

Hallam News

JANUARY 2015

No. 301

FREE

A Very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year to All Our Readers

FR JOHN TOMBLIN RIP

Fr John Tomblin, who retired as Parish Priest of St Joseph, Wath-upon-Deane on 30 June, 2006, died peacefully at home on Wednesday, 29 October, 2014.

Fr Tomblin was born on 26 December, 1923. He studied for the priesthood at Ushaw College and was ordained on 16 April, 1950 at Leeds Cathedral.

He spent his years as a curate in several parishes in the Diocese of Leeds, with a period also as Chaplain to Overseas People during September, 1959-February, 1962, before becoming Parish Priest at St Joseph, Kendray, then St Joseph, Wath-upon-Deane in August, 1978 and remained there when it became part of the Diocese of Hallam in 1980.

At his funeral service on Friday, 14 November at St Francis of Assisi Church, Sheffield Mgr Bernard Bickers, Parish Priest of Sacred Heart and St William parish in the Diocese of Leeds, spoke movingly about his friend, JT.

In his letter to the Romans St Paul writes: *The life and death of each of us has its influence on others, if we live we live for the Lord and if we die we die for the Lord, so alive or dead we belong to the Lord.* With these words in our minds and hearts in the quiet of this church I invite you to bring Fr Tomblin to mind, think of the influence he had on you as a relative, a friend, a companion, a priest. Thank God for him and pray for him – it was what he asked for most after he had been diagnosed with cancer. In time share those memories, some will bring a tear, others a smile, they will be different but all are precious because they will remind us of when our lives met with his and we came away enriched.

There is a certain irony in JT, I can't call him anything else, asking me to give the homily today because on the 16 April 2010 he celebrated his Diamond Jubilee here in this church of St Francis of Assisi and he had asked me to preach. There was only one problem, at the time of the Mass I was stuck on the motorway, so I made sure I would be on time today albeit four and a half years late.

On Boxing day last year JT celebrated his 90th birthday and for 64 of those 90 years he had been a priest serving in English Martyrs, York, Our Lady of Lourdes, Haworth, St Joseph's, Kendray, twice, The Holy Rosary and St Augustine's in Leeds and St Joseph's, Wath. He spent 11 weeks in York and 28 years in Wath with varying periods of time in the other parishes.

He was ordained on the 16th April 1950 having studied at Ushaw College, Durham which in those days had more in common with the 16th than the 20th-century. He emerged into a Church and world very different to the present. Pius XII was the pope and in the November of 1950 he infallibly defined the dogma of the Assumption. The Second Vatican Council was unimaginable. If we look back over those 64 years, the changes that have taken place and the speed with which they have taken place has been a major factor in all our lives, and we know from our own experience that people react differently to change. It is to JT's enormous credit that he adapted to those changes, even the ones he found most incomprehensible, while remaining rooted in the Tradition of the Church and true to his own God given gifts which were many. The music chosen by JT is an example of his adaptability, some old, some new, mainly English with a nod to Latin and definitely no drums.

In the first reading JT chose for today St John invites us to *Think of the love that Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God's children.* There is something magnificent about the word lavish, it speaks of an over abundance, an unstoppable outpouring of God's love which goes on for ever, is unconditional and unique to each individual because each individual made in God's image and likeness is unique.

It was as a child of God, chosen to be a priest, lavishly loved by God that JT lived out his priestly min-

