



UCM NEWS No. 4 - February 2026

New Year Message from the National President

To All Members

I take this opportunity on behalf of myself and the National Committee to wish you all a very happy New Year.

As the year of Hope has ended with Pope Leo officially closing the door at St Peters Basilica, we take with us the hopes and aspirations of the Union of Catholic Mothers, we remember with HOPE anything is possible and we can achieve great things together.



God bless
Eileen

CONGRATULATIONS

80th Birthdays

Marie Williams	President of Clifton Diocese
Eileen Davies	Guardian Angels Foundation
	Salford Diocese

60th Anniversaries

Pauline and Mike Terry	Guardian Angels Foundation	Salford Diocese
Pat and Ray Grant	Guardian Angels Foundation	Salford Diocese

Deadline for Submission to next Newsletter

6th/7th April 2026

Send to email: ucmnews@yahoo.com

Website: theucm.org.uk

ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

Merstham Foundation 29/10/2025

On 29.10.2025 our regular foundation meeting received two special guest visitors, our Diocesan President, Eileen Harris MBE and her daughter Trish Colley (Hove Foundation Secretary). Our activity of the evening was a "Reflection on the life of Mary, the Mother of Jesus" which was prepared by one of our members Vivienne O'Byrne, who guided us in taking turns to read the eleven Reflections on Mary's Life. It was good for us to be reminded of how Mary's life can be reflected in ours too. Our Foundation President, Janet Franklin then led us in one decade of the Rosary to round off our reflection. We thanked Viv for such an informative session.



Our Diocesan President Eileen Harris presented Vivienne with a 50th Anniversary UCM Membership Certificate. Viv was so delighted by the wonderful surprise! Eileen thanked us for a lovely meeting and how she has got to know us better the last few years.

Janet Franklin (Merstham President) Vivienne O'Byrne & Eileen Harris MBE (A&B President)

Our congratulations to Viv for her dedication of service to the UCM, we thank you for all that you do as a National Welfare Officer and locally in our parish community under many ministries.

Photo and text by Cecilia Thuy Cameron (Secretary)

Hove Foundation

A lovely celebration was held recently to honour Susan Cashman's incredible 60 years of service to the Union of Catholic Mothers. Susan was presented with a special certificate by UCM Diocesan President Eileen Harris MBE, recognising her decades of dedication and faith. Our Foundation president Trish Longley was also on hand to mark this special occasion. The certificate was blessed by Fr Jerry O'Brien, ex-parish priest of Susan, adding a personal and spiritual touch to the occasion.



Congratulations, Susan - and thank you for all you've given to the UCM over the years!

HALLAM DIOCESE



Retirement of Father Paddy

At the end of September 2025 at our meeting at St. Vincent's, Sheffield, Hallam, our members gathered to wish Father Paddy (Patrick Walsh) a happy retirement after many years as parish priest at St. Vincent's. Dorothy Anderson (Foundation President of St. Vincent's)

Hallam Diocesan Pilgrimage to Padley

On Friday 5th September 2025 Holy Mass was celebrated by Bishop Ralph Heskett assisted by UCM Chaplain, Deacon Peter Marshall. It was attended by ladies from various areas of the Diocese of Hallam.

Padley Chapel is where two travelling priests Robert Ludlam and Nicholas Garlick were caught by the Authorities on 12th July 1588. They had stayed overnight at the home of the recusant Fitzherbert family. The priests and everyone else at the hall were arrested. The two priests were tried and brutally executed at Derby Bridge on 24th July 1588.

Robert Ludlam and Nicholas Ludlam were among 85 martyrs of England and Wales beatified by Pope John Paul 11 on 22nd November 1987.

Today this chapel is kept in honour of their martyrdom and is regularly visited by members of the public and also by Priests from far and wide.

Dorothy Anderson (Foundation President in St. Vincent's, Sheffield.)



MIDDLESBROUGH DIOCESE

A Stella Maris Christmas



The Holy Name of Mary Union of Catholic Mothers invited their parishioners to join them in collecting items of clothing, toiletries and sweets to go into Christmas Bags given to the seafarers spending their Christmas away from their home and family in our local ports. Deacon Peter Brannigan, representative of the Stella Maris

initiative was delighted and very grateful to collect over 50 bags for distribution. He said that the seafarers were excited to receive such a Christmas present and happy to find they were cared for in such a way by local people.

