

May the grass be soft beneath your feet
 And streams beside you flow.
 May sights of beauty fill your soul
 And warming sunlight fall.
 May you, dear friends be held secure
 In God's pure love and grace,
 And know the Father's hand in yours
 In every hour and place.



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St Oscar Romero

Oscar Romero was born on August 15th 1917 to a family of modest means in the small town of Ciudad Barrios in El Salvador. He went to the seminary at thirteen, studied for the priesthood in Rome, and was ordained in 1942. At work in San Miguel he was a zealous pastor with a simple lifestyle; shy and bookish. He was close to and much loved by the communities he served. In 1970 he was made a bishop; and in 1977, to the shock of many, he was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador. There followed three tumultuous years of ministry at the head of the archdiocese in his strife-torn country before his assassination.

El Salvador is a small country in Central America named after Christ the Saviour. In 1977, it had a population of about four million. The country was deeply divided between a tiny land-owning elite and the mass of landless poor. There was economic exploitation, social deprivation and malnutrition in the countryside, on the coffee estates and sugar plantations. The whole system was kept in place through electoral fraud and wholesale repression. Killings, torture, disappearances and political imprisonment were the routines of the military regime. The church put itself alongside the poor in their struggle for basic rights and human dignity and suffered persecution too. Civil war was imminent.

Archbishop Romero had a deep and prayerful spiritual life and he loved the poor. He preached a message of social justice, non-violence, change, peace and reconciliation. Week by week, from the pulpit, Romero confronted the human rights violations, the political violence, the corrupt system of justice, the iniquitous land tenure system and the suffering of El Salvador's poor. He became known as the voice of the voiceless. His sermons were legendary. He sought to make the Word of God come alive in the lives of the poor. He teased all the meaning out from the Gospel and applied it to contemporary El Salvador.

He pleaded to the right and the left for an end to the violence and killings. He urged dialogue. He demanded human rights for all. Bumper stickers appeared: 'Be a Patriot – Kill a Priest'. Six priests were killed before Romero and at 6.26pm on 24th

March 1980, he was shot dead as he celebrated Mass in the hospital chapel where he lived. He fell at the foot of a huge crucifix.

His funeral took place in his Cathedral on Palm Sunday, thirty-eight years ago; but the Requiem Mass was never finished. Smoke bombs were thrown into the massed crowd of mourners and some forty people were killed in the ensuing stampede and shooting.

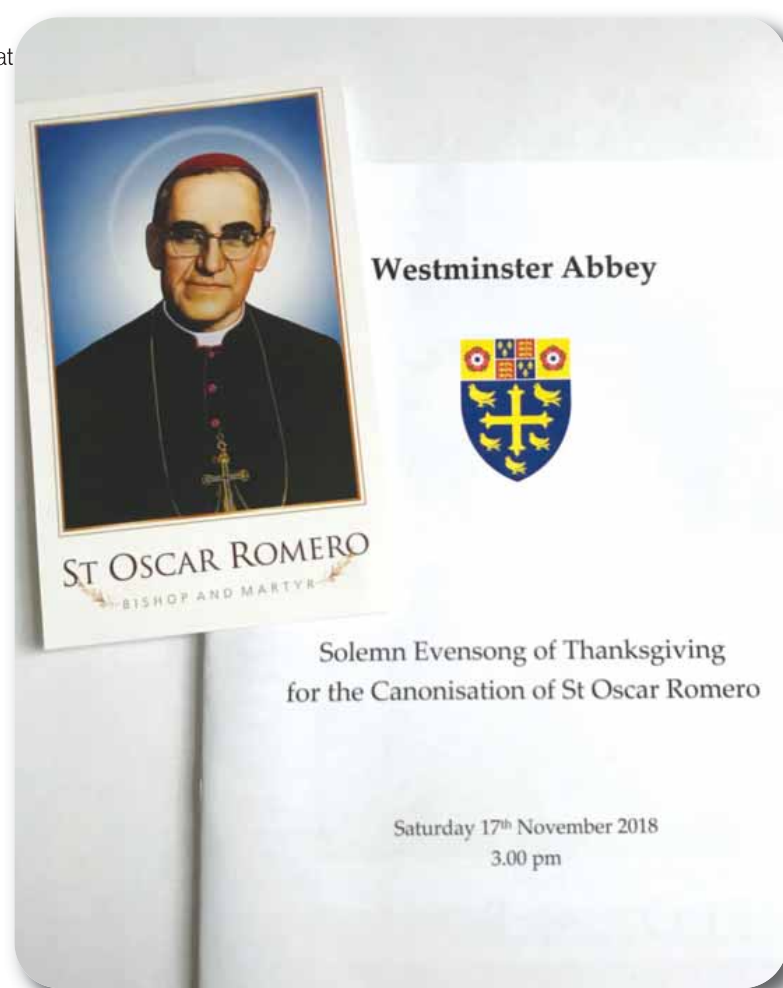
A twentieth-century martyr for the poor, Romero's ministry exemplified a faith that does justice, courageously and consistently. He stands now as a credible witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ for the twenty-first century. An ecumenical icon, Oscar Romero is an inspiration to lay Christians and clergy alike, who embrace the cause of the poor as their own – and through prayer and action, join in the quest for peace and justice today.

Since his death in 1980, prayers have been offered continuously for the recognition of Archbishop Romero as a martyr and saint of the Church. However, the cause for his canonisation advanced exceedingly slowly until the election of Pope Francis. He 'unblocked' the process and in May 2015, at a magnificent ceremony in San Salvador, Oscar Romero was beatified as a martyr of the Church, killed out of 'hatred of the faith'.

On October 14th 2018, at a ceremony in St Peter's Square in Rome, he was canonised as Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romeo – a pastor of great holiness whose ministry was characterised by apostolic courage.

Romero's statue stands over the Great Door of Westminster Abbey. It was unveiled during the 1998 Lambeth Conference, one of twentieth-century martyrs honoured in this way.

Oscar Romero's Feast day is celebrated on March 24th, the anniversary of his martyrdom.



Archbishop Romero Trust
www.romerotruster.org.uk

EVENSONG of THANKSGIVING for the CANONISATION of OSCAR ROMERO WESTMINSTER ABBEY 17th November 2018

After waiting outside for about 25 minutes, with only about 20 people ahead of us in the queue, Val and I were admitted to the Abbey, after the compulsory bag check.



We then stood, almost to the time for evensong in a side aisle, first near the memorial of Stephen Hawking, Michael Faraday, Isaac Newton and other notable scientists, then in the music section of Benjamin Britten, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Edward Elgar to name but a few.

Eventually we took our seats in the front row of the congregation, between the choir stalls and the high altar, from where we had an excellent view of the proceedings. As the choir and clergy entered, we recognised Bishop John Rawsthorne among them.

The Dean of Westminster, Very Reverend Dr John Hall, welcomed the congregation then Jenny Bond, Churches together in England, read a passage from the writings of Oscar Romero. After the choir had sung Psalm 39, ending with the "Glory be...", Rev Jane Sinclair, Canon in Residence, read the first lesson from Micah (6). We stood while the choir sang the Magnificat, then Christine

Allen, Director of Christian Aid, read from Colossians (3). The choir sang 'Nunc Dimittis', before we all faced east (the high altar) to recite the Apostles' Creed.

Following this was the Lord's Prayer and the responses, the sung collects of the day, and the prayer for the Royal Family. The choir then sang the Anthem, entitled 'A Special Appeal' which was composed by James MacMillen and commissioned by the Dean and chapter of Westminster to mark the centenary of the birth of Oscar Romero (2017). The words of the anthem are based on a sermon Archbishop Romero gave, begging the army to stop the killing.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols should have preached the sermon next, but due to his illness, the Dean took his place and recounted the courage and holiness of our newest Saint. We then sang "Praise to the Holiest." (John Henry Newman) before the service concluded with the Act of Rededication and a blessing from the Dean.

On our way out of the Abbey we spoke to Bishop Rawsthorne. (Just to let him know that UCM were there).

Overall it was a very significant recognition of the holiness of Saint Oscar Romero.

Margaret Kerbey
 National Treasurer

FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Dear Members

Hello,
Sitting here on Peace Sunday, to write this article, I am thinking about the youth from all around the world who are coming together in Panama, South America. All their fund raising and preparation is over. The theme for the World Youth Day is 'I am a servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word' (Luke 1:38). If any member of your family attended they may like to tell us about their experience.

So what's happening in the UCM, in the next few months, I am starting my travels, Sheffield, Leeds, and I am attending F.L.A.M.E. at Wembley. I hope to meet the diocesan study officers and your delegates at Study Days in March. Preparations have started for the National Pilgrimage in 2020. We will be visiting the Shrine of Our Lady of Banneau, Belgium. The cost will depend on how many will be attending and the date is in September. If anyone is interested could you please send your name and full contact details to your Diocesan Secretary or the National Treasurer as soon as possible.

If you would like me to visit your diocese please write to the National Secretary. On behalf of the National Committee I wish you and your family a happy and holy Easter.

Margaret McDonald, National President

NOTTINGHAM



Spalding & Holbeach Foundation celebrates

We recently celebrated the 80th birthday of Judith Martin (pictured here with her husband Robert). At our recent meeting they gave us a very interesting demonstration of hand signing for the hard of hearing. As well as being a former president and a former secretary of our foundation, Judith has in the past served on the Walsingham UCM Pilgrimage committee and also as Diocesan UCM secretary.

