

The Word of God be ever + in my mind, + proclaimed by my lips and + pierce my heart leading me to deeper communion with you Jesus.



UCM News

The Newspaper of the Union of Catholic Mothers

Spring 2020



Our Lady of Luján - Page 4



WUWCO Meeting with Pope Francis - Page 10



Liverpool Hope University's 175th Anniversary - Page 13

CATHOLIC WOMEN PRAYING TOGETHER

Whom or what is 'Catholic Women Praying Together'?

It is a new organisation, supported by the Association of Catholic Women, the Catholic Women's League, Ladies of the Ordinariate, Life Ascending and The Union of Catholic Mothers. We were 'born' out of Catholic Women of the Year, which each year invited nominations of women who served the Church and their local communities, especially those 'unsung heroines' who quietly and simply got on with doing whatever they felt was needed for the common good. From the nominations, four women were chosen and recognised at a grand luncheon in a London hotel.

However, times and priorities change, so after celebrating the Golden Jubilee Lunch in 2018, it was felt that a change of direction was needed, to focus more on the needs we see around us in our everyday lives today. We decided to channel our energies into organising a spiritual event, with lunch as a supporting, rather than the major activity. The new event had to be firmly rooted in prayer and what better way of achieving this than coming together in the celebration of Mass?

Thus, on 6th November around 100

(mostly) ladies gathered for Mass at the Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception – commonly known as Farm Street Church – in the heart of Mayfair in Central London. This beautiful church was opened in 1849 and since 1966 has been a parish church within the Archdiocese of Westminster. It is home to some outstanding examples of art and sculpture such as this 14-foot long life-size painting of the Last Supper by Andrew White and this 'Homeless Jesus' sculpture located in the side chapel of Our Lady of the Seven Dolours.

The Mass was celebrated by the Right Reverend Monsignor Keith Newton P.A. (Protonotary Apostolic) who is the first Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. Our chosen intention was 'Praying for Young People' which Mgr. Newton reflected upon so eloquently in his homily, which is reproduced at the end of this article.

Given our chosen intention, it was most appropriate to have St Cecilia's choir from Coloma Convent School in Croydon singing at our Mass. The 40+ girls sang beautifully and contributed significantly to this prayerful occasion and, from the following posting on the school website, were clearly proud to be there: 'On Wednesday, 6th November, the St Cecilia's Choir was fortunate enough to participate in and sing at a Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, known as the Farm Street Church, in Mayfair. There was a substantial turnout and the stunning beauty of the church added to the divine atmosphere in which we sang. This mass was organised by Catholic Women Praying Together, a group bringing together the main Catholic women's groups in Britain, including our Coloma girls.'

Great thanks go to our soloists, Eilis O'Shea (Lower Sixth) and Pearl Young (Upper Sixth) who bravely led our choir with



their wonderful singing. This Mass was successful in demonstrating the communal Catholic spirit across many generations of women, whilst focussing on Britain's young people today.'

Mass was followed by a modest buffet lunch which was an enjoyable time for meeting old and new friends. It was especially good to see so many members of the UCM out 'in full force' making up around 60% of those present and coming from the Dioceses of Arundel & Brighton, Birmingham, East Anglia, Northampton, Shrewsbury, Southwark and Westminster. We were also joined in prayer on the day by UCM

members in the Archdiocese of Liverpool, as well as many in the Diocese of Portsmouth, who held their own Masses to pray for our young people.

Feedback was very positive and we are now planning the 2020 event, which is provisionally booked for Wednesday 4th November, with Mass at 12 noon at Farm Street, followed by lunch.

Watch out for more news.

Anne Emblem, Chairman, Catholic Women Praying Together

Continued on Page 3

- <https://www.jesuit.org.uk/church-immaculate-conception>
- <https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/10923/homeless-jesus-finds-place-to-lay-his-head-in-london>
- <https://www.jesuit.org.uk/blog/memorial-spiritual-journey-painting>
- <https://www.coloma.croydon.sch.uk/st-ceciliass-choir-sing-in-mayfair/>



FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Dear Members

I hope you have all been doing some serious thinking over the Christmas season about putting your name forward for one of the vacancies on the National Committee.

During the last twelve months I have visited some of you in your dioceses and received a warm welcome. It is like meeting up with old friends. This coming year will be a celebration of Our Lady of Walsingham, firstly in our dioceses, then our 75th anniversary pilgrimage to Walsingham and finally in September our pilgrimage to Banneux in Belgium, see page 11 for details.

You will be pleased to know that our webpage is currently undergoing an update, so hopefully by the summer we should be up and running. (Watch this space)

Each year the Holy Father chooses a theme and this year it is 'Peace as a Journey of Hope, Dialogue, Reconciliation and Ecological Conversion'.

I hope to meet up with some of you at our study days in March.

Lent starts on Wednesday 26th February.

'Oh, is that when we have to give something up?' NO!

It is a period of preparation in which we remember

the life of Jesus through prayer and penance but more related to his ministry than his death. Some of you will be giving up luxuries, while others give their time to charitable work. Children in some schools are encouraged to do something extra for someone.

During this year of the Word, some may like to find time to read the gospel of Matthew, this is the subject of our study days later in March. On behalf of the National Committee, I wish you and your families a Blessed Easter.

Catholic Easter Prayer

Lord, the resurrection of your Son has given us new life and renewed hope.

Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal.

Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it,

The courage to undertake it,

The perseverance to continue to do it and the strength to complete it.

(source new St Joseph People's Prayer Book)

I would like to finish this short article by reminding us all of the final sentence in our prayers.

Give us your grace to recognise the path You are inviting us to take and the courage to respond.

Margaret McDonald, National President

EAST ANGLIA

Norfolk on a Stick!

At the October meeting we enjoyed an interesting entertaining talk and slides of 'Norfolk on a Stick' by Dr Andrew Tullett, a history of village signs, Norfolk was the birthplace of village signs at Wolferton and Sandringham at the request of George V in 1912.

The signs depict the history of Norfolk sang -- from Palaeolithic (West Runton Mammoth is a fossilised skeleton) to Hussanspey (2 brothers from this village won 2 of the highest military awards - The George Cross & The Victoria Cross in WW 2). There are 513 signs in Norfolk.

Annual Harvest Supper was held with UCM members and parishioners 49 in total. This year's entertainment was Father David with his monologues an enjoyable evening was had by all £477 was raised for the charity 'Let the Children live' and Shelter Box.

Marguerite Wayling , Costessey Foundation

30th Anniversary Celebrations

On Monday 9th December 2019, The Union of Catholic Mothers East Anglia St.Neots & St.Joesph Foundation celebrated our 30th anniversary with a special mass with the occasion. Original members Maria Taverna and Leish Davis are still regular attendees.



30th Anniversary celebrations

CWL AGM



Left to right: Rose Maunder, National President UCM Wales, Pauline Porter, National President UCM Scotland, Margaret Valentine retiring President CWL, Canon Catherine Mothers Union, Margaret McDonald, National President The UCM

CLIFTON

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

On 27 November 2019 The Union of Catholic Mothers, Sacred Heart Foundation in Bristol, presented a cheque for £775 for the Friends of the Holy Land. The President of the Foundation, Mrs Kay Elliott, handed over the cheque to parish priest Fr Colin Mason who is also the Clifton diocesan representative for the Friends of the Holy Land.

The Friends had been chosen by Mrs Elliott as her charity for this year of her UCM presidency. The £775 raised represents the group's fundraising for the past year. The UCM have been particularly inspired by the work of the charity in the Holy Land. Fr Colin thanked the UCM for their hard work and very generous gift.



Fr Colin Mason and Mrs Kay Elliott (UCM President)

Fr Colin Mason, Sacred Heart, Bristol

Submitting copy for next issue

The deadline for articles and photos for the next edition of the Catholic Mother is Monday 4th May 2020

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

Thank you

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CATHOLIC WOMEN PRAYING TOGETHER

Mgr. Newton's homily:

Continued from Page 1

'The world is passing through troubled times. The young people of today think of nothing but themselves. They have no reverence for parents or old age. They are impatient of all restriction. They talk as if they alone know everything, and what passes for wisdom with us is foolishness with them. As for the girls, they are immodest and unwomanly in speech, behaviour and dress.'

You may think those words come from an article in the Daily Mail describing young people in the 21st Century. In fact, they are an extract from the writings of Peter the Hermit in 1272. Some might say that times don't change very much, but the truth is that it is all too easy to be negative not least about young people. Teachers know better than anybody the great potential there is in our young people and therefore the great responsibility that they have in helping children to achieve their potential. But that responsibility goes much wider to the whole community. Catholics should know that young people are not the Church of the future but the Church of today.

This mass has been organised particularly for Catholic women to pray together for young people. We all have responsibility for them particularly those of you, of us in my case, who are parents and grandparents. I remember a few years ago visiting Lisieux at the time of the Feast of St Therese, a marvellous, inspiring and holy woman. As part of that pilgrimage we also visited the

family house of her parents Zelig and Louis Martin also canonised though considerably later than her. Both wanted to be religious but were turned down by the respective orders, in the case of Louis because he could not learn Latin. They married and of their children who survived all 5 became nuns including St Therese.

The house in Alençon is looked after by an order of African sisters and I remember one telling us something which is obvious though perhaps we need to be reminded of: Zelig and Louis Martin did not become saints because of St Therese, but St Therese became a saint because of her parents and their influence in her life. All of us can have the opportunity to influence some young people who have many more pressures and temptations in their lives than we did. We hear almost daily of stabbings and often of young people innocently caught up in gang warfare. The use of drugs is endemic and a Catholic understanding of human relations particularly concerning sexuality would seem quite foreign to most young people.

