

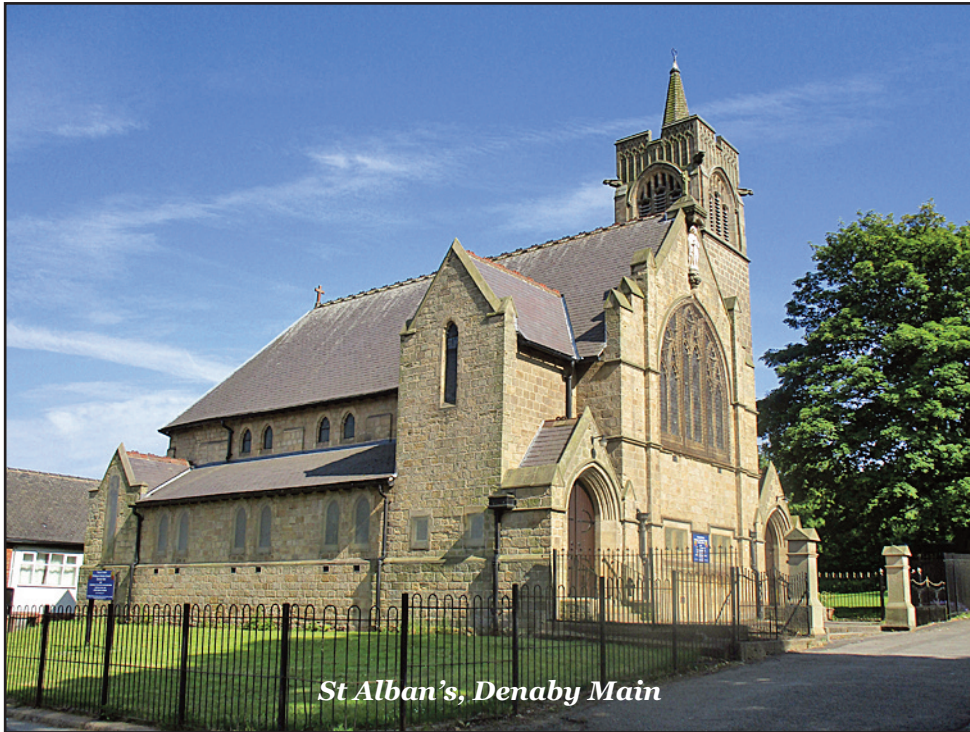
Hallam News

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AUGUST 2018

No. 343

FREE



St Alban's, Denaby Main



Bishop Ralph, Cllr Linda Curran, Fr Desmond and Graham Kirby cutting the anniversary cake



Bishop Ralph praying at the memorial to ninety-one men and boys who were killed in two explosions at Cadeby Main Colliery on 9 July, 1912

The Community of St Alban's, Denaby Main, Celebrates the 120th Anniversary of the Official Opening of Their Church

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WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Deadline for articles for next issue of the <i>Hallam News</i> . | 8 | Chesterfield Bereavement Support Group Drop-in/cof fee morning, 10.30am-12noon, The Annunciation Centre, Spencer Street, Chesterfield, S40 4SD. |
| 1 | Hallam Ascent Group meet at St Francis of Assisi Church Hall, Sandygate Road, Sheffield, S10 5SD, for a 'Yorkshire Day Tea', 1.45-3.45pm. For more details telephone 0114 2306797, email ascent@jn.green.plus.com or visit hallamascent.weebly.com. | 8 | Sheffield Irish Association Tea Dance, Philadelphia Club, Martin Street, Upperthorpe, Sheffield, S6 3DP, 1-3pm. |

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this Month



This month the diocesan rota for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is as follows:

- | | |
|----|---|
| 5 | Our Lady of Lourdes, Hackenthorpe, Sheffield. |
| 12 | St Michael, Hathersage. |
| 19 | St Ann, Deepcar. |
| 26 | St Charles, Sheffield. |

Walk with De La Salle Association Rambling Club

This small, friendly group of walkers goes out into the countryside on one Sunday a month for a leisurely walk of about 5 miles. If you are interested please contact Barbara, the Secretary of the Rambling Club, on 07773 275094.

A walk has been organised on Sunday, 5 August from Baslow to the Wellington Monument, Curbar Gap, Curbar, Calver, Bubnell and returning to Baslow. Meet at Baslow pay and display car park (grid ref 259722) at 10.30am.

The leaders are Don and Barbara Chadbourne, tel: 0114 2350825, mobile: 07773 275094.

CARMEL DAY OF RECOLLECTION

A Carmel Day of Recollection led by Fr Chris Ainslie will be held at Kirk Edge Convent, Bradfield, Sheffield, S6 6LJ, on Saturday, 11 August, 9.30am-3.30pm. All welcome.



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The Community of St Alban's, Denaby Main, Celebrates the 120th Anniversary of the Official Opening of Their Church

Denaby Main was originally a company village built by the Denaby Main Colliery Company Ltd. Denaby Main Colliery began production in 1868 mining coal from the Barnsley Main seam. Cadeby Main Colliery began production in 1893. By 1903 both collieries were employing over 4,500 men and boys.