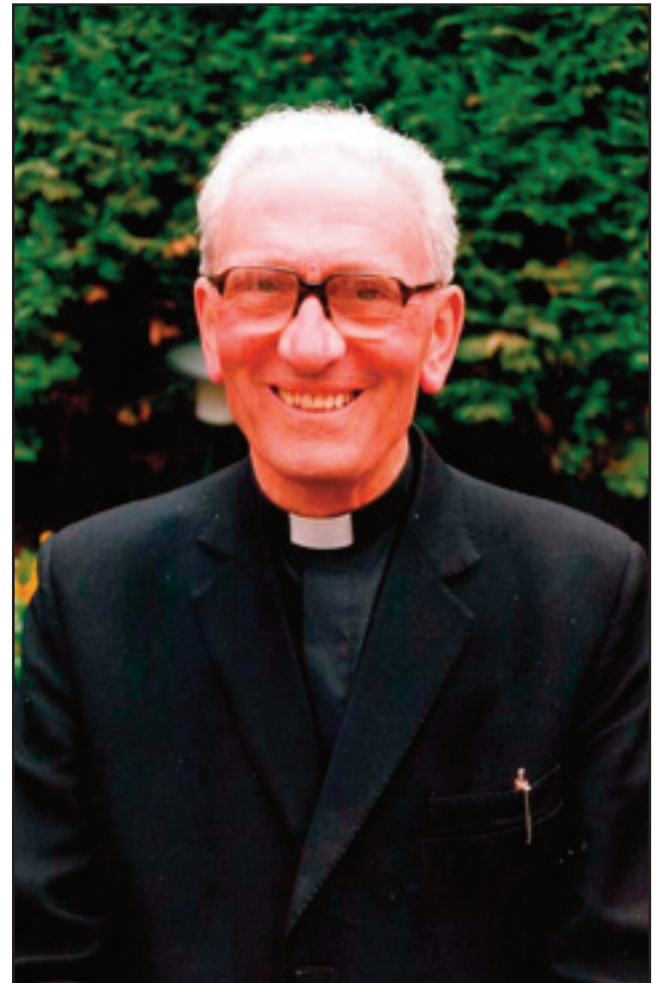
istry, lovingly caring for those he served, conscientious in all that he did, sharing God's love in so many ways but perhaps especially in the celebration of the sacraments from baptism to that final anointing which he himself received from Bishop Ralph in the presence of Mgr Kilgannon, Fr Kevin (Thornton) and Nellie on the night he died.

It was in responding to being lavishly loved by God that over 64 years he rejoiced with those who rejoiced and mourned with those who mourned, was silent when no words could be a substitute for simply being present. It was in responding to being lavishly loved by God that he sat in the confessional encouraging those who came and lifting their burden with the assurance of God's forgiveness, that he celebrated Mass, breaking God's Word day by day and week by week, bringing Good News not only in words that people could understand and take to heart, but also by the way he showed his love by his care for those he served.

In the Gospel he chose for today, Jesus is preparing his disciples for the time he will no longer be with them. The first thing he tells them is: *There are many rooms in my Father's House*, a reminder to us that it is never for us to judge another person because we can never know the whole story, only God knows that and the God revealed by Jesus is a God of infinite love and compassion. Jesus then says, *I am going to prepare a place for you and when it is ready I shall return and take you with me so that where I am you may be too.* We know from Thomas' reaction that the disciples didn't have a clue what he meant at the time. They would have to go through Jesus' own death on the cross and burial in the tomb first. And we need to remember that they expected him to remain dead and buried. But they experienced him in such a way after his death that they remembered what he had told them, that he would suffer and die and rise again and it would be the same for all who believe in him.

JT believed in Jesus, risen from the dead, and in his dying he said his final YES to the Lord he had served as a faithful and faith filled priest, and our prayer is that he is even now in that place prepared for him so that he will be like Christ and see him face to face. His life changed not ended, recognising that death brings an end to life as we experience it here on earth, but is also a passing from this life to eternal life, seeing God in a way that we can only imagine.

But life is also changed for those who will miss him the most and we pray for them. For John, JT's nephew, the son of Kathleen his sister and her husband Bernard. For Bishop Ralph, his predecessor Bishop John and the clergy of the dioceses of Hallam and Leeds who will miss his gentle humour, his outlandish claims to being almost a scratch golfer, but most of all his example of being a truly pastoral priest and a faithful friend.



Fr John Tomblin

Photograph: JFR

The many Religious, especially the Sisters of Mercy and parishioners whose lives he touched. And most especially for Nellie who for 47 years and two months has been housekeeper and homemaker, diary keeper and prompter, confidant and latterly nurse, but even more importantly a true companion and soul friend, big enough to share him with her family who embraced JT with their love.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others. Thank you JT for all you did but most especially for who you were and will continue to be in our hearts and minds.

Eternal rest give to him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him, may he rest in peace.

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What's on in January

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Deadline for articles for next issue of the <i>Hallam News</i> . | 14 | Irish Tea Dance with live music at Mother of God Parish Centre, Abbeydale Road, Sheffield, S7 1DX, 1-3.30pm. Everyone welcome. For more details contact Gerry from the Sheffield Irish Association, tel: 0114 2618788, mobile 07544979686. |
| 13 | Sheffield Branch Walsingham Association serves refreshments after 12.45pm Mass at St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield. | | |
| 14 | Chesterfield Bereavement Support Group Drop-in/coffee morning, 10.30am-12noon, The Annunciation Centre, Chesterfield. | 27 | Sheffield Branch Walsingham Association serves refreshments after 12.45pm Mass at St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield. |

Mission Together at Holy Rood School



Bishop Ralph was welcomed to Holy Rood School for a special liturgy to celebrate the work of Mission Together. The photograph above shows some children from Holy Trinity School, along with some from Holy Rood, who took part in the readings. After the liturgy Bishop Ralph had a tour round the classrooms to meet the children and staff.