St. Aelred's Foundation, welcomes Hospital Chaplain.

The Reverend Kirsty Dunnett of the York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals recently came to tell us about the work of the Hospital Chaplaincy Service. She told us how the inter-denominational Chaplaincy team work in our local hospitals, with 3 Chaplains assisted by our Catholic Priests, and a Muslim Imam. She had been a nurse for twenty-five years before deciding to become ordained in the Anglican Church to work as a hospital chaplain. She described the work of the chaplaincy team in supporting people in times of need and in later life care, particularly those with no relatives to support them. She said that although the Chapel at York District hospital is only used occasionally for services, they hold them at Christmas time, on Mothers' Day and if a member of Hospital staff dies and not everyone can attend the funeral, it is much used by individuals and small groups.

She stressed that Chaplains only visit patients if requested to do so, but that they can be a great comfort to many patients and their relatives. This was a very interesting talk to our Foundation as our Welfare Officer, Catherine McGlinchey is an assistant to the team. Kirsty Dunnett left us information on how to contact the service, and Catherine McGlinchey reminded us that we should inform her of any relatives or friends who might value a visit or having Holy Communion taken to them while ill at home or in hospital.



We were also reminded of the importance of applying to our UCM Welfare officers for the holiday and respite scheme. Some of our Subscriptions each year go to supporting the scheme, and if no one uses it, it will not help the UCM as we derive our charitable status as an organisation because of it. So if you could use it for yourself or a relative, you can apply in confidence to help you take a pleasant break in a place of your choice.

Photo: l to r. Kath Stubbs, Rose Cartledge, UCM National Vice President, Kirsty Dunnett, York and Scarborough Hospitals Chaplain and Catherine McGlinchey, assistant Hospital Chaplain and UCM Diocesan Welfare Officer.

Northampton

We hosted our annual **Rosary Rally** On Saturday 25th October 2025 at Northampton Diocese shrine, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour a beautiful little Church situated in the heart of a small village Great Billing.

The day started by joining the parish community with the joyful mysteries followed by Holy Mass.



After a short break to refresh all those that travel far and wide throughout the diocese of Northampton. The lovely ladies from Holy Cross near Slough had the furthest to travel our President Jenny Hyde, Margaret Roberts and ladies from Shefford. We also had the honour of the National Treasurer Sue Bickerstaff who had travelled from Liverpool the day before. Our wonderful Kettering and Rushden ladies also paid a huge role in making the Rally a precious day of prayer.

After our break we continued with the luminous mysteries and the sorrowful mysteries, between each decade, music was played to give time for our thoughts. This was a really spiritual time throughout the Rosary Rally the Blessed Sacrament was exposed. We had time for lunch, sharing and talking. During the last part of the day we said the Flame of Love Rosary. I gave a short talk and my good friend Anja arrived as we completed the glorious mysteries, confirming all the things I had talked about and what the flame of love was actually about. She's been a busy lady that morning because she helped with the confirmation group (Anja is not in the UCM maybe she might join us.)

Mariann French

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE

Blankets and hats



Sacred Heart Hook UCM has been busy throughout the year knitting and crocheting! Blankets have been donated to a homeless man who has just been given accommodation. Other crocheted blankets were donated to the local old people's home and smaller items were sold at the Christmas market. Hats were also produced and donated to Stella Maris in Southampton

Helen Weston





Sacred Heart Hook UCM- enjoyed a Christmas gathering and celebration at a local village pub.
Helen Weston

SALFORD DIOCESE

The UCM at St. Hilda's, Tottington in Salford Diocese wanted again to raise funds to support our two charities in South Africa and Botswana.



Since the parcels have been received in Cape Town and Molepolole there has been a lot of appreciation for the joy that they've brought the children.

The road, brown, dusty with several goats, donkeys and cows at its edges narrowed as we drove north towards the Kalahari. We were quickly approaching Botswana's largest village - Molepolole. The

children were waiting for us, excitement on their faces, their smiles broad with much laughter.