It is certainly no use in the Church in general pretending to be a moral policeman, for one thing you must have noticed most people listen with cloth ears. Sometimes we just sound like grumpy old men and women. More importantly following moral rules, the 10 commandments or whatever, as important as they are for us, will not make us glad and wise or convince people of the reality of what we believe. Sometimes Christians are in danger of sounding like a rescue team which stands on the beach and

tells bored suicides that they are drowning. They already know that; what they really want to know is why they shouldn't go ahead and sink. Many young people in today's world have been robbed of their spiritual heritage and what we need to witness to is that there is a better and more fulfilling way. Christians must be like Christ not looking at the world in a spirit of judgement but in a spirit of love and care and forgiveness and to show how different life is within the body of Christ compared with that outside, to radiate, in the words of Pope Francis the joy of the gospel. The gospel is good news though that is not entirely obvious to people looking in on us from the outside.

Throughout our lives we make choices for ourselves. The choices we make often define who we are and the priorities we have. Sometimes our way of life instead of drawing young people to enquire about the faith puts them off, yet we are the only witnesses Christ has. As St Teresa of Avila so beautifully put it: "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks in compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

Sometimes the choices young people make bring us sadness especially when they are within our own family but it doesn't help to be judgmental or moralistic. Better to be

clear what you stand for and loving and accepting of those who do not live up to that ideal.

The one thing we can and must do is to pray for them and not underestimate the power of prayer. In our readings today we are given the example of our blessed lady who St Pope Paul VI called the attentive virgin in his encyclical 'Maria Cultus'. Speaking of the time before Pentecost he says:

'Likewise, the last description of Mary's life presents her as praying. The apostles "joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers" (Acts 1:14). We have here the prayerful presence of Mary in the early Church and in the Church throughout all ages, for, having been assumed into heaven, she has not abandoned her mission of intercession and salvation. The title Virgin in prayer also fits the Church, which day by day presents to the Father the needs of her children, "praises the Lord unceasingly and intercedes for the salvation of the world." He goes on to say 'Mary is not only an example for the whole Church in the exercise of divine worship but is also, clearly, a teacher of the spiritual life for individual Christians'.

May she teach us to hold the needs of our young people in our hearts and teach us like her to be faithful and obedient witnesses to Christ in today's world.

**The Right Revd Monsignor Keith Newton
Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of
Our Lady of Walsingham November 2019.**

MIDDLESBROUGH

Inspired By Our Visitor

Holy Name of Mary Foundation, Middlesbrough recently had a guest speaker and observer from the Camphills Trust, an organisation, which provides care for adults with learning disabilities. Alex Robertson and David brought an array of items made by the clients. There were beautiful handmade wooden toys, woollen scarves, apple juice, vegetables and biscuits from their bakery. Alex gave us a brief history, explaining that the Camphill movement was founded in Scotland in 1939 by Austrian Doctor Karl Konig,

Botton Village in North Yorkshire is a home for almost 100 learning disabled adults and has a farm, a range of workshops and extensive gardens and was the first Camphills trust establishment. We heard amusing anecdotes from Alex and wonderful testimonials from parents and carers. We were inspired and so arranged to visit the Village in November.

**Jean Rigg,
Holy Name of Mary Foundation Secretary**



Guest observer, David and guest speaker Alex Robertson at the rear with members of the Holy Name of Mary UCM.



L to R Margaret Mc Donald National President, Bishop Terence Drainey, Jean Rigg Diocesan President

60th Anniversary

UCM members from around the Diocese gathered on the 23rd November at St. Aelred's York for the 60th Anniversary of The Union of Catholic Mothers in the Middlesbrough Diocese. We were delighted that Bishop Terence Drainey, joined by several priests from the Diocese, were able to be with us to celebrate Mass on this special occasion. Bishop Drainey welcomed the National President Mrs Margaret Mc Donald who had travelled from Liverpool to join with our President Mrs Jean Rigg to celebrate this

Anniversary. The presidents led the intercessions and The UCM prayers. The liturgy and music had been organised by our study day officer Rose Cartledge who also led St. Aelred's Choir. Following Mass everyone was welcomed by Sarah Sheils, St. Aelred's foundation President, who invited everyone to lunch in the Parish Centre. An excellent lunch was served this being followed by the cutting of a special anniversary cake by the Bishop and Presidents. Many happy memories of The UCM were shared by everyone present.

Congratulations

100th BIRTHDAY

Rosaleen Egan, Our Lady's, Westminster Archdiocese



Rosaleen Egan

90th BIRTHDAY

Chris Burge, Sutton Foundation, Southwark Archdiocese

Angela Bulfin, Westminster Archdiocese

Edna Catlow, Holy Apostles and Martyrs Foundation

Afternoon Group, Shrewsbury Diocese

Beryl Hewson, Holy Apostles and Martyrs Foundation

Evening Group, Shrewsbury Diocese



Chris Burge

80th BIRTHDAY

Dolores Edmeades, Costessey Foundation, East Anglia Diocese

Wynne Barrowman, Corby Foundation, Northampton Diocese

Tina Leadley, St Vincent's Foundation, Sheffield, Hallam Diocese

Maureen Kirk, St Vincent's Foundation, Sheffield, Hallam Diocese

Wyn Mara, St Vincent's Foundation, Sheffield, Hallam Diocese

Joan Heffernan, Guardian Angels foundation, Bury, Salford Diocese



Wynne Barrowman

DIAMOND WEDDING

Mary and Mike Thomas, Exmouth Foundation, Plymouth Diocese

GOLDEN WEDDING

Kay and Mike O'Leary, St. Gerard's Foundation, Knowle, Clifton Diocese

Barbara and Thomas (Tucker) Hetherington, Blessed Sacrament Foundation, Aintree, Liverpool Archdiocese

Ursula and Mike Ratcliffe, Exmouth Foundation, Plymouth Diocese



Kay and Mike O'Leary



Barbara and Thomas (Tucker) Hetherington

Our Lady of Luján



Pope Francis will receive the Bishops of the Forces from both the UK and Argentina in Rome, where they will exchange a statue of Our Lady of Luján which was brought to the UK at the end of the Falklands War, according to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The original statue of the Virgin Mary, Patroness of Argentina, will be returned to Argentina, A replica made by the Argentinians, will be presented to the Catholic Military Cathedral of St Michael and St George in Aldershot.

When the Argentinian troops invaded the Falkland Islands in April 1982, they brought with them the statue, a copy of the 1630 original, which sits in the Basilica of Lujan in Argentina. Great devotion is shown to Our Lady of Luján who was formally declared as the Patroness of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay on September 8, 1930, by Pope Pius XI. Pope John Paul II visited the original statue in Luján in 1982 and bestowed upon her the Golden Rose.

Occupying the church in Port Stanley until the Task Force arrived, the statue was left behind when the invading force was repelled. It was then packed up on a military transport to the UK and found a home at the Catholic Military Cathedral of St Michael and St

George in Aldershot. It has stayed there since as a focus for prayer offered for the fallen of both sides.

Soon after his installation as Bishop of the Forces, Bishop Paul Mason was contacted by his Argentinian counterpart Bishop for the Forces Bishop Santiago Olivera, who asked if the statue could be returned, given that a group of faithful with a devotion to Our Lady of Lujan was eager to see her return. The offer of a replica for the Aldershot Cathedral was also made, which Bishop Paul gratefully accepted.

Pope Francis will receive both bishops and both statues in St Peter's Square in Rome on Wednesday, October 30, 2019, following the Annual Meeting of Military Bishops in Rome.

Bishop Paul Mason said, "It was an intriguing story that met me when first installed as Bishop of the Forces and I immediately realized what a good opportunity it was, not only to return the statue but also to demonstrate a united faith across two countries that have experienced political division. I met Bishop Santiago so we could discuss the return of the statue and I look forward to meeting him again in Rome in October for the exchange when the Holy Father will bless both statues."

CBCEW website

ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

English Martyrs Horley UCM and the Shoebox Campaign

Over two weeks in October members of The Union of Catholic Mothers of English Martyrs, Horley, ran a Shoebox Campaign and collected 62 shoeboxes from young and old parishioners and raised £435 in donations towards the cost of postage and packing.

The Shoebox Campaign is part of the Operation Christmas Child Initiative organised and administered by the Samaritan's Purse - a non-denominational Christian relief organisation providing spiritual and physical aid to victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease and

famine. Working in partnership with local churches, the Samaritan's Purse collect medium sized shoeboxes filled with a variety of gifts for children in need around the world.

The picture shows some of the parishioners with UCM officers Trish Frisby, Bernadette Sealy, and Jane Sheppard and the parish priest, Father Francis Ezennia, MSP.

Article and picture by Teresita Chandler, with material taken from the Samaritan's Purse website.



NOW IS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO END THE SUFFERING CAUSED BY LEPROSY

WORLD LEPROSY DAY
26 JANUARY 2020



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.



124 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, during which time many religious sisters, brothers and priests have made it their life's vocation to care for those with the disease. Today we are determined to build on their legacy and seize our 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 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

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 that serves patients in the Amazon

region. This initiative has already helped to train 600 local healthcare assistants, and the ship visits remote communities along the river where leprosy is still rife, monitoring people for early symptoms and providing prompt medication.



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 are key to total eradication.