EBOLA CRISIS APPEAL

Thousands of people have died from the deadly Ebola virus, in the largest outbreak ever known.

"Ebola leaves orphans in its wake who have now lost their source of food, education, love and care. It has taken our farmers away from the fields. It has shut down our roads and market places – destroying future economic prosperity." **Patrick Jamiru, Director of Caritas Kenema in Sierra Leone**

In Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, our partners are spreading the word about hand washing and good hygiene, as well as distributing soap and chlorine, providing safe burials, and providing food to quarantined families.

Please give to our Ebola crisis appeal today.

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CONSENT FORMS

In order to comply with National and Diocesan Safeguarding Guidelines all photographs of children sent to the Hallam News for publication must be accompanied by the official Diocesan consent form. It is Diocesan policy NOT to publish photographs of individual children accompanied by their name.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this Month

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

- 4 St Patrick, Harworth.
- 11 Holy Family, Chesterfield.
- 18 St Alban, Denaby Main.
- 25 St Michael and All Angels, Wombwell.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER From 1 January 2015

The address for Hallam Caring Services Family Focus Project (Susan Tym and Laura Rendell) is changing. From 1 January please send correspondence to Hallam Pastoral Centre, St Charles Street, Sheffield, S9 3WU. Telephone number 0114 2554790 will no longer be in use. The new telephone number is 0114 2566407.

Please Support!

Fr Darren's

COAST TO COAST CHALLENGE!

What is Happening? Fr Darren Reid, a priest of Hallam (together with Simon, his brother-in-law) plan to cycle from the west coast of England to the east coast

When? They will set off from Crosby on the west coast on the morning of Thursday, 15 January, and plan to arrive in Cleethorpes on the evening of Saturday, 17 January. The half way stop for a rest and a warm welcome will be at the St Wilfrid's Centre in Sheffield.

Why? St Wilfrid's is in need of funds. The plan is to build a Residential Centre that would help those people most in need to develop their social skills, and help their chances of gaining employment, and hopefully a better quality of life.



HOW CAN YOU SPONSOR FR DARREN?
PLEASE VISIT OUR SPONSORSHIP WEBSITE:
<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DarrenReid3>

Are You a Past Student of Endsleigh College, Hull?

I am trying to contact students of the 1962-1965 cohort with a view to organising a reunion to mark the 50th anniversary of our graduation next summer. Please contact me by email at angela.brewer@ntlworld.com as soon as possible. Thank you, Angela Brewer (nee Crisp)

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INVITATION TO LOURDES

Hallam Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes
Sunday 28 June – Friday 3 July 2015

Led by Bishop Ralph

£625.00 including Insurance
By Air - Doncaster Airport to Lourdes
and Return
5 nights Full Board

For details please telephone 07724 650066
or 01302 853937



We all like to receive an invitation for example to a party or a wedding. I would like to invite you to join me on the 2015 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. This won't be my first pilgrimage to Lourdes by any means, but it will be my first time with the Diocese of Hallam and I readily accepted the invitation to lead the pilgrimage.

The pastoral theme for our 2015 pilgrimage is "*Lourdes, the Joy of Mission*". Pope Francis has set out the huge challenge to all of us in *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) to become Spirit-Filled Evangelisers. In that document Pope Francis also says that "*journeying together to shrines ... is in itself an evangelising gesture*" and that "*.. in these many shrines, we can see how Mary brings together her children who with great effort come as pilgrims to see her and to be seen by her. Here they find strength from God to bear the weariness and the suffering in their lives.*"

By their very nature pilgrimages have always required "great effort". Although travel in the 21st century is