We thank Judith for her many years of commitment to the UCM.

**Diana Smith
Foundation President**



Nottingham quilts

Earlier in the year, Lilian Hoath came to live in our parish, Holy Spirit West Bridgford, and came along to U.C.M. We had no idea at that time what a talented lady she is. When we were organising speakers for the year Lilian said she would be happy to give a talk entitled "Have Quilt will Travel" which she did at our November meeting. In 1987 she went to New York and on returning home decided to make a quilt of various scenes she had seen in New York. Since then she has visited many countries around the world and has made a quilt for each one of them. She also has 12 unfinished quilts which she calls her UFO's (unfinished objects). We were all amazed at the pictures on the quilts and of the quality of her workmanship. Everyone agreed it was a very enjoyable evening.

**Kathy Gelling
Media Officer, Nottingham**



New Members Enrolled

The Spalding & Holbeach Foundation was delighted to welcome and enrol two new members at its Advent Service at Holy Trinity Holbeach. The new members, Doris Rawding (left) and Regina Barker (right) are seen here with Diana Smith (Foundation President)

Diana Smith

Submitting copy for next issue

The deadline for articles and photos for the next edition of the Catholic Mother is **Wednesday 22nd May 2019**

Please send copy to Margaret Postill, National Media Officer, at catholic.mother@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you



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

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018

This year's Annual Conference was held in Newcastle, I attended from Friday 5th October to Sunday 7th October. I am aware from the recent U.C.M. meeting in Birmingham that we have a number of new Officers across the country. So with that in mind I would like to say a few words about the National Council of Women. The N.C.W. is made up of a Regional Network of Branches, one in the Midlands Region, one in South West and Midlands Region, one in the Southern Region and one in the Northern Region.

The organisation is made up of two very distinct parts, the National Council of Young Women and the National Council of Women.

The N.C.W. work to ensure that women play a full role in our society. Their aim is to make women more interested in local, regional and national affairs and to get them more involved in decision-making.

They represent women's views and concerns at the highest levels of government and are determined to make sure that discrimination is eradicated from all areas of society. They carry out research, hold consultations, debates and seminars, follow developments in legislation and respond to government consultations on a whole range of issues. The National Council of Young Women link the N.C.W. into schools, colleges and universities. NCYW holds seminars and workshops and their reports are sent forward to NCW on a wide range of issues that relate to young women, for example sexism in schools, yes sexism in schools is still alive and kicking!

More than forty organizations are affiliated to the N.C.W. including the Union of Catholic Mothers.

N.C.W. are also part of the "6.0 Group of Women's Organizations", which brings together the six leading women's groups in the UK (the National Federation of Women's Institutes, the Townswomen's Guild, the British Federation of Women Graduates, Soroptimists International of GB & Ireland Ltd, and Business and Professional Women UK).

The Organisation's influence reaches across Europe and into many countries worldwide due to its affiliation to the International Council of Women. The N.C.W. has also been granted Special Consultative Status at the United Nations. Members take part in the annual meeting of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women which is held in New York.

The theme of this year's conference in Newcastle was "Beyond the Ballot: Women and Parliament" We heard from a variety of Politicians from across the political spectrum, Baroness Joyce Quin, Guy Opperman M.P., Councillor David Cook the Sheriff of Nottingham, Veronica Jones, Northumberland County Council and Professor Ron Beadle of Gateshead Council. All spoke of the areas of their work which supports women in the world of politics and also in the case of the women, their own experiences. Speaking as an ex politician, women in that arena do need support firstly to enter it and then remain there.

A large part of the Conference was taken up with the Resolution session. There were five Resolutions this year:

- 1: Comprehensive Relationship and Sex Education to Reduce Gender-Based Violence.
- 2: That The Home Office Must Undertake A Statutory Consultation in Relation To Historical Soliciting Offences And

The Permanent Marking Of Disclosure And Barring Service (DBS) Records.

3: Minister for Women and Equalities.

4: Addressing the Issues Faced By Widows And Child Widows.

5: Importance of Music In Primary/Junior Schools.

All of the Resolutions were discussed at the U.C.M. National Committee and I was sent off to Newcastle with a mandate to support them all. Following the debates at the Conference all Resolutions were passed. These Resolutions are now sent to the appropriate Government Departments. I have copies of the Resolutions in full, if you would like a copy please get in touch.

On the Saturday afternoon I joined a visit to the nearby Discovery Museum, where we had a talk on the Women on Tyneside project and we were given access to a small exhibition of suffragette memorabilia and a tour of the costume store (not open to the general public).

We were entertained in the evening by a recital from the Werca's Folk, a women's choir from all over Northumberland. Unfortunately, I listened to most of it from outside the hall as a member of the Choir almost passed out on stage and I was the nearest to catch her and bring her off the stage to fresh air outside. The lady was fine afterwards, and the Choir was very good too.

The conference finished with the A.G.M. I have copies of all papers if you would like any, please get in touch.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this event I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Cath Rutherford
National Vice President

MIDDLESBROUGH



New officers

The Holy Name of Mary Foundation held their AGM in December 2018. There were three new Officers to elect and we were so pleased to have three nominations, one for each post. Meriel Carroll was elected as President, Jean Rigg was elected as Secretary and Ursula Moulton, who only joined our foundation in 2017 was elected as Treasurer. We are all looking forward to working together to attract new members and to help our foundation thrive.

The photograph shows left to right, Jean Rigg, Meriel Carroll and Ursula Moulton

Jean Rigg,
Foundation Secretary



A wonderful 60 years of the UCM

The Holy Name of Mary UCM foundation recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of their establishment in 1958. We held a special mass with friends and parishioners and Father Tom O'Neill as celebrant. Then, there was an afternoon tea party with birthday cake enjoyed by our members and friends. We displayed photographs showing pilgrimages, special occasions, fund raising and social events and also memorabilia from the last 60 years. Finally, we all had a lovely meal at a local restaurant. A truly great celebration full of fun, happy memories and enjoyment!

Jean Rigg,
Holy Name of Mary

Christmas Fayre

St. Mary's, Filey, held a Christmas Fayre on 23rd November following the Sunday Mass raising a total of £600 for Church Funds. The President of the UCM Diane Whitehead and members of the UCM having supplied craft goods and produce for the stalls were very much in evidence serving refreshments and manning the various stalls.

Kath Stubbs



Sheila Swales daughter and grand daughter

Shoe boxes

This year St. Aelred's UCM decided to send their shoe boxes via the Rotary Club of Great Britain & Ireland who were sending their boxes to Central and Eastern Europe. The UCM had a working evening and then transferred the boxes into church where many parishioners added to the number realising 110 in total. The choice of contents were in four categories which proved very popular:- Children, teenagers up to 18, Senior Citizen's and Babies up to 18 months. The project was co-ordinated by UCM member Kath Duckworth.

Kath Stubbs,
St. Aelred's



Congratulations

DIAMOND WEDDING

Jane and Jimmy O'BRIEN, past Magazine Editor, Diocese of Portsmouth



Pat and Pauline SHEEHAN

Pat and Pauline SHEEHAN, Sheppey Foundation, Archdiocese of Southwark
Doreen & Doug COTTERELL, St Mary's Foundation, Cannock, Archdiocese of Birmingham

Pat and Brian WEAVERS, St James Foundation, Maidenhead, Diocese of Portsmouth
Margaret and John TILL, St Mary's, Woolton, Archdiocese of Liverpool
Joan and Mike Gettins, Past National President, Diocese of Salford

GOLDEN WEDDING

Doreen and Doug COTTERELL, St Mary's Foundation, Cannock, Archdiocese of Birmingham

Irene and Kevin HESELWOOD, Guardian Angels Foundation, Diocese of Salford

RUBY WEDDING

Patricia and Dennis McCLURE, St Anne's Foundation, Rock Ferry, Diocese of Shrewsbury

Maureen and Owen CRANNY, St Anne's Foundation, Rock Ferry, Diocese of Shrewsbury

Anne and Bob SMITH, Exmouth Foundation, Diocese of Plymouth

90th BIRTHDAY

Lyn TURNER, St James Foundation, Reading, Diocese of Portsmouth

Lil NEWSOME, Past Archdiocesan President, Archdiocese of Liverpool

80th BIRTHDAY

Anne SMITH, Exmouth Foundation, Diocese of Plymouth

Elizabeth CHRISTIAN, St Colman's Foundation, Cosham, Diocese of Portsmouth

Norma HANNA, St Mary's, Woolton, Archdiocese of Liverpool

Hilda JONES, St Margaret Mary's, Knotty Ash, Archdiocese of Liverpool

Madelaine McDONALD, St Margaret Mary's, Knotty Ash, Archdiocese of Liverpool

AID TO THE CURCH IN NEED – RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE WORLD - 22 November 2018

We were welcomed by Lord David Alton of Liverpool who is a board member of ACN. Every two years the ACN produce a report on religious freedom in the world and how this has changed in the intervening period. 2018 is the 70th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on Genocide. Mass graves were recently found in Northern Iraq. Lord Alton had recently been in Pakistan where they were protected with guns going to Church. We must use our liberties for others who cannot speak, he said.