In 1894 Fr Thomas Kavanagh arrived in the village with the task of establishing a Catholic Church to meet the spiritual, religious and pastoral needs of miners and their families drawn mainly from the growing Irish community, attracted by employment opportunities and housing.

Andrew Montague, whose family owned much of the land in Denaby Main, offered Fr Kavanagh an acre of land to build a church. The foundation stone was laid in 1897 and work began immediately on building the church. The new church cost £4,000.

On the feast of St Alban in June, 1898, St Alban's Catholic Church was officially opened by Rt Rev William Gordon, Bishop of Leeds. The service was attended by many local dignitaries. After Mass lunch was provided at Rossington Street Infants School where Bishop Gordon congratulated Fr Kavanagh on achieving his goal.

The bell tower, bell, north aisle and Sacred Heart Chapel were added in 1910/11.

On Wednesday, 20 June, 2018, Bishop Ralph visited St Alban's Parish to lead the

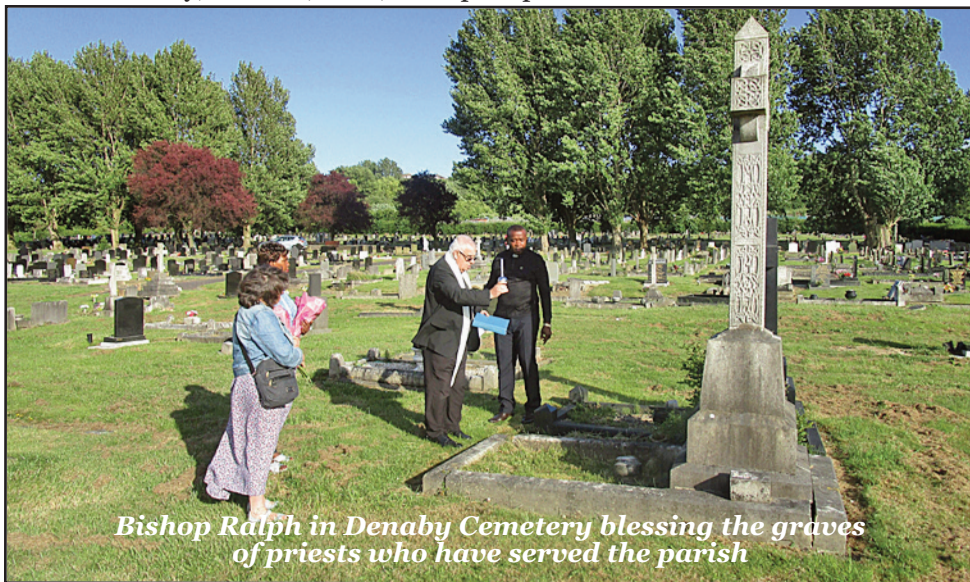


Back row L to R: Cllr Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture, Fr John Cooke, Fr Pat O'Connor, Fr Desmond Edozie, Parish Priest, and Fr Darren Reid. Front row L to R: Clive Kirk, Cllr Ian Pearson, Cllr Lani Ball, Bishop Ralph, Duncan Anderson, Deputy Civic Mayor's Consort, Cllr Linda Curran, Deputy Civic Mayor, David Goldson, Chair of St Alban's Parish Council

"Our faith, prayers and living the gospel message of hope in an ever-changing world will give us the confidence, the ambition and skills to meet the challenges of the next 120 years."

The Celebration Mass was attended by parishioners, the community, Rev Reg Davies, Vicar of All Saints Parish Church, Cllr Linda Curran, Deputy Civic Mayor, her Consort, Duncan Anderson, Cllr Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture, Cllr Ian Pearson, Cllr Lani Ball, representatives from St Alban's Catholic Primary School and from St Alban's Catholic Club and Clive Kirk from Turners Funeral Service.

There are few buildings left in Denaby Main from the Victorian period. St Alban's Church is unique in that it has survived and still retains its original use as a place of worship and community. Parishioners are extremely proud of its heritage and history.



Bishop Ralph in Denaby Cemetery blessing the graves of priests who have served the parish

commemoration of the 120th anniversary of the official opening of the Church. Before Mass Bishop Ralph, accompanied by Fr Desmond Edozie, Parish Priest, visited Denaby Cemetery where he blessed the graves of priests who had served the parish of St Alban.

The chief celebrant at the Mass was Bishop Ralph. Fr Desmond Edozie, Fr Darren Reid, Fr John Cooke and Fr Pat O'Connor concelebrated the Mass with him.

Bishop Ralph in his homily outlined the life of St Alban and highlighted his faith and witness to the risen Lord before he was martyred. At the end of Mass Bishop Ralph unveiled and blessed a plaque to mark the occasion.

After Mass entertainment and refreshments were provided in St Alban's Catholic Club. A special anniversary cake was cut as part of the celebrations.

Fr Desmond Edozie, Parish Priest, stated, "We give thanks to God for the dedication and generosity of generations of priests and people who have made their contribution to the life and development of our parish and community. The vision and legacy of Fr Thomas Kavanagh and those early parishioners have sustained us as a Christian community over the past 120 years."