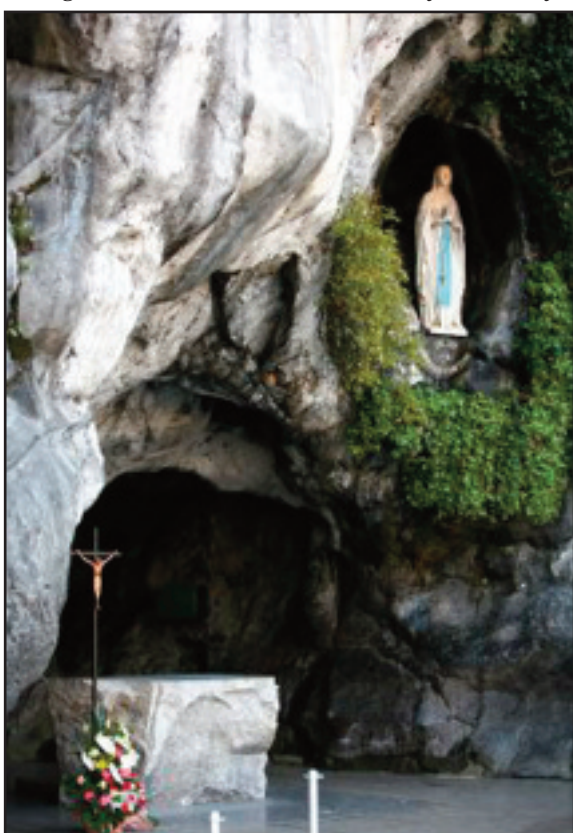
much easier (and we are fortunate to be able to fly direct to Lourdes from Doncaster Airport, within the Diocese), I know that the cost remains a burden for many people, particularly in the current climate. But if you are in a position to be able to consider travelling, I know that you will be warmly welcomed.

A diocesan pilgrimage is important for two reasons. It gives us the opportunity to come together, from all corners of the diocese; to spend those few days in prayer and also spend time together serving one another in community. Lourdes is a very special place of prayer and healing. Our diocesan pilgrimage also gives an opportunity for those in our parishes who may need medical support or special assistance, to be able to travel to Lourdes and to stay in hotels with other pilgrims, at the heart of our pilgrimage.

Over 200 young people from around the Diocese are expected to join us. I've already heard how much these young people inspire everyone on the pilgrimage and how wonderful they are. The pilgrimage could not operate without them, or without the volunteer doctors and nurses, and male or female helpers who travel to help other pilgrims. Please do consider volunteering if you feel able to do so.

So, I'd like to ask you to consider the invitation to join me on pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2015. If you are able to come with us you will be most welcome, but if you are not able to travel, I would warmly invite you to join us in prayer for the duration of our time in Lourdes from Sunday, 28 June to Friday, 3 July 2015, so that we can be truly united as a Diocese in prayer for those few days.

Yours in Christ the Redeemer,
 +Ralph



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CAFOD Launches Climate Change Awareness

On 17 October CAFOD launched its first Climate Change Awareness conference, hosted by McAuley Catholic High School in Doncaster.

More than a hundred delegates from Hallam Diocese heard CAFOD's concerns that climate change is having a devastating effect on the world's poorest people. Countries in the grip of hunger are now barely able to grow enough food to feed them because droughts and floods are ruining their crops.

Bishop Ralph, priests from parishes in Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield, Caroline Flint MP and staff from CAFOD's Romero House in London heard moving concerns from the young people of McAuley School about the future of the world, if we continue to ignore the effects of Climate Change. Rasha, Jade, Robyn, Izzy and Angel gave personal accounts of the effects of Climate Change in the third world, as well as in their own community of Doncaster. Together they called on MPs,

church leaders, parents and concerned adults to do something urgently to save the world for future generations. Southern World Witness

As well as the young people's witness we heard a first hand account from two CAFOD partners from Peru who live in the shadow of a melting glacier above their village. This threatens to wash away their homes and their crops unless they can slow down the rate of flow from the glacier. Like our young people they are concerned that

no one is taking any notice of the destructive effects of the world warming up.

What Can We Do?

Our Catholic Community often has a sense of helplessness when it comes to combating the destructive effects of Climate Change. What can we do in the face of clear evidence that our world is overheating? Clearly we must be pressing our political leaders to stand by the international agreements to reduce carbon output. But MPs say there is little pressure from their constituents to take the effects of Climate Change seriously, and hence this topic does not figure strongly in their agendas.

CAFOD hopes to change political apathy by asking the Catholic community in Hallam to write to their MPs about Climate Change concerns. To help us do this easily CAFOD have a supply of campaign cards, which can be ordered for each parish from the CAFOD Office at St William's in Sheffield. This card to our MPs is the essential first step to re-energising them to do something now about Climate Change by showing them that we, their constituents, do care. In addition many, many people within our community can do simple things, which will make a difference to the effects of Climate Change on our world. Parishes can work together to achieve the "Live Simply Award" which sets out, within our Christian framework, some fundamental actions and good ideas that can be carried out in our homes, work place, schools and churches, to slow down and possibly even reverse, the effects of Climate Change on our world.

Again Parishes can apply to CAFOD's Office for an action pack about the Live Simply Award.

