

“Unfurl the sails and  
let God steer us where  
he will”  
St Bede the Venerable



# UCM News

The  
Newspaper  
of the Union  
of Catholic  
Mothers

www.theucm.co.uk

Spring 2023



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by bus pass  
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## Vatican announces theme for 57th World Day of Social Communications

Friday, September 30th, 2022 @ 10:55 am

**“Speak with the heart: Veritatem facientes in caritate” (Doing the truth in charity) is the theme for World Day of Social Communications 2023, announced the Holy See Press Office on Thursday.**

The World Day of Social Communications will be celebrated on 21 May 2023.

The theme, which connects with that of 2022 – “Listen with the ear of the heart” is intended to form part of the path that will lead the entire Church to the celebration of the Synod in October 2023.

Speaking with the heart, explained a statement, means giving “a reason for your hope” and by doing so gently, “using the gift of communication as a bridge and not as a wall.”

It is an invitation to “go against the grain” at a time characterized by polarization and heated debates that exacerbate tempers – even in ecclesial life.

**Speaking the truth with a style of mercy**

The theme further invites everyone not to “fear to state the at times uncomfortable truth that finds its foundation in the Gospel.”

This proclamation, however, must not be separated from “a style of mercy, of sincere participation in the joys and sufferings of people of our time,” as shown in the dialogue between the mysterious wayfarer and the disciples of Emmaus

in the Bible.

**Non-hostile communication**

In the dramatic context of conflicts in different regions of the globe, the theme affirms the importance of non-hostile communication.

Thus, it promotes, “a communication open to dialogue with the other, that fosters “integral disarmament”, that strives to dismantle the “psychosis of war” that lurks in our hearts,” as Saint John XXIII prophetically exhorted sixty years ago in *Pacem in Terris*.

In this regard, everyone, and in particular those who work in the field of communications, are called upon to exercise their profession “as a mission for building a more just, more fraternal and more human future.”

**Appointments of new consultors**

Pope Francis, 29 September, appointed two new members and 10 new consultors to the Dicastery for Communications.

The members include Archbishop Ivan Maffeis, archbishop of Perugia-Città della Pieve (Italy) and Bishop Valdir Jose De Castro, of Campo Limpo (Brazil).

The Dicastery's new consultors are Fr. George Plattoham, secretary of the Office of Social Communication of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC); Oscar Elizade Prada, coordinator of the Department of Communication of



CELAM; Helen Osman, president of SIGNIS; Fr. Fabio Pasqualetti, dean of the Faculty of Communication Sciences at the Pontifical Salesian University; Sr. Veronica Donatello, head of the National Service for the Pastoral Care of Persons with Disabilities of the Italian Bishops' Conference, Sister Adelaide Felicitas Ndilu, national executive secretary of the Commission for Social Communications of the Kenyan Bishops'

Conference and director of Radio Waumini; Father Andrew Kaufa, coordinator of the Office of Communications of the AMECEA Regional Conference of Bishops; Tomas Insua, executive director of the Laudato Si movement; Professor Antonio Cisternino, president of the University of Pisa's Ateneo Information System (CIO); and John E. Corcoran, founder of Trinity Life Sciences.

## A special prayer initiative for the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' pontificate



**The Digital Synod launches an online prayer initiative to mark the tenth anniversary of the pontificate of Pope Francis on March 13.**

In exactly a month from now, on March 13, Pope Francis will be celebrating ten years of his pontificate. To highlight this milestone anniversary in a “viral” manner, the Digital Synod has launched a special online map featuring virtual lighted candles representing the prayers of the faithful worldwide for him.

According to a press release, “The Petrine ministry is a great grace that Jesus granted to His Church, and we must always be grateful for it. Therefore, prayer must be our best gift, so that God may support the service of the one He has chosen for this ministry because on this rock He builds His Church in time and history”.

Anyone who wishes to join the initiative will find an invitation on the website to pray one or more Hail Marys. “In the end we will send the Holy Father the map with the ‘little candles’ which represent the Hail Marys that are prayed for him, thanking God for His Mercy,” the press release concludes.

source: vaticannews.va

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## Congratulations

### 100th BIRTHDAY

**Sybil Knox,** Hounslow Foundation.

### 90th BIRTHDAY

**Mrs Joan Constable,** former Salford Diocesan President

**Mrs Mary Ross,** St Mary and St. Phillip Neri Foundation, Ratcliffe, Manchester, Salford

### 80th BIRTHDAYS

**Pam Watkins,** St Ignatius Foundation, Ossett, Leeds

**Betty Murray,** St Ignatius Foundation, Ossett, Leeds

**Mrs Teresa Kenny,** Salford

**Clara Giwa Amu,** President Hounslow Foundation

### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**Theresa and Philip Finnigan,** St Vincent's Foundation, Sheffield, Hallam

### GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**John & Cath Lydon,** (National Secretary), St Richards Skelmersdale (Liverpool Archdiocese)

**Sue & John Bickerstaffe,** (National Treasurer Elect), St Richards Skelmersdale (Liverpool Archdiocese)

## Editorial

**Here we are in a new year and with renewed vigour to get our UCM growing again.**

Firstly may I remind you to send items for the newspaper to the [ucmnews@yahoo.com](mailto:ucmnews@yahoo.com) email sending to my personal email could mean things getting missed.

Secondly may I call your attention to the serial 'Pilgrimage to Walsingham by bus pass' it is an amazing journey, so inspiring, it will run through the papers this year. The booking form for the Walsingham Pilgrimage this year is at the back of the paper please, please encourage lots of people to come.

And finally, to say thank you to those who have been encouraging and kind to me on my journey in this work for the UCM, it is much appreciated.



**Jean Lopez Lopez**  
National Media Officer

## Notices / Vacancies

**We are still looking for a Treasurer for the Walsingham Sub Committee IF THIS POST IS NOT FILLED WALSHINGHAM 2024 WILL NOT TAKE PLACE. One more member for the committee is also required. Information via Cath Lydon National Secretary**

# Cardinal Nichols on the Cost of Living Crisis

*The Bishops recognise the complexity of the causes, both short and long-term, that bring about the crisis now affecting so many.*

**Catholics are present in every local community, seeking to contribute constantly to the support of those in need. So we are well aware of the dramatic impact this crisis is having, with many people knowing they face choices between 'heating or eating', especially as winter approaches. The affluence to which our society has become accustomed seems to be seeping away.**

I, and my fellow bishops, recognise the complexity of the causes, both short and long-term, that bring about the crisis now affecting so many. There are many Catholics in public life and in the charitable sector who are engaging in trying to produce long-term solutions to these political and economic challenges.

### Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Social Teaching indicates key principles which help to fashion just solutions to urgent and dire need.

The principle of serving the common good means that the needs of the poorest in society must be given urgent attention. The time for giving

priority to factional interests has passed. Today our focus should be on the elderly, families who have the care of children, and all those least able to absorb the huge increases in the cost of living that we face. This means giving immediate attention to issues such as the level of welfare benefits and the impact of the two-child cap on universal credit payments, among other possible actions. Businesses too, especially small businesses, are facing acute challenges and will need help to survive. Their support for employment and family income is crucial.

"No one is to be cast aside or 'discounted'. I am confident that throughout this crisis, the Catholic community will do all we can to act on this conviction and promote this principle." Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Similarly, the principle of subsidiarity can be applied to our centralised system of welfare and public services to make delivery more effective and more efficient. This principle, long part of the social teaching of the Catholic Church, seeks "the active participation of private individuals and civil society" through which "it is actually possible to improve social services and welfare programmes, and at the same time save resources" (Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate 60).

### Parishes and Charities

The work of our local parishes, and of Catholic charitable agencies, is based on the firm conviction of the inherent dignity of every person. No one is to be cast aside or 'discounted'. I am confident that throughout this crisis, the Catholic community will do all we can to act on this conviction and promote this principle.

I know that parishes will continue to do everything possible, including innovative ways of providing further material help and pastoral support. I also urge all Catholics to give whatever time and financial resources they can to charitable endeavours that support those who are affected by the current crisis. The work of Catholic schools, that have long been supportive of, and responsive to, children whose parents might be struggling financially or in other ways, is to be strongly applauded and encouraged.

The spiritual needs of the poor and their special gifts should never be forgotten. As Pope Francis wrote:

"The great majority of the poor have a special openness to the faith; they need God and we must not fail to offer them his friendship, his blessing, his word, the celebration of the sacraments and a journey of growth and maturity in the faith" (Evangelii Gaudium – The Joy of the Gospel – 200).

I trust that our parish communities will always be open to those suffering from hardship and in particular need of companionship and spiritual support at this time. They can help us to



**Cardinal Vincent Nichols**

understand the humility we must have before God.

Finally, I ask that we all offer our prayers for those who are suffering from the cost of living crisis. I pray that all in our society will work together to find ways, both short and long term, to alleviate this crisis which threatens the well-being of so many people.

St. Thomas More, pray for all who serve in political and public life.

St. Bernadette, pray for the poor.

**Cardinal Vincent Nichols**  
President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales



**Submitting copy for next issue**  
**The deadline for articles and photos**  
**for the next edition of the UCM News is**  
**28 May 2023**

**Please send copy to [ucmnews@yahoo.com](mailto:ucmnews@yahoo.com)**

**Thank you**

**(GDPR) General Data Protection Regulation**

**Anyone sending photos to be published in the UCMnews newspaper, it is your responsibility to make sure you get permission from all in the photos.**

## After 88 years in our Parish

We've come up against a small hitch;  
We are remaining and all getting old  
We know U.C.M. is great but we're going to fold  
Unless you come to the rescue and JOIN US.

The Union needs you, it used to be strong.  
It would rally again before very long,  
With your input to bring us right up to date.  
Please say that you'll join before it's too late.

In **Union** with **Christ's Mother** to learn about Him.  
We pray for those Married and Single folk too,  
We meet and we share the things we've been through.

We Pray and work for our Parish, our World, and our Nation,  
Provide support for families and Catholic Education.  
Not just for the children but all of us too.

