

# Hallam News



*Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us*

## Inside



*Becoming a Pastoral  
Parish Council  
Page 9*



*Vocations  
Page 12*

*Presynod Meeting,  
Doncaster St Peter's  
Church Hall  
26 March 2022*



After a fruitful meeting to pray and reflect on the synod responses, Bishop Ralph gave thanks and blessed the attendees.

## 'Bringing it all together'

*Summary report on the synodal journey in  
Hallam Diocese April 2022  
Pages 3 & 4*



*For a synodal Church  
communion | participation | mission*







# SYNOD SUMMARY

Continued from page 1

## Reflections on Presynod meeting on our synodal journey- Communion, Participation and Mission

An open meeting was held on 26 March at St Peter's, Doncaster, for anyone wanting to hear about or contribute last words to the Hallam synodal responses. The findings were presented and discussed and there was opportunity to add further thoughts. A number of people attended who had been involved in the gathering and analysing of the responses. They spoke movingly about what they had experienced and learned. They pointed out the desire for us to be an inclusive Church. One mentioned the hunger for change, another the counterintuitive finding that the calls for change were from the old as well as the young, calling for respect and equality for women's roles in the Church.

There was a period of prayer and reflection on Matthew 14:13-21, the feeding of the 5000 in the light of the synodal journey we have been sharing in the diocese, walking together with each other, with the whole Church and with Creation.

Bishop Ralph reflected that this miracle story begins with Jesus going away to the wilderness to be alone after hearing of the death of John the Baptist, but being followed by the crowds. They were coming to him because they were in trouble, coming with their hopes that he would do something. And Jesus looking at that sea of human hunger and heartache pressing all around, had compassion for them and healed them. He also fed them. Meals in Scripture are

symbols of shared friendship and mutual obligation, from giving of the law on Mount Sinai to the Last Supper. Gathering up the resources that they had, some loaves and fish, they gave them to Jesus who transformed them. The generosity of Jesus is poured out in abundance.

The synodal journey has seemed like such a miracle, from the small encounters to the conversations to the wealth of responses, the Holy Spirit has transformed the Hallam journey to one of fruitful communion, blessed broken and shared, everyone invited. There is a recognition that although we might not have been familiar with the word, synodality is indeed a feature of the Church which we have all experienced. As we gather in prayer, in communion, we are experiencing synodality. We are all equal as we are gathered to participate by the Spirit. Our mission, rooted in the grace of baptism, leads us to reach out to those in need, to share with the hungry. We can't fail to see the connection between the institution of the Eucharist and the feeding of the 5000; blessed, broken and given.

And our synodal journey, our mission, is shared with the disciples also: "Go therefore, make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them the observance of all that I have commanded and behold, I am with you until the end of the age".

**"A Synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, journeys together. How is this journeying together happening today in your church?"**

**What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journeying together?" (PD26)**

In October 2021 Pope Francis called for a 'Synod on Synodality', asking that the first phase be a process of encounter, listening and discerning with all people of good will, responding to the questions above.

Here in Hallam we used 4 ways of getting people involved. Every parish was invited to nominate two representatives plus anyone else from any other group. Meetings were held to share ideas and learn about listening and discernment and parishes determined their own ways of synodal journeying in their parish or group.

There were open meetings for those whose parishes weren't offering opportunities. There was a survey of relevant questions available online or in church. And there were individual postcards to be sent to Pope Francis. Responses from all of these were gathered together and analysed by a group of volunteers under the guidance of an independent researcher.

**The fruits of this part of the synodal journey are summarised in the themes below.**

2

## MAIN THEMES

that emerged from the responses of the people

### OUTREACH, COMMUNITY AND MISSION

- "Catholicism should be accessible to all, not just in Church, nurturing the community".
- There was a strong desire to be an outward looking, inclusive community, welcoming others and helping those in need at home and abroad and evangelising.
- Suggestions included more social events with extra effort to reach e.g. lonely, mothers and babies, single people, youth, and recognising the gift's and needs of the elderly.

### INCLUSIVITY

- Women's role in the church.
- Reclaiming the model of early church with any role open to all including ordination, according to the discernment of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- "A Church that welcomes everyone and gives equal respect to all children of God; women, people with disabilities, LGBTQA+, children, divorced and remarried."
- The pain and sadness caused by Church teaching and behaviour which doesn't afford equality.
- Opportunities for collaborative ministry with priests.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

### YOUNG PEOPLE

- Hear the voices of the young people, asking for a more encouraging and inviting inclusive Church.
- e.g. Deanery youth workers, sessions for young people, thinking about how young people can be called back to the Church.

### COMMUNICATION

Needs to improve in all ways

- Inclusive language of the liturgy,
- Communication between laity, clergy, parish and diocese.
- Talking to each other about faith
- Formation opportunities
- Ecumenism

### ABUSE, INTOLERANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

- Pain, shame, sadness and anger from sexual, emotional, spiritual, physical abuses of the Church.
- Need for ongoing collective truth-seeking, to confront all aspects of the trauma, (including intergenerational), with time given for listening and understanding and for public reconciliation and atonement, in order for healing to take place.

### PRAYER AND WORSHIP

- "My faith is the centre of my life". Many described a call to holiness.
- "I feel the Holy Spirit is asking me to develop a much greater love, knowledge and understanding of scripture".
- Sharing the Sacraments with others is a joy.
- Sadness from some about reduced opportunity to attend the pre-Vatican II liturgy in Latin.
- People can appreciate liturgy in different ways, there is room for different ways of praying together.