Parish communities which achieve this award will be taking positive steps to help to save our world for our children and grandchildren.



Annie, a CAFOD Hallam young volunteer, relates her experience of the evening.

On Friday, 17 October over 100 CAFOD supporters came together at the McAuley School in Doncaster for an informative and memorable evening where we learnt more about the devastating effects that climate change has on our precious world.

Jesy and Adan travelled all the way from Peru to share information with us about the fact that they have been experiencing the increased melting of glaciers around their communities, and how this has had detrimental effects on their livelihoods and quality of life. It was a real eye-opener, reminding us that the consequences of our careless actions on this side of the globe, regarding energy use, are felt and suffered by those thousands of miles away.

We also got a chance to listen to Don Valley MP, Caroline Flint who gave a fantastic talk about her views on climate change and we had the opportunity to quiz her on what the government has planned for the future to reduce energy use.

The event started with a presentation from some of CAFOD's young volunteers from the McAuley School. They spoke about the issues of climate change and the fact that its effects are felt most by those in the poorest countries. They also highlighted the floods that hit South Yorkshire recently and particularly Doncaster in 2007, giving us a sense of empathy with those whose livelihoods are destroyed or limited by extreme weather.

There were many campaigning opportunities on the night with lots of Climate Actions taken, including a 'For the love of' photobooth - which entailed writing the name of something you love with all your heart which may be lost as a result of climate change



onto a piece of card and being photographed with it.

As well as this, one of the young campaigning volunteers ran a stand asking people to sign up to be MP correspondents. This means being in regular contact with your MP using the resources that CAFOD will send you to keep MPs aware of the need for

action to tackle poverty, climate and trade issues that affect people in the poorest communities.

Over all it was an interesting and engaging evening which will hopefully play a part in the huge task that is reducing our carbon footprint to ensure the preservation of our planet, so that our brothers and sisters and future

generations can enjoy the beauty and wonder that it provides.

Pictured at the top are Bishop Ralph, Caroline Flint, Jesy and Adan, the two Peruvian CAFOD partners and CAFOD young volunteers from McAuley School, and above Caroline Flint with some of the CAFOD young volunteers from McAuley School.

MARRIAGE ~ The Way Back

Continuing our series on marriage, Charles and Jane Perryman explore the process of counselling

In the last article we wrote, we explored what happens when couples get into arguments. We saw how they frequently shifted into a self-preservation mode rather than seeking to preserve the close connection between them as a couple. We also said that most couples find ways of repairing the damage to the relationship and reconciling. There are, however, some couples who get stuck in this negative cycle and never seem to repair the damage. If this goes on for a long time the atmosphere in the marriage becomes very hostile and painful.

Most of the couples who come for counselling with Marriage Care have reached this stage. We want to describe, in outline, how the counsellor tries to help couples in these situations. It is necessary, first, to recognise that it takes great courage to even get to counselling. The couple has to recognise and accept that they have a problem and that they need external help to try and resolve it. They then have to make contact with Marriage Care, get an appointment and then summon up the nerve to attend. The fact that they have managed to get to

the counsellor is a good sign that they want to make the marriage work again.

The first thing the counsellor has to do is to get to know the couple and to gain their trust. Counsellors do this by showing respect for the clients, by valuing what the clients are able to share, by being non-judgemental and by listening carefully to the clients and showing that they have understood. When couples are stuck in an endless cycle of rows and arguments they usually end up blaming the other. In reality they are both caught up in a cycle. One partner is usually desperately trying to reconnect with the other but doing it in a very unhelpful way. The other gets overwhelmed and backs away. In most cases it is the wife who pursues and the husband withdraws. But the husband withdraws because the wife pursues because the husband withdraws because the wife pursues and so on and so on. The first task is to help the couple to see that they are caught up in this cycle and then to see that it is the cycle that is the enemy not the other person. They then start to find ways of breaking out of the cycle. Once they have done that the second part of the work can begin. Each of the partners behave as they do because that is the way they have learned, when growing up and through other experiences, to keep themselves emotionally safe. When there is a dif-

ficult issue around alarm bells ring and their safety strategy kicks in. The effect of this is that both partners end up feeling lonely. All of that is kept hidden from their partner. The task of the counsellor is slowly to help each partner face their loneliness and ask their partner for what they need. Because this has all been kept hidden it often comes as a surprise to the other and often it is hard for them really to believe it all.

Our experience in Marriage Care is that when couples come and both really want to repair their marriage they can be helped to find way back to a safe and loving connection, even when the conflict between them has been very deep and long lasting.