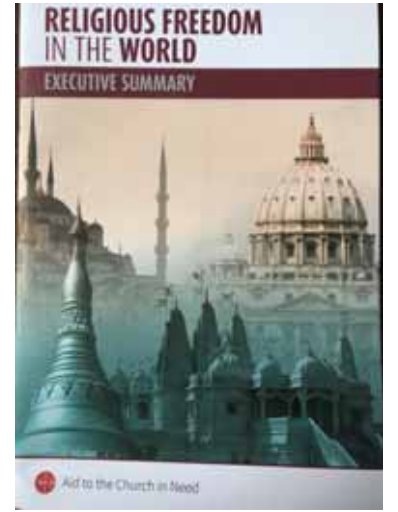
The speaker was Lord Ahmad who is the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief. The role, which supports the Prime Minister's commitment to religious tolerance in the UK, will allow Lord Ahmad to demonstrate the country's commitment to religious freedom by promoting inter-faith respect and dialogue internationally. He said, Faith gives you deep conviction to do the right thing. Because of our faith it is our duty to defend the rights of others. The report launched today makes for grim reading, not just for Christians but for all. We must stand up for minorities in other countries. Women in Iraq are persecuted and raped because of their faith, we must stand up for them too. Freedom of belief is an inherent right of human life; we are equal citizens irrespective of our religion or none. We can criticise each other but we must respect the individual's choice to follow whatever faith they choose. Ghandi said 'we must become the change we wish to see'.

The author of the report, John Pontifex, said it had been a mammoth task looking at every country's legal situation and the incidents of persecution and aspects of change for either better or worse in 196 countries and 38 nations. He said Iraq, Syria, Kenya and Tanzania had improved. In Iraq, Christians and others are returning to their homelands after Daesh (ISIS) was pushed back. The Government respects freedom of worship but minorities are not well protected. Kurdistan Government law in 2106 upholds religious freedom and draft constitution recognises the rights of non-Muslims. In Syria the extremist's groups which were responsible for targeting faith groups have lost most of their territory. Whilst human rights abuses are common to both Government and Rebel areas, it is in the rebel areas where most religious freedom violations occurred. Syria and Iraq are still classified as 'persecuted'. Kenya and Tanzania have changed from 'persecuted' to 'unclassified'. In Kenya there has been a sharp decline in attacks by Al Shabaab because of Government security crackdown. In Tanzania there has been a decline by militant Islamist groups with no serious incidents in the period under review. Religious freedom prospects have improved. However, 21 nations are categorised as 'Persecuted' and 17 as 'Discrimination' and 18 nations are worse now than two years ago.

Worsening intolerance towards religious minorities meant that for the first time in the report's 19-year history two new countries: Russia and Kyrgyzstan - were placed in the "discrimination" category. The report adds that in a number of cases, such as Saudi Arabia and North Korea, the situation was already so bad that in the period under review it was virtually impossible for it to get any worse.

Turning to the West, the report highlights a surge in extremist attacks by militants against targets in the West. The report says the danger from such terrorists is "universal, imminent and ever-present". You can download the report at <http://religious-freedom-report.org/>

Val Ward
National Deputy President



ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON

New Members

St Peter's Parish in Hove were very sad in September to say goodbye to their priest, Fr. Jerry O'Brien, who was retiring after 18 years in our parish.

On the day before his final weekend, after the ten a.m. Parish Mass, his one last special ministry was to confirm a parishioner, and to enrol her into our U.C.M. along with five other new members.

Most of the 20 regular U.C.M. members were able to be there to

support the new members and celebrate with coffee and cake afterwards. Father Jerry always praised what U.C.M. does for the parish and we were glad to present him with a retirement gift of a new radio.

Photo L to R Fr Jerry O'Brien; Kate Williamson; Patricia Longley; Sylvia Garner; Eileen O'Leary

Valerie Wells



HALLAM

Mary's Meals

At our Annual Christmas Lunch Mrs. Angie Higginson, Past National Treasurer announced that £575 was raised by the members of the Union of Catholic Mothers of the Hallam Diocese for Mary's Meals.

'Mary's Meals' is the global international movement which provides one good meal every school day to some of the world's poorest children.

With supporters from around the world it is helping to transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of impoverished children.

Dorothy Anderson
Media Officer

EAST ANGLIA

Handbell ringers

Our Christmas meeting was a demonstration of 'hand bell ringers' in which members of the parish and Dereham UCM joined us.

Charities benefit

Our charities this year raised £960 to be decided between 'Mary's Meals' and 'Blood Bike's'. Next year will be 'Shelter Box' and 'Let the Children Live'.

Marguerite Wayling, President
Costessey Foundation

CATHOLIC UNION - 2018

CRAIGMYLE LECTURE

The 2018 Craigmyle Lecture was given by Baroness Nuala O'Loan, who is a noted public figure in Northern Ireland. The Baroness was the first Police Ombudsman serving from 1999 until 2007 and was appointed to the House of Lords in 2009.

'Keeping Faith in the Public Square' was the title of her talk and the Baroness opened by saying that as Catholics we believe in the fullness of God and the Holy Trinity and that it is the Son through his mother Mary who shows us the way to the Father. Whilst it is difficult, each one of us is called to Holiness namely to act justly, love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God.

A call to Holiness, is to live with God every day in our actions so as we live in this world and try to keep faith in the public square, we have to accept what Pope Francis told us namely you cannot be a part-time Christian; you are a Christian at every moment. This can also become frustrating as well as challenging, especially when those who cause us pain, those who commit great crimes, the rapist, the paedophiles, the murderers, people we don't like, those people who cannot accept what we say in the public square, those we might encounter in our professional life who do us great harm – these are all our brothers and sisters whom we are called to love. Baroness O'Loan herself has had many responses from people regarding the things she had said in the public square which were not loving or caring but which people sometimes used to 'down her' although there is nothing to say we cannot be angry.

Catholicism is the second largest faith in the world according to the United Nations and this is because of the generosity of Catholics across the world who gave their lives working as missionaries in other countries, those who wanted to bring Christ and his love to other people. Many of these missionaries went out knowing that they may only live a year because of conditions and would perhaps never see home and families again.

The Baroness went on to speak about Oscar Romero and his battle for peace in El Salvador where the Catholic Church provided a structure not only for the people of El Salvador but across the world in areas of conflict.

The Baroness who was appointed Ireland's Special Ambassador for Conflict Resolution in February 2008 a position which took her to Timor-Leste (East Timor).

East Timor's population is 95% Catholic and the Church played a great part in bringing peace between the warring factions. It was the Church that provided the health and social care needs during this time. Quite often it is the priests who are last to leave these troubled areas. The government of East Timor went on to acknowledge the participation played by the Catholic Church in bringing about peace.

Nearer to home, the Baroness pointed out that it was the Church who again brought about the hospitals, education and social care in Ireland in the 1920's long before the National Health Service started.

We live now in a diverse multi-cultural society which

brings many blessings but can also bring tensions between various groups and we see these played out on our streets although generally this has been an influence for good. It brings down the demands of different cultures which clash and yet we are all seeking to live in good faith in the compounds of a common civilisation.

The questions then are what the boundaries of each faith group, what is our vision and do we know why we believe what we believe. People will say that those of us professing to believe do not have the right to impose our views on others but do have the right to freedom of belief and freedom of conscience. Those rights are guaranteed to us and that is profoundly important as some of the current legislative situations really do present significant challenges for all of us; and the question in that context is what people of faith should seek to contribute and what is our vision and can we communicate our vision. There are those who would argue paradoxically with the intent of eliminating discrimination that Christians in public roles should be required, at times, to act against their conscience. These are worrying signs of a failure to appreciate not only the rights of people to have freedom of conscience, freedom of religion but also the legitimate role of religion in the public square.

The Baroness invites us all therefore in our respected spheres of influence to seek ways of influencing and encouraging dialogue between faith and reason at every level of national life. Baroness O'Loan went on to say we cannot solve all the problems, we all know that, but we have a lot of fundamental values which we can offer, fundamental values in respect for life from beginning to natural end, of compassion for caring for the weak and vulnerable, of respecting and not forgetting the old and the sick, providing education and health care and in doing all in the name of the Lord. The rich are becoming richer and the poor becoming poorer.

Baroness O'Loan then went on to speak about the Abortion Act saying it had been thought the U.K. Abortion Act would be a limited application, anticipating some five thousand a year, that was in 1967. Last year 195,000 abortions took place for various reasons, Downs Syndrome, wrong sex, club foot and last year in London, because of the baby having no hand. It was thought the Abortion Act would protect doctors and nurses whether directly or indirectly when managing or supervising or carrying out abortions if they had concerns or objections. Because of this judgement by the Supreme Court, there is a serious national shortage of doctors, midwives and nurses. Our legislation puts people in a position in which they cannot practice that which they were taught. It cannot be consistent with conscience to say, 'I cannot do it but I will ask you to do it.'

The Baroness strongly believes in the sanctity and sacredness of human life and introduced a Parliamentary Bill which, if passed, could allow medical professionals to opt out of providing any abortion services.

The Conscientious Objection (Medical Activities) Act 2017 would also excuse medics from participating in the withdrawal of life-saving treatment.