Help to beat leprosy for good

The 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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First Name

Surname

Address

Postcode

Email

Telephone

Here is my gift of: £30 £60 £100 Other £

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Expiry date

Issue date

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Registered Charity Number 208741

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

This appeal has been made possible thanks to a supporter's kind legacy

BIRMINGHAM

Advent In Wolverhampton Section

Wolverhampton section held its usual Advent Mass and Advent retreat in Holy Trinity Church Bilkston. What a transformation! When we last had a Mass there, quite a few years ago, the church was in a sorry state to say the least, both outside, and inside with plaster peeling off the walls and the church hall was cold and uninviting. Now it is decorated in pale and warm white and yellow and there have been many more improvements. The church hall has had a makeover too, including attractive white chairs. A winter evening was certainly brightened up. Warming up also came from the chips and hot pigs in blankets which the ladies of Bilston provided for the shared table.

The current priest Father Craig Fullard has done a tremendous amount of fundraising for Holy Trinity as well having three other parishes. It is good to learn the church is full on a Sunday morning.

The Advent Mass was also made special by the blessing of the restored UCM foundation banner which dates back to 1913 and now has pride of place in the baptistry. Holy Trinity Bilston began as a chapel in 1833 in gothic style and enlarged in 1845. It is built in brick with stone and buff terracotta detailing. It is said that the motivation for the promotion of a new church was that, during the disastrous cholera epidemic of 1832, three Catholic priests from Wolverhampton, Fathers O'Sullivan, Mostyn and Ross, did such sterling work in the town that local Catholics were moved to ask for their own church.

Father O'Sullivan seems to have been a prime mover in this and he managed to collect £1,800 for the cause and the church was opened on 11th September 1834. The first priest was Father Thomas Sing who soon got Father George Fox as an assistant priest. It was Fox who promoted the building of the school which was attached to the church and is now the church hall. In 1845 it was decided to enlarge the church by the addition of a chancel. This was designed by Augustus Welby Pugin - but any typically Pugin elaboration in its decoration has long since gone. However, there are tiles dating from that date. In 1849 another serious outbreak of cholera saw Father John Sherlock, distinguish himself by his selfless devotion, which included carrying the sick to hospital on his back. One of the priests who came to assist him, albeit only for three weeks was Saint John Henry Newman.

On the following Sunday the Section's Advent Retreat was held for a second year at St Peter's Bloxwich. The retreat was led by Sister Bridget from the Sisters of Mercy, St Mary's Convent, Handsworth. She based her talk and activities on the lessons for the forthcoming Sunday, the third in Advent. The message that came across strongly was that God never punishes. We all loved a hymn she had brought along and played - Gift of God written and sung by Marty Houghen. The afternoon ended with benediction.

**Susan Martin
Media Officer**



Food Bank Volunteers

The members of St Peter's UCM Bloxwich Birmingham Diocese who volunteer at the local food bank joined the other volunteers in November for a thank you tea in the Mayor's Parlour Walsall. Here they in front of the mayoral robes. From l to r Jenny McGeough, Sue Kennedy, Ros Geddes, Betty Doughty, Angela Wyre and Susan Martin.

Fundraising Tea Party

The ladies from St Ambrose Kidderminster Foundation have been very busy as usual. They recently held a fundraising tea party and also took an active part in the church's Christmas bazaar. It was a double celebration for member Chris Geraghty as she won the raffle's hamper, and turned 80.

They also enjoyed the advent retreat with other foundations at St Peters, Bloxwich. Pictured: Birthday girl Chris with her hamper.





THE BAR CONVENT
Living Heritage Centre

FASCINATING EXHIBITION

Bring a UCM Group To England's Oldest Living Convent and Interactive Exhibition

- Book a guided tour with afternoon tea or lunch in our award winning Café.
- Be inspired by brave women who overcame poverty, prison, mob attacks and Luftwaffe bombs to play an active role in their communities.
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SHREWSBURY

We Are Thriving – Deo Gratias!

Shock! Horror! After a Diocesan re-organisation of the parishes on The Wirral and we realised our parish of Sts. Peter and Paul in New Brighton was to be joined to the parish of English Martyrs in Wallasey Village, we found our UCM had no satisfactory place to meet every other Wednesday afternoon. Our sister group in English Martyrs had their meetings after Mass every Tuesday evening in a local club. There was no parish hall and no area which was suitable for a group of about 20 ladies to meet once a fortnight on a Wednesday afternoon. We felt we were unable to join with English Martyrs evening group as most of us do not drive at night any more. What could we do?

One of our members happened to visit a relative in a local sheltered accommodation in New Brighton and noticed a large lounge there which seemed to be empty most afternoons. She bravely went to the lady in charge who was very encouraging and welcomed the idea of a group of ladies using the lounge once a fortnight – for a small fee. I am pleased to say the experiment has worked wonderfully well. We meet in a beautiful place with comfy chairs (with arms) with six to a table. It is lovely and warm and we can use the adjacent kitchen facilities which include a dishwasher. What bliss! More importantly, we can interact some of the time with the residents. They are always invited to our 'bring and buy' sales which they support enthusiastically and a limited number can be invited to our special celebrations, birthdays, anniversaries etc. Some of them donate welcome contributions such as coins-in-bottles which go towards the charities we support.

We have a Mass once a year in the lounge celebrated by our parish priest, Canon Phil Moor, and it is interesting seeing individuals peeping discreetly through the windows on the corridor to see what's going on! I am sure our presence and activities have given them some pause for thought.

So, ladies maybe this is a way forward, by interacting with the local community and indirectly spreading The Word. Our numbers are increasing encouragingly with five new members recently. I know they are drawn by the Aims and Objects of The UCM but I am also sure that a comfy chair in a cosy, warm convenient environment makes the message doubly welcome. Long may it continue!

**A.M.B.
Holy Apostles and Martyrs Afternoon Group, Wallasey
Shrewsbury Diocese**

**If you would like to advertise please contact
Charlotte Rosbrooke on 07932 248225
or email charlotter@cathcom.org**

LEEDS



Marie Moore with St Ignatius Committee

A Blast from the Past

In September, members of St Ignatius UCM Ossett decided to hold a fundraising event for the local food bank. A Beetle Drive was suggested with afternoon tea to follow. This created much laughter as some of our members had no idea what a Beetle Drive was! Nevertheless, we went along with the idea.

It proved to be a great success. A lot of the people who attended did not know what they were in for and some had been dragged along by family members but everyone

enjoyed it. It's always a good sign when there is lots of laughter.

We raised the magnificent sum of £382.05 which was presented to Marie Moore who is in charge of the foodbank. She was delighted and, as she said, 'gob-smacked' at the amount.

We have been asked several times to do it all over again but not just yet!!

Pam Watkins
President St Ignatius

14th Annual Rosary Rally

On a very wet Saturday in October, Leeds Diocese UCM held our 14th Rosary Rally. The venue was St. Anne's Cathedral in Leeds where more than 40 hardy mothers braved the dreadful weather to come together to honour Our Lady.

We were joined by mothers from Middlesbrough Diocese who wisely travelled by train.

Canon Lawrie Hulme our UCM Chaplain

celebrated Benediction which was followed by a procession around the Cathedral whilst reciting the Rosary.

A very welcome afternoon tea held in the Cathedral hall ended our day.

Thankfully the rain had stopped before we started our homeward journeys.

Eileen Goodwin
Media Officer

Supporting Mary's Meals

During the summer, UCM foundation at Our Lady and St Joseph's Parish, Aire Valley appealed for donations of back packs which members could fill with items children in third world countries would need in order for them to attend school.

If the children could attend school Mary's Meals could provide them all with a hot meal during the day, something their parents might

not be able to do.

Members were delighted to have 70 backpacks donated by parishioners which have now been filled with the required items, labelled according to the age and gender of the child and are now on their way.

Diane Charnock
Secretary, Our lady and St Joseph's



Some of the many colourful backpacks ready to go to a needy child

NORTHAMPTON



Fr John 's farewell Mass

Farewell Mass for Canon John Koenig

On the 11th September after 25 years of service to the Kettering churches Canon John retired after his tireless work in this parish which covers 4 churches, he was also chaplain to Kettering hospital.

St. Edward's parish church was full to capacity. This was a beautiful Mass and celebration for Canon John. Kettering UCM members organised a reception after the farewell Mass.

Sue Mcgrenaghan



Northampton Ladies at their Rosary Rally

Rosary Rally and Day of Prayer

We held a Rosary Rally and day of Prayer on Saturday 19th October. This was our 11th Rosary Rally and decided this year to take it to our foundations starting with Jenny Hyde parish in Shefford Bedfordshire. St Francis of Assisi is the oldest Catholic Church in our Diocese. Canon Benny Noonan gave a powerful and thought provoking address. This

made for a very spiritually blessed day. Many members and non-members came from all across the Diocese. Our prayer intentions will be send to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Shrine in Great Billing for the novena prayer.

Mariann French
Media Officer Northampton Diocese

HALLAM



Hallam study day

Study Day in Sheffield

Following the National Study Day at Swanwick in March this year, members of The Union of Catholic Mothers of the Hallam Diocese met up for a Study Day in Sheffield. The topic was 'The call to holiness in today's world' as in Pope Francis' exhortation. The presentation was led by Mrs. Angie Higginson the Hallam Study Officer.

A lively discussion took place and among the issues discussed was: our role in the family, friendship and professions; how to make peace where there is violence or conflict in the family, workplace or community; and to reflect on our daily life as God is asking and to do so with love and an openness and evangelisation towards our community.