We've made good friends for all types of weather,  
Supporting each other, we work better together.  
We want to listen and learn, do you want to too?  
How can we show that we care about you?  
To be more inclusive is our greatest endeavour.

We are told Mental Health is a problem these days.  
That meeting and sharing and caring are ways.  
To help with the problems which modern life brings

Perhaps joining our union, without any strings,  
Will make us all stronger to face difficult days?

**Jan Woodford**  
Media Officer Westminster

You will never be alone if you Join U.C.M.  
**Union with Christ's Mother** in following HIM.





## FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

### Dear Friends in UCM

I would like to start by saying a BIG THANK YOU to so many of you for the numerous Christmas cards, emails and ecards, prayers, and good wishes that I received, the Postman was kept very busy. We had a wonderful family Christmas celebration with all our Children and Grandchildren – 11 on Christmas Day and 15 on Boxing Day!

My apologies for the visits I had to cancel due to "train problems" I hope to be able to visit as many of you as possible this year, please let me have your Diocesan dates of you AGM and "Rosary Rallies" as soon as possible so that I can plan my diary.

I know that several Diocese are struggling with Foundations closing and getting members to take office. Please think long and hard about what you can offer to do within your own Foundation and Diocese so that UCM will grow and thrive.

I'm looking forward to seeing some of you at our National Study Day (28-29 March) at Westaston. The theme "Culture, Friendship and Community" as we explore the writings of Pope Francis in his Encyclical Letter "Fratelli Tutti".

We will have much to discuss at National Council at Swanwick (10-12 May) when we will also welcome our new Treasurer Mrs Sue Bickerstaff.

If anyone would like to come to either of these meetings, please get in touch with your Diocesan Secretary.

We are now planning the Liturgy for our pilgrimage to Walsingham lead this year by Shrewsbury Diocese assisted by Southwark Diocese. The theme this year is "Our Lady of Nazareth". It has been interesting trying to find appropriate hymns. I hope many of you will be able to be with us as we really need 500 people attending so that they will open the Abbey Grounds for the Procession and Benediction.

Some of the members of the Walsingham Sub-committee are coming to the end of their term of office, so for our Pilgrimages to continue we URGENTLY need volunteers to join the Walsingham Sub-committee. Please think if you can help.

With my love and prayers

**Joan Hodge  
National President**

# Another homeless woman dies on London street

**A little old lady was found dead in a busy London high street on 3 January. It took a while for people to notice. Maria, or Lidia as some people called her, died out of sight in a little shack she had made for herself from pallets, cardboard boxes and plastic sheeting.**

At first she'd set up home next to the former Barclay's Bank in Kentish Town High Street. She lived there for months. As the weather got colder she added more cardboard boxes, more bits of polystyrene. She survived the really icy spell of sub-zero temperatures we had recently - although she developed a chest infection. Then on 29th December, builders converting the bank into a new dental clinic told her she had to move from there. With help from passers-by she started shifting her stuff round the corner to a new spot in Islip Street. Could that move have brought on her final illness?

Over the last few months several people had tried to befriend Maria. A gentle, shy woman, she always refused offers of money and hot drinks. When it was really cold she would quietly sit in a shop. Many people had reported Maria to the various homeless authorities. Each time they were told: "Yes we know about her - but there's nothing we can do. She doesn't want to move." One person noticed she was ill and tried to get her some antibiotics - but without a prescription it was impossible to get her treatment.

Fr Dominic Robinson, chair of Westminster Diocese Justice and Commission said: "The disgrace of yet another homeless death on the streets in subzero temperatures and plain daylight in busy Kentish Town raises important questions about our priorities as society and local authorities.

"During the pandemic it was possible to house many if not all homeless citizens. Why on earth can we not find a way to provide support, including

healthcare and accommodation, for those who cannot for whatever reason help themselves.

"A full scale review of local and national government rough sleeping policy is vital before, if as feared, many more will die on the streets this winter".

The Camden New Journal is organising a memorial service for Maria on Thursday, 19 January at 11am in St Michael's Anglican Church in Camden Road. All are welcome to attend. On Friday, 20 January the 10am Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians will be dedicated to her.

An estimated 741 homeless people died in England and Wales in 2021. 154 died in London. Campaigners fear the total will be much higher this year.

Between April and September 2022, 5,712 people were sleeping rough in London, a 21% increase compared to previous year - Shelter reports. The charity says it is expecting a 'sharp rise' in homelessness in 2023 while local authorities are calling on the government to ensure changes are made amid the Cost of Living crisis.

Cllr Darren Rodwell, London Councils' Executive Member for Regeneration, Housing & Planning, said: "These devastating figures reveal that London remains the epicentre of the homelessness crisis. Everyone deserves a permanent home, but the chronic shortage of affordable housing in the capital means too many Londoners find themselves homeless and reliant on temporary accommodation arranged by their local council. The numbers are so high they are equivalent to the entire population of a London borough.

Among homeless people, the average age at death is 45.9 years for men and 43.4 years for women.

**Jo Siedlecka ICN**

## Events Column

### National Study Day

28-29th March Wistaston Hall Crewe

### National Council & AGM

10-12th May 'The Hayes' Swannick

### Walsingham Pilgrimage

3 & 4th July

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Warmer days - 30 August 2022. Image: ICN/JS



# Pilgrimage to Walsingham by Bus Pass

## Mary Sample 18th October 2021 Part 1

### Where did the idea come from?

Many months before the pandemic I got the idea of making a pilgrimage to Walsingham, using only my pensioners' bus pass for travel.

I'm not sure where the notion came from but I let the idea settle until it became an irresistible urge. At that stage I had no clear idea why I needed to make this journey; I just felt it was something I had to do.

I have been to Walsingham many times with my Prayer Group friends from my previous parish and, sometimes, on diocesan coach trips, but I now felt I needed to go on my own in a more challenging way. Obviously I couldn't walk it – though last time I was in Walsingham I met a couple of young lads who had come along an old Pilgrim Way from Canterbury entirely on foot – so I thought the next best thing would be to go by bus. That way, I would have time to observe and reflect. It would also mean that I might make random encounters on the way which is almost impossible if you get in a car and just go from A to B on main roads and motorways.

### Preparation

I knew that if I did this I would have to prepare thoroughly because:

- My family would be very uneasy if they thought I was going to put myself at risk and I didn't want a telling-off for being a madcap.
- I needed to allow for things to go wrong.
- I needed to have enough wriggle room in case the timings didn't work out to plan.

I strongly believe that if you have a warm, waterproof coat, your phone and charger-pack, your visa card, your bus pass, and some emergency cash you can't go far wrong in this country. It's not the Sahara! After all, what was I doing? Simply getting on a bus – several times! However, I did plan my trip with military precision!

### Planning the route

This probably took the longest time because I had to work out, from maps and timetables, how I

could get bus routes to dovetail while heading in the right direction. This meant quite a few false starts, but, in the end, I was able to come up with a route that did just that. I figured out that, to factor in mishaps, I would have to allow 3 days for the journey, so, I had to find overnight accommodation close to the bus stops. This was a bit of a gamble because there wasn't much choice and it was anybody's guess what the places might be like.

My biggest concern, the thing that kept me awake at night, was how would I manage my case. I'd considered a backpack and decided against it. I concluded that if I couldn't fit my case in front of me, I'd have to sit under it! I needn't have worried; all the buses had plenty of legroom and, with my short legs, it wasn't a problem.

### Day 1

I decided to give myself an easy day to start off. I didn't know whether things would go to plan or not so I limited the distance I was going to cover.

I was given a lift to Hamilton Square for the Chester train since I would have had to wait till after 9.30 a.m. to use my pass from Wallasey.

### Chester to Crewe

The whole day went like clockwork. The shuttle took me from right outside Chester railway station to the bus exchange and the No 84 took me all the way to Crewe. It was a lovely autumn day and meandering through the Cheshire countryside and villages was a real delight. I recommend the 84 Arriva bus as the ideal vehicle for an afternoon hop-on hop-off excursion!

Crewe bus station, however, was uninspiring, unlike the famous railway station. It is sandwiched between a housing development and a shopping centre. There were very few people about and nothing to indicate how to get to the shops. I managed to buttonhole a reluctant teenager to ask directions and got a scowl and a grumpy wave of her arm. The shopping area could have been anywhere in the country – nothing distinctive and all the regular names. I managed to find a really

nice bakery coffee shop where I was able to have my lunch and comfort break.

### Crewe to Hanley

The stage from Crewe to Hanley was interesting for me because I love the Arnold Bennett novels set in the potteries. Anna of the Five Towns and The Old Wives Tale are particular favourites. I don't know the area so it was fascinating to pass through the towns named in his books. Sadly, the area has declined with the end of the manufacture of pottery in independent factories. I began to see the way the nation is divided by economics; there were lots of run-down neighbourhoods within a stone's throw of the smart houses of the well-off. This was something I saw only too often as I passed through the East Midlands; unkempt terraces of humble dwellings contrasting dramatically with the trim villas of the affluent. This part of the journey took just over an hour but I was absorbed in observing the neighbourhoods I passed through. Going by the local bus meant I was able to see areas that are not on the beaten track but show the reality of people's environment.

### Hanley to Uttoxeter

The bus station at Hanley was very smart and much busier and well signed. Unfortunately, the café was closed so I had to spend my forty minute's wait for the bus to Uttoxeter sitting on a hard chair in a draught. The next phase proved just as engrossing as the previous route. Instead of fast tracking along the A50, the bus arced around the small towns of Werrington, Cheadle, Tean, Checkley and Fole – sometimes weaving its way around a housing estate and doubling back on itself. The rest of the time we racketed through the lovely Staffordshire countryside. I say racketed because the thing about buses is they are built for durability on a variety of road surfaces so the suspension is, to say the least, robust! In just over an hour, I had reached Uttoxeter and my stop-over venue for the night. It was shortly before 5 p.m. perfect for settling in and finding somewhere to eat dinner.