The Private Member's Bill states that employers "must not discriminate against or victimise" an employee who conscientiously objects. It has passed its second reading in the House of Lords and is now at the Committee stage but Baroness O'Loan feels it won't go through because it has two short clauses which have been amended thirty-four times by opponents and there is insufficient time to get the Bill through.

The Baroness believes abortion is wrong except in circumstances where the mother cannot survive or there is a grave danger to her health. She was concerned as to how we protect professional and vulnerable people. Health Authorities have to respect the right of the conscientious objector.

The Baroness closed by speaking about the work of the Catholic Church both at home and abroad and its role in pastoral care, for instance, people trafficking, refugees across the world, child abuse and much more. The Baroness feels we do have influence and can bring about pressure to bear to change things. There is a real need to offer religious values to important dates and decision making for example many people feel we should not celebrate 'Christmastime' but instead call the period 'Holiday time' so as not to offend others but what of our beliefs?

The Church has been and can be an influence for good in the Public Square. Things are changing we know, men and women are being appointed to high places in the Catholic Church, we know the purity of the Gospel message has been adulterated by those who have not listened to it, those who abuse their power and abandon their responsibilities, neglect their duties, that is the way of humanity. Each of us as said at the start is called to live the Gospel in its entirety. It is what we have to do, walking away is not an option, we have to keep faith in the public square.

Maureen Woodward
National Vice President

The World Day of Prayer Friday 1st March 2019

'Come – Everything is Ready!'

Everything is ready and the invitation is for everyone - men, women and children of all ages to join this Day of Prayer. * Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this year's service and they encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was a part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday March 1st 2019 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Slovenia.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

* For further information and resources, together with details of services in your area see the WDP website: www.wwdp.org.uk

Irene Mitchell National Secretary

WESTMINSTER

Whitten Foundation – 80th Anniversary

Whitten celebrated their 80th Anniversary on 10th October 2018 with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Bishop John Wilson and Fr Nigel Griffin. Following the Mass, a wonderful meal was served in the hall. The Diocesan President and some members of the committee attended as well as local foundations.



JERICHO

*Combines the Contemplative
life with an active apostolate to
the destitute.*

Vocation information from:

Bro. Patrick,

The Jericho Society

'Mater Salvatoris'

Harelaw Farm, Kilbarchan,

Renfrewshire PA10 2PY

Tel: 01505 614669

thejerichosociety@gmail.com



PORTSMOUTH

New Member



Our newest member is Melly Noonha who joined us last year, when we held our annual strawberry tea in aid of Breast Cancer, is now a fully committed member and is soon to be enrolled. At our last meeting in 2018 she brought a large selection of saris for us all to try. As you can see, I didn't quite get the hang of it.

One of our older members, Lya Turner was 90 years old on 19th October. She lost her parents in WW2 and was put in a resettlement camp before being brought to England as a teenager and employed as a nanny to two professional musicians. She trained as a nurse and rose up to the position of Matron in Reading. Her family celebrated her 90th birthday with a huge party in the hall of English Martyrs Church.

Angela Brench, Welfare Officer

Christmas Party

Fareham foundation enjoying a late Christmas celebration in January. A lot of older members were able to attend and there were sixteen present out of twenty existing members.

Sarah Davis, Secretary



Peace Conference

Jean Hartnell and Dorothy Pople joined the Moslem community for their peace conference held in the community centre in Waterlooville. The Mayor of Havant and other dignitaries also attended including a representative from the Sacred Heart and St Peter the Apostle Church in Waterlooville. We were made very welcome and as we listened to the projects undertaken by the various Moslem groups it could have been one of our own meetings reporting on the work we all do in our parishes. The local ladies' group has helped raise funds to buy and refurbish a house in Leigh Park which will be used as a drop in centre for the area, they will have a food bank, a children's creche, a café and help for people wanting to learn to read and also to learn English. Nazia from the ladies' group is giving a talk to our foundation early in 2019 and the local Mothers' Union have also said they would like to attend. Of course, we welcome everyone who is interested.

Dorothy Pople,
Secretary
Waterlooville
Foundation



An Enduring Friendship



To turn a phrase on its head, it's not what you can do for UCM but what UCM can do for you. I am sure readers will agree with me. I have made and still have many friends in UCM – I gather them as I go along. This one all started with a friendship that began on a May day in 1980 at Portsmouth AGM.

I had gone along to my first diocesan meeting to be installed as Secretary, coerced by my friend Anne Lambkin RIP. At that same meeting Jill Badcock became the President elect, Jane O'Brien became the first Welfare officer for the diocese and Margot Parker was earmarked for the Treasurer's post the following year. They say that behind every successful man there is a supportive woman in our case it was Anne Lambkin, but before her we would all agree the late Margaret Clarke was an inspiration to us all.

The years that followed cemented our friendship to include our husbands, we got to know each other's children as well. We supported each other through good times and bad and boosted each other in whatever task we undertook in the name of UCM. Like many of you we all appreciated the development in our faith that belonging to UCM does for you and the wider circle of friends we gather.

We had shared the marriages of our children, birth of grandchildren, Wedding Anniversaries, loss of husbands and other family members but recently we came together for a very special celebration. Jane (Magazine Editor) and Jimmy O'Brien became the first to celebrate a Diamond Wedding Anniversary and we were invited to travel to Wimborne, Dorset, to attend. Jill, her husband Mike, Margot and myself booked into a delightful B & B for three nights. At the lunch Margot and I found ourselves sitting next to the mother-in-law of Jane's daughter. Her name Terry Watkin who had moved to North Surrey from her former home in Luton where she was an active member. Terry was delighted to be in UCM company and we shared many memories and reminisced about members from her foundation who were known to us all. The photo shows us all – Jill Badcock, Margot Parker, Jane O'Brien, Terry Watkin and me – Pat Durrant.

Thank you to all my friends both near and far, long-lasting and new, my life has been very enriched from knowing you all.

Pat Durrant



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LEEDS

HATS!

What's the old saying? 'If you want to get ahead – get a hat!' The committee of St Ignatius Foundation in Ossett decided to have a meal out to discuss future events and quite by chance met a lady who in the course of conversation mentioned that she liked to make hats. Of course, our eyes lit up and we immediately asked if she would come and talk to us at one of our meetings and she agreed. Ladies still like to look at hats even though we don't wear them very often. Sue gave us a brief history about hat design over the years and then everyone had a lot of fun trying on all her hats. Not every hat suited everyone and there was much hilarity. Sue refused to take a fee and asked us to give the money raised to charity. The total raised was £50 which we donated to Wakefield hospice.

**Pam Watkins, President
St Ignatius, Ossett**



Leeds St Patrick's 70 years

A Mass to celebrate 70 years of UCM in their parish followed by refreshments afterwards. Members are pictured with Diocesan President Margaret Chambers (front row on the right).

**Eileen Hartley
St Patricks Foundation, Birstall**



70th Anniversary Celebrations

The guest of honour at St Ignatius Ossett 70th Anniversary celebration was Mrs Ethel Murray, a founder member. At the grand old age of 93 Ethel is still an active member, attending every weekly meeting. After the Mass concelebrated by Canon Lawrie Hulme, UCM Chaplain and Father Richard Aladics, Parish Priest, 3 new members were enrolled.

A wonderful buffet, prepared by our members, was enjoyed in the Parish Centre attended by UCM and invited guests.

Eileen Goodwin



New Members



New members L to R Anita Wells-Young, Doreen Rushworth and Mary Stones.

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A Guide to the Annulment Process - 2018

The revised 4th Edition of 'A Guide to the Annulment Process'. Produced by the National Board of Catholic women supported by the Marriage and Family Life Office at the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. 2018. The forward is by Rt Rev Peter Doyle, Chair Bishops' Committee for Marriage & Family Life. Printed versions of the resource are available to purchase from the National Board of Catholic Women priced at £5 including P&P. Please email: nbcwtreasurer@gmail.com or download an order form at www.nbcw.co.uk or www.catholicfamily.org.uk Printed on recycled paper A free electronic version of this resource is available to download from:
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PLYMOUTH



Celebrating in Style!

Hats off to Exmouth Foundation UCM for knowing how to celebrate in style! We think our group is fabulous and celebrate each year with a delicious cream tea in a local garden centre owned by a family in the Holy Family parish. Members get together for an afternoon of tea and scones (with the obligatory clotted cream and jam) and much friendly chatter, enjoying the continuing warm sunshine into the bargain. This year we also sang 'Happy birthday', as is our tradition at all meetings, to two members who had birthdays the week we celebrated in our own flamboyant style with a great selection of millinery creations.

Long Service Awards



This year two of our members from the Exmouth Foundation celebrate memorable milestones as members of the UCM. Mary on the left has been a member for 50 years and has held many different posts within the UCM and supports fellow members with enthusiasm and great joy. Em on the right remembers Canon O'Malley roping her in 58 years ago to 'Join the bunfight....' when she was a young mum in Exmouth and has been a regular ever since.



We've got a fabulous new banner!!

The Exmouth Foundation marks a great new banner in celebration of our joining the communities in Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton together with a new name – The Parish of The Holy Family. Our UCM parish president Ursula presents Lorraine with our thanks for the wonderful new banner. Lorraine spent many hours designing and embroidering this lovely new banner incorporating our new parish name. Thank you, Lorraine. We are sure it will be displayed at all of our activities for many years to come. In the near future Lorraine will be adding a fringe to the bottom to complete the banner.