4



# SYNOD SUMMARY

Continued from page 3

## 5 CLERGY, POWER AND HIERARCHY

- Appreciation for charisms, pastoral work, commitment and hard work of the parish priest.
- Concern about the wellbeing of elderly, overworked, isolated priests.
- Tensions between laity and priests with differing expectations of the priest as 'servant leader' not always shared and damage caused by this.
- Married clergy, optional celibacy, women priests and deacons, widely supported.
- Regular reviews of clergy training, good practice, accountability and development needs.

### GOOD WORKS

- Rebuild an understanding that integral to being a Catholic is to follow Catholic teaching on social justice - feed the hungry, care for the sick and the prisoner, provide comfort and shelter for the refugee and care for our common home.
- More pastoral visits.

### CHANGE AND MODERNISATION

- "A simpler Church more firmly grounded in the the essence of the Gospel message"
- A spectrum of views:
  - Changes to Canon Law, attitudes to sexuality, women, role of laity, role of social media priestly formation and celibacy.
  - "No change".

### POPE FRANCIS

Love, appreciation and gratitude for Pope Francis and his invitation to the synodal pathway.



## SUMMARY & TAKEAWAYS

- The same key themes emerged across the diocese from most groups.
- The strength and depth of feelings, positive and negative, were conveyed very strongly and movingly in the responses to surveys and listening encounters. Synodality was clearly seen as a Spirit-led process for moving onward as Church, and prayers for this were asked for and continue.

**There is belief and trust that this is an opportunity to change, grow and thrive as we continue to follow the synodal pathway.**

As the synodal process continues in parishes and in the diocese over the next 12 months, parishes and groups may wish to discern, from the challenges and opportunities which arise from listening to the concerns and ideas raised, about what their local steps might be.

## 6 SYNODAL JOURNEY



### FINDINGS ON THE PROCESS

- Many responses spoke about enjoying the Synodal process; having an opportunity to speak and feedback about their experience of the Church, and feeling their voice was being heard
- There is a desire to understand the next steps, and for this listening exercise not to be the end of the process. Highly engaged respondents spoke about the importance of the Church continuing to listen to the laity into the future.

### NEXT STEPS

- There is an opportunity to change, grow and thrive with continued engagement building on the Synodal process.
- **Discernment** needs time and it has become one of the strands to take forward into the next phase of the synodal process.
- People valued the opportunity to share their faith and continuing with such opportunities was one of the requests to the diocese going forward in the synodal journey.

A Diocesan Synod Review Meeting is scheduled for March 2023 to encourage continuing involvement



## 8 MOVING FORWARD

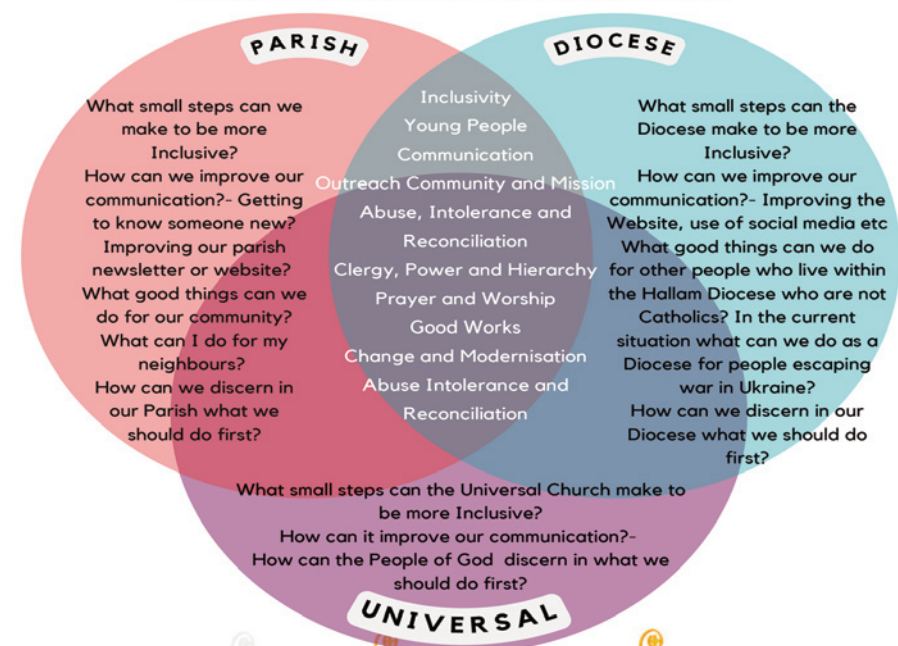
**What are our next steps on the synodal journey in Hallam Diocese?**

Some concerns are for Pope Francis to think about, and we have ensured that he receives those.

Some things are for the Diocese to attend to.

And some things you need to discern within your parish or group.