Mary Sample

### Uttoxeter

Part of my planning was to ensure that I could stay within walking distance of the bus so I was fortunate to find a very good guest house within a few hundred metres of the bus stop. The Meadows Way Guest House was directly opposite a huge Waitrose Store so I knew, if all else failed, I could get something to bring to my room to keep me fed and watered. I needn't have worried because Graham, the charming host at the B&B, directed me to the Market Square, just a little way along into the town. I found a very welcoming Wetherspoons and enjoyed a beautifully cooked steak and a large glass of something mellow and red. It was October and too dark to wander about so I settled in for a restful night and was up bright and bushy-tailed for my next day's adventure.

# Plater Trust launches £400,000 grants programme for domestic good causes

Friday, January 13th, 2023 CBCEW

**The Charles Plater Trust has launched its 2023 large grants programme today, 13 January, and hopes to offer up to £400,000 in grants for domestic good causes.**

The Trust is calling on all registered charities, with annual income below £10 million, who share its Catholic Social Teaching values, to apply for a large grant of up to £50,000 for social action, lay leadership or applied research projects.

Bishop Richard Moth, Chair of the CPT said:

"The new year stands before us, but the cost-of-living crisis has pushed many more into poverty and hardship in the UK. The Holy Father has reminded us at the start of a new year that we need to battle the virus of inequality and to ensure food and dignified labour for all. At the Trust, we are eager to partner with charities who want to respond creatively to these hard times to seek justice for people on the sharp end of these challenges. So let us welcome the new year, full of new possibilities to create justice."

Cathy Corcoran, Chair of the CPT grant-making committee said:

"We're so concerned about rising poverty here in the UK, that we've launched our large grants programme early this year and extended the window to apply, to do as much as we can to attract partners we can support to tackle the current crisis. The situation is quite simply unacceptable in the sixth wealthiest nation on earth with millions of people unable to afford the basics such as food and heating."

### Criteria

The Trust has introduced a number of changes to its eligibility criteria this year to try and target funding more effectively to the frontline. Charities with over £10 million in annual income are now no longer eligible to apply for CPT funding. However, any registered English or Welsh charity can apply for funding, as long as the proposed work has direct benefit in England and Wales, and they have not had a previous grant from CPT in the last two years. Capital cost projects and organisational overheads also cannot now be covered by the Trust in an effort to spread its funding further.

### Apply online

For further details and to apply online visit: [plater.org.uk](http://plater.org.uk). The closing date for applications is Friday 17 March 2023, with successful applicants publicly announced at an award ceremony held by The Trust on 21 June 2023.

### Background

What the Plater Trust can't support:

Charities with an annual income above £10 million. The only exception to this is for Universities and HE Institutions, who irrespective of their size and annual income, can apply for both small or large grants from CPT, on condition that they must be partnering with a micro, small, medium or large charity in their project proposal to be eligible for CPT funding in a joint bid of this nature.

Projects that are outside CPT's three priority themes – leadership for lay people; social action and/or applied research.

Projects from organisations that are not registered charities or are not currently working towards establishing their charitable status.

Work that does not have a direct benefit in England or Wales or where the applicant organisation is not based in England or Wales.

Grants to individuals – CPT only provides support to registered charities not individuals. The only exception to this is that CPT will consider funding individual postgraduate scholarship projects in the applied research priority theme, providing that the applying academic organisation ensures that it holds an open competition to select a candidate to undertake the grant-funded research and that it takes place in partnership within a charity practice-based setting.

Organisations without at least three non-executive trustees or directors.

**Capital costs:** CPT will only fund revenue project costs, not capital costs. Revenue costs are the costs of making projects happen. They occur during the project, for that project. Capital costs are for items which last beyond the project, and these cannot be funded by CPT and so should not be included in project budgets.

**Organisational core costs:** Core costs are the running costs of an organisation. This is the money you need to make the work happen. These are also sometimes called overheads, running costs or

operating costs. Unfortunately, due to the demands on CPT's limited resources they do not now cover core costs/overheads in project grants, so please do not include these types of costs in any project budget to CPT.

**Repeat funding:** If your organisation has been successful in securing funds from CPT before, they will only accept another application from you if two years has elapsed from the date you last received a grant instalment from the CPT.

**Multiple successful applications:** Each successful applicant can only hold one grant from CPT at a given time.

### Key dates

These are the key dates for applicants:  
Large grants programme opens on **Friday 13 January 2023**.  
Deadline for applications to be received is **Friday 17 March 2023 by 5pm**.

All large grant applicants will know CPT decision by **Friday 9 June 2023**.

Successful applicants will attend the CPT awards ceremony on **Wednesday 21 June 2023**.

Dates for the 2023 small grants round will be available on our website by **1 September 2023**.



# The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2023

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month. From time to time, the Holy Father may add a second prayer intention related to current events or urgent needs, like disaster relief. The second prayer request will help mobilize prayer and action related to the urgent situation.

The Holy Father has entrusted these intentions in a particular way to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, an organization that works to encourage Christians to respond to the Pope's appeal and to deepen their daily prayer. You can find more information about the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network on their website. (The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network will also publish any urgent prayer intentions of the Holy Father as soon as they are received from the Holy See.)

## January For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

## February For parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

## March For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

## April For a culture of peace and non-violence

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

## May For church movements and groups

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

## June For the abolition of torture

We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

## July For a Eucharistic life

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

## August For World Youth Day

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

## September For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

## October For the Synod

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

## November For the Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

## December For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

## Synodality featured at ecumenical gathering of Church Leaders

**Synodality may not be a word that trips easily off the tongue of many Christians. Nonetheless the Catholic Church's synodal process is proving timely for people of many different traditions. On 26 January this year, Anglican theologian and ecumenist, Rev Prof Nicholas Sagovsky, spoke inspiringly about synodality at the Focolare's annual meeting for Church Leaders from a wide variety of traditions. His topic was: Living as synodal Christians: a fresh approach to Ecumenism.**

Nicholas Sagovsky's thought-provoking talk was scripturally and historically based. It did not shy away from the challenges all Christians face and put into relief how to be in a place of 'unknowing' is the right place for the 'synodal' Christian. Examples of response to the difficult challenges of synodal living were given by the Brussels-based Catherine Burke and Andreas Amann, the Focolare's delegates for the zone of Western Europe. They told of the light that can be generated through listening and walking, one step at a time, together on the way.

For the first time since the pandemic, about thirty participants met in person - at the Focolare Centre

for Unity Welwyn Garden City, - as well as online. Those online included Nicola Brady, the General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, joining from Belfast, and Bishop Joseph Toal, Bishop of Motherwell, online from Scotland.

The Catholic Bishops' Conferences of Scotland, Ireland, and England and Wales were represented online and in person, alongside representatives from the Church of England and the Church of Ireland as well as from the Lutheran, United Reformed and Moravian Churches. This ecumenical mix was enriched by the presence of two officers from the Salvation Army.

Bishop Robin Smith, formerly the Bishop of Hertford and a long-standing member of the Focolare's International Secretariat for Ecumenism, guided everyone through the day. Afterwards he said: "Once again the good Lord surprised us by his presence. It truly was a very special time. Nicholas our speaker was superb; and it was evident, both from the moving contributions and in the discussions outside the formal sessions, that everyone was engaged at a very profound level."

**Rev. Callan Slipper**

## Matt Redman supports The Chosen with new song release

**Matt Redman, the two-time Grammy Award-winning English Christian singer-songwriter, will be exclusively re-releasing his song 'Son of Suering' globally at cinemas prior to the screenings of The Chosen Season 3 finale on Thursday 2 February in 2,000+ cinemas globally.**

Redman has released 16 albums and is best known for his two-time Grammy Award-winning single, '10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)'. Co-written with Jonas Myrin, the single reached No. 1 on the US Billboard Christian Songs chart in 2012.

Redman's single 'Son of Suering', from his new album Lamb of God, is expected to be the most unique and immersive experience Redman has done as an artist. Penned by Redman, with David Funk (Bethel Music), Aaron Moses (Maverick City Music) and Nate Moore (Church of The City), it was recorded at the historic Catholic Mission San Juan Capistrano in California.

Jonathan Brown, President of Integrity Music, who represent Matt says: "It is such an honour and delight for us to champion Matt Redman in his collaboration with The Chosen and being able to communicate the wonder of Jesus' love and his solidarity with us in our own pain. Matt's song 'Son

of Suering' encapsulates the mysterious beauty of Christ's blood and tears, and it mirrors the beautiful mission of The Chosen. 'Son of Suering' carries Matt's passion to find new ways of singing about the eternally glorious theme of the cross of Christ, and we are so grateful for the opportunity to share this collaboration with the world."

**Judy May ICN**



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# National President's Pilgrimage Banneux



Compiled by Margaret Kerbey, with contributions from -: Georgina Holmes, Terri Coombs, Maria Bruns, Lucy Thornhill and Joan Deegan. Photos by Maria Bruns.

**Twenty of our pilgrims met at Holiday Inn, Crick near Northampton, where we stayed overnight, due to the early start the following day.**

The party rose early and breakfasted. We were on the road by 7am, however, unknown to us two suitcases were not put onto the coach. This was not discovered till we were having a coffee break at Brentwood.

Continuing our journey, we picked up the last of our pilgrims at Maidstone Services. After a long wait while efforts were made to have the luggage forwarded to meet us, it was decided to leave it in Northampton and pick it up on the return journey. The ferry journey was calm and comfortable, assisted by being provided with a free meal token by the ferry company.

After landing at Dunkirk, Justin, our coach driver, drove us safely to the Novotel in Charleroi, where we were assigned our rooms. Later those who wished to eat, ordered from the hotel menu.

After a restful night, the next morning we headed to Banneux.

Our Lady appeared to Mariette Beco several times at Banneux. These apparitions took place between 15th January - 2nd March 1933. Our Lady told Mariette to put her hands into the water of the spring, "I am the Virgin of the poor, this source is for all nations". The reference to Christian baptism is very clear, and she also referred to bringing relief to the sick and the poor. Our Lady asked for a little chapel to be built. On her final visit on 2nd March Our Lady told Mariette, that she was the Saviour's Mother, "Pray a great deal... Farewell."