Liz Johnson



A gift to the Parish

Our members are really enjoying using on the lovely bench/planter bought with money bequeathed to the parish by Jill Vincent a long-standing member of the UCM who died in January 2017.

Mary's Meals Rucksacks

Exmouth Foundation's Mary's Meals Backpack appeal had a really fantastic result with more than 50 filled backpacks collected. We asked for donations of backpacks, school supplies and children's clothes and spent a fruitful few days collecting and collating supplies to sort a variety of well-filled rucksacks for school children in Malawi. Anne McAlpine, one of our members, kindly took possession of the packaged rucksacks and waited for the courier to come and collect them on our behalf. Thank you to all the people who donated items and to all the UCM members who sorted them to ensure that all the children would receive a useful and varied selection.



Liz Johnson



St Boniface Awards

We are really proud to note, that in early November, UCM member Mary Thomas was one of the four ladies from the Parish of the Holy Family in Exmouth to receive the St Boniface Award, in recognition of their ministries in the parish. The ladies; Mary Thomas and Bernadette Hughes from St Peter, Prince of Apostles in Budleigh Salterton and Wendy Davis and Mary Jago from the Holy Ghost Church in Exmouth were accompanied by Parish Priest Father Philip Austen. The awards were presented to them during mass at Plymouth Cathedral by Bishop Mark O'Toole. Bishop Mark invited the recipients forward and handed them their awards and certificates, congratulating them warmly, shaking their hands and thanking them for their service. After the mass the ladies joined in with the other dozen or so recipients of the award from the Diocese for tea or coffee and cakes before returning home.

Liz Johnson
Media Officer



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

Dakar, Senegal 15-22 October

*WUCWO Women,
Carriers of "living water"
to a world which thirsts for Peace*

The Opening Mass and ceremony took place in the city of Dakar, and on our return to the hotel in Saly, the first session was opened by President General Maria Giovanna Ruggieri. She said the Pope encourages us to go forth and meet humanity which thirsts for peace. We should challenge western attitudes of intolerance and ways which are different from our own culture. It means thinking and acting as a community in the fight against poverty; we want to contribute to a better world and bring 'living water' to that world.



New President General Maria Lia Zervino Study Days

These were divided into two groups. The theme of the first panel of speakers was "To a world which thirsts for peace".

The first speaker was *Dr Isabel Recavarren* who is the Founder and Coordinator of the Women's Forum of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly of the European Parliament, in Peru.

She spoke about corruption and radicalisation and said we are living in the midst of social violence. Corruption only serves private interests, ultimately to become richer and richer. The United Nations says women are the only people to change things but they need education, training etc. to give them hope. We are here on earth for a mission and we have to see what proposals we need to put to our Governments on corruption.

The second speaker was *Dr Anne Therese Gallagher*, President of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), Australia. (Via video link)

Dr Gallagher spoke on the issue of migration. Some people are forced to flee situations of conflict, poverty and violence. Migrant workers are used everywhere; however, they are often treated unfairly and their rights are eroded. Within families it is common for only one member to be able to afford to move and try for a better life and hopefully bring their family later, although many migrant workers are not permitted to bring their family, which can fracture family bonds. There is also the problem of unaccompanied children who are more likely to be exploited. There is a globalisation of indifference.

The final speaker was *Sr Dr Therese Samake*, Vice President of the Catholic University of West Africa in Bamako, Mali.

We are responsible for the earth. She asked how can we be carriers of 'living water' in a world which is full of waste? Man is responsible for the degradation of the earth. Tradition in sub Saharan Africa was to just

leave waste in the open; the poorest villages are the dirtiest. Everything, the chemicals used in cleaning and laundry produce waste which dissolves in the water and enters and pollutes the rivers. There is an urgent need for change both in behaviour and in mentality with the goal for a healthy environment.

The theme of the Second Panel was "Carriers of living water". The speakers spoke through the writings of Pope Francis. *Dr Linda Ghisoni* is the Undersecretary for the Laity at the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, Holy See. (Evangelii Gaudium and Amoris Laetitia)

We are women in the Church and in the world, she said. We are women in the light of Evangelii Gaudium and Amoris Laetitia. Are we really thirsty for peace? To whom should we bring this living water; sometimes there is no thirst for life not just no thirst for water. The Samaritan woman at the well had been the Gospel the previous day and this was used as an illustration. In the beginning of the story it is Jesus who asks for water but at the end it is the woman who wants it. In John's Gospel the living water is Jesus himself, a divine gift. He is our source of living water until eternal life. The dignity of women is not always respected and we must discover ways to improve our situation. May Our Lady inspire and accompany us.

Dr Maria Teresa Compte Grau is the Coordinator of the Master's degree in Social Doctrine, Pontifical University of Salamanca, Spain. (Laudato Si)

The symbol of water restores and purifies. We are the result of love and God has given us the fruits we need to fully develop ourselves and our communities. We owe everything to God, who created us. Spiritual and cultural transformation changes the idea we have about ourselves, our neighbour and the world. Action in the world ceases to be respectful, we exploit the resources and the use of technology invites us to manipulate the world and creation. We need to oppose and resist this and be witnesses of the good we have. They are gifts. Promote a culture of caring, it's a social duty; also combat every form of exploitation of women. Women have been turned into objects of production, suffer from sexual exploitation in the workplace and international markets. They are bought and sold for sexual abuse, money and production so the children can be sold. What is the world we would like for tomorrow?

Dr Donna Orsuto, Co-founder and director of the Lay Center at Foyer Unitas, USA. (Gaudete et Exultate)

We can be holy only if we allow Christ to work in us. Do not be afraid of holiness; if we respond fully, we receive new energy, vitality and joy. The Lord asks everything of us. Everyone is called to holiness, not just the known saints but our mothers, grandmothers and other loved ones. Holiness is present in them and in our next-door neighbour. We abide in Jesus and are enfolded into His life, death and resurrection. Holiness is about living our ordinary lives with extraordinary love. The beatitudes are our Christian identity card and we each live them in our own unique way. What have we done for Jesus who is present in the poor and vulnerable? Evil is real – the devil exists. Women are important for the Church today – they do not have a monopoly on holiness but we all have our own gifts for the building of the Church. We need to be bold and joyful in carrying out our mission. What more is the Lord asking you to do at this moment in history? Do not be afraid – take risks and go to the peripheries.

Val Ward
WUCWO Board Member



Dakar Cathedral



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BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham Annual Mass



Birmingham Archdiocese's annual mass was held in a new venue this year. Instead of St Chad's Cathedral, we went to St Catherine of Siena, Bristol Road, Birmingham. A church was originally built on this site in 1874. In 1964 it was demolished and replaced. It was run by the Missionary Society of St. Columban from 2005 to 2013. As well as the main body of the church there is a large side chapel where our Mass was celebrated. If we

hold further events there, I do urge our members who do not know it to attend, as it is a beautiful church. Saturday 1 December was the date of Birmingham Archdiocese's Christmas social. Like last year we could have had more members attend, however those that did enjoyed themselves. There was the usual mix of quiz, games, recitations and carols. The executive committee performed their as



always unrehearsed panto, this year Robin Hood. The executive officers scratch their heads trying to think of anything new we could do at the social. Please can members come forth with ideas? Wolverhampton Section's Advent Retreat took place at St Peter's Bloxwich on Sunday 2 December. Unfortunately, Father Doran who was to lead it was poorly but Julie Taylor (President of Wolverhampton Section) and

Angela Wyre (President of St Peter's Foundation) covered admirably, and we were also given a thoughtful talk on forgiveness by Sister Mary Norbett from our own Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Photograph shows Angela Wyre and Julie Taylor at the advent retreat with the Christmas tree of prayers.

Susan Martin

St Gregory's 95th anniversary

'St Gregory's UCM Bearwood celebrated their 95th anniversary on 8th September 2018. Mass was celebrated by our parish priest Fr Townley, an ardent supporter of the UCM. We were joined by members from ten foundations and several parishioners. During Mass we were delighted to enrol Teresza as a member, young, enthusiastic and a source of great joy to the UCM. At the end of Mass our president was presented with the 95-year certificate by the Deputy President of Birmingham, Angela Foster. This was accepted on behalf of our members with grateful thanks. Refreshments were served in the Guild Room where we were joined by many parishioners and friends. A lovely day enjoyed by all. Next stop - 100 years

Ellen Bates. President St Gregory's UCM. Bearwood



Surprise Birthday Party

Winnie Brookstone loved by all the Birmingham Diocese UCM was given a surprise birthday party after Sunday morning mass at her church, St John Fisher, West Heath, Birmingham. And it really was a surprise. Winnie entertained us by some of her wonderful recitations after cutting her cake.

Susan Martin



Papal Blessing

Monica Carrington St Peter's Bloxwich Birmingham Diocese received a papal blessing on her 80th birthday. She is a long serving member of the UCM and spent many years working as a dinner supervisor at St Peter's RC School. She is seen here with Father Doan and other members of St Peter's UCM Foundation



MY FRIEND

Joy, oh joy, my friend is here
The donkey brings him forth
Joy, oh joy, he looks at me
His heart is full of love

Joy, oh joy, I follow him
I listen to his words
The voice embraces everyone
He opens up his heart

Happy the day I found this man
Sitting on the mount
His gentle words entranced the crowd
And peace was all around

But now my heart is going to break
I've seen what they have done
He hangs upon a wooden frame
His body scarred and scorned

How can this be my dearest friend
What have you done to them?
On reflection, my dearest friend
What have I done to you?