**Here are some questions and ideas to help:**





# Around the Diocese



## May Feast Days and commemorations

Monday 2 May St Athanasius  
 Tuesday 3 May  
 Saints Philip and James, Apostles  
 Wednesday 4 May  
 The English Martyrs  
 Tuesday 10 May 4th week of Eastertide  
 or Saint John of Avila,  
 Thursday 12 May  
 4th week of Eastertide or Saints Nereus  
 and Achilleus, Martyrs or Saint Pancras,  
 Martyr  
 Saturday 14 May  
 Saint Matthias, Apostle  
 Wednesday 18 May,  
 5th week of Eastertide,  
 or Saint John 1, Pope, Martyr  
 Thursday 19 May 5th week of Eastertide  
 or St Dunstan,  
 Archbishop of Canterbury  
 Friday 20 May  
 5th week of Eastertide or  
 Saint Bernardine of Siena, Priest.  
 Saturday 21 May  
 5th week of Eastertide or Saint  
 Christopher Magallanes and his  
 Companions, Martyrs  
 Wednesday 25 May  
 St Bede the Venerable, Priest, Doctor  
 Thursday 26 May  
 The Ascension of the Lord - Solemnity  
 Friday 27 May  
 Saint Augustine of Canterbury,  
 Bishop, Feast  
 Tuesday 31 May  
 The Visitation of the  
 Blessed Virgin Mary - Feast

*All Holy Men and Women,  
 pray for us*

## EIGHTY YEARS YOUNG



Mrs Mary Barnet celebrated her 80th birthday on this year.

She is a longstanding member of the Union of Catholic Mothers in St. Vincent's Foundation, Sheffield in the Hallam Diocese where she has previously served as Treasurer.

Many congratulations to Mary.

## Prayers for Ukraine



Prayers for Ukraine in Bakers Pool and the act of dedication of Russia and Ukraine to the Virgin Mary that followed the prayers.

The request of the Ukrainian Bishops echoed Our Lady's request for the consecration of the Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

This was acted on by Pope Francis and on the 25 March Feast of the Annunciation Bishop Ralph joined the Pope and Bishops throughout the world in consecrating Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The day of the consecration commenced with Bishop Ralph celebrating mass in the cathedral before attending a public Rosary outside the city hall.

The Rosary attracted over 100 people from across the parishes of Sheffield was organised by St Marie's PPC with Candida liaising this successful public event.

It was a powerful witness of faith and love for Our Lady and there were poignant moments when passers by in the city centre stopped briefly to reflect as to what they were seeing and hearing.

It has been decades since a public Marian event was last held in Sheffield.

At the conclusion of the Rosary and as our large group dispersed many went to the cathedral for private prayer and where there was exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

The faithful regrouped in time for 4 pm when Bishop Ralph led the prayer of consecration of the Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

## World Youth Day!



Are you 15-30 next year?

Come & join us in Lisbon, Portugal

31st July - 7th August 2023

Register your interest now with your chaplain or email: [smcdonald@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:smcdonald@hallam-diocese.com)



Diocese of Hallam

## The Young Church

READY FOR BREAKTHROUGH



Wednesday, 11th May  
7 - 9 PM



St. Vincent's Mission Hub  
Solly St. Sheffield City Centre  
Sheffield, S1 4TU

With Matt Regitz  
Divine Renovation Ministry  
Global Leadership Coach





# LIVING SIMPLY IN 2022

## CAFOD Live Simply Campaign St. Joseph's Dinnington Journey



In Lent last year, St. Joseph's Parish were deeply moved by Pope Francis' message in his Laudato Si encyclical. He points out that not only are we facing many issues – climate change, pollution, loss of biodiversity, but that it is the poorest people in the world, those least responsible, who are most adversely affected! Pope Francis challenged us to look hard at our lifestyle and choose to "Live Simply in Solidarity with the Poor and Sustainably with Creation." We responded by renewing the Live Simply campaign we first started in 2007.

It was soon realised that there are too many issues to tackle all at once. So, the parish decided to make small changes to our lifestyle, one month at a time, over the course of a year. The new campaign began in October 2021, during the COP26 conference, with a mass and homily centred on climate change and climate justice. Since then the monthly themes have been:- Lower your Carbon Footprint, No Waste Christmas, Eat more Veg and Eat Less Meat, Less Plastic is Fantastic and Reduce, Repair, Recycle.

Changing the focus each month has helped to keep us motivated and has brought new surprises. We discovered that Living Simply isn't always difficult and doesn't have to be about giving things up - it can also save money and be lots of fun. For example, driving economically can save up to 30% on fuel bills and it isn't all about reducing speed. Keeping tyres at the correct pressure and driving smoothly and gently are just as important. Buying second hand clothes, goods, toys etc. is much cheaper and much better for the environment and is surprisingly satisfying. Eating more vegetables and less meat can be a culinary adventure and has many health benefits too; such as reduced blood pressure, improved mood, well-being and increased energy. The vegan cake tasting event was very popular!

We were shocked to find out that approximately 30% of food produced globally is wasted and this has a significant effect on global warming and world hunger. Plus, every year the average family in the UK throws away £470 of food. This proved to be great motivation when we attempted a 'No Waste Christmas'.

Small acts by many, add up to a big impact. For example, in 2013, two weeks after the 5p plastic bag charge came in; fishermen in the Humber Estuary noticed far fewer plastic bags floating in the sea. So, as 34% of plastic in the sea is micro-plastics from laundry we hope to make a big difference by following the advice to wash our clothes less often and use full loads on a cool wash programme.

We have tried to live in solidarity with the poor by supporting local food banks, the Street People and the CAFOD Walk Against Hunger. We joined the CAFOD Human Rights Campaign by presenting a letter signed by everyone at mass to our MP, asking him to support a new Business, Human Rights and Environment Act. This act would hold UK businesses to account when they fail to prevent human rights abuses and environmental harm throughout their supply chain. He gave his assurance that he would give his support to the act when it comes before Parliament.