On our arrival we started our prayer path and visited the chapel of Apparition, the well, where we put our hands in the water as Our Lady had instructed Mariette to do. Many miracles have been performed here. In the grounds there were shrines from all nations, one was of Our Lady of Walsingham. Fr David Potter our Chaplain celebrated mass for us in the Mediatrix chapel. One chapel of Saint- Michel and Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc has been a place of prayer for Justice & Peace since 1960. In the afternoon we watched the story of Banneux, followed by the blessing of the sick, and Benediction in the chapel of the message, relayed in four languages. It was raining heavily when we arrived at the shrine, but we left in beautiful sunshine. A very special day. Hundreds of thousands of Pilgrims visit the Shrine each year.

Here are some quotes from our group  
"The first little chapel was wonderful; it had a lovely feeling to it"

"The guide was great. The spring was beautiful, even though the water was freezing cold"

"The setting was fabulous. It felt like you were in an Alpine village and dotted through the trees were all the little altars dedicated to Our Lady from all over the world, including China, which was a surprise to me."

"Everyone I spoke to thought that the whole shrine exceeded expectations, and the peace and serenity were palpable."

"The Benediction at the end of the day, just brought the whole thing together, it was a wonderful service, having four different languages spoken."

During our time in Belgium, we took a tour of The Hospital of Our Lady with the Rose, founded in 1242, a unique heritage site, which has retained its appearance as well as its furniture from the 16th and 17th centuries. It houses a beautiful Baroque chapel. Many of the works of art were donated to the convent by families, in exchange for them taking in the daughters of the family to follow the religious life.

From there we went to Gent, we took a tour of St Bavo's Cathedral, which houses an impressive collection of art and architectural treasures. The Baroque pulpit is one of the finest examples in Rococo style, the combination of dark oak and white Marble exudes strength. The elaborate decoration depicts the heavenly glory of the Hereafter the theme is 'truth'. It was created by sculptor Laurent Delvaux.

The Mystic Lamb of God, world famous polyptych and the most important works of the early Northern Renaissance as well as one of the greatest artistic masterpieces of the fifteenth century, is housed here. It was begun around the mid-1420s and completed by 1432. It was commissioned by Gent Mayor Joost Vijdt and his wife Lysbette Borluut as a large project for St Bavo's Cathedral. The structure was designed by Dutch artist Hubert Van Eyck, and the panels painted by his brother Jan, thought to be the first major oil painting from the Middle Ages. It was magnificent. (The upper register of the inner panels represents the heavenly redemption and include the central classical Deesis arrangement of God Christ the King, flanked by the Virgin Mary and John the Baptist. In the next panels they are flanked by Angels playing music, on the far outermost panels, Adam and Eve. The centre panels on the lower register show a gathering of saints, sinners, clergy, and soldiers' attendant at an adoration of the Lamb of God. There are several groupings of figures, overseen by the dove of the Holy Spirit. The four lower panels of the closed altar are divided into two pairs; sculptural grisaille paintings of St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist and on the two outer panels donor portraits of Joost Vijdt and his wife Lysbette Borluut; and in the upper row the Archangel Gabriel and the Annunciation, and at the very top are the prophets and sibyls.) The altarpiece is the most renowned and important artworks in European history.

In 2012 extensive restoration treatment was required that will last until the end of 2024. It is being carried out in the Museum of Fine Arts in Gent by the Royal Institute of Royal Heritage.

On Friday we awoke to a bright, sunny day, full of hope and excitement. We arrived at the site of the Battle of Waterloo. There was a bit of a walk to the museum from the coach park, which some of us found a struggle. We all agreed that the re-enactment of the battle displayed as very impressive. We were shown a film about the battle in 3D which allowed us to feel like participants in history. Those who were able, climbed the 226 steps leading to The Lion's Mound.

We then moved on to Brussels for lunch followed by a trip to the chocolate factory, which for me personally being a diabetic was a real treat! The tour guides explained to each of the two groups where the beans came from and how the chocolate was made. Disappointingly we were promised a taster of the chocolate which sadly was not forthcoming! (Luckily, I was in the group which did get a taster!!!MK) We were then taken to the shop, where we could indulge in purchasing chocolate, of course my purchases were for presents only!

We returned to the hotel about 6pm feeling tired but full of chat about the day.

I hope this has given you a little insight into our Pilgrimage.

We would like to thank the organisers and the very helpful coach driver for assisting us on our journey.



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**ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON DIOCESE**

## A&B Diocesan AGM

On a wet Saturday morning 5th November 2022, we gathered at St. Paul's Church, Haywards Heath for our Diocesan AGM. It was a fair turnout with 20 members from our current five foundations in the A&B Diocese. Prior to the meeting we had been encouraged to consider taking up official roles, since the current officers are already doing more than their terms. The meeting heard reports from each officer. One of the main highlights was a revisit of "The Year of The Word 2020 - The God Who Speaks", with St. Matthew's Gospel. Each Foundation was reminded to give feedback to our Diocesan Study Day Officer as to how we have made use of the materials. We also congratulated Hove Foundation on their 60th Anniversary, their president Trish Longley brought along their certificate to show us. We also enjoyed catching up with each other and sharing the experience of being part of the UCM. Unfortunately, only one member was able to come forward for the Media Officer role. We thanked all our remaining officers for continuing. We pray for the addition of new members and for our present members to find a way to take up office. We parted, still in the rain but feeling that it was a successful meeting.

**Cecilia Cameron (A&B Media Officer)**  
**Photo: Janet Franklin / Cecilia Cameron**



## 98th birthday celebration

In January we were honoured to be able to congratulate our dearest member Jean Longley on her 98th birthday. Although Jean is now housebound she continues to maintain her interest in our current activities. Some of our members take turns to visit her and to bring her Holy Communion, and this is when she gets to hear about all that we are doing and in the wider parish. One of our members suggested that we put together a collection to buy some flowers and a jointly signed card for Jean. Janet, our president, kindly organised this and Ruth (Jean's daughter) took some photos. We continue to feel very blessed that Jean is such a dedicated UCM member, and we never fail to learn from her wisdom.

**Cecilia Cameron**  
**(Merstham Foundation Secretary)**  
**A&B Diocese**  
**Photo by Ruth Longley**



## Celebrating Joanna's birthday

At our meeting yesterday we celebrated Joanna (Giovanna) Barba's 80th Birthday with a glass of sherry and cake made by Margaret Barter. As well as being a UCM committee member, Joanna has also been the leader of the Senior Citizen's group for many years. In December she helped cook a Christmas meal in the Town Hall for the Seniors and in January arranged a meal, with Mary Hogan, for the UCM group at the Fox and Hounds, a nearby pub. She is also the UCM Welfare Officer and takes care of the wellbeing of our members.

**BIRMINGHAM DIOCESE**

## St John the Baptist pay tribute to two of their long serving members

Members of St. John the Baptist Foundation in Tamworth wish to pay tribute to two of their long serving members who sadly died in 2022. Monica Gallagher, who died in December 2022, was the granddaughter of one of our founder members from 1913. Monica received the Ubi Caritas award in 2016 in recognition of many years devoted service to the parish starting in her schooldays. She was an active member of the UCM for many years and held the office of foundation treasurer. Jane McSweeney, who died in July 2022, was awarded the Ubi Caritas in 2021 for her many years of service to the parish and to St Elizabeth's Primary School. Both were dearly loved members and are sadly missed. On a happier note, congratulations are sent to Angela Foster, Diocesan Secretary (also granddaughter of a founder member from 1913). Angela received the Ubi Caritas award in 2022 for her many years of service to the parish and UCM. Although saddened by the loss of two of our members we are proud of all their achievements.

**Kate Connell Foundation Secretary**

**NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE**



## Loughborough Foundation of St Mary of the Annunciation

2022 November: His Lordship Bishop Patrick, together with Mgn Keith Newton, Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham Granted permission to Fr David Jones, O.L.O.W. to be our Spiritual Adviser.

## Enrollment of Mrs Sarah Hargreaves

2023 January: Friday 10th: Loughborough Foundation of St. Mary of the Annunciation, gathered together for the Enrollment of Mrs Sarah Hargreaves. The ceremony took place after the homily at the 6:30 mass. Two priests' concelebrated mass. Our parish priest Fr Paul Gillham together with Fr David Jones O.L.O.W. After the enrollment of Sarah, Mrs Pat Newton was presented with her 50 years certificate. This was long overdue due to the issues we experienced with COVID -19. After mass members retired to the hall where light refreshments were served

**Pauline Hallam, acting Nottingham President, Loughborough Foundation**





MIDDLESBROUGH DIOCESE

## Visit to Mansion House 2022

In October St. Aelred's foundation visited the York Mansion House which is the official residence of the Right Honourable Lord Mayor of York. An ancient city steeped in rich social history. The house originally was built in 1732 was first known as City House but this was soon changed to Mansion House predating the London Mansion House. York and London are the only two mayoralities sharing the privilege of the title of Right Honourable. We were shown the Sword and Mace which are used before all Mayoral processions. There were so many things and rooms to see, the silver ware, the clock in the entrance hall which has been there since 1732. The dining room table laid out as it would have been for a formal banquet and the kitchens where the banquet would have been prepared, very different to the kitchens we know today. When the house had some restoration in 2015 unexpected articles of finds brought back superstitions and fears of the previous inhabitants going back to 1800 a ladies shoe, remains of a desiccated cat surrounded by hazelnut shells and potentially a hammer. It was a fascinating visit enjoyed by everyone and the afternoon was completed by tea at a local hostelry.

## Rosary Rally 2023

Scarborough and Filey Foundations are arranging for a Rosary Rally to be held on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima to be held at Filey on the 13th of May. At St. Mary's Church. There is a reasonable size car park off South Crescent Road. The service will start with Holy Mass at 12. noon followed by the procession immediately afterwards. This will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall. It is necessary to book for the refreshments as the Hall has a limited capacity of 50 people. Further details Petra. [petramicklethwaite@outlook.com](mailto:petramicklethwaite@outlook.com).