I've put you there, I've made the scars
I've hammered the nails through your hands
I've put the crown upon your head
And opened your side with a lance

I hang my head in deepest shame
I hide far out of sight
My tears, my sorrows, are they in vain?
What will I do my friend?

You find me and you come to me
You take my hand in yours
You wrap me in your cloak of love
So glorious and so pure

I'll never leave you again, my friend
I'll never run away
'You'
Will always be

Kathleen J. Kelly
St Luke's Foundation
Irlams O' Th' Height
Salford Diocese



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

Dakar, Senegal 15-22 October

*WUCWO Women,
Carriers of "living water"
to a world which thirsts for Peace*

Statutory Days

The statutory days began – it was like our National Council but obviously under their rules and statutes. A rollcall was taken of the people eligible to vote and they received a voting card with their name on. At this point they were not allowed to leave the room and the doors were closed. Voting took place on the Agenda, Rules of Procedure, 2014 General Assembly minutes from Fatima and the ratification of new member organisations. There are three new full members; (two have changed from associate to full;) two new associate members and six organisations have left.

Report from The President General - Maria Giovanna Ruggieri

We take encouragement from Pope Francis who says we are called to be holy, living with love and witness to compassion for the work we do. We don't want to hide the talents we have received. Sin exists, but God is merciful and we need to support people searching for the truth. The same issues are across the world; the fragility of human beings and their difficulties; the world is thirsty for peace. St Paul tells us not to forget the poor but many people today are self centered. There are many projects taking place around the world e.g. a center for the victims of trafficking has been set up in Spain. The Bishop of Aleppo is trying to encourage Syrians to return to their homeland to restore the Christian Community. There are also projects ongoing in Malawi, Swaziland and South Africa. WUCWO help the weakest people wherever they are. The main WUCWO office is now based in Rome and not Paris mainly because the Holy See is there. WUCWO needs to be in the right place. All the archives have now been moved to Rome and are available for any historian who wants to study the contribution of Catholic women. Pilar Bellasino was the WUCWO President for 11 years; she pushed for women in the church and was also President of Manos Unidas. The process to acknowledge her work and begin the process for Beatification will now begin. We thank God for this opportunity. Let the grace of your Baptism grow towards holiness.

Report from The Vice President General – Maribeth Stewart

Maribeth gave a resume of her responsibilities as Vice president. She provides the minutes of meetings in English and proof reads the Women's Voice in English. She promotes family values and ensures responses are focused on family. She was responsible for sending the 'Addictions' questionnaire and writing the summary report and has represented WUCWO at the Jubilee of Mercy. She has organised the banking in USA and is the United Nations representative for WUCWO in New York on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Report from the Secretary General Maria Lia Zervino

"Let us not love with words but with deeds" said Pope Francis. Two of the resolutions from Fatima were a) to eradicate human trafficking and b) the right to drinking water.

An anti-trafficking prevention project was started with Malawi, Swaziland and South Africa and we are currently building two drinking water wells in the Philippines. There are many other projects which are taking place around the world. When all organisations work together, the whole is greater than the individual parts. Communication is through 'Women's Voice', the website, Vatican radio (in Spanish), Facebook and internal and external emails. Unity shall prevail over conflict; listening is much more than just hearing. WUCWO has a new relationship with the Holy See with many groups, forums and committees. We want to 'pick-up' the organisations which have left and move forward.

Report from the Treasurer General

Unfortunately, the Treasurer General was unable to be at the Assembly and the report was read in her absence. The financial situation is good and the accounts and balance sheets are correct. Money is going out to projects in Argentina and the Philippines. There was a motion to increase the membership fee as there has not been an increase for the last 12 years. An increase of 10% was accepted and the motion was carried; to be implemented in January 2019.

Regional Meetings.

The submitted resolutions were: -

1. A healthy planet depends on all of us.
2. Let us take care of the family in difficult situations, especially its most vulnerable members.
3. Let us eliminate discrimination and violence against women.
4. Let us educate to respond to the call to holiness.
5. Educate and protect in the responsible use of new technology to have healthy families.

The European Group met and introduced themselves. The purpose of their meeting was to decide the priority of the submitted resolutions. After discussion it was decided that the main European resolution would be number 3, 'Let us eliminate discrimination and violence against women'. They said 'If women are being abused, they cannot be carriers of living water'. This could possibly be the subject of the next European Regional Meeting.

After Mass, the first part of the morning was for each of the regions to report on the decision made the previous day about which resolutions they want WUCWO to adopt for the next four years.

The 23 Candidates for the WUCWO Board to serve for the next 4 years were introduced to the assembly. There were three candidates for the position of President General: - Maria Lia Zervino (Argentina and Italy), Maribeth



Stewart (USA) and Arceli Caverio Perez (SPAIN) and each gave a presentation.

All 23 candidates for the new Board were elected and presented to the Assembly. A prayer was said for the election of the new President General and the new Board members adjourned to consider and vote for the new President General and the International Representatives.

It was announced that the Board had elected Maria Lia Zervino as the next President General. The new Vice president is Maribeth Stewart. Maria Lia thanked everyone for their support and prayers. She thanked Maria Giovanna Ruggieri from whom she had learnt so much and said God's mercy will allow us to work for WUCWO and enlighten us to what we have to do. The positions of the International Representatives who have all served in their positions previously was ratified.

The youth group spoke of the shared friendship in the last few days – they said they felt both themselves and their ideas respected. They wanted to learn from each other and though having different realities all have enormous richness serving neighbours and other women. They offered an invitation to young people saying it was a positive step to be at WUCWO and representing WUCWO. They would like to start a young woman of WUCWO committee to help, but it depends on the main committee to conceive and develop projects and show how it can be done. Will the WUCWO committee accept the challenge? Yes, we will! Fr Gerry suggested an ecclesiastical assistant for

youth when they have grown and are strong.

Voting for the priorities and recommendations for 2018-2022 then took place.

WUCWO's Priority for the period 2018-2022, chosen at the General Assembly held in Senegal from 15 to 22 October 2018 is: -

WUCWO Women called to Holiness to sanctify the World for a Holistic Development

Work within the member organisations will also encompass the other submitted resolutions with an emphasis on the Encyclicals/ Exhortations of Pope Francis.

1 - A HEALTHY PLANET DEPENDS ON ALL OF US. In accordance with the whole Magisterium and in particular with the Encyclical Laudato Si.

2- LET US TAKE CARE OF THE FAMILY IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS, ESPECIALLY ITS MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS. In accordance with the whole Magisterium and in particular with the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia.

3 - LET US ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. In accordance with the whole Magisterium and in particular with Evangelii Gaudium Apostolic Exhortation (212)

4 – LET US EDUCATE TO RESPOND TO THE CALL TO HOLINESS. In accordance with the whole magisterium and in particular with the Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate.

**Val Ward
WUCWO Board Member**



Bishops to visit the Holy Land in support of local Christians

Bishops of the Holy Land Coordination will be making their annual visit in support of Christians in Israel and Palestine next week. This year, they will be focusing on the theme: "Christians in Israel; challenges and opportunities."

The Holy Land Coordination is made up of Bishops from across Europe, North America and South Africa, who have made an annual pastoral visit to Israel and Palestine for the past 20 years.

The Coordination's annual meeting is taking place from 12th-17th January. The meeting will be held in the City of Haifa, including visits to Christian hospitals, schools and villages. The bishops will also take part in Inter-faith encounters.

Bishop Declan Lang, chair of the Holy Land Coordination said: "We have come to stand in solidarity with Christian communities in the Holy Land, who are an important part of our family and make a rich contribution to



society, both in Israel and Palestine, as we will see in visits to Christian schools, hospitals and in dialogue with local politicians."

On the Sunday the Coordination will travel to the Palestinian town of Zababdeh to celebrate Mass with the local community. Zababdeh, where three quarters of the population is Christian, is located in the poor, under-developed and often overlooked Northern Region of the West Bank.

While the Holy Land Coordination is not a fund-raising or project-based body, considerable development investment and growth in pilgrimages have developed directly as a result of the bishops' visits. Prayer is the framework of the annual meeting, with daily celebration of the Eucharist, often in different rites.

The bishops visit Catholic communities and share in their Sunday liturgy, meeting with them. In difficult times, the visiting bishops have often heard pleas for more pilgrims to come from their home countries, and there has been a concerted and successful effort on the part of bishops'

conferences to encourage pilgrimages, assisting many whose livelihoods depend on pilgrims.

The bishops also speak at a high-level to their own governments, parliamentarians, Israeli and Palestinian ambassadors and the media about a wide range of issues affecting the lives of Christians. In line with the approach the Holy See adopts everywhere else, the bishops do not seek privileges for Christians, but dignity and justice for them and for others in similar conflicts.

The bishops are present every year, and through their presence they hope, above all else, to remind the "living stones" of the Christian communities in the Holy Land that they are not forgotten by their brothers and sisters in other parts of the world.