Christmas Lunch

The Hallam UCM Christmas Lunch, at the end of November was enjoyed by its members together with the Diocesan President Mrs. Angela Mellors and other Officers past and present. Mrs. Angela Higginson, the Hallam Study Officer announced that £800 had been raised by members of the Catholic mothers, including donations from parishioners in the parish of Christ the King, Rossington to be donated to 'Mary's Meals.'

As in previous years, many handmade gifts and knitwear made by The UCM ladies and parishioners of St. Vincent's Foundation in Sheffield were again provided. These raised the sum of £433 to be donated to the Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice Fund.

Dorothy Anderson
Media Officer, Hallam Diocese

Vatican's 'Secret' Archives Renamed

The Vatican Secret Archives, containing millions of documents spanning 12 centuries, are no longer officially "secret".

Pope Francis has renamed the priceless archives, which include letters concerning King Henry VIII's request to divorce Catherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn, which led to the English church breaking away from Rome in 1534. They also hold the original acts of the 1633 trial of the astronomer Galileo by the Roman Inquisition, which condemned him as a heretic for teaching that the Earth revolves around the sun.

The Vatican has said the new name would be the Vatican Apostolic Archives. This removes any potentially "negative nuances" from the Latin word "secretum", which the

pope said in a decree was closer to "private" or "reserved" than "secret" when the archives were first named in about 1610. They have not been 'secret' in practice for a long time anyway: like most state archives, they are open to qualified researchers after a period of time. The collection of papers, documents and parchments dates as far back as the eighth century, making the archives one of the world's most important research centres.

They contain 53 miles (85km) of shelving and an underground vault known as "the Bunker", a version of which was recreated in the film version of the Dan Brown novel Angels and Demons.

The archives are open for the period of the pontificate of Pope Pius XI, ending in 1939. Those from the pontificate of Pius XII (1939-58) are due to be opened to scholars on

March 2nd 2020, an event which has been keenly awaited by the Jewish community; many Jews and historians say Pius did not do enough to help those facing persecution by Nazi Germany. The Vatican maintains that Pius chose to work behind the scenes, concerned that public intervention would have worsened the situation for both Jews and Catholics in a wartime Europe dominated by Hitler.

When Francis announced the date of the opening last March, he said Pius's legacy had been treated with "some prejudice and exaggeration".

The American Jewish Committee (AJC), one of the world's leading Jewish groups, welcomed the move. "For more than 30 years, the AJC has called for the full opening of the Holy See's Secret Archives from the

period of World War Two," said Rabbi David Rosen, the AJC's International Director of Interreligious Affairs. "It is particularly important that experts from the leading Holocaust memorial institutes in Israel and the U.S. objectively evaluate as best as possible the historical record of that most terrible of times. "To acknowledge both the failures as well as the valiant efforts made during the period of the Shoah," Rosen told Reuters in an email, using the Hebrew word for the Holocaust.

Read more at:
<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2019/03/vatican-to-open-secret-archives-of-wartime-pontiff-pius-xii-pope-francis/>

Vacancies

National Welfare Officer

Appointed Office – closing date 15th March 2020

- Co-ordinate the work carried out nationally
- Liaise with the Diocesan Welfare Officers and provide information, support and help
- Attend meetings of CARITAS Social Action Network and housing justice
- Closely observe The UCM Health & Safety Recommendations and Safe-Guarding Policy
- Observe affairs relating to human welfare

National President

Elected Office – closing date 15th March 2020

- Monitors routine administration, with the other Trustees
- Makes decisions on incoming information
- Presides at National Meetings
- Is a member of all sub-committees
- Attends WUCWO General Assembly and holds the right to vote
- Leads the annual pilgrimage to Walsingham
- Is an ambassador for The UCM
- Visits each diocese once during her term of office
- Attends UCM Scotland AGM and UCM Wales AGM
- Is responsible for ensuring all information received from National Officers is passed on to Diocesan Officers

National Vice President – 2 posts

Elected office – closing date 15th March 2020

- Looks after the Mass travel kit in the role of sacristan
- Compile rota for inviting each diocese in turn to prepare the liturgy for National Meetings
- Compile the intersessions for Walsingham
- Co-ordinate the Daily Mass Scheme
- Attend Justice and Peace Conference
- Attend the Catholic Union meetings and Craigmyle Lecture
- Attend the National Council of Women Conference
- Organise the National Study Conference

LIVERPOOL



Helpers at the event

World Day Of The Poor

Pope Francis invited us to reach out to those in our communities who are poor. So, in response to this on Sunday 17th November 2019, Nugent Care (a well-known Liverpool charity) along with the Knights of St Columba, The Union of Catholic Mothers, Liverpool Justice and Peace, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and members of the James Nugent Pastoral Area organised a lunch and Social Event for poor people in the Gibberd Room at the Cathedral.

Many people arrived for lunch, which was a hot-pot followed by various cakes. Each

Foundation donated £10; money was also donated by other committees to fund this event. The afternoon was a huge success and we were very privileged to meet such lovely people. Some young people came and provided music and everyone enjoyed a good sing song and the more adventurous had a dance. After we said goodbye to our guests, UCM did what they do best - we washed all the dishes. Can't wait for next year!

Maureen Finnegan,
Liverpool Archdiocesan President

50th Anniversary Celebrations

St Jerome's Foundation, Formby, Liverpool, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of UCM in the parish at the Bi-Monthly Mass in November. They also enrolled 3 new members, Jean Houghton, Sheila Gray, Pat

Otty. Ana Milena Barwick from St Joseph's Penketh was enrolled at the same time. A celebratory cake was cut by St Jerome's Foundation President Gill Coghlan.

New Baby Clothes

"Harvest of Hands" - St Thomas of Canterbury UCM Liverpool with their offerings of new layettes, (many of them hand-made), and baby toiletries, which are donated to mothers in need through the Ancilla Charity"

Madelaine McDonald,
Media Officer, Liverpool



Gifts for Ancilla Charity

Submitting copy for next issue

The deadline for articles and photos for the next edition of the Catholic Mother is
Monday 4th May 2020

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

Thank you

(GDPR) General Data Protection Regulation
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.



SOUTHWARK

'Christmas Tree' Competition

Did any other foundation celebrate Christmas with a "tree" to match or compete with the Sheppey foundation? Local churches were repeating a competition started in 2018 to decorate a Christmas Tree. All entrants were taken to one church, and judged on originality, appearance and imagination shown! Sheppey UCM decided to go the whole way on originality! An umbrella was raised, the outside clad with laminated Autumn leaves. Christmas baubles were hung at varying lengths around outside and on the ribs, and included several globes, and stars and planets. These were a reminder that Sheppey is the "Centre of the Universe" according to our Canon Frank Moran, and a not too subtle nod to his enthusiasm and vast knowledge of the stars, planets, meteors, and all things astronomical! There was of course a star on the top!

The base was placed on a grass shape of the Island on which were placed several items of local interest. Sheep, cows, seagulls, a church, an aircraft, in effect a little potted history of the Island. It was certainly a different Christmas Tree, but the efforts of our members didn't go unmarked as they got an award certificate for it. Canon Frank's dog, Scamp, who has every corner of the church under constant scrutiny, did examine the strange addition to his church furniture, but fortunately did not recognise it as



Christmas tree with a difference!

a tree so considering it unworthy of his attentions he walked away and left it! Happy New year to all the staff of Mother, and to UCM members everywhere.

Mary vanDyke
Media officer, Sheppey Foundation,
Southwark Diocese

Spitalfields Day Out

Early in October on a very wet day thirteen members and friends of Tolworth Foundation led by Kate Boyle (Anerley) enjoyed a tour of Spitalfields in London's East End. Its name comes from the hospital and Priory built there in 1197 and known as St Mary Spital. It was one of the biggest hospitals in medieval England and had a large cemetery, charnel house and chapel. In 1999 archaeological excavations unearthed the remains of 10000 Londoners in the area next to Bishopsgate Square. We were able to view the site by going down two sets of stone stairs. In the sixteenth century the Priory and hospital were dissolved. In 1638 Spitalfields Market was established when King Charles 1st gave a licence for fresh fowl and roots to be sold in what was then known as Spittle Fields. Today the Market has around 25000 visitors a week. On our way through we saw a fascinating display of goods and numerous eateries. The area was home to many immigrant Jews and Bangladeshis. Petticoat Lane Market was originally a Jewish Market open on Sundays and today Brick Lane is famous for its Indian foods. In the late seventeenth century Protestant

Huguenots escaping from religious persecution in France settled there. These were skilled weavers especially in silk. We could identify their houses by the long rectangular windows in the upper storeys, designed to capture the last of the day light. Cheap imports of silk and cotton in the eighteenth century led to a downturn in the labour market. Weavers moved out and by the nineteenth century the place was poverty stricken and crime ridden. In 1888 Jack the Ripper killed and mutilated his last victim Mary Kelly near Dorset Street. We saw Dirty Dick's, established in 1745 and a popular eating place with visitors because of its history. It gets its name from a merchant, one Nathaniel Bentley who, informed of the death of his bride to be on the very morning of their wedding, vowed never to wash or change his clothes again. He also ordered that the wedding feast should remain undisturbed. It is thought that Charles Dickens who knew the story based his character of Miss Havesham on Bentley. We concluded our tour on the steps of Christ church, designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor, and one of fifty Protestant churches ordered to be built by Act of Parliament in 1711. Many thanks to Kate for another interesting and lively (if rather damp) tour!!!