We have tried to live sustainably with creation by simple actions such as providing food and water for the birds and leaving undisturbed wild areas in our gardens for creatures to hibernate and nest in. Our children joined in by making a bug hotel in the church garden.

St Joseph's are now 6 months into our Live Simply Campaign and it has been a wonderful journey. Parishioners have taken on the challenge with great enthusiasm. It has filled a real need as



more of us become deeply concerned about our planet and want to find ways to reduce our impact on it and achieve climate justice for the poor. In just a few months, we have learned that by making small changes to our lifestyle, we can make a sustainable difference that will last longer than our lifetimes.

For more information about St. Joseph's Live Simply journey see

<https://www.stjosephsdinnington.com/live-simply>

For information about CAFOD Live Simply Award and Live Simply Ideas see <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Live-Simply-award/LiveSimply-ideas> Or get in touch with the Hallam diocese environmental leads at [environmental-leads@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:environmental-leads@hallam-diocese.com) or telephone 07779804247



# FIX THE FOOD SYSTEM



Join CAFOD's new food campaign

**The global food system is broken. It doesn't work for those who work the hardest – small farmers – and it's a major driver of the climate emergency.**

But it doesn't have to be this way. Communities who work with us are leading the way, growing food in ways that are good for people and the planet. We are urging the UK government to fix the food system.

## 1. Our food system is bad for the planet, our common home

The way we grow, produce and transport food is responsible for around one third of all global greenhouse gas emissions. Huge quantities of pesticides and fertilisers are made using fossil fuels. Forests and rainforests are cut down or burned to make huge areas available for rearing cattle for meat and dairy or to grow soya to feed the animals that we want to eat. Since 1990, around 420 million hectares of forest have been destroyed. This is 17 times the size of the UK.

**"We had not realised just how big a mistake we had made by moving away from the traditional ways of farming of our forefathers. We had become disconnected from nature, but now we are going back to it again."**

Alpona, an eco farmer in Bangladesh

## 2. Small-scale farmers have little choice over what they grow

Five of every six farms in the world consist of less than two hectares, operate only around 12 percent of all agricultural land, and produce roughly 35 per cent of the world's food. So small-scale farmers are efficient at producing food. But the domination of huge companies known as agribusiness means that they often face little choice about what they grow or how they grow it.

## 3. More than half of some crops are grown to feed animals reared for meat

Four corporations control 60 per cent of global seed sales, and vast areas of the same crop are grown for export, because they are profitable. For example, as much as 80 per cent of all the soya grown across the world is fed to animals that are being reared to provide meat. The UK imported

about 3.5 million tonnes of soya beans in 2019 and over half of that ended up in chicken feed. Community land is taken away by these giant businesses, leaving the small farmers with small plots, which reduces their options. Pesticides are used widely, harming people and depleting the soil.

## 4. Millions of people who produce our food are living in poverty themselves Cow-peas



**A man holding his cow-peas grown from seeds donated by Caritas Uganda.**

Photo credit: Tommy Trenchard

Around 800 million people go hungry each day and the majority of them are those who grow the world's food. Three-quarters of people facing hunger in the world are living in rural areas and most of them depend on agriculture for their livelihood. 25 per cent of people in Africa are affected by hunger – the continent with the highest proportion. Of course, hunger is an issue in the UK too, with 9 per cent of adults experiencing food insecurity in January 2022.

## 5. One third of the food we produce is wasted

Around one-third of all food produced globally is lost or wasted. That's 1.3 billion tonnes of food every year being thrown away globally. The land it takes to provide just the food that we throw away is bigger than the size of India, and the water it takes is equivalent to 300 million Olympic swimming pools. One study found that, in the UK, 9 per cent of strawberries and 19 per cent of lettuces grown ended up as waste.

## 6. But we produce enough food to feed everyone!

To feed the current global population, we need to produce 3.7 billion tonnes of food per year. We are currently producing 4 billion tonnes per year.

## 7. In the UK we are reliant on other countries for our food

Around half of the food we eat in the UK comes from other countries, including 80 per cent of our fruit, 50 per cent of our vegetables, and all of our rice!

## 8. Returning to traditional ways of farming can help Leader of an eco village



**The leader of an eco village in Bangladesh**

In rural Bangladesh, small farmer Alpona is growing food in a different way. After her community received training from CAFOD in organic farming, things changed quite dramatically:

"We had not realised just how big a mistake we had made by moving away from the traditional ways of farming of our forefathers. We had become disconnected from nature, but now we are going back to it again.

"I get a great deal of vegetables and fruits from my organic farming, which is enough for the family to eat, and which I can sell at the market too. Our village has become a lot greener and healthier after so many of us shifted to organic farming, and the soil has greatly improved."

## Pope Francis is calling for a change to our food system

"Each of us has a role to play in transforming food systems for the benefit of people and the planet. If we do not want to jeopardise the health of our planet and our entire population, we must encourage active participation in change at all levels and reorganise food systems as a whole."



**Pope Francis on World Food Day 2021**

## How you can play your part to fix the food system

We need alternative food systems that help tackle the climate crisis rather than fueling it and that put people first. But rather than supporting these alternatives, the UK government is backing big businesses that are putting profit first and accelerating the climate crisis.

For example, from 2013-2019 the UK spent at least £125.5m of aid money in Nigeria on fossil fuel-based fertiliser, which was five times as much as it spent supporting local farmers.

Urge the UK Government to keep the promises it made at the COP26 climate talks last year and support agricultural systems that tackle the climate crisis as well putting local communities first.