**Catholic Communications Network
CBCEW**

National Study Days

– Wednesday 20th March to Friday 22nd March 2019

Gaudete et Exsultate: The Call to Holiness in Today's World

Our National Study Conference in March will be based on this Exhortation issued by Pope Francis on 19th March 2018. It opens with the words 'Rejoice and be glad' and tells us that Jesus 'wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence'. Pope Francis says that he has written this document to give us 'a call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities'.

Members who came to the National President's Triennial Mass at St Anne's in Rock Ferry in April will recall that Bishop Alan Williams chose this subject for his Homily, encouraging us to aspire to be 'the saints next door'. He pointed out that the world and the Church desperately need saints: 'more priests, more religious, but actually more saints, more members of the UCM to show witness in the world in which we live'. We are delighted that Bishop Alan has agreed to present this Study Conference for us; he will deliver an overview of the key messages of the Exhortation and lead us in a series of workshops to explore how we can apply these messages to our everyday lives. He will say Mass on each of the three days and lead us in Benediction and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament as part of our Night Prayers.

This is a truly wonderful opportunity, not to be missed and outline programme and booking forms are available now. Each Diocese is invited to send 3 delegates made up of: Study Officer, Justice and Peace or Welfare Officer and one member who has not previously attended a UCM Study Conference or National Council. These 3 delegates will be funded by the National Committee. However, any member may attend (subject to room availability) at a cost of £138 for the 3 days. Please return your booking forms by 4th February at the latest.

**Many thanks
Anne Emblem & Mary Piper**

Contact details for Anne or Mary from your diocesan officers

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the UCM National Committee, the Walsingham Sub Committee, the Diocesan Officers and all the Members for the Masses, prayers and Sympathy cards received after the recent death of my husband, Bob.

Thanks also to the UCM Members who attended Bob's funeral, it gave me great inner strength to know that you were there to support me.

Best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely, Angela Mellors

CLIFTON

Pastures New

St. Gerard's foundation, in Bristol, recently said 'Goodbye' to two stalwart members of their foundation. Both ladies have moved to pastures new to be close to family. Norah Smalldridge is an original and long-standing member of the foundation, well known for her kindness, helpfulness, thoughtfulness, friendly banter and concern for others.

Meanwhile Philomena Quinn, a lady with a great sense of humour, has meticulously and diligently carried out various duties for our Parish over the years which includes representing St Gerard's as UCM's Justice and Peace Officer, the Parish Representative of Churches Together in the Community, deputised for the accounting team plus has also looked after the Parish Repository for many years where nothing was too much trouble and was always ready to help. With Philomena's hard work & willingness to take individual orders for items not usually stocked the Repository has thrived & provided a source of income for the Parish. Sadly, neither lady has moved to a parish with UCM so their talents cannot be harnessed in our name any more.

Pat Durrant

Our Lady of Bath Queen of Peace

A newly commissioned statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace was dedicated during October in the grounds of my Parish Church, St John the Evangelist (St John's) Bath. It was carved in situ from a massive block of Bath stone by an international sculptor Ben Dearnley who worked carving for two hot months during the summer.

Standing in a recently created garden on the Bank of the River Avon a haven of peace and tranquillity has been provided just a short distance from the hustle and bustle of the City Centre. The unveiling of the statue was followed by recitation of the Rosary and dedication Service composed by the group of young adult volunteers who had made the garden project possible and who had worked tirelessly over the past two years.

Unfortunately on the day an unseasonal arctic blast (-3) meant Parishioners braving the

weather for this open air ceremony swaddled in many layers of clothing but even so some had to leave early to escape the extreme cold. Canon David Ryan our Parish Priest was forced to wear a coat over his vestments and at one point his warm golfing hat on his head. Certainly, a memorable day.

In 2020 the Bishops Conference have announced that England will be rededicated as Our Lady's Dowry. We pray that our statue of Our Lady of Bath Queen of Peace does justice to the rich history of statues of Our Lady in our land.

**Valerie James
Past National President**





GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

Dakar, Senegal 15-22 October

*WUCWO Women,
Carriers of "living water"
to a world which thirsts for Peace*

courtyard so that the traders and masters could choose them for sex"; if they became pregnant, they were allowed to remain on the island until they gave birth.

My personal pilgrimage to Gorée.

It is only a short boat trip from Dakar – maybe about 20/25 minutes – to the island, and its small jetty and beach and happy, smiling and welcoming children lead to a false sense of security as you move towards the real reason for the visit. Separated into language groups, we walked towards the 'House of Slaves' and upon arrival were informed of the history of the island and the 'house'. The separate 'rooms' for the men, women and children were most upsetting as you thought about the fear of the individual people. Men and women concerned for their wives/husbands and both of them frantic about the treatment and what was happening to their children. They were kept in chains and as they approached the 'door of no return' were given a choice of embarking on the ship or jumping into the sea. With a 5kg metal ball permanently attached to their feet or necks, a captured African would know what jumping into the deep sea would bring. The surrounding waters are so deep that any escape attempt would ensure death by drowning. Many chose the sea rather than slavery in a foreign land. It was a most poignant place, visited by St Pope John Paul II in 1992, and in 1978 UNESCO designated Gorée a World Heritage site.

Val Ward, WUCWO Board Member



'House of Slaves'

Gorée Island

(This was an optional visit.)

General information

The island of Gorée lies 3km off the coast of Senegal, opposite Dakar. The House of Slaves and its 'Door of No Return' is a museum and memorial to the Atlantic slave trade on Gorée Island and is said to memorialise the final exit point of the slaves from Africa. Following its construction in 1776, the House of Slaves became a holding center for African slaves to be exported. Families were separated both at the House, with men, women, and children being held in separate quarters, as well as after boarding the ships, since most of them were not sent to the same locations. Young girls, in particular, were held separately from the rest of the imprisoned, being "paraded in the



LIVERPOOL

Adoremus

This photograph was taken at the Thank You celebration given by Archbishop McMahon to everyone who played a part in making the National Eucharistic Congress "Adoremus" which was held in Liverpool, such a resounding success. UCM of course volunteered their expertise. Many members helped out in different ways. Maria Bruns, Archdiocesan President is shown under the Congress banner with a number of members having a very enjoyable evening of food and entertainment.

Madelaine McDonald, Media officer



Charity Night

At the first Bi-Monthly Mass of each year, Liverpool UCM hold their presentation of cheques to the charities that have been nominated by Foundations from the Archdiocese. Diocesan President Maria Bruns and Fr David Potter, Spiritual Advisor, are photographed with the recipients of the cheques. The charities were Beacon Charities Trust nominated by Our Lady of Walsingham Foundation, Twinkle House nominated by St Richard's and Southport Kitchen nominated by St Jerome's.

Madelaine McDonald, Media Officer

Help With Vocations

UCM President Maria Bruns photographed presenting a cheque for £1000 to Father James Preston, Vocations Director of the Archdiocese. This is to give practical help along with our prayers for vocations to the priesthood.

Madelaine McDonald, Media Officer



Mediawatch UK

The internet

Representatives from Mediawatch UK met with the Rt Rev. Bishop Stephen Cottrell who sits on the Lords' Communications Committee. Mediawatch UK discussed ways in which they could support him in his work in the House of Lords, and how they could take forward certain recommendations that have been overlooked in the government's Internet Safety Strategy.

The ever-changing nature of media and digital technologies plus the speed at which that change takes place is a big challenge when trying to inform parents of games and behaviour that are potentially harmful to children. It is also an area where children often know a lot more than the adults. The upper end of primary school children are starting to use social media at a younger age, while those in the lower end frequently access games that are not appropriate for them. It causes them to use language that is hurtful and unkind. Because children don't have the maturity to handle these platforms, they don't realise the consequences of their actions. There needs to be a lot more awareness raising, often parents are oblivious or complacent to the risks until something goes wrong. Technology companies could do more to help.

Mental Health

ITV2's 'Love Island' returned in June and generated an unprecedented number of complaints of 'emotional abuse' used for the drama. Following recent events with people's mental health being pushed to the limit, this is in very poor taste. Debates from this series have considered if cosmetic surgery adverts should be banned, and better aftercare should be provided following news that a former contestant, took her own life. Number of applicants for the show outstripped those for Oxford and Cambridge.

**Margaret Postill,
National Media Officer**



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life possesses God" **St Augustine**

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Pilgrimages to Knock and Co. Mayo
May 6th, 13th, 27th
July 3rd, 15th, 29th.

FLIGHT DETAILS:
Direct flights, from Gatwick, Stansted, Luton,
Bristol, East Midlands, Birmingham,
Manchester, Liverpool

Day One
Depart UK - arrive in Knock, 20 minute transfer to Knock
House Hotel in the ground of Knock Shrine.
Dinner and welcome introduction.

Day Two
A Day in Knock, Tour of the grounds and Museum. Mass
with Blessing of the Sick, Stations of the Cross. Free time.
Dinner followed by entertainment.

Day Three
Guided tour of Ballintubber Abbey with mass. Lunch. Visit
Westport and the holy mountain Croagh Patrick. Return to
hotel for Dinner and entertainment. Optional exposition of
Blessed Sacrament.