New Members



R to L Recruitment Officer Sharon Bishop, Pat Goldsmith, Claire Jeffrey, Cecilia Grace (President) Alison Baron and Debbie Jones.

In October 2019 four new members were enrolled at Our Lady Help of Christians Folkstone during mass and afterwards, members were invited to a cheese and wine evening in the parish hall.

Margaret Whitham, Media Officer Southwark

Tolworth Double Celebration

During our annual Mass for deceased members last November two new members, Debbie Board and Philippina Fazal were enrolled into our Foundation. We were delighted to welcome our Diocesan President Mary Burt and Diocesan Secretary Mary Piper who joined us for the Mass. Later in the old chapel Mary Burt presented Rosemary Butcher with a certificate recording

thirty years' membership and cut the celebration cake. We were joined by Father Ignatius our parish priest and his assistant priest Father Joseph. A warm welcome to our new members and congratulations to Rosemary for her loyal and devoted service.

Lucy Smallwood
Tolworth Foundation



Double celebrations

Please help vulnerable children & families in crisis

"You gave me hope and changed my family's future"
Mother who fled domestic violence

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World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations Meeting with Pope Francis

We thank Pope Francis for granting a private audience to the WUCWO authorities, who were received in his library on 10 January 2020. The meeting, which lasted approximately 40 minutes, made it possible to express gratitude, on behalf of the 8 million members of our organisations, for the delicate and frequent attention the Holy Father gives to women, particularly the most vulnerable, throughout the world. The conversation was mainly in Spanish, with some exchanges in Italian.

The Pope received the President, María Lia Zervino, Servidora, the acting Secretary General, Board Member Andrea Ezcurra, Servidora, and the Ecclesiastical Assistant, Father Gerard Whelan, SJ. This meeting, unprecedented for WUCWO, developed quite spontaneously, through free dialogue and close relationship. In the past, St Paul VI received the President of the time, Pilar Bellosillo; St John XXIII granted a large audience to WUCWO; and St John Paul II, Pope Benedict and Pope Francis himself received the greetings of our authorities, either in public audiences or after a Eucharist in which they participated.

The Holy Father welcomed our representatives with great affection and joviality. At the beginning, with his usual sense of humour, he joked about the women and the Jesuits in a way that created an atmosphere of trust, relaxation and joy. The whole conversation that followed took place in that friendly tone. He was given three books as a gift, and in turn, each one of them received a rosary as a gift from His Holiness. From the beginning it became clear that the great riches of WUCWO are

the daily experiences of the member organisations at the local level, which allow each woman to move towards holiness. A holiness that the Pope calls "next door."

After the presentations and thanks, the President and the Ecclesiastical Assistant gave a brief introduction on WUCWO, its history, its current resolutions and its willingness to collaborate for any pastoral action proposed by the Holy Father in relation to the synodality of the People of God, which as we know is composed of such a high proportion of women. WUCWO affirmed to be a living observatory of lay women on the various continents. The Pope said: "It is women who carry the Church forward without holding official positions."

The central theme was that of women and the Church; not only from the perspective of their "functionality," but also with a focus on how the lay women of WUCWO, with their distinctly feminine "being," can contribute to the development and application of the "Marian principle" within the Church and to the manifestation of the face of the Church in today's world. The dialogue then turned to some of the concrete projects underway. We also talked about significant issues for the pontificate today, such as gender ideology, our responsibility before the abuse of minors and inter-religious dialogue for human brotherhood, to which WUCWO is committed.

Before wrapping up the conversation, the Pope was asked to bless all the women of WUCWO, their families, countries, organisations and projects. In his final message the Holy Father encouraged all women members of WUCWO organisations to move forward on the path to holiness with

courage, but also with craziness. He said: "Without craziness there is no holiness." He recommended that we be like Mary Magdalene who was crazy enough to announce the resurrection of Jesus to the

apostles, even though they did not believe her. His exhortation was: "Take charge with courage".

**Secrétariat
WUCWO – UMOFC**



L to R Maria Lia Zervino, Pope Francis, Andrea Ezcurra, Fr Gerry Whelan SJ

NOTTINGHAM

Christmas Wreaths

In December Holy Spirit Foundation held their Christmas evening when we made Christmas Wreaths and we were all very pleased with the results. We also had nibbles and drinks which made quite a party atmosphere.



Christmas Wreaths



Fr Paul

Study Day

The UCM Study day on 7th September was held at St Mary of The Annunciation Church, Loughborough. The theme was based on 'Holiness'. The morning began with Holy Mass at 10 a.m., celebrated by our parish priest Rev Fr Paul Gillham I.C. (Institute of Charity, best known as the Rosminians) After Holy Mass, a short break, returning to church for the Talk with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Father Paul enlightened us of the many saints who, like ourselves were/are sinners.

Numerous examples were given. Fr's talk was very inspiring to everyone. Parishioners who were at the morning Mass, were also invited to stay after Mass for the Talk and Benediction. Everyone then retired to the Hall for a shared table. Sadly, this was not well supported by our Diocesan members, but two ladies from the West Bridgford Foundation were so impressed by Fr's traditional values, that they have invited Fr Paul to give a retreat for their members in 2020.

**Pauline Hallam
Nottingham Diocesan Study Officer**

National President's Pilgrimage to Belgium and Banneux

In the winter of 1933, a young girl named Mariette Beco reported that the Virgin Mary appeared to her on eight separate occasions. Mariette was 11 years old and from a poor family. The Virgin spoke only briefly during her apparitions, but encouraged the girl to pray and led her to a spring with healing powers. After the apparitions many healing miracles associated with the spring at Banneux were reported and as a result it became a place of pilgrimage. The tour to Belgium is based in Charleroi, south of Brussels. The itinerary features a day visiting Banneux but also incorporates a varied programme from the Battle of Waterloo to Belgium's famous chocolates and visits to other memorable destinations in this delightful country.

The tour includes: -

- 7 nights' accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis at the Novotel Charleroi Centre
- Short Channel ferry crossings UK / France
- Admission to Waterloo Memorial (combined

- ticket Memorial 1815)
- Tour and tasting at Belgian chocolate Village, Brussels
- Full day visit to Banneux
- Admission to the Grotte la Merveilleuse, Dinant
- Guided tour of Hospital Notre Dame de la Rose, Lessines
- Visit to St Bavo's Cathedral, Gent with audio guide and guide accompaniment to view Adoration of the Mystic Lamb
- 2 full days at leisure
- Cost is £580.00 per person sharing. Single supplement £136.00

Not included: -

- Travel insurance
- Visa (not required for UK passport holders)
- Additional entrance fees to places of interest other than those detailed in the itinerary
- Gratuities
- Porterage

For any further details please contact National President, Margaret McDonald. margaretucm@yahoo.co.uk



PLYMOUTH

Planter Donated to New Church Hall in Budleigh Salterton



The Exmouth Foundation members held their meeting recently in the Holy Family church hall in Budleigh Salterton rather than their usual venue of the Church Hall of the Holy Ghost in Exmouth. They did this in order to plant up the wooden trough planter donated by the Foundation to the newly-built hall adjacent to St Peter Prince of Apostles church in Budleigh. Following the business meeting planting up was delayed by heavy rain. During a brief lull in the downpour several hardy members, with trowel in hand, braved the inclement weather and the result was a delightful mixture of flowering shrubs and plants to brighten up the area next to the church hall. Afterwards a warming cup of tea and cakes was enjoyed by all.



Plymouth Diocese UCM AGM 2019 The Feast of St Rita of Cascia

The Plymouth Diocesan Union of Catholic Mothers Annual General Meeting 2019 took place on Monday 10th June at the church hall of Plymouth Cathedral. Nine members from Exmouth travelled to Plymouth in 3 cars starting out in Sunny Exmouth and arriving in Plymouth in heavy rain! Our Plymouth hosts totalled 10. As there was a funeral taking place in the Cathedral, we were unable to attend mass as we usually do on such occasions but we were able to say our UCM prayer and pray for absent and sick members plus those who have recently died. We also renewed

our vows. The business meeting was punctuated by a delicious buffet lunch provided by our hosts along with copious amounts of tea and coffee. We also used the opportunity to discuss our being lead diocese for Walsingham 2020 – also the 75th anniversary of the UCM's pilgrimage to Walsingham. We left Plymouth once more in heavy rain arriving back in a dry Exmouth. Our thanks to 3 intrepid drivers.

Elizabeth Johnson, Media Officer

Every year on the Feast of St Rita of Cascia members of the Exmouth Foundation travel to Honiton to join others from around the country and the world to celebrate with the Augustinian Recollects at St Rita's Centre. A marquee is erected in the beautiful gardens to the rear of the buildings with a raised altar decorated with roses. The roses are an important part of the story of St Rita of Cascia. If you want to find out more about the life of St Rita of Cascia please go to www.stritascentre.org where you will find a fascinating story of her life. This year 13 of us travelled over to Honiton. It was a beautiful sunny day and after a welcoming tea or coffee and biscuits we joined the other people gathering in the marquee waiting for the celebration to begin. The celebration started with a mass concelebrated by various priests from the diocese and the friars from St Rita's and this year the principal celebrant was Canon John Webb from Dorset. At the end of the service the roses were blessed and distributed to all

present. We were invited to choose more roses to take home for the sick at the end of the day. We were all then offered the use of the beautiful gardens to enjoy our picnic lunch plus more free drinks and biscuits. We could also take the opportunity of visiting the Chapel and the shops. The Chapel is a place of quiet and tranquillity where you can pray and enjoy the amazing stained-glass windows. We sat to eat our lunch in the gardens. It was a great opportunity to catch up with each other's news and views and relax in the sunshine. At 3.30 Fr. Frank Umendia O.A.R. celebrated Benediction. Fr Frank also blessed religious items that people had brought. The day came to a close with a free draw for all those who had bought something from the shop. Lorraine won first prize of 3 bottles of wine. We then collected our roses to take home for sick members of the parish, feeling blessed and spiritually refreshed.