## Letter to the Editor

**All correspondence, including email, must give a full postal address and contact telephone number although this will not be printed. Letters may be edited for style, length and content.**

Dear Editor,

I'm very disappointed to read the response to Joseph Durham's letter regarding the future of Hallam News that the rumours concerning its demise are indeed true.

As you are aware we are a geographically spread-out Diocese and in my opinion it's vital for diocesan cohesion that we are able to share news and views throughout the whole diocese. Furthermore, as the Trustees well know, not everyone has internet access and rely on Hallam News for information.

Would a solution not be to charge a nominal amount for Hallam News? I'm sure most people would be able to pay say £1.00 per month which would I'm sure go some way to ensuring "value for money".

**Emma Green, St Marie's Sheffield**



# Triennial Presidents Mass of Thanksgiving for Margaret McDonald

*Dorothy Anderson*



On Saturday 2nd April 2022 a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool.

Many members of the Union of Catholic Mothers attended in honour of Mrs Margaret McDonald who was retiring after her term of Office as National President for which she served beyond the three years. The main celebrant was Bishop Thomas Neylon assisted by Bishop Alan Williams (UCM National Chaplain), Father John Butchard from the Diocese of Liverpool, and Fr David Potter from St Albans, Stocksbridge also Father Jones of Loughborough for the Nottingham Diocese.

In the homily given by Bishop Neylon, we learnt that he is related to one of our more recently deceased UCM members Kath (Kathleen) Foley of St Vincent's Parish, Sheffield.

He spoke of Kath, just as we knew her with a great zeal for the UCM and we experienced her love for us all as individuals.

At the conclusion of the afternoon, Mrs McDonald thanked the Dean Fr O'Brien and all the mothers for attending Holy Mass.

With many thanks and good wishes to Margaret for her leadership and witness to the love of the Lord.

# A warm welcome to the Diocese

I would like to take this opportunity in the last edition of Hallam News as we know it, to introduce myself as a new member of the communications team of Hallam Diocese. My name is Catalina Cacua, I'm from Colombia and moved here to Sheffield last year, following the Call God gave me to the vocation of marriage. Ever since I moved, as most of you, I have grabbed a copy of the Hallam News and enjoyed reading it, as getting to know what's going on around the Diocese and the Universal Church helped me feel welcome and at home.

I was also disappointed when I first knew Hallam News was coming to an end, but together with all of the loyal readers of Hallam News I want to make sure we make the most of this opportunity to take part and rethink how are we communicating around the diocese and what would be the best way to keep and build up the cohesion between all the parishes and Catholic communities within the diocese.



That's why, from the diocese we want to invite anyone who wants to get involved or have ideas, to be part of the New Hallam News Project. My email is [communications@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:communications@hallam-diocese.com), everyone is welcome to get in touch

# Theatre Review



Matthew Bray, the voice of the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, reports on a performance of "The Pirates of Penzance" at the Montgomery Theatre in March.

"I always think the Pirate King must have been well read in Cardinal Newman. 'Always act in accordance with the dictates of your conscience', are the words of wisdom he offers to the conflicted hero Frederic, near the beginning of Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Pirates of Penzance'.

However, Newman's 'theology of conscience' wasn't always foremost in my mind when I was lucky enough to become involved in Dore Gilbert & Sullivan

Society's 50th Anniversary Production of 'The Pirates of Penzance'.

It was a great privilege to join them as a Pirate. All the hard work of preparation and rehearsals paid off in 4 very well received performances at the Montgomery theatre in the heart of Sheffield.

'Pirates' is a show full of fun and joy and this mirrored the delight of the cast (and audience) at being back in theatre after a 2 year enforced break.

Great songs too! The final chorus 'Take heart, fair days will shine' - a perfect way to finish."

# Loreto Spirituality Centre

Offering retreats, conferences, and quiet time

# Living Theology Summer School 2022

is on-line this year

# 8th-10th July

An exciting lineup of theologians offer lectures on "Luke, a very Jewish Gospel, ( Nicholas King SJ); "Spirit and Spirituality" (Michael Barnes SJ); "Love, Religion and God" ( Fiona Ellis, Prof. Philosophy and Religion) and "The Developing Church" (Michael Smith SJ). For further details and to book a place, go to <https://loretocentre.org.uk/living-theology-2022/>



# Book Review



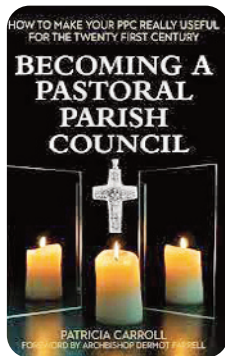
## Becoming a Pastoral Parish Council

by Patricia Carroll

(Messenger Publications: Dublin 2022)

**'The body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body...And God has so arranged the body...that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another'** (1 Cor 12: 12, 24-25)

Patricia Carroll, Director of Mission and Ministry, Archdiocese of Dublin has 30 years of experience in pastoral leadership. Her experience is evident in this small and timely new book "Becoming a Pastoral Parish Council".



It is timely because one of the strong themes emerging from the synodal journey here in Hallam (as elsewhere), is the need to find ways for laity and clergy to work collaboratively together, with mutual respect, on Spirit-led mission. Pastoral Parish Councils (PPC) are one structure recommended by Vatican II. Carroll suggests that a Spirit-led, outward-looking active PPC can mobilise and rejuvenate the parish community.