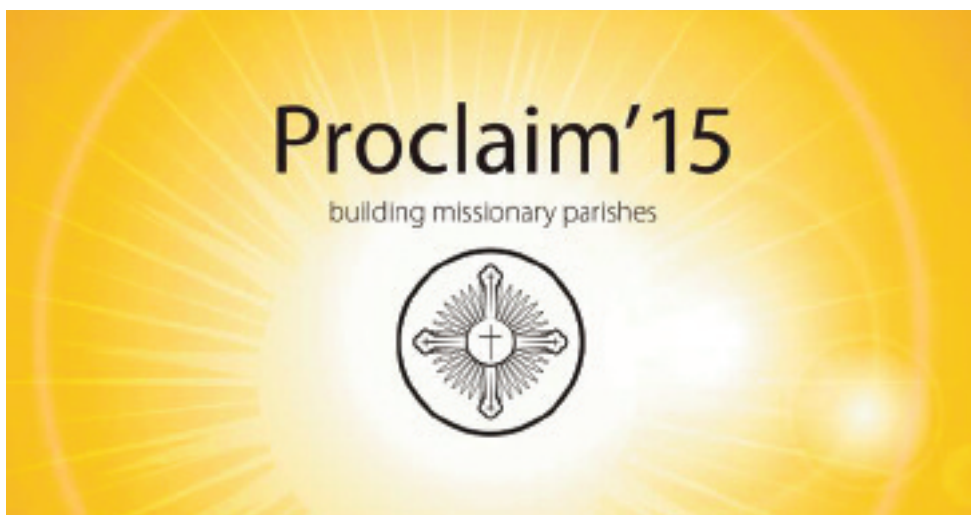
Counsellors Wanted

The process of reconnecting takes time. The need is growing. In the Sheffield centre of Marriage Care we have had a waiting list for a long time and we want to recruit counsellors to work with couples. We are seeking people who have a counselling qualification and who currently work one to one. We can offer training to work with couples and then ask for a commitment to work with us for several years offering at least two sessions per week. If you think that you could do this work and have the necessary qualification, please get in contact with us by phone: 0114 237 3301 or by email: janeandcharles@googlemail.com.



Jane and Charles Perryman

PROCLAIM '15: New National Initiative in 2015 to Support Parish Evangelisation



Proclaim '15: BUILDING MISSIONARY PARISHES' is the name of a new national Bishops' initiative being launched in 2015 to support the development of parish evangelisation.

"This pioneering initiative, inspired by Pope Francis' Evangelii Gaudium, is for all clergy, religious and lay people. Why? Because we all share the one mission - to PROCLAIM the joy of the Gospel. The wide range of practical ideas offered for planning and carrying out fruitful parish evangelisation will help us all to be better missionary disciples. Please put the 11 July in your diary and don't let this opportunity pass you by."

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster. It is inspired by Pope Francis' writings and has five parts which include: the provision of free parish small group materials; the organisation of a National Catholic Evangelisation Conference in Birmingham on 11 July 2015 for 850 evangelisation representatives from across England and Wales; an invitation to parishes to host a parish

Prayer Vigil on the night of 11 July with free prayer materials provided; the invitation to dioceses, deaneries and parishes to have their own Proclaim '15 event in autumn 2015; the publication of new evangelisation resources as a fruit of the National Conference to equip local evangelisers. Please do get involved in what is a significant new step in service of the proclamation of the Gospel in our area. More information will be available over the coming months. Website: www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15. Facebook: [facebook.com/cbcew](https://www.facebook.com/cbcew). Twitter: @catholicew#proclaim15. Email: proclaim15@cbcew.org.uk. Diocesan contact - for more information or to discuss being one of our representatives at the National Conference, contact Deacon Andrew Crowley - 07780 564 943 or stpatlan-etop@gmail.com.

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OUR DIOCESE REMEMBERS

Mount St Mary's College Marks 100 Year Anniversary of First World War

Mount St Mary's College, Spinkhill commemorated the 100 year anniversary of the start of the First World War with the blessing of a new Memorial Garden that is being created in memory of former pupils who fought and died for their country during the First World War.

A moving Remembrance Parade formed part of Mount St Mary's College's commemorations of the 100 year anniversary of the First World War.

100 uniformed cadets from the school joined fellow pupils for a special service in the Memorial Chapel. The service began in the Chapel that the school built after the First World War in recognition of former pupils who had fought and died for their country. The service was attended by some of the families of those pupils.

Wreaths were placed on the altar before the Last Post was performed. RAF and army cadets and officers then marched the short distance from the Chapel to the village cenotaph.

