more than enough to brighten any day.

Samantha Edwards Foundation President

Salford Diocese

On Sunday 10th August many of the foundations from Salford Diocese attended the Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt, St John Fisher in Kearsley.

We are Pilgrims on our own journey of Hope in 2025 following an invitation from Pope Francis to reignite the flame of hope in our own hearts.

We had a lovely afternoon of reflection inside the shrine, a walk around the gardens, followed by Holy Mass and UCM prayers.

Thank you to our president Kathleen and her committee for organising this event.



St Hilda's Tottington Salford

We met up for our first meeting after our July break, said our UCM prayers and had tea and cake.

The ladies enjoyed an afternoon of flower arranging with garden greenery and garden flowers. Those without gardens borrowed from their neighbours and treated themselves to shop bought flowers.

Kate and Kim gave a mini talk and demonstration about the conditioning of flowers and greenery before you use them. A very fulfilling afternoon and more ladies to add to our church flower rota.

Kim Fletcher Foundation President

Middlesbrough Diocese



At the AGM held on the 13th September we were delighted to welcome 3 new members. They were enrolled by Fr. Tom O'Neill the Parish Priest of Holy Name of Mary Parish.

Photo: Imelda Lavery St. Aelred's Parish. York. Fr. Tom O'Neill, Joan Hudson and Elisabeth Lavelle from the Holy Name of Mary Parish Middlesbrough

At the AGM we had a change of Media Officer. I have retired again!! I am pleased to say that Mrs Sarah Sheils from St. Aelred's will be the new Media officer.

Kath Stubbs

St. Aelred's UCM Celebrates Fr. Bill Serplus Silver Jubilee.

At our Annual Strawberry Party at St. Aelred's in July we continued to celebrate Fr. Bill's Silver Jubilee, which he had celebrated on the 20th of July. He has been an inspirational leader and has supported our UCM in every way possible, saying Mass on Tuesday evenings before our meetings, escorting us to National and Diocesan meetings, to the Annual Walsingham Pilgrimage, speaking to us on a wide variety of topics and encouraging us in all our activities. We presented Fr. Bill with a photographic memory of his time as our spiritual advisor. The party was also an opportunity to celebrate our time together this year, and to entertain many of those who have visited us, acted as speakers or been friends to us in a variety of ways. We were delighted that among our guests were Canon Patrick Harney, who has recently celebrated the amazing achievement of 70 years of Priesthood, and Sister Ann Parker of the Corpus Christi Carmelites, who is shortly leaving us to go to live in Birmingham, after many years of service in St. Aelred's and St. George's Parishes. This was a lovely occasion.



1, Strawberry Party. Margaet Walsh, Rose Cartledge, Bridget Flanagan, Fr. Jose Michael (P.P. St. Georges) Sarah Sheils.

Scarborough Foundation.

On Tuesday 16th September a group of UCM and friends made a Pilgrimage to Bridlington Priory. St. John of Bridlington was canonised as the last English Saint before the Reformation. Fr. Albert, Parish Priest of Our Lady and St. Peter's Church in Bridlington was our guide and gave us a very detailed talk both inside and outside of the Priory on its history, which was very interesting and informative. Following this we attended Mass Celebrated by Fr. Albert, assisted by Fr. Paul Dowling, in Our Lady and St. Peter's Church. A shared table after Mass was enjoyed by everyone in the Parish Hall. Our thanks to Fr. Albert and St. Paul for a wonderful day.

Angela Wilkins. UCM Scarborough Foundation

At the **St. Aelred's UCM Foundation** we have hosted a series of talks entitled "My journey in Faith". This has come about as a result of our local Churches Together movement, which started some years ago with shared prayer services. This has led us to wish to know more about our neighbouring denominations and faith groups and we have been privileged to hear many interesting and inspiring stories about individual Journeys in Faith, and how people have come to their understanding of their own position. We have heard from Anglican, Quaker, Catholic and other speakers, including Ministers and lay people. Most recently we had a talk by Julie Wainwright, Reader at our neighbouring Anglican Parish of St. Thomas, Osbaldwick. (This is the site of the burial of Mary Ward, founder of the Bar Convent community of nuns in the 17th Century).