The Fitzgeralds in concert



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EDUCATION IN THE FULLNESS OF HUMANITY

Mini Vinnies at St Joseph's School

A report from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Retford about their St Vincent de Paul Mini Vinnie Group.

Our Mini Vinnie group was founded in St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Retford in 2015, with the help and continued support of St Joseph's St Vincent de Paul Conference, Retford. We are now in our third year of having Mini Vinnies in school.

We have eleven Mini Vinnies in Year 6 who were commissioned in June, 2017. They began their roles in September with enthusiasm and suggested ideas at our first meeting to help with future projects. Each meeting begins with a prayer and scripture and continues with discussion, planning and working on projects. The group trained as Playground Buddies in September 2017, (Buddies help children in school who have a conflict with a friend to talk it through and solve it themselves), and developed a rota to ensure there were Buddies available each play time. This has run successfully over the school year.

Mini Vinnies have been busy working with the school community, the parish of St Joseph's and the wider community of Retford, and the global community across the world. We prepared for Advent by producing a booklet, to help children in school consider how they relate to friends and family over the four weeks of Advent. In February we made cards for the sick, lonely and housebound, to tell them that the children were thinking of them and praying for them, particularly at Candlemas. We supported the school food bank collection during Lent with a visit to the Retford food bank and Mini Vinnies explained what they had learned at an assembly in April. The Mini Vinnies and Year 6 organised a walk in June to lead the school in a walk and prayers for refugees and migrants, using materials from CAFOD's 'Share the Journey' campaign.

We have just had a commissioning liturgy for seventeen new Mini Vinnies for the next school year; our retiring Y6 Mini Vinnies will help with playground buddy training in July and then celebrate the end of a year working together.

We are very proud of our Mini Vinnie team, a vibrant group of children who make great links between the school, parish and wider community. We would like to thank them, and all those who work alongside them, for their continued efforts.



Only One You

The children and staff at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Voluntary Academy, Armthorpe were delighted to end their Mission Week with a visit from Bishop Ralph, (pictured on the right).

The InReality Team had spent three days in school working with the children on the theme 'Only

One You'. It was a fantastic week and we were delighted to share InReality's last mission with them.

The Children and Staff at Our Lady's would like to thank InReality for all their incredible hard work and service over the years. We will miss them not being in school.

St Vincent de Paul Society

History of the Society in England and Wales, Part 2

The abject poverty experienced by those in the mid-19th century unfortunate enough to be trapped within its clutches is almost too much for us to comprehend today. It had a dramatic impact in a vast range of ways: unemployment, hunger, social deprivation, lack of education, oppression, persecution and, perhaps most devastatingly, health and hygiene.

It was such conditions that faced members of the newly formed Society of St Vincent de Paul as they worked to fulfil their Vincentian mission of seeking out those in need of help and offering practical assistance and support. Given this context the SVP was to find it itself invaluable as it became more and more involved in the community. One of its first challenges was to help the sick.

Epidemics left many widows and orphans

Epidemics of cholera swept the country in the 1830s and 1840s, spread through poor sewerage and contaminated drinking water. Of the 71,000 reported cases, 13,000 died. It was not until the 1860s that the epidemics ceased, by which time 80,000 had died of cholera. The total was probably much higher, as the poorest in the city slums were unlikely to appear in official statistics, neither seeking help nor able to afford proper burial.

The 1832 Cholera outbreak in Sheffield was particularly devastating, claiming 402 lives. More lives were lost in subsequent outbreaks over the next few decades.



A court for King Cholera

Cholera was the worst but not the only killer. "Endemic fever" was a term frequently used for diseases spread by the filthy conditions in which the poor lived and worked. In 1838 in England and Wales, the deaths of men under 45 from such causes resulted in 43,000 widows and 112,000 orphans seeking Poor Law relief. The prevailing view, stated in the reports of the Poor Law Commissioners, was that "the elderly should have provided for themselves through thrift in their earlier years," and that, as far as the children were concerned, "someone should have provided in advance for them".

Concern for the victims of epidemics

It was despite the seemingly callous view of the authorities towards the poor that the SVP felt moved to take action. True to its mission to seek out those in need and provide practical assistance the St Vincent de Paul Society soon got involved in providing funding for nurses and for the purchase of medicines – and coffins. Infant mortality was high, and ultimately death a constant threat to the poor because of the conditions they lived in and the apparent belief of those in charge that the poor only had themselves to blame!

No Welfare State

Such were the conditions which existed generally at the time the SVP



was founded in England and Wales. The poor lived in extreme poverty, with no welfare state such as we have today. The Poor Law provided relief to some, and the workhouse for others, but neither was welcomed by the poor, in general. There were of course degrees of poverty, and Irish immigrants largely Catholics, were amongst the poorest of all.

The poorest of the poor – Irish Immigrants

Many Irish poor had travelled across the sea to escape the desperate conditions the potato famine had caused. Having arrived at ports such as Liverpool, many walked across the Pennines arriving in Sheffield looking for work in the burgeoning steel industry. Many ended up in an area known as 'The Crofts' which quickly developed as a slum area with each house a shelter for several families. The Census of 1851 indicated the Irish making up 3.3% of the population, mainly centred in this part of Sheffield.