Headmaster, Dr Nicholas Cuddihy, said, "Mount St Mary's College is very proud to be taking part in the commemorations and remembering all those who fought in past wars. It is an established tradition here on campus to mark Remembrance Day and this year is particularly poignant."

A series of events took place at Mount St Mary's College throughout November to commemorate the anniversary and to give pupils a better understanding of that time.

Events have included lunchtime activities where pupils have been given the opportunity to learn about what life was like for soldiers serving at the front. Each was given a 'ration pass' at lunchtimes, they have 'reported' in as soldiers to the 'mess hall' where they were given their daily ration of food in traditional 'mess tins'.

The Remembrance Parade was fol-



lowed by a ceremonial start to the digging of the school's World War One Memorial Garden. Mount St Mary's College chaplain, Fr Simon Ellis, blessed the grounds after pupils joined with Chelsea Pensioner, Steve Allen (also a former pupil) to dig the first clods of earth as a symbol of the start

of the project. The memorial garden will be completed by pupils and staff over the four years of the centenary. Pictured above, Mount St Mary's College marks the 100 year anniversary of the First World War with the blessing and launch of a new Memorial Garden on the Spinkhill campus. Chelsea Pen-

sioner Steve Allen, a former pupil, officially dug the first clod of earth as a symbol of the start of the project. He is pictured here with pupils from Mount St Mary's College preparatory school, Barlborough Hall School, and their teacher Karen Keeton, who attended the ceremony.

REMEMBRANCE POPPIES

Children from St Ann's Catholic Primary School, Stocksbridge made poppies for Remembrance Day. The flowers were made from clay, coloured red and varnished with weatherproof gloss.

At a Remembrance Assembly each child in school planted a poppy in the school garden pictured on the left, one poppy for each the fallen soldiers named on the Stocksbridge War Memorial.



World War 1 - Diocesan Remembrance



The Hallam Justice and Peace Commission asked us to mark the centenary of the First World War and remember all those who lost their lives in the conflict. The Bishops of England and Wales encourage the Catholic community to participate in local civic or ecumenical celebrations. The Bishops will celebrate Requiem Masses in their Cathedrals on or near five key dates which have been identified as part of the anniversary celebrations:

25 April 2015 Gallipoli campaign

31 May/1 June 2016 Battle of Jutland commemorating the war at sea

1 July 2016 Battle of the Somme

31 July 2017 Start of the 3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele)

11 November 2018 Armistice Day

Catholic parishes are asked to mark these important anniversaries on the nearest Sunday by offering Mass for all those who died and to pray in the intercessions for those currently serving in the armed forces, and for peace.

The Justice and Peace Commission are developing a four year plan. In the first two years there will be a concentration on Deanery activities, engaging Deaneries in ownership of prayers for peace, recalling their fallen and signing a book of remembrance. Some parishes are already looking at some of these ideas. It is hoped to have a liturgical event in all Deaneries in the autumn of 2015.

School Cook Retires



Mrs Ann Ashton retired on 24 October after working for 41 years as a School Cook at St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Stocksbridge, where Ann has worked since the first day the school opened in 1973.

Ann is a member of St Ann's parish in Deepcar. She has also served two terms of office as a school Governor and has helped raise thousands of pounds over the years for the school fund.

Ann had a special leaving assembly and received gifts, cards and flowers from everyone.

However, the moment that brought tears to her eyes was when Parish Priest, Fr Stan Maciuszek presented her with a certificate of apostolic blessing from the Vatican.

Ann said she will miss the children more than anything and has promised to return to school soon to be a reading volunteer.

Faith and Light Welcome for Bishop Ralph



Hallamshire Faith and Light Group was delighted to welcome Bishop Ralph to their November meeting.

The Bishop told the group a little about himself and about the two Faith and Light communities in Gibraltar who are called, "Upon this Rock," and "Covenant of Love". The Hallamshire group have now made contact with the communities in Gibraltar and hope to exchange news with them in this special anniversary year; Faith and Light was formed 25 years ago in Gibraltar.

CATENIANS DO BATTLE

Twice a year members of Barnsley and Derby Catenians do battle in honour of two late brothers, Austin Jahnsdorf and John Grantham. Austin gave his name to a draughts competition held in Barnsley and John a dominoes event held in Derby.

On previous encounters Barnsley had magnanimously allowed Derby to win but recently the natural order was restored, with Barnsley providing both finalists for the draughts competition.

The proud president of Barnsley, Peter Brannan, seen below on the right, presents the trophy to Andrew Hartley as Peter Worrall, the smiling runner-up, looks on.