In 6 short chapters, Carroll addresses key questions, ending each chapter with a question to help you reflect on your reading of the chapter, how it relates to your current parish situation, how you feel the call of the Spirit and what gifts you can bring to that task. So, very synodal. Listening, reflecting, discerning. Acting.

She begins by addressing some essential definitions. Pope Francis says a parish is a dynamic community, "an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration," where there is a warm welcome and constant reaching out to others. (Evangelii Gaudium 28)

The role of the PPC is to participate in the pastoral leadership of the parish, with the parish priest. With good pastoral leadership, open to the Spirit, everyone can find a way to contribute their gifts to the building up of the parish and of the Kingdom. PPC is NOT about the day to day running of the parish, or finance or 'helping Father'. The mission of PPC is to help everyone realise their potential to serve, to be servant leaders who enable others. It is a "Communion" model of church - a 'faith-filled leadership group though which priests and people work together as co-responsible partners in furthering the mission of Christ in their own parish.'

Chapter 2 provides a pithy way of prompting pondering on the purpose with the "5 Ps of Pastoral Parish Council". These are: Participation - everyone is called to offer their gifts; Pastoral - caring for all God's people; Planning; focussing on mission, making plans with the parish. Take time to build a mission statement for your parish, which helps build unity and purpose; Partnerships - of mutual respect and cooperation; Discernment and mobilising for mission are also important. Things to avoid are Passivity - leaving everything to someone else, Procrastination - putting things off, Preservation - avoiding change.

Prayer-filled reflection is needed in the PPC. As many people have found on the diocesan synodal journey, praying together, tuning in to what the Holy Spirit is saying, responding to the Spirit, needs time to listen, and discern God's will for the parish at a particular time. PPC is not just another meeting, it is a Spirit-led, faith-filled group meeting to discern the mission of the parish. It might feel awkward at first, and there might be expectations that the priest should lead all prayer. However, taking turns so that everyone learns to be comfortable in leading prayer is part of the journey. This leads to the important step of discernment. A fruitful pattern is a Scripture passage, a time of silence, an invitation to share, and paying attention to feelings and responses to particular parish situations. You need to take time for this, acknowledging those who are worrying about getting through the packed agenda and all that needs done, but prioritising prayer and discernment nevertheless, with trust in the the Lord's goodness.

Chapter 4 is on developing partnership. Pope Francis reminds us that by virtue of our baptism we are all missionary disciples. (Cf. Mt 28:19).

Everyone on the PPC is a partner in mission and the language of partnership which will be new to many in the context of the church, will need to be consciously developed and used. The relationships between the PPC can also provide a model of partnership working for the rest of the parish. Partnership needs to be a priority, working together in pairs and teams, young and old, lay and ordained, male and female. Regularly checking out decisions with each other models partnership, as well as the ongoing reviewing and reflection on how the PPC is working together. Such questions as what are we working with, how are parish groups growing in working together. what needs to be strengthened or developed are questions that people may have encountered in the synod groups of the past 6 months.

What are the signs that growth is happening? Carroll suggests indicators of growth are that collaboration is practised, team ministries are in place and community life is valued. So for example, listening to parishioner concerns; communicating consistently; challenging, inviting and welcoming the involvement of others; encouraging new ideas and new recruitments; opportunities to take on mission and ministries with responsibilities and accountability; regular discussion, clarification and strengthening of roles; formation opportunities for those roles. Ministries are recruited to at least annually; every parish group has a role description and a Team Leader. The PPC provides regular gatherings for fun, formation and prayer with outreach, helping to build parish community life. There are healthy connections to other local groups and churches and there are variety of ages with roles in celebration of the liturgy.

What makes planning pastoral? (See Jeremiah 29:11). Pope Francis suggests that the local church should be structured for the evangelisation of today's world, rather than self-preservation. This focus indicates that the planning is also a faith-filled collaborative activity, for a specific local community.

Pastoral comes from shepherding, looking after. The essential work of the church is care for people's various needs. How people are cared for, how they celebrate the sacraments and pray together make that care visible. Pastoral planning is Spirit-led planning about the future and about people. It requires that the PPC is open to listening to the voice of the Spirit in the people of God, informally and formally in annual parish assembly determine parish priorities for the year ahead and reflect on the needs of the parish and how it is journeying together. Basic training in listening and facilitation for the whole PPC might be helpful.

Finally, there is the importance of moving to focus on naming steps and stages towards pastorally addressing the issues. The Pastoral Plan follows from listening - prioritising for the year - clearly identifying the steps to reach the goals - implementation; working groups to move things forward, the agenda of the PPC, Smart planning (Smart = Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timeframe). There needs to be ongoing communications with the parish, for every parish website, plus pastoral realism, patience and risk taking.

This book is recommended for any person or group looking for help in moving on in the synodal journey to create or update their Pastoral Parish Council. Copies are available from the Diocesan Pastoral Centre library.



## JOB OPPORTUNITY Warden & Clerk to St Scholastica's Retreat Competitive Salary, pension, accommodation on site

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[www.stscholasticas.co.uk/warden-clerk-vacancy](http://www.stscholasticas.co.uk/warden-clerk-vacancy)

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## Loyola University Chicago Certificate in Pastoral Ministry

A unique opportunity is available from September 2022 to dioceses in the North of England to participate in the Loyola University Chicago Certificate in Pastoral Ministry.

This Certificate has the support of local dioceses in the North of England. The customized certificate consists of ten six-week modules delivered in an online format allowing participants the freedom and flexibility of study in their own home.