True to their mission and keen to put their faith into action, the SVP became actively involved in a series of initiatives and projects to help alleviate the distress and suffering of the poor. What they did will be explained in further 'chapters'.



Sheffield Slum 19th century



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Benemerenti Presentations



The Feast of Pentecost was a day of great celebration in churches of the Parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Chesterfield.

At the Vigil Mass at Holy Family Church following the request from a number of parishioners, Martin Lowry was presented with the Benemerenti in recognition for over sixty years of devoted service to the Parish priests and wider community of the former Parish of the Holy Family.

The following day, John Nelis and Frank Berry each received a Benemerenti at 11am Mass at the Church of the Annunciation.

John has devoted over 30 years of untiring and total devoted service to the Parish and

the priests of the former Parish of the Annunciation. In typical style John's words to his Parish Priest were, "I do not wish to sound ungrateful, but there are far more people deserving of this than me." To which the response was, "Your attitude like that is the reason you are receiving this award."

Frank Berry has been organist for fifty years and involved in ecumenical endeavours in the town of Chesterfield for many years. Parish Priest, Fr Adrian Tomlinson thanked Frank for his many years of commitment and faithful service, for which the award was made.



All three presentations were welcomed by parishioners with great applause and many congratulations were offered after Mass.

Martin Lowry is pictured above, John Nelis (left) and Frank Berry to the left.



Corpus Christi Procession



The annual Feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated in the traditional way of the Hallam Diocese, when Bishop Ralph led a procession through the streets of Sheffield.

The procession began at St Marie's Cathedral. The Bishop placed incense in two thuribles. He then incensed the Blessed Sacrament before the procession began.

The group processed, singing hymns and praying. They stopped at four altars

around the city centre. At each stop a hymn was sung, the words of the gospel were proclaimed, the group prayed together and then received a blessing.

Each stop had a theme. The first altar focussed on the Eucharist as a sacrificial offering. At the second stop, the emphasis was on the Eucharist as food for the soul. The third stop reflected on the Eucharist as the promise of eternal life. The fourth altar rejoiced in the Eucharist as the sacrament of the unity of the Church.



The procession then arrived back at the Cathedral for a final benediction.

Photographs courtesy of Philip Bailey

The Blessing of the Headstone on the Grave of Two Former Parish Priests of St Peter-in-Chains, Doncaster

Whilst parish priest at St Peter-in-Chains, Doncaster, Fr Gus O'Reilly was made aware of the existence in Hyde Park cemetery of the graves of two former priests, Fr Andrew Leonard and Fr Charles Flynn. Fr Leonard was parish priest at St Peter's from 1891-1927 and Fr Flynn was parish priest there from 1938-1952.

Fr O'Reilly was advised that the graves were in a dilapidated condition and were not befitting to their memories. After visiting the graves, he had thought that replacing the broken headstone would help, but after taking advice from the guardians of the cemetery, it was decided not to go ahead.

As a more fitting alternative, he arranged for the priests to be taken from the old cemetery and laid to rest in the new Catholic section of Rose Hill Cemetery. During 2010, their remains were dis-interred and after a Requiem Mass at St Peter's on 11 November of that year, they were re-interred in their new resting place. For a number of reasons, the grave had no headstone.

After nearly eight years, parishioner Vi Green visited the cemetery to pay her respects but, due to the grave being unmarked, she was unable to find it. She decided that the time had come to remember these former parish priests by the placing of a headstone. Vi, together with fellow parishioner, Sir Patrick Duffy, kick-started a fundraiser by each giving a donation.



Left to right: Tony and Mary Lance, Fr Darren Reid, parish priest St Peter-in-Chains, Sir Patrick Duffy, Fr Declan Brett, Vi Green, Sr Deirdre Byrne, RSM. Photograph courtesy of Graham Warrender



The priests' new coffins in St Peter-in-Chains

Fr Declan Brett, currently curate at St Peter's, continued the fundraising by selling Easter cards. Printed at HMP Doncaster, with the help of their Chaplain, Deacon Harish Massey, they were sold at St Peter's, the Convent of Mercy, the Maridon bookstore, and in the parishes of Bentley and Askern. The entire funds were raised in under a week.

On Friday, 25 May, 2018 a group of parishioners gathered for the blessing of the headstone. Vi and Sir Patrick were present and shared their memories of these priests.

Sincere thanks goes to everyone who helped in the realisation of this project.