Shared Advent Meal

The tables were laden with tasty fare
As conversation and laughter filled the air.
A celebration of Christmas as this merry bunch
From Exmouth and Budleigh enjoyed a shared lunch.
Always so happy to exchange Christian joy and cheer
In celebrating our Lord's birth at the end of this year.

St Jerome – History

The year 2020 marks the 1600th anniversary of the death of one of the greatest minds in the Church's history. Who is this man called St. Jerome? What can we learn from his wealth of biblical knowledge?

Eusebius Hieronymus (Jerome) was born in 345 AD at Stridon in Dalmatia in the northeast of Italy to a moderately wealthy family. Having received a very good early education in his locality, he proceeded to Rome, like most intelligent young persons at the time, to study rhetoric under the renowned grammarian, Aelius Donatus. Jerome's greatest hunger, the quest for the ascetic life, led him from Rome to Antioch where he lived for a short time as a hermit in the desert of Chalcis. He was ordained a priest in Antioch. On his visit to Rome with his bishop, Paulinus, for the Church Council in 382, Pope Damasus discovered this rare gem and commissioned him to revise the Latin Psalms and the New Testament because of his biblical knowledge. Jerome soon retired to Bethlehem after the death of Pope Damasus, where he spent the last 34 years of his life in a monastery he had founded. He committed these years to assiduous study of the Bible and to writing. He is renowned and praised for his many Commentaries on Scriptures and for his masterpiece, the translation of the Latin Vulgate, which he could only undertake because of his laborious study of the oriental/biblical languages, namely, Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic.

How then do we love the Scriptures like St. Jerome? This great saint would say, "Love to occupy your mind with the reading of scripture."

To love Scriptures, is to love Jesus, the Word of God made flesh (cf. Jn 1:14) and the greatest reward is that Jesus, who is also the Wisdom of God (cf. 1Cor 1:24) will pour

Painting of St Jerome and St John the Baptist

The painting of St. Jerome and St. John the Baptist by the artist Masaccio and on display at the National gallery, showcases the two figures standing side by side. St. Jerome is located on the left side, drenched in a silky red fabric that falls around him and a matching large red hat. In one hand he holds a small book filled with golden pages of scripture and within his other hand he holds a miniature figure of a house that resembles the churches of the 15th century. Beneath his feet, an abnormal looking dog, which slightly resembles a lion and a cat, looks towards the man. His colleague, St. John the Baptist, stands next to him holding a gold metal stick with a cross at the top. He wears a deep brown shirt, and a large pink shawl.

out his love in return.

The emphasis on study of the Scriptures characterises Jerome's writings. He recommends the study of Scriptures for everyone in any state of life. He believes the mind must be willing to learn and study the word of God diligently in order to know the "difference between righteous ignorance and instructed righteousness".

Jerome allowed the Scriptures to flow from his lips and his ink. He referred to scripture passages which he quoted so generously in his writings as flowers. This reveals a man who had soaked himself in the divine word such that it permeated every fabric of his being. Jerome invites us to love the Scriptures and allow it guide our lives.

From CBCEW website – adapted



Exploring and Praying with the Gospel of Matthew

The UCM National Study Conference 2020 will highlight the themes from the initiative launched in September 2019 by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales. The initiative is in recognition of the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini, Pope



Benedict's Apostolic Exhortation on the Word of the Lord and the 1,600 Anniversary of the death of St Jerome who was the translator of most of the Bible into Latin.

During 2020 the faithful are asked to explore Scripture more deeply and to reflect on how we celebrate, live and share God's Word in today's world. During Conference we will focus our attention on the Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel of the year. Sister Joan Kerley FMSJ will lead us in our reflections using Scripture, art, poetry and music.

There will also be a session led by the National Welfare Officer Brigid Hegarty: "The role of the Safeguarding Officer" for all Diocesan Welfare Officers attending Conference.

Date: 16-18 March 2020. Venue: The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Cost: £141 approx. If you would like to attend please contact your Diocesan Secretary to check availability.

Cath Rutherford National Vice President

PORTSMOUTH

70 Years UCM in Wokingham



70th Anniversary

The UCM at Wokingham was delighted to celebrate 70th anniversary on Saturday 5th October at Corpus Christie Church, Sturges Road.

The festivities started at 12 noon with a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Father Simon Thompson, who warmly welcomed members, past presidents as well as delegations from other UCM foundations. He recognised the important and unique role The UCM continues to fulfil in the parish and reflected on the ever-changing role of mothers in today's church and society. He offered prayers for all founding members, especially Our Lady who has always been the role model for all mothers and departed founding members.

After Mass, everybody proceeded to the Keenan parish rooms for a celebratory buffet lunch which was greatly enjoyed by all. There was a relaxed atmosphere throughout

and many happy memories exchanged. Before lunch the newly elected Wokingham Foundation President, Terry Crees, thanked Wokingham past presidents, ministers or officials of The UCM at foundation, diocesan or national level and all visitors from other foundations for joining in and sharing this momentous day.

Terry Crees reflected: "for at least 70 years the ladies of Wokingham UCM have contributed to the life of the parish of Corpus Christie and to the Christian community of Wokingham in many and varied ways often quietly and with great love and sense of Christian care and service noticing the small things that make some other person's life more bearable. It is amazing the amount of impact the ladies of the Wokingham UCM have had on the lives of the community of the parish and beyond; But those same ladies are lionesses who are unafraid to face the challenges of an ever-changing society and world in which they live. Such courage humbles and inspires."

Our new Diocesan President Carol Willis, was invited to cut the beautiful anniversary cakes which were enjoyed by all, rounding off this day in a fitting way.

A raffle added to the fun and amusement of the afternoon when ladies could pick up some fantastic prizes.

As a memento to this occasion, the Wokingham foundation created a tasteful bookmark with The UCM prayer on the reverse which was appreciated by all.

**Lucia Reiling,
Media Officer Wokingham**

New Window at the Diocesan Meeting

On Saturday, 26th October three members of Cosham, UCM went to the Autumn Council being held in Ascot. The day started with Mass and the new Window presented by the Ascot UCM was much admired. After Mass the new Diocesan President of Portsmouth opened, what turned out to be, a very informative meeting. After lunch Presidents of each UCM gave a brief report on their activities throughout the year. Fr. Jozef Gruszkiewicz, our Spiritual Director gave a talk on gender which was very thought provoking. Of course, there was the obligatory raffle and tea and biscuits after which we all made our way home in weather which can only be described as worthy of an Ark for transport!



Beautiful new window

Joint Study Day with CWL

On Saturday 14th September around 50 members of the CWL/UCM, Portsmouth Diocese attended a very interesting talk at St. John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. Canon Gérard Flynn from St. Michael and All Angels, Leigh Park, Havant gave a very interesting talk on 'Gaudete Et Exultate'. Holiness in Today's World'. There were some very interesting views on, "What is a moment of holiness". After lunch we split into groups for discussions. I think most of us came away very inspired and totally impressed by Canon Flynn's ability to get 50 women silent just by raising his arm!

**Pauline Kaznowski
Portsmouth Diocese**

Liverpool Hope University's 175th Anniversary

Last year, 2019, Liverpool Hope University celebrated its 175th anniversary as a higher education institute, following the establishment of St. Katherine's College (The Church of England's Warrington Training college) in 1844, and just a few years later the setting up of the Sisters of Notre Dame's Our Lady's Training Centre; these two colleges were established to provide teacher education for women.

A century later, Christ's College was built opposite St. Katharine's in Childwall, admitting its first students in 1964. By 1980, the colleges had joined to form an ecumenical federation – the Liverpool Institute of Higher Education (LIHE). The late Archbishop Derek Worlock and Bishop David Sheppard wrote of this as being "a sign of hope" (Better Together). LIHE later became a single, unified College and was given the new name of Liverpool Hope to represent the mission of the college. Liverpool Hope University was born in July 2005, when the Privy Council bestowed the right to use the University title. Research Degree Awarding Powers were granted by

the Privy Council in 2009.

As part of the celebration of the 175-year heritage, Hope University decided to confer an Honorary Bachelor of Education Degree on those who gained a Certificate of Education at one of the founding colleges. The award is in recognition of the academic rigour demanded by the certificate of education; more importantly though, it recognises the teachers' contribution to education and inspiring so many children and young people to reach their full potential.

News of this prestigious award spread like wildfire, the response was overwhelmingly positive and in fact over 650 graduands and their guests filled Liverpool Hope University's Sports Hall on Friday 12th July. Amongst the graduands were three UCM members from St. Anne's Rock Ferry - Mary Dearden, Tricia McClure and Irene Mitchell. We were joined by Liz Booth, Shrewsbury's Diocesan Treasurer and Margaret Kerbey, National Treasurer. Mary and Liz attended Christ's College and Tricia, Margaret and Irene attended Notre Dame College. We all



Margaret, Liz, Mary, Irene and Tricia with their Honorary Degrees.

received our certificates and had our photographs taken in robe and mortar board after a wonderful ceremony which featured mix of music, speeches, prayer and memories. We enjoyed tea and cake on the Rector's Lawn and reminisced on our time

spent at college; it was an unexpected and welcome highlight to the summer and we are all very proud to have received this award.