She told us of her long journey from being the daughter of a Catholic mother and an Anglican father, with an Anglican vicar for a grandfather, to leaving both traditions as a young woman and then rediscovering her faith when she had a young family and was shown great support from her local Anglican community. Subsequently she trained as a Reader and can now take Funerals and conduct some services, although she does not aspire to becoming ordained as an Anglican Vicar. She has a busy role in her Parish assisting the Reverend Johannes Nobel. This was a most enlightening and interesting talk, and as with the other talks we have had in the series, it led us to reflect upon what we have in common as well as the differences between us and our neighbours. Our Churches Together group has grown in strength and understanding and we now share more activities, such as the Good Friday Walk of Witness, as a result. Photograph: Rose Cartledge, Julie Wainwright, Sarah Sheils, Barbara Cookson

Fr. Bill Serplus Silver Jubilee .UCM Middlesbrough Diocese Spiritual Advisor.



Tuesday 8th July 2025 marked the Silver Jubilee of Fr. Bill's Ordination. The evening commenced with a Concelebrated Mass attended by Priests from across the diocese. Monsignor Canon Gerard Robinson represented Bishop Terence Drainey. Fr. Bill's family and friends were warmly welcomed as were some parishioners from a previous parish in Hull. The church was packed and beautifully decorated with green, gold and white flowers. The Choir, altar servers, readers were all determined to do their utmost to make the occasion fitting for this significant event. At the end of Mass Professor Bill Sheils spoke on behalf of the Parish to thank Father Bill for his wonderful example of service to the Parish and the community, with special mention to the setting up of Zoom when Covid struck in 2020 and how that supported the Parish and continues to play a very important role for the housebound to this day. He thanked Father Bill

for his inclusivity and ever welcoming presence in the Parish of St. Aelred's York and for the wide variety of activities he has been involved in. The evening finished with a letter from Bishop Emeritus John Crowley who had ordained Fr Bill twenty five years ago saying that he was sorry not to be able to attend the celebration.

After Mass there was a lavish supper in the Parish Centre and a special cake made by a parishioner that celebrated many sides of Fr. Bill's life among us.

Early the following morning Fr. Bill set off to walk Hadrian's Wall in aid of the Charity Papyrus, which works to prevent suicide among young people. Fr Bill was well supported by the parish & the amount raised from his Sponsored Walk was £5000.

Kath Stubbs Diocesan Media Officer

Clifton Diocese



Clifton Diocesan AGM and Mass at St Joseph's Portishead. St Joseph's members were joined by members and Diocesan Independent Members (DIMs) from St Dominic's, Dursley and Sacred Heart, Bristol. Fr Frank Wainwright celebrated the Mass assisted by Deacon Didier. Marie Williams Diocesan President

I belong to **Guardian Angels Foundation** Bury, parish of St. Clement. Our ladies have chosen two of our primary schools to provide breakfast cereals for Breakfast Clubs throughout the year. It was identified that many children within our schools were not eating breakfast prior to attending school. This could be detrimental to their learning in school. Only healthy cereals had to be provided, so no sugary cereals were bought. The ladies have also been collecting dried goods of food, bathing goods, sanitary products for a local foodbank which we deliver every few weeks. Margaret Dilger



St Joseph's Portishead UCM foundation summer meal, before we broke for a month for our summer break. It was held at Bottolinos at the Head of Portishead Marina. Marie Williams



ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Eileen Goodwin	St Ignatius Foundation	
	Diocesan Media & Welfare Officer Leeds Diocese	
Mary Bruce.	Filey Foundation,	Middlesbrough Diocese.
Phyllis Sutton	St. Mary and St. Philip Neri, Radcliffe,	Salford Diocese
Anne Kiernan	St. Mary and St. Philip Neri, Radcliffe,	Salford Diocese
Elizabeth Laffy (Betty)	Church of Our Lady, St John's Wood	Westminster Archdiocese

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2026

Booking deadline for the Pilgrims Bureau is December 2025 more information available from your Diocesan committee.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

National Council 18th-20th May 2026

Walsingham Tues 7th July 2026

National Council 17th-19th May 2027

Walsingham Tues 6th July 2027

Deadline for Submission to next Newsletter - 6th/7th
January 2026

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