## Christmas at Holy Name of Mary

Holy Name of Mary Foundation Middlesbrough celebrated Christmas with a delicious lunch at the Waterside Brasserie which is the training restaurant of their local college. We like to support the people who want to make the hospitality industry their career. The young men & women who served us were gaining experience of Front of house after experience of working in the kitchen. All the tips given go towards a day out for the students later in the year. We had a wonderful time.



## Insights from the Other Side of the Collar

What are the joys and challenges of being a women priest in the Church of England today? St Aelred's UCM had the opportunity to find answers to these questions when Nicky Gladstone and Liz Hassal, curate and stipendiary priest from St Olave's in York came to speak to us in November 2022. First we learned that their lives are incredibly busy as they look after 5 churches in all. Both Nicky and Liz are married with families and without their supportive husbands, their lives would be very difficult to manage. Nicky stated that the most rewarding aspect of being ordained was the people and to be able to bring 'something of God' to others through the Eucharist and to support them in times of trouble. Liz added that wearing the collar opens doors to other people's lives, to be able to help and support them. On the other hand, one of the challenges they have to meet is to work together with the members of the Church of England who object to women priests. A final question concerned what Liz preached the previous Sunday, which was the first Sunday of Advent. She said that when Advent begins, she always unpacks the gospel of the new Church year and suggests to the congregation that they read it. Their unusual experiences are mostly confidential, but Liz recalled leading the Guild of the Merchant Tailors in full regalia through York. It was most interesting to have insights from the other side of the collar.

**Kath Stubbs Media Officer**

## Holy Name of Mary Middlesbrough

Holy Name of Mary Foundation, Middlesbrough held their AGM in December 2022. Our then President had advised members that her term of office would be coming to an end at the AGM. Luckily a week before the meeting a name and two sponsors appeared. We were delighted at the meeting to be able to welcome our new President. Jean Dalton. Her sister is the outgoing President Meriel Carol.



Jean Rigg Secretary, Jean Dalton and Ursula Moulton Treasurer

HALLAM DIOCESE

## Christmas Lunch at Hallam

After a break of three years, the Hallam UCM Christmas lunch at the end of November 2022 was enjoyed by 50 of its members together with Deacon Peter Marshall the UCM Chaplain, the Diocesan President Mrs. Dorothy Anderson and other Officers past and present. As in previous years, Christmas stockings were made by the UCM ladies and parishioners of St. Vincent's Foundation in Sheffield. This year £250 was raised to be donated to the Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice fund. Mrs. Angela Higginson announced that £300 had been raised by members of the Catholic mothers to be donated to 'Mary's Meals.' Proceeds from the raffle of £226 were given to Miss Susan McDonald, the Director of Youth Ministry in the Hallam Diocese.

The luncheon was most enjoyable and we look forward to our next social meeting.

**Dorothy Anderson (Media Officer for the Hallam Diocese)**



CLIFTON DIOCESE

## Two New Members Enrolled

With waning numbers over many years, St. Joseph's Foundation, Portishead were delighted to welcome two new members, Eileen Davidson and Morag van Eker to join us in November 2022. Morag has now gone on an extended four-month holiday overseas so we're looking forward to hearing all about her travels on her return. A new speaker at the ready!

**Charmaine Furlong, St. Joseph's Foundation, Portishead, Clifton Diocese**





**SOUTHWARK DIOCESE**

## Sutton Members Day Out

Members and friends of Sutton UCM spent a lovely morning yesterday on a walk in the Bankside area of London with Kate Boyle (UCM member of Anerley Foundation).

We explored the history of the area with her, discovering that not only was it the site of the Globe theatre but also of two other theatres, the Rose and the Hope. We concluded our visit with lunch in the Anchor Pub, one of Bankside's oldest surviving taverns. Samuel Pepys, the famous diarist, was said to have witnessed the Great Fire of London from here in 1666! We all thoroughly enjoyed Kate's interesting tour and are already planning the location of next year's trip with her!

**Joanne Pavitt Southwark Media Officer**



## Trip to Aylesford Priory to see St Bernadette's Relics

On October 25th 2022 some members of the Isle of Sheppey Foundation went on an outing to Aylesford Priory to see St Bernadette's Relics. It was amazing to see the relics here in Kent. In the evening Mass was celebrated outside at the main Shrine, following which we took part in a candlelight procession on the Rosary Way. It was a wonderful, uplifting, spiritual experience.

Photo of our members waiting for the mass to begin with Sharon Bishop, Southwark Diocesan President in the centre.

**Joanne Pavitt Southwark Media Officer**



## New Members Inducted

On September 6th four new members were inducted into the Sutton UCM Foundation. The photograph shows the President Helen Thompson, in the centre with the 4 new members.

**Joanne Pavitt Southwark Media Officer**



## New Members Inducted

Please see attached a photograph picturing some of our members from the Isle of Sheppey Foundation enjoying a Christmas meal together at the Harps Inn with the Southwark Diocesan President Sharon Bishop seated in the middle, who is a member of our Foundation.

**Joanne Pavitt Southwark Media Officer**



## 40 Years Membership

At our November meeting our Diocesan Secretary, Mary Piper, presented Monica Tett with her certificate for 40 years membership of UCM Tolworth Foundation

Three other certificates for members who were unable to be with us - Noreen Price 40 years, Ann Groves 40 years and Kate Sage 50 years - were later presented by Tolworth Foundation President. Congratulations to them all for their long and committed service to UCM

**Lucy Smallwood , President, Tolworth Foundation**

**SHREWSBURY DIOCESE**

## Meeting Her Majesty

It was lovely to read the articles about members who had met Her Majesty in the winter issue. I only ever saw her from afar when she visited Manchester. However, I did write a poem about her.

I was at primary school and my class teacher asked each of us to compile a scrap book about her visit to Africa. It was fairly soon after her coronation. I did my best, it was difficult as my mum didn't buy newspapers so I asked friends and family. I wrote this poem

*The Queen has visited many lands  
Shook with many different hands  
She rides in cars, trains and a boat  
She seldom has to wear a coat  
She has such pretty dresses and clothes  
You'd think she had bought them from C&A Modes.*

My mum worked for C&A Modes and she took it to work to show her boss. He liked it, perhaps I should have sent it to Her Majesty.

**Joan Starr Shrewsbury Diocesan Media Officer**



WESTMINSTER ARCHDIOCESE

## News from Westminster

Westminster Archdiocesan Union of Catholic Mothers have had a varied autumn/winter season. Several Foundations are still without a parish meeting space, either due to buildings needing overhaul or being used commercially. Even the larger Foundations are being affected, however several have again started to invite the Diocesan Officers to their meetings. This hopefully means that there is a genuine desire to become more active.

West Drayton Foundation held their Mass and enrolled 2 new members. Picture shows all members of the Foundation including new members Zofia Griffiths and Joan Edwards plus Iona De Souza President Westminster Diocese and Angela Brennan President West Drayton Foundation.

Hounslow and Whitton had their usual Christmas lunch, despite church premises being unavailable, Whitton held theirs in the presbytery.

Homerton which has been quiet and dwindling for a while met with the officers and are set to "wake up". They held their Mass and invited the Diocesan President Iona De Souza and Justice & Peace/Welfare Officer Sonia Mullings who are pictured with the rest of the Foundation members.

We have more Independents than Foundation Members, so keeping the loop open is needing new thinking.

The Diocesan Study Day and Annual Requiem was a great success, led by our new Study Day officer who is a teacher and trained singer, what ho! a cantor and a communicator, thank you Annemarie Mulrone.

St. John's Wood, have despite a falling membership, remained active under the guidance of Sr. Brigid.

Ware has been busy again and over the last weekend in January held a Burns night supper at which their Scottish Parish Priest duly addressed the Haggis. They followed it up with promoting a concert by a local group Fusion Singers, on February 5th. This Foundation had a stall at an open parish weekend entitled "Come to Church" weekend they didn't get any new permanent members, but have had visiting ladies at meetings since, forging closer understandings and ties with non-joiners.

At the first Quarterly meeting of 2023 a short questionnaire sought to discover how much the pandemic changed the membership and to wake us up to some of the things we have been too worried to remember.



SALFORD DIOCESE

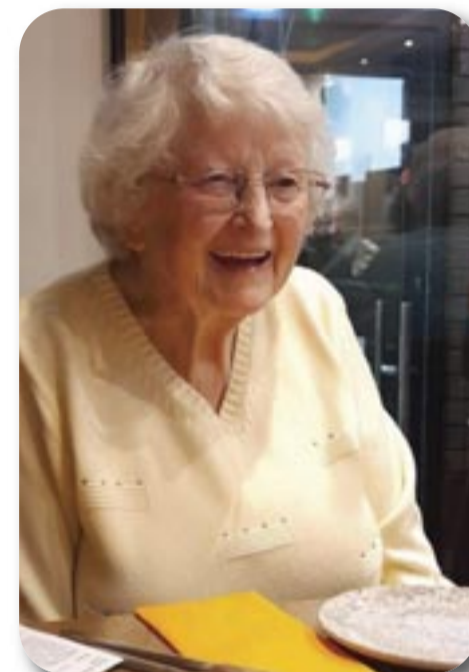
## Mary Ross, 90 Years Young

Mary Ross, who reached the grand age of 90 on February 11th 2023. She went over to Ireland for a few days to celebrate her birthday with family there.

The picture is of her enjoying our UCM meal with 20 of our members on a Wednesday evening in January, at a local restaurant.

We usually have our "Christmas" meal in January; December is always very busy, and it is lovely to have something to look forward to in January.

**Mildred D'Amore, St. Mary and St. Phillip Neri, Radcliffe, Manchester, in Salford diocese.**



## Hounslow Remain Viable and Increase in Numbers

Hounslow UCM despite not being able to meet initially due to the pandemic but more recently due to Parish Centre not being available, have managed to remain viable and increase in numbers. The members have communicated via WhatsApp and supported not only other members but the wider community. One of the recent activities brought to the members was the suffering of many families in Ghoti in Sindh Province, Pakistan following the devastating floods. The money was donated to a group called MUQADDAS JAMMAT PAKISTAN who used it towards providing much needed bedding and other charitable works. See attached pictures.