Day Four
Morning mass in Fr Peyton Centre. Guided tour of
Hennigan's Heritage Centre with tea and scones.
Onwards to Foxford Woollen Mills and gift shop.
Dinner followed by traditional Irish entertainment.
Optional evening Rosary Procession.

Day Five
Morning mass, enjoy your private time before
return flight to the UK.

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OBITUARIES

BIRMINGHAM

Mary JOHNSON, St Thomas of Canterbury Foundation, Walsall
Mary CHARLTON, Holy Cross Foundation, Stone Cross, West
Bromwich

CLIFTON

Jean HARPER, Dursley Foundation

HALLAM

Robert Needham 'Bob' MELLORS, husband of Angela Mellors
past Diocesan President and Treasurer of the Walsingham
Committee.

LEEDS

Kathleen CLARKE, Our Lady of Lourdes Foundation
Fred BUCKLEY, husband of Margaret, St Malachy's Foundation,
Halifax.

LIVERPOOL

Patricia McGOLDRICK, St Paul's, West Derby, Liverpool.
Bridie HINKS, Past President, St Benet's, Netherton, Liverpool

MIDDLESBROUGH

Linda NAIRN, Past President 2014, St. Mary's Foundation, Filey.

PLYMOUTH

Betty BURFITT, Cathedral Foundation

PORTSMOUTH

Margaret GALLACHER, St James Foundation, Maidenhead

SALFORD

Joan EMSLIE, Guardian Angels Foundation
Cath GALPIN, Guardian Angels Foundation

SHREWSBURY

Janette WAGG, St Anne's Foundation, Rock Ferry
John MACINTOSH (son of Teresa Young) St Anne's Foundation,
Rock Ferry
Michael McCREESH (son of Sue McCreesh) St Anne's
Foundation, Rock Ferry

SOUTHWARK

Josephine IWEGBU, Deptford Foundation

PORTSMOUTH

Joan SMITH, St James' Foundation, Reading

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord

SOUTHWARK



Annual Thanksgiving

UCM Deptford Foundation was celebrating its Annual Thanksgiving & Enrolment Mass on Sunday, 21 October 2018. President, Mrs Tina Ukaegbu, is in the front row, 5th from the left



*The Duke and Duchess of Sussex
have been overwhelmed by all the incredibly
kind cards and letters they have received
on the occasion of their Wedding,
and are so touched that you took
the trouble to write as you did.*

*It really was most thoughtful of you
and greatly appreciated by
Their Royal Highnesses
who send you their very best wishes.*

RENSINGTON PALACE

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex hope you will understand that, due to the enormous volume of correspondence received in the last few months, it has not been possible to reply to you until now.

Folkestone 70th Anniversary 1948-2018

A thanksgiving mass was said at Our Lady and St Joseph's parish church on the 20th October 2018 to celebrate the 70th anniversary.

Margaret Whitham, Kent Area Leader awarded Ann Sharp, Elsa McSwiggan, Emma Deba, Cathy Fernandes, Lilian Orfila, Lourdes Mammaget, Shirley Hart, Tess Vickery, Vera Pickering and Beulah Bloomfield with certificates of long service. Each foundation member had given more than 30 years of loyal service to the Folkestone Foundation.

Mass was followed by afternoon tea in the parish hall, a celebration cake was made by one of the parish, Patsy Allen.

The picture shows Margaret Whitham presenting Cecilia Grace, President, with the 70th anniversary certificate



SALFORD

Long service awards

Father John Coe celebrated Mass and presented long service certificates to Margaret Conroy 50 years, Jean Gee 40 years and Theresa Tracey 25 years on his first visit to St Hilda's Tottington.

Carole White,
Secretary



NOW IS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO END THE SUFFERING CAUSED BY LEPROSY



Let's create a leprosy-free world

For thousands of years leprosy has been the scourge of poverty-stricken communities across the world. The disease frequently leads to severe, life-changing disabilities and those who suffer from it are often excluded by their community, and struggle to fend for themselves.



people were being diagnosed with leprosy every year, their lives destroyed physically, emotionally and socially by the disease. Today, this number has reduced significantly but remains stubbornly at over 200,000 new cases annually, worldwide. St Francis Leprosy Guild is committed to achieving a leprosy-free world and we genuinely believe it is possible, if only people like you are prepared to help.

Early detection can stop leprosy in its tracks

Leprosy is curable and in 1995 the World Health Organisation made multi-drug treatments freely available to help fight it. Since then, millions of people have been

cured of the disease. New cases of leprosy tend to be concentrated in isolated communities where people are still living in dire poverty and have little or no access to healthcare. If leprosy is to be stamped out for good, your support is needed to train local healthcare workers who can reach out to these communities. By supporting early detection and treatment - before the disease takes hold - you can help to prevent untold suffering.

If you are able to send a donation of just £30 today, you will help us support ongoing health initiatives, such as the hospital ship run by

Dr Tony Lopez Gonzalez. This has already helped to train 600 local healthcare assistants, and the ship visits remote communities in the



Amazon where leprosy is still rife, so they can monitor people for early symptoms and provide prompt medication.

123 years dedicated to the relief of suffering

St Francis Leprosy Guild has been dedicated to the relief of suffering caused by leprosy for more than a century. We have supported the care of hundreds of thousands of people, and helped to restore their dignity. Today we are determined to build on our legacy and seize the opportunity to help eradicate leprosy once and for all.

A leprosy-free world is now within sight

Just a few decades ago, more than five million



Winning the battle against leprosy

- 1980s - some 5.2 million cases of leprosy reported annually.
- 1995 - World Health Organisation extends free access to leprosy treatments.
- 16 million people cured of leprosy in past 20 years.
- Today, over 200,000 new cases diagnosed annually, worldwide.
- Early diagnosis and treatment is key to total eradication.

Help to beat leprosy for good

Dr Tony's hospital ship is just one of around 60 inspirational partner organisations supported by St Francis Leprosy Guild, which are working with remote and marginalised communities in countries such as India and Brazil. Please send £30 today to help this essential work continue. Together, let's seize the opportunity to create a leprosy-free world and help put an end to people's suffering at last.

I WANT TO SEE A LEPROSY-FREE WORLD. HERE IS MY GIFT TO HELP.

Please donate at www.justgiving.com/stfrancisleprosyguild or return this form with your gift.

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THANK YOU!

Please return this form with your gift to: St Francis Leprosy Guild, 73 St Charles Square, London W10 6EJ.

Please fill in your name and address. We will never pass on your details to any other organisation and will treat them with respect. We will use the personal information you have provided to process your donation and to contact you with news of our work. If you would prefer not to receive further communications please tick this box or you can call us on 020 8969 1345 to let us know which communications you would like to receive. To read more about how we value your privacy, visit www.stfrancisleprosy.org

The Union of Catholic Mothers 74th Annual WALSINGHAM Pilgrimage

Monday & Tuesday 1st & 2nd JULY 2019 Led by the Diocese of Northampton

Booking Form: All Cheques should be made payable to: "The U.C.M. Walsingham Sub-committee"

Diocese:		No. of Pilgrims @ £8.00 each		No. of Abbey Link Mobility Bus Tickets: (Includes a seat in the Abbey Grounds) @ £2.50 each	TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED = £
Foundation Name:		= £		= £	
No. of Cars:	No. of Coaches	Mini Buses	Organiser's Name:		
Tel. No. of Coach Company [Inc. Area code]			Address:		
No. of Pilgrims proposing to take part in the Monday Evening Service	Do you require map with directions to the Shrine	YES/NO	Post Code:		
			Tel No:		
No. of Deacons who wish to participate	No. of Priests who wish to concelebrate		Signed		Date:
Bookings cut-off date is Monday 11th June.			All Bookings to be sent a.s.a.p. & before Monday 11th June to:		Please enclose a s.a.e. of adequate size and postage for the number of tickets requested
Fees for Priests/Deacons: Please remember that the Foundation/Diocese is responsible for paying, and booking your Priests/Deacons. It is important that you indicate their number when making your bookings as facilities for them have to be made at the Shrine.			Mrs Angela Higginson 26 Holmescarr Crescent Rossington Doncaster DN11 0QD Tel: 0130 286 4930		



Monday 1st July
SERVICE OF LIGHT
8pm
In Chapel of Reconciliation
followed by the TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION

Tuesday 2nd July
MASS
11.30am

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

For further information please contact your Diocesan President or Local Organiser

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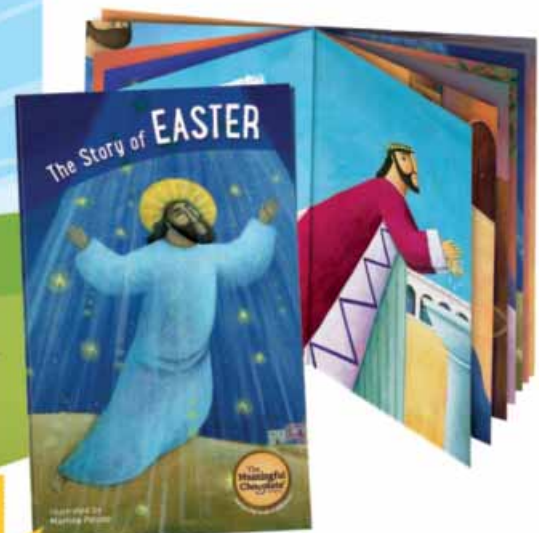
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