The headstone Photograph courtesy of Graham Warrender

Looking Ahead ... 2019 Cursillo

Dates: Thursday evening 4 April to Sunday, 7 April, 2019
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SHARE THE JOURNEY

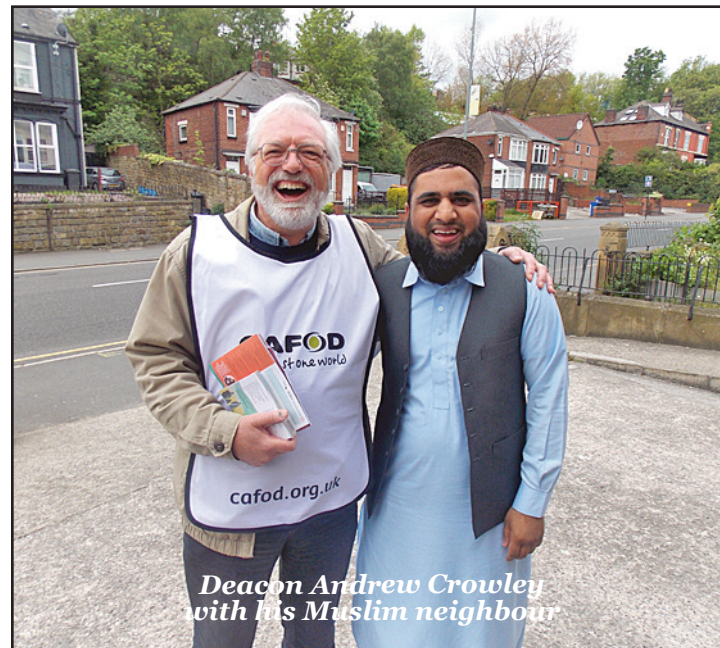
All around the Diocese, groups continue to walk in solidarity with migrants and refugees as they become involved in the CAFOD campaign to Share the Journey

Deacon Andrew Crowley related his experience. As my neighbour always says whenever we go walking with him, "It is downhill all the way". Well it nearly was as we walked from the Catholic community of St Patrick's at Sheffield Lane Top to the Town Hall on 12 May.

It was suggested at our parish meeting that instead of us walking as a discreet group we should tell others and invite them join us. It would be a welcome opportunity to meet people of different faith traditions and to explore friendship and what we have in common. This is what Church is all about – making connections with the world around us.

Invitations were sent to the different churches, mosques and the Hindu temple along the route. We were joined by people from Anglican parishes of St Cuthbert's and Christ Church, and the United Reformed Church of St James. Our pilgrims were offered tea and cake at Christ Church Vicarage where there was an open day, and a little later at the Dar ul Uloom Siddiqia mosque we were provided with much needed drinks and snacks. The visit was the first time that some had visited a mosque and plans are being made for a longer visit to understand more about our Muslim neighbours. The offering of refreshments brought to mind the words of Jesus, "I was thirsty and you gave me a drink".

We were delighted to be joined by four people from the Hindu Samaj, including Panditji, who is their teacher. We walked together in solidarity with those



Deacon Andrew Crowley with his Muslim neighbour

on the move throughout the world, as a group of people from different faith traditions and countries, through an area in which many people from different parts of the world are living. Again the words of Jesus were brought to mind, "I was a stranger and you made me welcome".

It is part of our belief that no matter where we come from we are all connected as God's children. We experienced this first hand as we made the four mile walk from Lane Top to the Town Hall. One of the group described the day as, "The most wonderful and lovely day!"



The group from Dinnington and Maltby at Roche Abbey

Carol Webster tells us:

It was a beautiful late Spring Sunday morning, sunny and breezy, when twelve of us, six parishioners from St Joseph's, Dinnington and six from St Mary Magdalene's, Maltby walked to Roche Abbey for our annual Trinity Sunday Mass in the grounds of the 14th Century Cistercian Abbey.

We were walking in solidarity with all migrants and refugees, forced from their homelands because of war, hunger or persecution. In September, 2018, world leaders will finalise two new global agreements at the United Nations: one on refugees and

one on migration. Urged on by Pope Francis and supported by CAFOD, our small group became part of the Share the Journey campaign, aiming to walk 24,900 miles, the circumference of the World.

After Mass, we shared stories over tea and coffee and delicious home-made cakes. We signed cards, calling on the Prime Minister to work with other world leaders to respect the dignity of all migrants. Then we walked home again.

We walked 42 miles as our contribution to Share the Journey. Everyone is invited to join this campaign. Can you help?

The Diocese Mourns the Death of Fr Martin Williams

Born on 9 January 1938, John Martin Williams studied at the Beda College, Rome, before being ordained to the priesthood on 28 April, 1979 at St Cuthbert's Church in Bradford.

He began his ministry as a curate at the Sacred Heart, Goldthorpe, and then at the Sacred Heart, Sheffield.

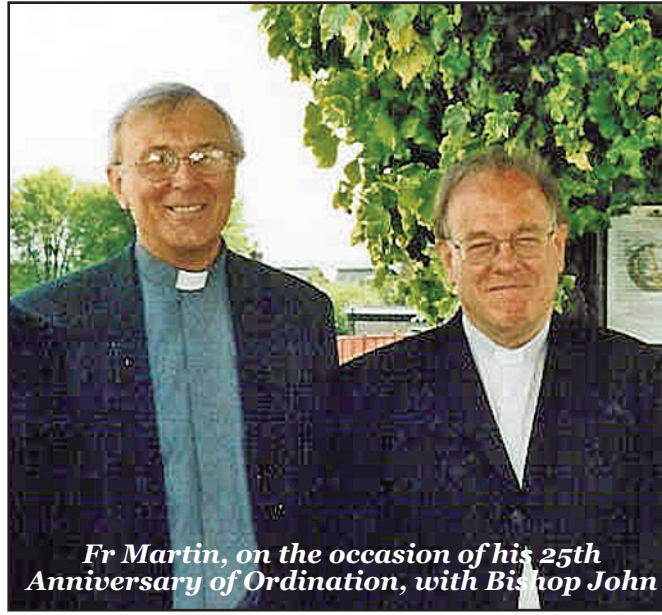
In 1985 he was appointed as Parish Priest at St Paul's in

Grimethorpe. He later served as the Parish Priest of both Our Lady of Lourdes, Hackenthorpe and St Joseph's and St Teresa's, Woodlands.