Mary Wardle



## Christmas Fayre at St Mary and St Phillip Neri

The Christmas Fair was a parish effort with ladies of the UCM manning and making goods for the homemade cake stall, hand knitted toy animals and other goods. We also manned (or ladies?) a tombola, a guess the name of a very large teddy, and a secondhand book stall. There were a lot of other stalls and a cafe manned by other members of the parish, and school staff, and of course Father Christmas arrived to sit in his grotto.

The Teddy Stall was very popular, children paid a small sum to pull a ribbon attached to an unknown soft toy. (Occasionally given a hint by a kind lady to get the one they really wanted) and quickly sold out! We had a very enjoyable and fruitful afternoon.





LEEDS DIOCESE

## After Christmas Party

The month of December us mothers at St. Ignatius Foundation Ossett are so busy we decided to hold our Christmas party in January. On a Monday in late January mothers and friends, 30 in total, met up at a local hotel for a post Christmas lunch. We had a lovely meal and a very noisy catch up followed by sharing out our "Secret Santa" presents. The photo is of our Foundation President and Secretary Pam Watkins and Christine Woodhouse

Eileen Goodwin Media Officer



## MacMillan Coffee Morning

MacMillan Coffee Morning Plaque for raising £536.63.  
Carol, Secretary St Joseph's UCM, Castleford



## Bishops launch new edition of environment document The Call of Creation

October 2022 CBCEW

*On the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecologists and animals, the Social Justice Department of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has launched a new edition of its teaching document on the environment – The Call of Creation.*

### The Call of Creation – 2022

First published two decades ago, in 2002, this new edition is released at the conclusion of the Church's month-long Season of Creation. The document calls for a "profound interior conversion" and for Catholics to "repair our relationship with God's creation" to address the current ecological crisis.

Writing in the foreword, Bishop John Arnold, Lead Bishop for the Environment, and Bishop Richard Moth, Chair of the Social Justice department, say:

"We are a people of hope who believe in redemption. We must study the signs of the times and take the action that is needed to repair our relationship with God's creation. As is made clear in The Call of Creation, the exercise of the virtue of solidarity and the promotion of the common good, which are so needed at this time, are the responsibility of each and every individual and institution in society."

### Two decades later

Why update and re-release The Call of Creation twenty years after its initial publication? As the Bishops attest, there is a need for urgent action to protect our common home. Around the world, and even in England and Wales where we have seen record temperatures topping 40°C, the signs of the times point to a greater number of severe weather events. No person who wishes to build a society marked by peace

and justice can fail to be concerned by the trends affecting the natural environment today.

### Inter-connectedness of creation

Emphasising the inter-connectedness of creation, The Call of Creation points out that respect for life from conception to natural death is part of a Christian environmental agenda. However, the Christian message is one of hope and redemption. The document notes that it is not too late to act, and it takes heart from the actions of other Christian denominations, people of other faiths and people of no faith as we address the challenges together.

The Call of Creation stresses that each of us has a responsibility to promote the common good and is called to repair our own relationship with the environment. It calls for conversion at all levels. Catholic parishes, schools and universities already contribute to caring for God's creation – but more needs to be done. Governments need to act and must do so on an international scale. The importance of individual action is also stressed:

"Individual choices can seem insignificant when faced with major global challenges. But Pope Francis has rightly stated that multiplied individual actions can indeed make a real difference. As individual children of God, it is important that we think carefully about how we use consumer goods and value simplicity in our lives. We should also care for, and nurture, that part of God's creation for which we are particularly responsible. By doing this, collectively, as brothers and sisters in Christ, we can also help to change our culture."

### Read/Download

Visit our website to read and download the 2022 edition of the bishops' teaching document on the environment, The Call of Creation.





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# Freedom of Religion is a vital human right

January 27th, 2023 CBCEW

**Speaking on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, has reaffirmed a resolution passed by the Bishops at their November 2022 plenary highlighting concerns with current and proposed legislation on the issue of 'Buffer Zones' around abortion clinics. Statement**

On 30 January the Government's Public Order Bill will be entering the report stage in the House of Lords. Clause 9, which was an amendment to the Bill in the House of Commons last autumn, introduces the 'offence of interference with access to or provision of abortion services'.

This clause will criminalise a range of activities within a 150m radius of an abortion service, under the broad premise of 'interference'. Problematic for freedom of religion, expression, and association, are many of the terms. These include: 'seeks to influence', 'persistently, continuously or repeatedly occupies', 'advises or persuades, attempts to advise or persuade, or otherwise expresses opinion'.

Clause 9 could extend trends seen at a local level, where Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in Bournemouth and Birmingham have set a dangerous precedent and banned, amongst other activities, prayer and the recitation of Scripture. Recent police actions have further exacerbated the concerns of Catholic bishops, and many others, regarding the broad legislative proposal of Clause 9 and its implications for freedom of religion, belief, expression, and association.

The interpretation of terms such as 'seeks to influence' could make prayer, certain types of thought, and even mere presence a criminal offence in a public place. There is a risk, despite any other intent, that existing and proposed measures



constitute discrimination and disproportionately have an impact on people of religious faith. Its implications extend beyond the perimeters of an abortion service and raise questions about the state's powers in relation to the individual in a free society, both those with faith and those without.

All harassment and intimidation of women is to be condemned. Moreover, as accepted in a 2018 Home Office Review, there are already laws and mechanisms in place to protect women from such unacceptable behaviour and so render this Clause unnecessary and excessive.

The Catholic bishops, and many others, hold religious liberty to be essential for the flourishing and the realisation of the dignity of every human person and recognise it as a foundational freedom of any free and democratic society.

**Bishop John Sherrington  
Lead Bishop for Life Issues**

## Pope Francis to Roman Rota: All true marriage is a gift

**In his address to the Roman Rota for the opening of the judicial year, Pope Francis says proclaiming the "Gospel of the Family" is one of the essential tasks of the Church. By Christopher Wells**

There is a "strong need," in the Church and in the world, "to rediscover the meaning and value of the conjugal union between man and woman on which the family is founded," Pope Francis said on Friday.

Addressing the auditors of the Roman Rota at the beginning of the Church's judicial year, the Holy Father said the Church has the mission to proclaim the Good News, which includes "illuminating and sustaining the 'great mystery that is conjugal and family love.'"

### Marriage is a gift

The Pope explained that, according to Christian revelation, marriage is more than a ceremony or social event; it is not a mere formality or an abstract ideal, but instead "is a reality with its own precise consistency."

Given that reality, and the fact that marriage takes place between real men and women, with all their limitations and failings, the Pope asked how marriages can be engaging, faithful, and permanent.

The answer, he said, lies in the fact that all true marriages, even non-sacramental marriages, are a gift from God to the spouses.

"Marriage is always a gift! Conjugal fidelity rests on divine fidelity; conjugal fruitfulness rests on divine fruitfulness."

For this reason, marriage cannot "be reduced to a sentimental plane or to mere selfish satisfactions"; that is, one must reject the idea that a marriage lasts only so long as romantic

love does.

Instead, Pope Francis said, "marital love is inseparable from marriage itself, in which fragile and limited human love meets divine love, which is always faithful and merciful."

We can fulfill Jesus' command that we "love one another" – which also pertains to marriage – because "it is He Himself who sustains spouses with His grace."

### Marriage is good

Having elaborated on marriage as a gift from God, Pope Francis went on to emphasize that marriage is good – and, in fact, "a good of extraordinary value for everyone," not just spouses and children, but other families, the Church, and the whole world.

He emphasized, too, that "in the Christian economy of salvation, marriage constitutes first and foremost the high road to holiness, a holiness lived out in ordinary life."

This, the Pope said, "is an essential aspect of the Gospel of the family."

Turning to the question of marriages in crisis, Pope Francis said the Church must accompany spouses facing difficulties with love and support. The Church's pastoral response, he said, must involve helping renew the awareness of marriage as an "irrevocable gift." Without ignoring the contributions of social sciences, this "light on one's marriage is an essential part of the journey of reconciliation" within marriages.

The Pope recognized that marriage always involves "fragility" – but, he said, "with the help of the Holy Spirit," difficulties in married life need not lead to a definitive rupture.

**Vatican News 23 Jan 2023**



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# Monthly message of the WUCWO President, February 2023

## The passion for evangelisation

Dear friends,

The passion for evangelisation, that means, apostolic zeal, is a vital dimension for the Church, tells us the Pope in one of his last Wednesday catechesis. It seems important to me, with the grace of the Holy Spirit and following the pontifical magisterium, to deepen this aspect of WUCWO's purpose, which is to promote the co-responsibility of women in evangelisation.

The Church was born as a "Church that goes forth". Jesus sent us as apostles, as missionaries to spread the Good News to the ends of the Earth. It is about giving credible witness of the joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium 1), of the love of Jesus Christ. It does not mean proselytising, in order to convince others and gather more followers, but to spread faith in a God who is Father, who has saved us with the gift of his Son and with his provident tenderness accompanies us daily in our lives.

Pope Benedict, whose Easter we lived recently and whose luminous magisterium shines as a beacon on our path, taught us that "the Church does not engage in proselytism. Instead, she grows by attraction". (Homily of the Holy Mass for the Inauguration of the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, Shrine of Aparecida, 13 May 2007, Aparecida).

"But when Christian life loses sight of the horizon of evangelisation, the horizon of proclamation, it grows sick: it closes in on itself, it becomes self-referential, it becomes atrophied. Without apostolic zeal,

faith withers. Mission, on the other hand, is the oxygen of Christian life: it invigorates and purifies it". We need to "rekindle the fire that the Holy Spirit wants to keep burning within us" (Pope Francis's Catechesis, January 11, 2023).

And evangelisation begins by looking around us and focusing on who needs the proclamation. Jesus looked at Matthew - the publican and betrayer of his people - and called him, he looked at Zacchaeus - very skilful to keep what belongs to others - and stayed in his house, he looked at the sinful woman and asked her: "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? Neither do I condemn you. Go now and sin no more" (Jn 8, 10-11). He always did so with a look of predilection, reaching out to the hearts of those who were far away.