We'd come bearing gifts from our parish and the children were delighted to have new pairs of socks, underwear, stationary and tiny teddies. A street sweet seller in Cape Town had given me lots of little lollipops at cost price when he knew where they were going. How they loved those lollipops!

We chatted a lot with the children. They sang and danced for us. They all had great ambitions - doctor, teacher, nurse, social worker and to get a foothold on to the ladder of education you need a black pen for much learning and officialdom.

So a year on, this autumn at St. Hilda's UCM in Tottington we had great fun with a crafty afternoon together with Afternoon Tea to raise funds and black pens and stickers for the children we'd met in Molepolole through the 'Lady Khama' charity and the children in Cape Town benefiting from the 'Pack for a Purpose' charity.

With a tremendous thank you to the parishioners of both St. Hilda's and Guardian Angels of St. Clement's Parish, Bury in the Diocese of Salford, 757 black pens were sent and many stickers and £124 was raised. There was much delight when these were received and much gratitude and appreciation.

Linda Marsden, November 2025 St. Hilda's UCM

SHREWSBURY DIOCESE

St. Peter's and St Raphael's Foundation, Stalybridge



The idea of a Prayer Garden to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope came from Evie one of our altar servers who is the granddaughter of one of our UCM members Carol Ryan. Evie designed the garden and with the help of the church gardener the garden was formed. Our Lady's statue was lovingly donated by Rita Bain another UCM member whose mother carefully carried her home from Lourdes in 1965. The UCM and the SVP kindly donated the two

benches in the garden for parishioners to sit and enjoy some quiet time in prayer. The Prayer Garden was opened and blessed by Father Philip Atkinson before he moved on to his new parish.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESE

The Banner display at the UCM annual Rally Mass at St George's cathedral in the Archdiocese of Southwark.

Majella Turner Southwark Diocesan secretary is centre.



Harvest Dinner celebration at Anerley Foundation in Archdiocese of Southwark in their October meeting. All members contributed to the shared dinner and sumptuous desserts.

A wonderful enrolment of two new members at Deptford Foundation in the Archdiocese of Southwark in October. Majella Turner, Diocesan President is centre, accompanied by Mary Piper former diocesan president.

Penny Curran
UCM Secretary, Archdiocese of Southwark.



ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Ann Mappin	The Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Victories	Hallam Diocese
Joan Heffernan	Guardian Angels Foundation	Salford Diocese
Angela Batey	St Margaret Mary's Foundation	Liverpool Archdiocese
		Past National Secretary
Ann McGeever	Holy Name of Mary Foundation	Middlesbrough Diocese
Helen Cordy	Independent	Clifton Diocese

The Union of Catholic Mothers 79th Annual Walsingham Pilgrimage

Monday 6th July & Tuesday 7th JULY 2026

Led by the Diocese of ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

Monday 6TH July SERVICE OF LIGHT 8pm

Chapel of Reconciliation Followed by the TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION

Tuesday 7th July MASS 12 Noon

Concelebrated Mass with Bishop Alan Williams, Bishop of A & B and Diocesan Priests.

BOOKING FORM: All Cheques payable to: "The U.C.M. Walsingham Sub-committee"

For further information please contact your Diocesan President or Local Organiser

Diocese:		No. of Pilgrims badges @ £5 each:		No. of pilgrims for the Sacrament for the Sick:		TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:
Foundation Name:						
No. of Cars:	No. of Coaches	No of Mini Buses		Organiser's Name:		
Tel. No. of Coach Company [Inc. Area code]				Address:		
No. of Pilgrims proposing to take part in the Monday Evening Service		Do you require a map with directions to the Shrine	YES/NO	Post Code: Tel No: Email:		
No. of Deacons or Acolytes who wish to participate		No. of Priests who wish to concelebrate		Signed Date:		
Bookings cut-off date is Friday 15th May 2026				<u>All Bookings to be sent ASAP to:</u>		
Fees for Priests/Deacons: Please remember that the Foundation/Diocese is responsible for paying and booking your Priests/Deacons. It is important that you indicate their number when making your bookings as facilities for them have to be made at the Shrine.				Mrs Sam Canning 156 Chartridge Lane Chesham Bucks HP5 2SE Tel: 07824386804 Email: ucmwstreasurer@gmail.com		
Please include a SAE of adequate size and postage.						