His final placement was as Parish Priest at the Holy Spirit in Dronfield.

Fr Martin retired in November, 2014. He died on Saturday, 30 June, 2018.

May he rest in peace.



Fr Martin, on the occasion of his 25th Anniversary of Ordination, with Bishop John

Building Blocks of Shared Ministry



'Gratitude for the past, enthusiasm for the present and hope for the future' was the theme of an inspiring day held recently at the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption in the old mining village of Stainforth, Doncaster.

With gratitude for the past and six years on, this day gave fifty five people from sixteen different parishes the opportunity to enthusiastically and hopefully look afresh at the principles of shared ministry and the updated, highly practical content of the unique resource "Parishes of Hope", first launched on the Feast of Pentecost, 2012.

Building Blocks of Shared Ministry

The church was beautifully and sensitively displayed with over fifty 'Building Blocks of Shared Ministry'. Quotes from Scripture, Church documents and practical examples gave food for thought and prayerful reflection.

The principles of shared ministry, together with Rublev's icon of the Trinity, were placed around the altar prior to Mass celebrated by Bishop Ralph, Fr Darren Reid and Fr Santosh Vazhappally.

We are all called to be Missionary Disciples

Frank McDermott, Lay Coordinator of the parish, reminded all present that for parish structures to be viable in the future, then the days of lay people just being 'Father's helpers' were long, long gone. "We are all called to be missionary disciples and have a right and a responsibility to be involved in decisions about the life and future of our parishes and our mission. We must all discern and openly decide our future together, rooted in prayer."

One of the key quotes displayed was rooted in Vatican II:

"... Every baptised person shares the same mission as Jesus ... Vatican II reminds us that the mission of Christ as priest, prophet/teacher and king, continues in the Church and is shared by the whole people of God ... Because of the one dignity flowing from baptism, each member of the lay faithful, together with ordained ministers and men and women religious, shares a responsibility for the Church's mission" (Christifideles Laici 15, 1989)

All of the quotes on the building blocks from Church documents, passages from Scripture, parish checklists, bereavement services, etc, and over sixty more files, have been added to this highly practical resource on a memory stick and are available from the parish. A small donation to cover costs is requested and is shared between Rainbows Bereavement Support GB and CAFOD. Copies may be obtained from frank.mcdermott@btconnect.com or churchstainforth@gmail.com.

Anointing each other for service

The day ended with a service of anointing; sisters, priests and lay people symbolically anointing each other for service, not one any more important than any other. As people left everyone added a post it note comment on the baptismal font.

One such note seemed to sum up this prayerful, practical day: "Thank you for a truly informative and inspiring day on Saturday, and for the sheer amount of work, prayer and effort that went into the planning and execution. I found it a deeply prayerful experience...".