How beautiful it is to have before every recipient of our evangelisation that gaze of Jesus' tender love! To do this, Francis proposes to ask ourselves: "how do we look upon others? How often do we see their faults and not their needs; how often do we label people according to what they do or what they think! Even as Christians we say to ourselves: is he one of us or not? This is not the gaze of Jesus".

A few months before the meeting with the Pope in Rome (13 May, the registration is open by clicking [HERE](#)) and our General Assembly in Assisi (14-20 May, registration closed), I invite you to open even more the doors of our organisations to evangelisation, which must be our great passion, both personal and communal.

And, at the same time, let us open the doors of WUCWO. Let us not remain locked in the organisations that we are, like a dog running

around and bites its own tail. We have so much to offer to other organisations! Let us be missionaries who offer the gifts we possess to other organisations. Let us look around us with the gaze of Jesus. Let us be passionate, like Pilar Bellosillo, for Jesus, for the Church, for WUCWO and we will have a great power of attraction.

Dear friends, who of you does not know or has not at some time connected with an organisation in your city, country or elsewhere that might be interested in getting to know WUCWO, in becoming a WUCWO member or simply in collaborating with WUCWO in one of its projects and activities? Now is the time to make an invitation. We are called to be in solidarity and to expand this organisation which is the only International Public Association of the Faithful recognised as such by the Holy See, dedicated to women. Let us also have a passion to share it.

I leave you in the hands of Mary, Mother of Evangelisation, and greet you with affection,

**María Lia Zervino, Servidora**

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## The Choir of Angels Signs the Way Towards Inclusion of Deaf People



### An award-winning Manchester children's choir signs and sings so more people can be included.

The 'Choir of Angels' from Sacred Heart & St. Francis parish, Gorton, Manchester, has been celebrated for learning sign language and using drums to help include a deaf member of their church, Minna Moffatt-Feldman. Minna nominated the children for a 'Luke 5 Award' for disability inclusion from charity Through the Roof ([throughtheroof.org](https://throughtheroof.org)). Minna said, "I am deaf. I use both British Sign Language (BSL) and English. Although I can read the lyrics, I cannot follow hymns or music during Mass ... This group of children aged 7-16 have taken it upon themselves to incorporate signing into their songs so I can be included."

As a result, Minna says she has truly "felt included and become more interested in the sung words and their meanings. Before, I missed out on this part of worship and at times felt sad... It is wonderful how the choir have encouraged the whole parish to be involved and opened awareness even more - indeed the choir have been the role model."



The Choir of Angels was stunned to receive the award - Minna had kept it a surprise! The children shared some amazing wisdom about why it's important everyone is included:

**Michelle, age 11** - It gives our choir a different touch and makes it better. And if any other deaf people join, they will feel even more welcome and special. I can't wait to learn more.

**Deborah, age 10** - I feel happy when I sign, especially with others. I think it is really cool that we are helping individuals in our parish, as well as doing something that we love. I am really surprised at how the language has grown and how it has become a normal thing in our parish over time.

**Isabella, age 7** - Singing whilst signing is good because the deaf will feel included and know what we're singing to praise God. Also, people will know a bit of sign language; that good skill will make people proud of themselves.

**Joseph, age 12** - I feel happy that sign language has been introduced to our parish because it helped us learn a new way to help people with a disability (deaf people). Sign language will also help us in the future because we might find more deaf people and they might not be able to lip-read.

**Samuella, age 7** - I like signing while singing because it helps people who have hearing problems know what you are saying. I also like it because it will teach people a bit of sign language.

**Hope, age 17** - Thank you, God, for showing a different way of getting your Word to be spread to everybody. For truly you are for everyone, and you accept anyone to be in your ever-growing family.

Minna is proud of the choir and is grateful that they have become so aware of barriers faced by deaf people, especially those who use BSL. This whole experience has really encouraged the parish, who are now asking to learn some sign language. It's the plan now to teach them all, and the children's choir have really led the way.

Annette Stuart from Through the Roof said: "Many hearing people are nervous about how to communicate with deaf people, so if that is you, watch our Deaf Awareness video - and share it with your local church - see the webpage here: <https://throughtheroof.org/2022/10/24/deaf-awareness-video/> "

Minna works as Accessibility Coordinator for Caritas Salford, a local charity which runs services supporting people experiencing homelessness,

isolation, poverty and disadvantage across Greater Manchester and Lancashire. In her role, Minna looks at ways to improve accessibility for people in Caritas projects and parishes within the Diocese of Salford - so it is especially poignant when her own parish strives to make itself more accessible for her. Minna hopes that the Choir of Angels' example of how small changes can improve awareness and community cohesion will encourage positive action within other parishes, so similar barriers that others face can be overcome.

Breaking down barriers faced by disabled people in Christian life is the aim of Through the Roof's 'Roofbreaker' project. Roofbreakers are local church volunteers who support and advocate for disabled people, to ensure everyone can participate, serve and belong. The name Roofbreaker comes from the account in the Gospel of St Luke, Chapter 5, where the four friends bring the paralysed man to Jesus, breaking through the roof. The vision is that every church in the UK will have a Roofbreaker to celebrate and encourage the involvement of disabled people in the life of the church. Just like in the Luke 5 account, when the disabled man met Jesus, everyone benefitted, and God was glorified.

To be a Roofbreaker, you don't need to be an expert in disability - you just need to be available to connect with disabled people in your church

community. The role involves listening to the challenges disabled people tell you they face. The next step is to work with disabled people to find ways around any barriers to full participation in church life. Support and free resources are available for Roofbreakers from Through the Roof. You can also connect with other Roofbreakers in local networks to share information and encourage each other. Find out more about Roofbreakers at: <https://www.throughtheroof.org/roofbreakers/>

Through the Roof is an international Christian disability charity based in the UK with a mission to transform lives through Jesus with disabled people. Their work has three distinct but interlinked elements:

- Enabling Faith: Equipping churches and Roofbreakers (local disability champions) to enable disabled people to participate and belong in Christian life.
- Bringing Freedom: The 'Wheels for the World' project provides disabled people in developing countries with wheelchairs and Bibles.
- Sharing Fellowship: Our Christian-focused accessible holidays, retreats and groups bring fun and friendships for all.

For more information, visit [www.throughtheroof.org](http://www.throughtheroof.org) or @TTRChangesLives on social media.





# Walsingham Whispers

**We hope you have all enjoyed a joyous and peaceful Christmas and the Walsingham Sub- committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and healthy 2023 with many Blessings.**

There are some changes happening at Walsingham, the Rector Mgr. Phillip Moger has been appointed as an Auxillary Bishop in Southwark Diocese; His Episcopal Ordination takes place on Tuesday 21st February. At the moment we do not know who the incoming Rector is. We have sent a Congratulations and a Thank You to Mgr. Phillip.

We have already commenced preparations for our 76th Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham which this year takes place on Monday and Tuesday, 3rd and 4th July. The theme for this year's pilgrimage is Our Lady of Nazareth.

Our Lead Diocese this year is the Diocese of Shrewsbury and our pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Mark Davies assisted by their Chaplain, Fr Robert Dykes.

Mrs Angela Higginson, WSC treasurer, is responsible for booking beds at Walsingham. Contact details as per booking form. The 2023 Booking form for badges appears in this edition of UCM News. The fee is £10.00 which includes entrance to the Abbey Grounds. The cut-off date for bookings is 15th June but we do ask that Foundations/members apply in good time to enable Angela, to get tickets back to you in good time. Please read our request on the Booking form regarding adequate envelope size and postage bearing in mind the number of tickets you are requesting.

Stewards - At the beginning of March, I will be writing to all Diocesan Presidents requesting stewards to assist us on the day - please do come forward if you are asked as the Walsingham Sub-committee rely heavily on your help to ensure the smooth running of our pilgrimage.

Sadly, last year our numbers were considerably down, this may have been due to the effects of the pandemic, so we do hope that more of our members and friends will be able to join us this year remembering that this is the only UCM event where we can all come together to pray, to be part of a wonderful pilgrimage, to share a lovely day together, meet up with old friends and maybe meet new ones too. Perhaps we can try to bring ONE extra person! We do need over 500 members to make the pilgrimage viable, the old saying of "if we don't use it we will lose it" comes to mind.

The Walsingham Sub-committee look forward to welcoming you all to Walsingham to share our special pilgrimage.

God Bless you all.

**Mary, Angela, Marie and Mary  
Walsingham Sub-committee**



## A Man Called Otto a powerful portrayal of love of neighbour

**I was surprised to find that Tom Hanks' new film is beautiful movie that focused on the importance of loving your neighbour. Interspersed with that is a subtle commentary on the value of all people.**

My son and I went to see Tom Hanks' new movie, A Man Called Otto, recently. On the way to the theatre, I commented to him that I really had no idea what the plot was. He didn't either. He simply wanted to see it because he likes Tom Hanks and the trailer looked funny.

Imagine my surprise when I found a beautiful movie that focused on the importance of loving your neighbour. Interspersed with that is a subtle commentary on the value of all people.

This is a lesson pro-life people have always tried to teach. Being pro-life is not just about saving babies. We see the value and dignity of all people—born and pre-born. And A Man Called Otto knocks this truth out of the proverbial park.

Otto is a grouchy and cantankerous widower who is deeply grieving the recent loss of his wife. In one of the opening scenes, we see Otto buying rope and causing a problem at the hardware store because he felt he was overcharged. Upon his arrival home, he meets some new neighbours—a lovely pregnant Hispanic mother named Marisol, her husband, and their two adorable daughters. Irritated with the father's attempt to parallel park, Otto jumps in the car to do it for him.

Just a few minutes later, back in his home, Otto forms a noose, attaches it to the ceiling, and is about to secure it around his neck when there's a knock at the door. It's the couple. They brought him food and thanked him for his help.