Irene Mitchell, Past National Secretary

SALFORD

New Members

On the evening of December 4th, 2019 our new Parish Priest, Father Philip Brady, at St. Mary and St. Philip Neri, Radcliffe, enrolled four new U.C.M members during a lovely mass. As well as our own members, there were also our Diocesan Secretary and Media Officer, members from the U.C.M at St. Hilda's, Tottington, and other parishioners. Following the mass, a buffet supper provided by our ladies for about forty people was enjoyed by everyone.

New Parish Priest at St Mary's, Radcliffe

As a result of changes in the Salford Diocese, St. Mary's, Radcliffe have sadly had to say goodbye to Father James Manock after twenty-three years, who has moved to Saint Vincent de Paul, Norden, Rochdale.

On October 13th they welcomed their new priest, Father Brady, formally of our Lady of Mount Carmel, Blackley, at all the masses, then on October 18th members of the parish organised an evening of musical entertainment called "Radcliffe's Got Talent". We were entertained by Radcliffe Brass Ensemble, several talented parishioners, and Father Brady himself. During the evening, pasties, peas and cake were served by members of the UCM, wearing their special aprons.

**Phillipa Roberts
Secretary Salford Diocese**



L to R UCM President, Iris Riley, Secretary Mildred D'Amore, member Pat Wilcock and Father Brady

Benediction

Salford Diocesan Chaplain Fr John Coe and Diocesan Secretary Phillipa Roberts presented a bouquet of flowers to former President Mary Tierney in grateful thanks for her time as Diocesan President at the Annual Benediction held at Salford Cathedral on 23rd November, 2019.



Salford ladies

Interfaith Coffee Morning

Approximately 20 ladies from UCM Salford Diocese responded to an invitation from Anne Morris the Northwest Region Chair of the League of Jewish Women to join them at a Coffee Morning at Bury Synagogue on Thursday 17th November 2019.

The event was organised together with the Council of Christian and Jews to celebrate the 'Week of Friendship'.

The guest speaker was Dr Trevor Friedman, consultant psychiatrist who is the son of a Holocaust survivor and supporter of the Genocide victims of Rwanda.

The event was very well attended by ladies from both Jewish and Christian organisations other attendees were the Mayors of Bury - Trevor Holt, Trafford - Rob Clifton, Salford - Charlie McIntyre and Stockport - Laura Booth, Russell Conn President of Jewish Representative Council and Rev Stephen Williams.

Dr Friedman gave a very interesting and poignant talk on the experiences of his Father and Grandfather during the Holocaust. Dr Friedman's father at 19 years old was the only member of his family to survive the Holocaust. He was fortunate to be one of the 600 surviving teenage Jews flown out by the RAF and placed in Windermere where they became known as 'The Boys'. There is a museum in Windermere which explains fully the experiences of the Boys.

This large group of Boys were brought together through the loss of their own families, some boys stayed in the Manchester area,

most went to London but they became part of their own extended family due to their shared experiences.

There were 6 million killed during the Second World War but the survivors did not consider themselves brave just resilient and lucky.

It is an event we had all hoped would never be repeated but Dr Friedman then went on to explain about the atrocities in Rwanda and his involvement with the victims of the genocide in Rwanda. Again like 'The Boys' these survivors through their shared experiences become family.

Dr Friedman and his wife have visited Rwanda several times over the years working with the victims of the genocide in Rwanda, they sponsored a boy Foston Comanzi who was a victim who needed parenting and schooling. They have had their troubles with Foston, when he was around 12/13 years old, he ran away but he eventually, with support, turned his life round and now at 25 is in University in Kagali studying Computer Sciences. Foston is very much part of the Friedman family.

Communities can live in harmony for many years but we need to be aware of the dangers of hatred developing and the risks. Dr Friedman reminded us that we still need to be vigilant, we have to promote understanding of religion and cultures and never take for granted the importance of family.

'He who saves one life saves the World'

**Phillipa Roberts
Secretary Salford Diocese**

First Catholic dioceses in England divest from fossil fuels

The Dioceses of Middlesbrough and Lancaster have today announced their commitment to divest from fossil fuels, becoming the first Catholic dioceses in England and Wales to do so. Their divestment announcements are made together with two Catholic religious orders - the English Provinces of the Congregation of Jesus and the Presentation Sisters - alongside 16 other local churches and Christian institutions in the UK.

The announcement is made on the feast of the Epiphany, and at the start of a key year for climate action globally, and particularly in the UK, with the COP26 conference to be held in Glasgow in November 2020.

In his pontifical message to government negotiators meeting in Madrid at COP25 in December 2019, Pope Francis similarly declared that the climate emergency is a 'challenge to civilisation' needing 'a clear, far-sighted and strong political will, set on pursuing a new course that aims at refocusing financial and economic investments toward those areas that truly safeguard the conditions of a life worthy of humanity on a healthy planet for today and tomorrow.' For these Catholic institutions, the response to this Papal call, especially in the light of Laudato Si' in 2015, has been the commitment to divest from fossil fuels.

Bishop Terry Drainey, the Bishop of Middlesbrough, said: "With growing awareness of people's concerns for the care

of our common home, supported by the Trustees and Council of Priests of the Diocese, and after thorough scrutiny of diocesan investments and with support from Operation Noah, the Diocese of Middlesbrough has decided that now is the time to divest from fossil fuels. The evidence and the urgency of the climate crisis are all around us. However, as Pope Francis points out very clearly in his Encyclical Letter on The Care of Our Common Home, Laudato Si', nothing will succeed if we do not begin with personal conversion, a change in lifestyle, a change of mindset."

James Buchanan, Bright Now Campaign Manager for Operation Noah, said: "We are delighted that the Dioceses of Middlesbrough and Lancaster have decided

to divest from fossil fuels, as well as two more Catholic religious orders. We hope many other Catholic institutions will join them in taking this prophetic step out of love for God's creation and those most affected by the climate crisis - above all those living in the world's poorest communities."

Catholic institutions around the world are invited to join a global divestment announcement for faith institutions organised by the Global Catholic Climate Movement, Green Anglicans, GreenFaith and Operation Noah. The announcement will coincide with the Economy of Francesco conference taking place in Assisi from 26-28 March 2020.

Independent Catholic News

FAMILY EDUCATION BULLETIN - DECEMBER 2019

Equipped for Equality

The Christian Institute has published a helpful guide to what schools can and cannot do in the name of equality and human rights. The 32-page booklet, Equipped for Equality, sets out to debunk the myths surrounding what schools in England, Wales and Scotland are required to do in order to fulfil the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

In five sections it demonstrates that:

- Equality law requires schools to protect, not promote.
- Respecting people does not require agreement.
- Schools must educate, not indoctrinate.
- Schools cannot compel thought and expression.
- Schools must balance the rights of transgender pupils with the rights of others.
- Equipped for Equality is available for free download from <https://christian.org.uk/resource/equipped-for-equality>

World Day Of Prayer

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

Rise, take your mat and walk
Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' to join this day of prayer. * Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year's service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They encourage us to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' with them as they continue their often-turbulent journey towards

full reconciliation.

This will take place at a church near you on Friday 6 March 2020, people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Zimbabwe.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 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 more than 36 hours later.

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

Lord Glasman Delivers Annual Catholic Union Craigmyle Lecture

The Catholic Union's annual Craigmyle Lecture was delivered this year by Labour Peer and founder of the Blue Labour, Lord Glasman

Lord Glasman addressed Catholic Union members and friends at the University of Notre Dame's London campus near Trafalgar Square on Thursday 10 October about "Catholic Social Thought and the Economics of the Common Good"

Lord Glasman said it was "extremely generous" for someone who is not Catholic to be invited to give a talk on Catholic social teaching. But he stressed the universal appeal of Catholic social thought, and reminded his audience of the role of the

Church in the development of the Labour movement in Britain. "Catholic social thought is in exile in this country and it is time for it to come home", he said.

The talk also touched on Brexit and Lord Glasman said that the "abandonment of Catholic values which had been at the heart of the EU" had helped to create a disconnect between people and politics in Europe. He described this moment as a time of change which was "disturbing and frightening to many people."

Catholic Union Head of Public Affairs, James Somerville-Meikle commented: "This was a fantastic talk from someone who knows the Labour movement inside out in

this country. It was a timely reminder of the importance of Catholic Social Teaching to people across the political spectrum, in our past and hopefully in our future. At a time when our politics can often be focused on the short term - this was good to be reminded about what our politicians should be striving to achieve: dignity in work, fair markets, and a more even distribution of wealth. We are extremely grateful to Lord Glasman for his insights into this fascinating time in politics."

The full text of Lord Glasman's talk is available at:- <https://catholicunion.org.uk/2019/10/craigmyle2019>

NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK

'Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with your God'

Micah 6.8

**42nd Annual Justice and Peace Conference
17-19 July 2020**

**The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick
'2020 Vision - Action for Life on Earth'**

WESTMINSTER



Hounslow Foundation raised the magnificent sum of £400 at their MacMillan Coffee Morning.

Welcome Fr Michael

Westminster Archdiocese welcome their new Spiritual Director, Father Michael Johnston, who has taken over from Father David Irwin.

Pictured right: Fr Michael, Iona De Souza President, Fr David, Mary Wardle Treasurer, Sr Brigid Secretary)



New Members

Hounslow Foundation enrolled four new members; Kingsland Foundation enrolled one new member and Hackney Foundation enrolled one new member. Congratulations and welcome to you all.