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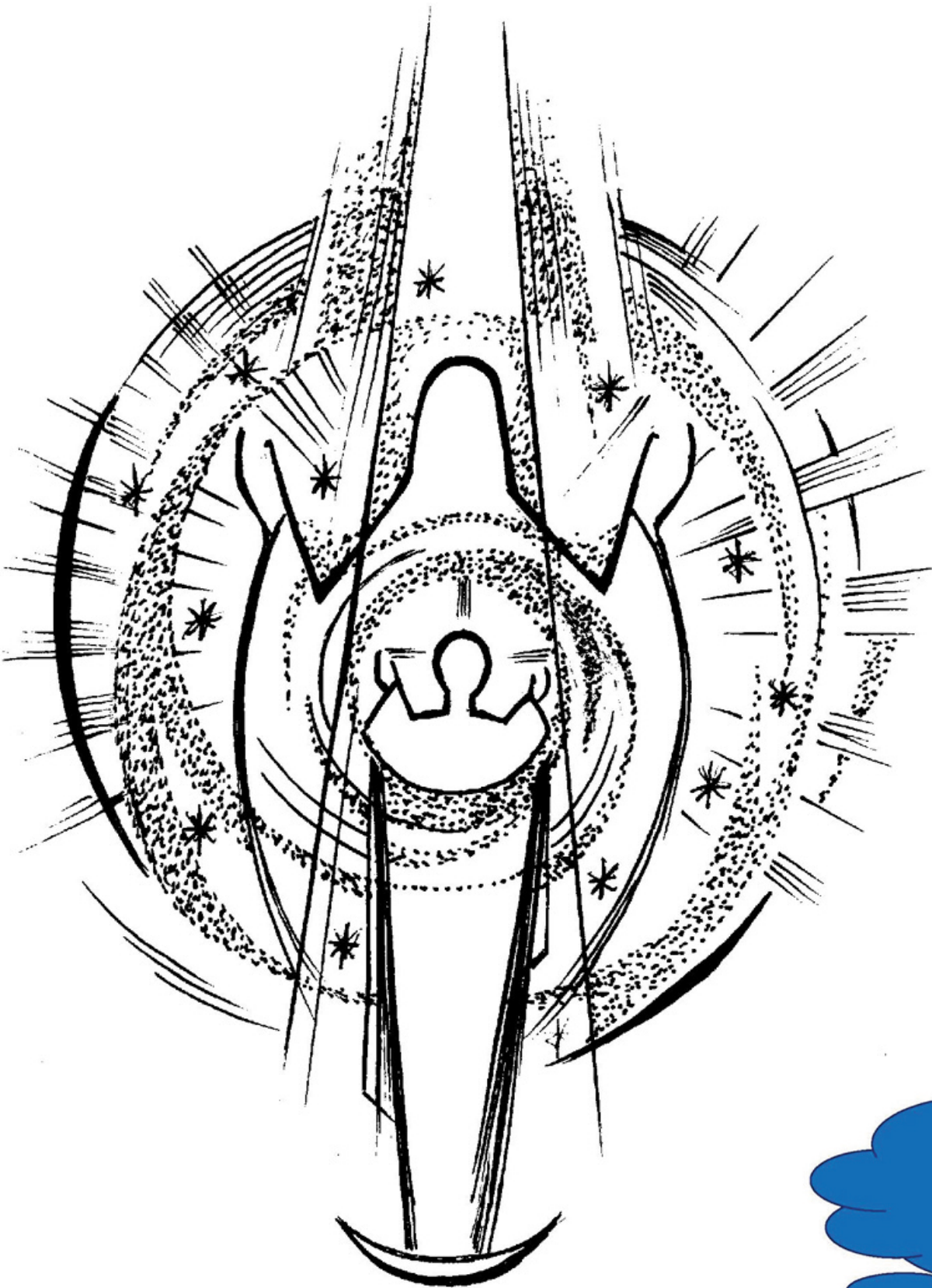
Welcome to the Children's Liturgy Section

The Assumption of Mary

On this feast day, we celebrate that Mary the Mother of Christ was taken body and soul - which means both physically and spiritually - into heaven to live with her son, **Jesus Christ**, for ever. Mary's body was taken straight to heaven when she died.

Catholics celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Mary on **15 August** each year. It is a holyday of obligation, which means that we should try to go to Mass on that day.

Colour in our picture of the Assumption of Mary



HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit
of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death.
Amen

WONDER

Cryptogram

This is a well-known saying associated with Our Lady.
The vowels are filled in for you already.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
7				15				3						13							2				

___ E ___ E ___ A ___ E ___ O U A ___ O ___
25 8 15 14 14 15 12 7 23 15 20 13 2 7 6 13 11 24

___ O ___ E ___ A ___ ___ E ___ E ___ I ___ ___ E ___
9 13 6 15 11 7 11 12 25 8 15 14 14 15 12 3 14 16 1 15

___ U I ___ O ___ ___ O U ___ ___ O ___
10 23 2 3 16 13 10 20 13 2 23 9 13 6 25

I wonder ...

I wonder if there is a statue of Mary you like the most?

.....

.....

I wonder why Mary is so important?

.....

.....

I wonder what the child Jesus and his mother, Mary, enjoyed doing most together?

.....

.....

The Annunciation, Chesterfield Church Summer Fair

On Sunday, 10 June a new and hugely successful Summer Fair took place at the Annunciation Church in Chesterfield. In addition to the traditional bottle, cake, bric-a-brac and plant stalls, the event offered a wide variety of activities in the parish centre and presbytery gardens – something for everyone. The indoor activities included Face Painting, Nail Art, Arts and Crafts, a Peg Game, Number Game and Soft Toy Tombola, as well as Name the Rabbit and Guess the Weight of the Cake. Outdoors, in the beautiful summer sunshine, younger guests enjoyed a bouncy castle, fun sports, children's games and a high point of the day was the Egg and Spoon Race between Fr Adrian, Sr Jacinta, Fr Thomasz and Mgr Carvalho. The jury is still out on the winner!

Hungry stomachs were filled from a delicious spread of hot and cold food inspired by recipes from around the world, including Indian, Polish and Filipino dishes. For those with more conservative taste buds, sausage and bacon sandwiches were in plentiful supply, and Frederick's Ice Cream van was popular with adults and children alike. The chocolate fountain also did a roaring trade, along with toasted marshmallows, sweets and fresh fruit for those wanting a healthier option. A popular bar served hot and cold drinks for thirsty guests throughout the day.



Barbecue - Filipino Style



The popular ice cream van



Joanna Mikolajczak in Polish costume with guests sampling Polish cheesecake



Agnieszka in Polish costume



Mgr Carvalho, Fr Adrian, Fr Thomasz and Sr Jacinta - egg and spoon race

The packed programme of entertainment included a wonderful performance by the choir from nearby St Mary's Catholic Primary School, a Sari demonstration by the talented Indian community and some breath-taking Irish dancing.