Integral to the course will be three days for participants to meet each other face to face together with the UK co-ordinators of the course.

Participants will be supported by a local contact person within the diocese during the two-year course.

Participants will need to be serious about their own faith development, willing to serve in the local church and have competent computer skills. It is a non-degree, non-credit programme offered over two years, equipping, catechists, deacons and lay leaders with up-to-date knowledge, skills, and education for contemporary pastoral ministry. Those who successfully complete the entire ten module series will receive a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry from Loyola University Chicago. The course will model adult learning and shared praxis and be rooted in theological texts and the lived experience of participants. Each module will require approximately 20 hours of time for on-line engagement, reading and reflection.



## Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

**This is a certificate course validated by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales.**

It offers a basic foundation in Catholic theology and practice through teaching, discussion, study, and personal reflection. It is aimed at anyone who wants to undertake some serious, but accessible, study into Catholic theology. It is particularly well-suited for staff in Catholic schools, parish catechists and those involved in various aspects of lay ministry.

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- ❖ The Church
- ❖ The Sacraments
- ❖ Christian Morality

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- ❖ Catholic Social Teaching

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## Celebrating Young People National Awards



The Celebrating Young People Awards honour the achievements of those truly remarkable young people who make our communities and our world a better place.

Nominated by anyone from friends and family to teachers and clergy, the winners are drawn from throughout England and Wales and reflect achievements in every area of social action. Their achievements will be an inspiration for us all. They will show us all how ordinary young people can do the most extraordinary things.

Previous recipients have included young carers, peer mentors, climate change activists!

Our winners come from public nominations and are whittled down to a shortlist in each category. Our judging panels, made up of celebrated figures, choose the winners who will be honoured at a ceremony in Parliament in July.

You can nominate young people aged 11-25 for six of the awards. Two awards are especially for recognising the amazing leaders who empower the young people in their communities.

To nominate go to <https://millionminutes.org/national-awards>

## St Marie's parishioners making the Stations of the Cross in church



The announcement that Pope Francis is to consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the 25 March was the catalyst for parishioners of St Marie's Sheffield to gather outside the cathedral to pray the Rosary.





# Beatification of Pauline Jaricot

Missio is very excited for the upcoming beatification of one of our founders, Venerable Pauline Jaricot, on 22 May 2022 in Lyon, France. This will be a day of prayer and celebration for the global Missio family, and the whole Church.

## Pauline Jaricot

Born in 1799, Pauline Jaricot was a remarkable young lay woman with formidable faith. Through her resolution and strong beliefs, she founded Missio's Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF) aged just 23 years, which makes her one of Missio's founders.

The England and Wales branch of the APF was formed in 1825 and Pauline's legacy continues here today through the Red Box scheme, which is a partnership between Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries.

Pauline Jaricot had a passion for helping to support missionaries around the world. She believed that if we all give a little and pray a little, we can share God's love throughout the world. You can find more details of Pauline's life, and download resources to celebrate this wonderful occasion with your parish, school or community at [missio.org.uk/pauline](https://missio.org.uk/pauline)

## The journey to Sainthood

Pauline Jaricot was recognised as Venerable, meaning that it was recognised that she lived a virtuous life, in 1963 by Pope John XXIII. It is an important initial step towards being recognised as a Saint in the Catholic Church.

Beatification is the second major stage. For this step, a miracle through the candidate's intercession must be recognised.

In Pauline's case this happened in May 2012. A three-and-a-half-year-old girl named Mayline, from Lyon, choked on food and suffocated. Unable to resuscitate her, doctors explained that she was 'brain dead' and that she would die in the next few weeks.

Upon hearing the news, pupils and parents of Mayline's school decided to ask for Pauline Jaricot's intercession by praying a novena for Mayline's recovery. At the same time, as Mayline lay in a coma hooked up to a feeding tube and respiratory machines her parents had begun looking for a child-sized coffin.

Soon afterwards the doctors were surprised to confirm that Mayline's condition had changed – indeed, she was coming back to life. Mayline was released from the hospital in December, fully healed.



Doctors have been unable to explain the change in her health. Mayline's parents are convinced of the intervention of Pauline Jaricot. A diocesan enquiry occurred in 2019, where a medical board validated the miracle of healing, and the theological commission certified the intervention of Pauline Jaricot in the full recovery of little Mayline.

Mayline's miracle has led to Pauline Jaricot's Beatification. For the final step, Canonisation, a second miracle will need to be recognised.

## A worldwide celebration

Because Pauline Jaricot is such an important figure in the global Missio family, celebrations, masses and events will be happening around the world to mark her beatification, which coincides with the 200th anniversary of the APF.

In England and Wales, Missio will be holding special Masses throughout the year across the dioceses. You can find details of these at <https://missio.org.uk/mission-masses-and-events/>

Missio is filled with joy at this special event, which recognises a woman who has shown us that small and simple initiatives, which bring people together in prayer and faith, really can change the world.

Missio: today, tomorrow, together  
As the Pope's official charity for world mission, Missio enables Catholics in England and Wales to live out the call received at Baptism: to share God's love across the world.

**missio**  
Today. Tomorrow. Together.

## What is Laudato Si' Week?



Laudato Si' Week began as a way to celebrate the first anniversary of Pope Francis' world-changing papal encyclical letter, "Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home."

Since then, the annual celebration has become a way for all Catholics to unite and rejoice in the progress we've made in bringing Laudato Si' to life and to commit ourselves to further prayer and action for our common home.