Ware Visit

Archdiocesan President Iona De Souza visited Ware which is the smallest foundation in the Archdiocese.

OBITUARIES

Lawrence Chambers, St. Benedict's Foundation, husband of Margaret, Diocesan President, Leeds Diocese

Mary Baker, Founder Member St. Gerard's Foundation, Knowle, Clifton Diocese

Margaret Jones, St. Joseph's Foundation, Portishead, Clifton Diocese

Barbara O'Connor, Our Lady of Lourdes Foundation, Clifton Diocese

Gwyneth Connock, Cathedral Church of Sts Peter & Paul Foundation, Clifton Diocese

Carmel Pugh, Oratory Foundation, Birmingham Archdiocese.

Mary Staples, St Peters Foundation, Bloxwich Birmingham Archdiocese (Secretary Wolverhampton section)

Maria Wederia, Cathedral Foundation, Plymouth Diocese

Maureen Downes, Exeter Foundation, Past Diocesan President, Plymouth Diocese

Kathleen Gillett, Exmouth Foundation, Plymouth Diocese

Anne Smith, Exmouth Foundation, Plymouth Diocese

Emily Elcock, Exmouth Foundation, Plymouth Diocese

Beata Fernandes, St. Edward's and St. Mark's Foundation, Windsor, Portsmouth Diocese

Stella Lansley, founder member and past Parish President of St. Edward's and St. Mark's Foundation, Windsor, Portsmouth Diocese

Jean Lane, founder member Reading Foundation, Portsmouth Diocese

Barry King, husband of Teresa, President of St. Edward & St Mark Foundation, Windsor, Portsmouth Diocese

Josephine Ihonor, Justice and Peace committee member, Southwark Archdiocese

Betty Rogowski, a founder member of Christ the King, Rossington, Hallam Diocese

Nellie Lawson, past Foundation President, St Peter-in-Chains, Doncaster, Hallam Diocese

Margaret Burton, St. Aelred's Foundation, York, Middlesbrough Diocese

Joyce Simpson, Past Diocesan Secretary, Middlesbrough Diocese

Debbie Harris, All Saints Foundation, Anfield, Liverpool Archdiocese

Frances Dickinson, All Saints Foundation, Anfield, Liverpool Archdiocese.

Patty Dixon, Our Lady of Compassion Foundation, Formby, Liverpool Archdiocese.

Angela McGrath, St Anne's Foundation, Ormskirk, Liverpool Archdiocese.

Diane Waldren, St Edmund of Canterbury Foundation, Waterloo, Liverpool Archdiocese

Marie Jones, St Benet's Foundation, Netherton, Liverpool Archdiocese.

Patricia (Pat) Litherland, Holy Apostles and Martyrs Foundation Evening Group, Wallasey, Shrewsbury Diocese

Chris Walsh, St. Wilfrid's Foundation, Northwich. Shrewsbury Diocese

Betty Postlethwaite, St. Wilfrid's Foundation, Northwich, Shrewsbury Diocese

Theresa (Tess) Slevin, Holy Apostles and Martyrs Foundation Evening Group, Wallasey, Shrewsbury Diocese

Irene Bridesom, Past Foundation President St Werburghs Foundation, Birkenhead, Shrewsbury Diocese

Margaret Hanlon, Hounslow Foundation, Westminster Archdiocese

Brigid Costello, North Finchley Foundation, Westminster Archdiocese

Laurie Scudder, husband of the late Monica Scudder, Westminster Archdiocese

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.

OBITUARY –

REVEREND FATHER MICHAEL JAMES MURRAY

Father Michael was born on 10 July 1941 in Manchester. He was educated at St. Bede's College in Manchester and Hopwood Hall College of Education. He was accepted as a student for Shrewsbury Diocese in 1979 and trained at The Beda College, Rome. He was ordained to the priesthood on 25 June 1983 in St. Aidan's Church, Wythenshawe. Father Michael served in a number of our churches in Shrewsbury Diocese, his last parish being St. Anthony's Wythenshawe. He became Diocesan Chaplain to Shrewsbury UCM in 1994 and he served us faithfully until his death on 22 June 2019. Father Michael was a wonderful and caring priest who regularly attended our Diocesan meetings and National Council meetings, offered Mass for us and gave us his thoughts and comments on UCM matters. He participated

in the UCM pilgrimages to Walsingham each year and joined us on the National President's Pilgrimage to Greece in 2017. So many members posted lovely comments about Fr Michael on the UCM Facebook page; these were forwarded to Bishop Mark and to Father Michael's family. Bishop Mark responded by saying, "It was lovely to see the comments of UCM members and the promise of prayers". The Church was full to overflowing with many UCM members for Father Michael's Requiem Mass which took place on 10 July, his birthday. To our dear friend and supporter of The Union of Catholic Mothers, Good Night, God Bless Father Michael and Rest in Peace in God's Loving Care.

Irene Mitchell Past National Secretary



Faith, Politics and Power- The Catholic effect in Public Life

I attended this lecture organised by CPW (Catholic Peoples Weeks) in London on 8th October for Southwark UCM.

The guest speaker was Mike Kane MP, Shadow Minister for Schools and a committed Catholic.

Mike spoke about the 65 Catholic MPs in the House and their commitment to Catholic life. Mass is celebrated weekly within Westminster. Mike spoke about power being a gift from God to be used wisely for all following the church's social teaching, human dignity for all. Jesus came to give life to all people, to help people flourish and we

achieve this through working together. "God exists in the spaces between people not in churches." Pope Francis encourages us all to look closely at our lives and how we live this out daily. To lift the marginalised into society.

The Catholic church is the biggest civil group in the world focussed on bringing Christ to all through liturgy, sacraments, social action and evangelisation.

He sees Catholic schools as important in the right for all regardless of wealth to have a good education.

He praised the work of CAFOD citing the work in Sierra Leone burying the dead who

died from Ebola which significantly reduced the spread of the awful disease.

His talk was inspirational and gave me hope for the future of our government.

There was also an exhibition "Sink or Swim?". A fascinating look at Catholicism in sixties Britain celebrating the work of John Ryan whose cartoons cast a satirical eye on British Catholicism in the sixties.

For more information about CPW events see "CatholicPeoplesWeeks.org"

**Helen Thompson
Sutton UCM**

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Pyjama Party At The Hayes Conference Centre?

Unfortunately, it was not a pyjama party but members of your national committee who together with Bishop Alan were attending a working party at The Hayes Conference Centre in December and were evacuated in the early hours of the morning after the fire alarm went off.

Fortunately, we all managed to grab coats and slippers or shoes with the exception of Val Ward whose feet were rather blue with cold when we were eventually allowed back inside the building after almost an hour. Fortunately, it was a false alarm and we weren't in any danger. Staff at the Hayes supplied us all with hot chocolate to warm us up before we were able to return to our rooms. Needless to say, there were a few bleary eyes the next day!

Maureen Woodward
National Vice President



UCM Friends Circle

What do you know about the Friends Circle?

The UCM Friends Circle was launched at the 1990 National Council Meeting following two years of discussions which looked at ways in which we could share our UCM activities with those not able to participate fully in Foundation Meetings – people who have special needs, the housebound, the handicapped, the visually impaired and the hearing impaired.

We offer them friendship and the love of the UCM, whilst they can offer us prayerful support and be a source of strength for the work done in our parishes.

Parishes where there is no UCM, the Dioceses where parishes are spread far and wide and find it difficult to meet on a regular

basis can find The Friends Circle a way of enriching their commitment as lay apostles. It is also a way of "keeping the door open", where some inner-city foundations are struggling with older members who are no longer able to attend meetings or take office for various reasons – but still want to be part of the UCM. These Ladies can belong to The Friends Circle through their Diocese, and as and when the parish is rebuilt as so often happens, a UCM foundation is waiting in the wings ready to blossom.

Each Diocese and each parish have their own individuality, thus giving you an opportunity to choose your own way of developing a "Friends Circle".

No UCM Foundation in your parish?

You could become attached to a neighbouring foundation or be linked directly with your diocese and receive news and notices of events or become a 'Praying Partner' – for example with someone housebound, or with special needs, a carer of a housebound person, or a young mum who is busy with her family.

Friends Circle have their own special prayer card which includes the following prayer which brings together the housebound and the 'active' member.

"Lord Jesus Christ, in the foundations there are many like Martha in Bethany, busy and sometimes distracted with serving, who worry and fret about so many things. We are more like her sister, Mary, sitting at your feet

and listening to your words. Grant that through our prayers we may be united in loving service with our more active friends and share with them in your loving presence".

We also have our very own Rosary Cards which can be used for prayer and meditation.

We all have different gift to offer, therefore why not share them with one another.

WHY NOT BECOME A MEMBER OF UCM FRIENDS CIRCLE. UCM WELCOMES YOU: WE NEED YOUR PRAYERFUL SUPPORT

If you would like more details please contact: Maureen Woodward, National Vice President

The Union of Catholic Mothers 75th Annual WALSINGHAM Pilgrimage Monday & Tuesday 6th & 7th JULY 2020 Led by the Diocese of Plymouth

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 15th June.			All Bookings to be sent a.s.a.p & before Monday 15th 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 Holmesarr Crescent Rossington Doncaster DN11 0QD Tel: 0130 248 1374					



Monday 6th July
SERVICE OF LIGHT
8pm
In Chapel of Reconciliation followed by the TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION

Tuesday 7th July
MASS
11.30am

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

For further information please contact your Diocesan President or Local Organiser