The movie continues like this, with Marisol lovingly insinuating herself and her family into Otto's life. She can tell he's lonely and sad, though she does not realize the extent of his grief. But it is her constant love, her outreach, and her kindness that change him and that help him see that he matters.

Otto is soon able to look outside his grief to see the pain that others around him feel—and he takes steps to help them. Through interactions with a disabled friend and a young "transgender" student, Otto comes to the realization that people need one another and that all human beings have value—even though many in the world fail to see this.

Though the inclusion of the "transgender" student seemed to be done for politically correct reasons, it does give credence to the fact that all human beings deserve love and compassion. We don't need to agree with or advocate for a person's feelings and decisions to know that this person deserves love and compassion. We don't get to assign value to one person and not another. We don't get to pick and choose who matters. It is our job as children of God to teach His word, to treat others as He would, and to love.

The movie is a beautiful reminder that we must look out for our neighbours, whether they be our physical neighbours or people within our communities.

Marisol could have been put off by Otto's grumpy demeanour. She could have just rolled her eyes, walked away, and written him off like many in his housing complex did. But she reached out. She welcomed him into her life. She loved him. And through her actions, she literally saved his life.

Not only that, but her actions had a snowball effect, as the broken bonds of friendship of some of the others in the complex began to heal.

With so many shallow and pointless movies out there, it was refreshing to see one that focused on the dignity of all people and one that showed how we can love through our actions.

We may never see the fruits of our kinds deeds or know the extent of how others benefit from our help, but the recipient knows. God knows. And that's all we need.

It shouldn't take a movie to make us see that all people have value, but it's sure a blessing to have a movie illustrate this fact.

**Susan Ciancio CWR**



Tom Hanks, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, and Mariana Treviño star in "A Man Called Otto". (Image: www.imdb.com)

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# OBITUARIES

## NORTHAMPTON DIOCESE

**Wynne Barrowman,** Our Lady of Walsingham, Corby

## SHREWSBURY DIOCESE

**Mrs Mary Latimer,** Our Lady & St John's Church, Heswall, Past Diocesan President, Treasurer and Study officer

**Mary Cassidy,** Sacred Heart & St Peter foundation, Baguley.

## BIRMINGHAM ARCHDIOCESE

**Mrs Win Brookstone,** St John Fisher Foundation, West Heath, Past National Study Officer, Diocesan President

**Monica Gallagher,** St John the Baptist Foundation Tamworth

## CLIFTON DIOCESE

**Val James,** St John's RC Church Bath Past National President

**Patricia Parry,** Sacred Heart Foundation

**Veronica Kelly,** St Gerard's Foundation

**Gina Orchard,** St Joseph's Foundation, Portishead

## A & B DIOCESE

**Eileen Heffenan,** Hollington UCM for over 50 years

**Pat Flanagan,** Horley Foundation, Past President, Secretary, Diocesan Study Day Officer

**Raymonde Amico,** Haywards Heath Foundation

## HALLAM DIOCESE

**Peggy Leonora McGloin,** Mother of God, Sheffield

## SALFORD DIOCESE

**Ita O'Meara,** St John's UCM, Chorlton

## SOUTHWARK ARCHDIOCESE

**Joyce Whiting,** Sutton

**Margaret Rayner,** Sutton

## WESTMINSTER ARCHDIOCESE

**Adele Griffiths,** St John's Wood

**Meera Morrison,** St John's Wood

**Monica O'Shea,** Kingsland

**Bridie Plummer,** Whitton

**Pat Edwards,** Whitton

**Pat Sheridan,** Whitton

**Anne Dunne,** Kensal New Town

**Rebecca Beane,** Kensal New Town

**Mary Marley,** Kensal New Town

**Maria Umbaka,** Kensal New Town

**Cathy Palmer,** Kensal New Town

**Rita Farr,** Shepherd's Bush

**Joan Campbell,** Independent

**Mary Harris,** Independent

**Martina Barnard,** Independent

**Mary Farmer,** Independent

**Pat Trollope,** Hounslow

## 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.

# Jane O'Brien, Past National Editor of Catholic Mother

Jane's membership in UCM began many years ago at Charminster, Bournemouth and when she and her husband Jimmy had a serious car accident in Southampton which kept her in hospital there the UCM grapevine sprang into action and the Southampton Mums came to her aid in many caring ways.

Jane's active involvement in both Charminster and Ensby Park foundations soon led to the alert eye of the late Anne Lambkin falling on her and she became Portsmouth Diocese's Welfare Officer, a role which she filled with caring dedication whilst still busy with her family of four and Jimmy who did not always enjoy good health. From there, as many of us know, it was a short step to National level where her next job was to be Editor of The Catholic Mother for seven years. A few years earlier Jane had set up her own

business as a Teacher of English as a Foreign Language (TFL) but she did not let that affect her excellent editorial work and commitment to parish life.

During this time she bore the sudden death of her son Mark with faith and courage sustained, we hope, by the prayerful and loving support of UCM.

Later when boundaries changed Jane also made strong links with Plymouth Diocese though travel distances were often difficult.

She had a deep devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham where I shared several memorable experiences with her. Once she had booked a small cottage with an extra bedroom in another house and several of us travelled together including a guest from Grenada UCM who was staying in my parish at the time. One of our priests came with us and on arrival we found that three of the beds

booked were in one room in the house across the road so, propriety being observed, Father was lodged there with two empty beds in the room. Meanwhile, guests comfortably accommodated, Jane and I had very inadequate "mattresses" on the cottage floor so did a bit of pilgrimage penance which we hoped was better for our souls than it was for our backs.

In fact Jane and beds feature in my memories. We first met when she offered me hospitality for a Diocesan Meeting in Bournemouth and gave me a very comfy fold up bed which, in the wee small hours, started to fold up with me in it. I was fine but struggled to flatten it out without waking Jane and Jimmy in the next room. She claimed she didn't hear a thing.

But above all it was Jane's deep faith and indomitable spirit in difficult times which were her

special gifts as well as her beautiful smile. May she rest in peace after a life well lived.

**Gillian Badcock, Past International Officer**



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# Val James, Past National President

Val was born on 18th February 1936 and married Peter in 1967. They had two daughters Sally and Hilary.

She joined U.C.M. at her local foundation in Bath and rose to be Diocesan President in 1972-75 and again 1984-87. She was first appreciated more widely at the 60th anniversary rally held in the Royal Festival Hall in 1973. Obviously as Diocesan President she attended National Council where her knowledge, friendship and wise counsel were much valued right up to 2018, the last time she came.

Val held several offices on National Committee Press Officer, Study Day Chairman and National Vice President. These talents led to her becoming our National President from 1987-1991. During this time the 75th anniversary of our organisation was celebrated and I was privileged to organise, on her behalf, a National rally at Aston Villa Stadium and a Pilgrimage to Rome where the 75 persons who came with her, met with the Holy Father Pope St. John Paul 2nd. Val presented him with an illuminated address promising our continued support and asking for prayers for all our members. Some years later she received the Cross Pro Ecclesiae et Pontifice for her own work for the Church and the Pope especially through the medium of the Union of Catholic Mothers. During these years Val set up a small group to produce leaflets, on several topics, which were widely used as information, study and discussion points at Foundation Meetings. She visited all the Dioceses to encourage and inspire the further growth of U.C.M. Val came to Council and

Walsingham even after she could no longer drive; her last visit to Walsingham was in 2022.

Outside of U.C.M. she was a member of The National Board of Catholic Women, a Catholic Woman of the Year, a volunteer for Citizens Advice, a CAFOD Board member, a life member of the Catholic Union and a Clifton Diocesan Trustee.

She kept in touch, by zoom and live streaming, with Daily Mass, her adopted Foundation in Dursley, National U.C.M. activities and her Diocesan Synodal initiative. She embraced

social media to keep in touch with her friends and contemporaries.

Val was an excellent Bridge Player and also loved Skittles and Quizzes, she was an ardent bird watcher and had travelled widely, Val was a great reader especially of Catholic History, She had a very deep Faith but was never overtly "Holy". A very Rounded Lady whom it was a privilege to call friend.

Thank you Val for being the unique person God intended you to be, may you now rest in peace with Him.



## Submitting copy

### for next issue

The deadline for articles and photos for the next edition of the UCM News is 28

May 2023

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# The Union of Catholic Mothers 76<sup>th</sup> Annual WALSINGHAM Pilgrimage

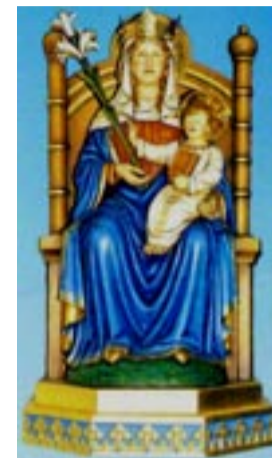
## Monday & Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023 Led by the Diocese of Shrewsbury

Diocese:		No. of Pilgrims badges @ £10.00 each		No. of Abbey Link Mobility Bus tickets (includes a seat in the Abbey Grounds) @ £3.50 each		TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	
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		= £		= £		= £	
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				Tel No:			
No. of Deacons who wish to participate		No. of Priests who wish to concelebrate		Signed		Date:	
<p><b>Bookings cut-off date is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June.</b></p> <p><b>Fees for Priests/Deacons:</b> 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.</p>				<p><b><u>All Bookings to be sent a.s.a.p &amp; before Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to:</u></b></p> <p>Mrs Angela Higginson 26 Holmesarr Crescent Rossington Doncaster DN11 0QD Tel: 0130 248 1374</p>		<p>Please enclose a SAE of adequate size and postage for the number of tickets requested</p>	

**Booking Form:** All Cheques should be made payable to: "The U.C.M. Walsingham Subcommittee"

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**  
**SERVICE OF LIGHT**  
**8pm**  
**In Chapel of Reconciliation**  
**followed by the TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July**  
**MASS**  
**12 Noon**



Concelebrated Mass with Bishop Alan Williams, Bishop Mark Davies and Diocesan Priests followed by a Silent Procession.

For further information please contact your Diocesan President or Local Organiser



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