Parish priest, Fr Adrian Tomlinson said, "This wonderful event was an unparalleled success – and a celebration of the vibrant cultural community within the recently formed Parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace. Many thanks to all those involved in planning and organising this new venture for our parish, as well as everyone who came and helped or supported in any way on the day. The fact that we raised £2,600 is amazing, but to me it was more about bringing our parish community together as a family, and in this respect it has been astounding!"

Celebrating our Schools

We would like to thank the school on this page for supporting the paper



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Year 5 & 6

Open Evening

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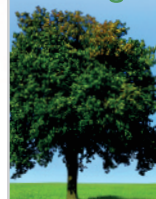
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The Augustinian Sisters at Boarbank Hall, Cumbria



What goes on inside a convent? Probably the only thing you can be sure about is that life is never dull!

Take the Augustinian Sisters at Boarbank Hall in Cumbria. They run a Nursing Home and Guest House in their beautiful grounds overlooking Morecambe Bay. These attract hundreds of visitors each year, who come for all sorts of reasons. Some are poorly, some nearing the end of life, others are visiting the sick friends; others come for retreats, for meetings of charities, for INSET days and school visits, for study weeks, for family holidays, to walk in the Lakes, to relax, to find peace, to pray.

The full title of the Sisters is Augustinian Canonesses of the Mercy of Jesus. Their mission focuses on compassion and hospitality, and the Nursing Home and Guest House allow them to practise these.

The Nursing Home, open since 1955, mainly serves the local community, with long-term residents, and patients coming for respite care or to be looked after at the very end of their lives. In recent years, they have been building up a programme of residential events in the Guest House.

All of these offer opportunities to join the Sisters for daily Mass and sung office, and to enjoy the fellowship of other guests. A particular highlight in the winter months is Night Prayer around the open fire in the Hall. In warmer weather, guests can make the most of the gardens, which include a Lourdes Grotto. The spacious chapel and prize-winning oratory are available for anyone to use at any time.

The varied courses include a summer week for Catholics in their 20s to 40s, which mixes talks and discussion with prayer and social activities, making the most of our location near the Lake District. There are two weeks on Scripture and a popular Autumn Break on the theme of faith and the arts. New ventures include 'Introducing St Augustine' and a weekend on Basic Latin. Several courses aim to relate faith with the world of work, for example a weekend entitled 'Called to Work', and a weekend for lecturers in Higher Education. There are several events each year for healthcare workers, which bring together doctors, nurses, chaplains and other professionals and interested lay people.

Past speakers at events at Boarbank have included Fr Martin Ganeri OP, the Dominican Provincial, Baroness Onora O'Neill, the eminent wildlife artist Fiona Lucas, Sr Gemma Simmonds SJ, Professor David Jones of the Ancombe Centre, Professor Karen Kilby, a theologian from the University of Durham and Professor John Brooke of Oxford University.

Those lined up for this year's courses include Kathryn Mannix, retired Palliative Care Consultant and author of the current bestseller *With the End in Mind*, Dr Carmen Mangion, an expert on the history of women's religious life from Birkbeck College in London and Fr Luiz Ruscillo, Director of Education in the Diocese of Lancaster.

For more information about Boarbank and what goes on there, see www.boarbankhall.org.uk.



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ITINERARY

Days 1-2. London to Füssen. We meet at our dedicated Departure Office at St Pancras, where we travel by Eurostar to Paris in Standard Premier Class. We continue to Stuttgart by First Class rail where we overnight. Day 2 sees us travel to the picture book village of Füssen on Germany's Romantic Road, where we stay for four nights.

Day 3. The Zugspitze Railway. Today we enjoy an enthralling journey on the Zugspitze Railway (Standard Class) which makes the journey to the summit of Zugspitze, the highest mountain in Germany. Trawling through pine trees and foothills, the delightful carriages offer breathtaking views of the Zugspitze mountain range. The final leg sees us take a cable car to the very top, where we have free time.

Days 4-6. Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau Castles. Our excursion today takes us to the glorious Neuschwanstein Castle. This fantastic fortress is a stunning sight, and is famously the inspiration for Disney's 'Sleeping Beauty' castle. We also visit the delightful honey coloured castle of Hohenschwangau in the pretty village of the same name. Day 5 is at leisure to enjoy the charms of the quintessentially Bavarian Füssen.

Day 6. The Oberammergau Passion Play. This morning, we travel to Oberammergau where we check into our hotel. Today is the undisputed highlight of our tour - the Oberammergau Passion Play, and our top tier tickets grant us some of the best seats in the house. This extraordinary once-a-decade event

dates back to the 17th century, and is run by the residents of the villages with a cast and crew of over 2,000. The production covers the Passion of Jesus Christ and is famous for its scale, history and quality. An enormous amount of work goes into each production, which a myriad of fantastic props, costumes and backdrops. The play is split into two three-hour halves, with a two-hour break in which we enjoy a special dinner.

Days 7-8. Nuremberg. Leaving Oberammergau this morning, we travel by rail (Standard Class) to Munich, and continue to Nuremberg, where overnight. On Day 8, we travel in First Class to Frankfurt before connecting with the Eurostar back to London via Paris.



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