This year, with the theme of "Journeying Together," Catholics on six continents will work on "bringing the human family together to protect our common home" (LS 13), which is the guiding Laudato Si' quote for the weeklong celebration.

Catholics across the globe will unite their communities in action and learn more about how Laudato Si' offers a blueprint on how to tackle the climate crisis. Globally, Catholics will come together as one family in prayer and action.

MAY	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
<b>22</b>	<b>Opening of Laudato Si' Week by Pope Francis</b>
MAY	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
<b>22</b>	<b>Prayer Gathering from Uganda</b>
MAY	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
<b>23</b>	<b>No More Biodiversity Collapse: Rebalancing Social Systems with Nature</b>
MAY	All day
<b>24</b>	<b>Empowering ECO-mmunity, Embracing the Poor (seventh anniversary of Pope Francis signing Laudato Si')</b>
MAY	9:00 am - 10:30 am
<b>25</b>	<b>Fossil Fuels, Violence, and The Climate Crisis</b>
MAY	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
<b>26</b>	<b>Laudato Si' and Education</b>
MAY	All day
<b>27</b>	<b>Laudato Si' Movie presentation</b>
MAY	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
<b>28</b>	<b>Ecological spirituality/Laudato Si Festival from Assisi</b>
MAY	All day
<b>29</b>	<b>Prayer Gathering. Community resilience and empowerment as part of our Synodal Journey</b>

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# Vocations Sunday 8th May



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Off Hermitage Road, SE19 3FA  
Email: sr\_bernadette\_vfcss@hotmail.com



## Pray for vocations

The Fourth Sunday of Easter ( 8th May this year ) is known as **Vocations Sunday** or **Good Shepherd Sunday**, and is marked as the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**.

The purpose of this day is to fulfil Jesus' instruction to **"Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest"** (Matthew 9:38). While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates her attention on raising up shepherds for God's

people - vocations to Holy Orders (the priesthood and diaconate) and to the religious life - while encouraging all who are discerning their vocation to pray more earnestly that they may hear and respond to God's call.

If you would like to talk to someone about a vocation to the priesthood, your first point of contact is your parish priest or a visit the National Office for Vocation website at [ukvocation.org](http://ukvocation.org).

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## The value of Catholics taking an interest in economics?

*Dr John Carlisle*

Like millions of pensioners in the UK I live in two economic worlds; the real economic world in which I spend my money and the financial economic world from which I receive an income from pensions and investments. The net result is that I am in receipt of an amount equivalent to the average wage every month and am wealthy beyond the wildest dreams of my parents who were miners and farmers in Africa.

In my real economic world I spend money very much out of my Christian values which determine where I will and won't spend it. My tithes do not go to any one church, but to institutions managing crises of poverty and alienation. This gives me some satisfaction over freedom of choice.

However, I do not have this freedom over where my income comes from. I have an uneasy feeling about two of my three pension funds and am troubled that I have not investigated enough. Like many people I failed to really understand the issue of money, and with it the vicious inequality that exists in the wealthy UK.

Fortunately, all that changed when I met the Catholic economist, Dr Frances Hutchinson, whose research into macroeconomics and the financial world is preeminent in the UK. The proposition that every economist need to accept is that because financial institutions create about 97% of the money in circulation simply by issuing loans (with interest) not by real notes, which is backed by law. We saw in 2008 where that led to.

As an economist I was mortified by my ignorance of the financial system that creates such mayhem in our lives. As a Catholic I was even more mortified that I had not sufficiently studied the encyclicals of Popes Leo XIII and Pius XI, for example, warning of the "immense power and despotic economic domination concentrated in the hands of . . . the trustees and directors . . . which they administer at their own good pleasure." (Quadragesimo Anno – para 105). Both popes confronted the conventional wisdom of the late 19th and early 20th century of the increasing dominance of liberal capitalist thinking, urging that

social justice and social charity must also play a role in shaping economic life.

However, Catholic Social Teaching, with its focus on the common good has overlooked the cause of our economic misery that the popes had identified, and which St John Paul II alluded to, i.e. "But this is true only for those needs which are 'solvent,' insofar as they are endowed with purchasing power" (Centesimus Annus - n. 34).

Fortunately, Dr Hutchinson introduced me the work of the most remarkable movement begun by Major Douglas in the 1920's called Social Credit. The rallying call was for a National Dividend for every citizen, akin to the Universal Basic Income but much more all-encompassing. It made absolute sense to people across the world when they understood that, in the first place, economic depressions are caused, not by a lack of goods, but by a lack of money to buy them. (That is why the Chancellor's current policy of reducing disposable income makes no sense at all.) In the second place, the cure is not employment, it is the certainty of a

regular income that allows purchase of basic necessities for every household. That has to be the right of every citizen in a civilised country.

It is no coincidence that Major Douglas and the Social Credit leading group around him were strong Christians and attracted the support of Catholics like Chesterton and Belloc. In fact, the decline in interest in Social Credit paralleled a decline in Christian faith. Perhaps, therefore, a revitalisation of our faith is a precursor to an economics based on the National Dividend and thus the Common Good.

**But this is true only for those needs which are 'solvent,' insofar as they are endowed with purchasing power (Centesimus Annus - n.34)**

**"Pope Leo XIII's encyclical Rerum Novarum was a courageous and radical document precisely because it confronted the conventional wisdom of the nineteenth century - the growing intellectual fact of collectivism and the dominant fact of liberal capitalism."**