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CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOLS

50th Birthday Celebrations at St Joseph's School

2014 has been an eventful year for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Dinnington, as they celebrated their 50th birthday.

School staff said, "We couldn't let this birthday pass without inviting pupils, families, staff and members of our local area (past and present) to enjoy music, food, dancing, games and nostalgia at our school party. It was a beautiful evening and we would like to thank everyone who came along to share memories with us."

"A marvellous celebratory mosaic artwork was created, with the help of artist Andrew Heath. Everyone in our school community helped to piece it together, and it now adorns our entrance corridor."

"The whole school based their enterprise projects around the organisation of further birthday events, and created commemorative items to sell, arranged a school picnic, and hosted an open day for parents. A fashion show saw models of all ages strut their stuff on the catwalk, showcasing the trends of the last 50 years. Our youngest children helped to plant a tree, which was the same species as the one planted when the school opened in 1964, which still bears beautiful blossom in the spring. A watching grandparent had been there as a child when the first tree was planted - what a wonderful thing to share with her grandchild! Finally, our infants thought carefully about creating a time capsule for the school, and this was buried in the school ground for future generations to discover."

"From small beginnings as a temporary school for the children of the local traveller community, the school has grown and now has 200 students from the area, who enjoy being part of our strong Catholic community."



TELLING TALES AT ST JOHN FISHER



Stories of all sorts are being written and told at a Sheffield school where youngsters are busy Telling Tales.

That is the name of an innovative project under way at a group of primary schools in the south east of the city - St John Fisher and Rainbow Forge in Hackenthorpe, Birley, Charnock Hall and Birley Spa.

St John Fisher got into the swing of things with a special day where pupils came dressed as their favourite characters - including Harry Potter, Superman, Dracula and Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz.

Ian Smith, English co-ordinator, said it was not all about writing, as stories were meant to be heard as well.

He said, "Every class in every school is involved and teachers have used different jumping-off points to get the children thinking, such as a magic box filled with interesting artefacts. The best stories from every school will go on to a final at Birley Community College, where they will be judged by a panel including a leading local author. My class is focusing on monster stories inspired by folk tales, which has provoked good work."

Staff working in the primaries are

being encouraged to get involved as well. Frank Barrett, St John Fisher headteacher, said the school was planning to create a gallery to celebrate the children's writing talent.

"It's all about creating excitement around writing and the whole storytelling process." He said, "The idea is each pupil will have their best piece of work on display, and they will be encouraged to replace that work as often as possible."

Pictured above, children at St John Fisher School enjoy dressing up and getting into character.

Photograph courtesy of The Star, Sheffield

CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOLS

St Mary's High School Accolade



Headteacher, Sean McClafferty with members of St Marys School Council

St Mary's Catholic High School in Chesterfield is celebrating its 150th year since its foundation in 1865. A great many celebrations are planned for this year, however the news the school received on Sunday, 23 November has simply reinforced what a special school this is. The Sunday Times has ranked St Mary's Catholic High School in Chesterfield as the 21st most successful comprehensive school in the country. The school was identified as

the best comprehensive school in the East Midlands and 2nd best in South Yorkshire.

Mr McClafferty, the Headteacher said, "The success of our school has been built over a great many years and this accolade is testament to the dedicated individuals who have worked and continue to work at our school." (This ranking was based on 2014 results A*.B grades at A level (double weighted) and GCSE A*/A grades)

Mount St Mary's College Pupils Star on Sheffield Stage

Talented pupils at Spinkhill's Mount St Mary's College took to the stage at the Montgomery Theatre in Sheffield in front of a sold-out crowd to perform the acclaimed musical, West Side Story. The cast performed the story of love and rivalry between two teenage gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. Set in the west side of New York, the show focused on the love story between Tony, former leader of the Jets gang, and Maria, whose brother is the leader of their rivals, the Puerto Rican Sharks.

The cast was led by head boy, Harry Castle, who is no stranger to fame having this summer won the Junior Category of the BBC Proms Inspire Young Composer of the Year. Fellow sixth formers, Natasha Cutts and Lily Francina, shared the part of female lead, Maria. The Mount St Mary's production featured a 17-strong live orchestra which included current and former pupils as well as music department staff.

"It was an amazing show," explained Lucy Kitchener, who is head of music at Mount St Mary's College and the show's musical director. "It was highly energetic with complex scores and an exciting, dramatic and powerful storyline. The story is based in 1950s America but the issues that arise are still as relevant today as ever. I'm extremely proud of the talent."



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ST WILFRID'S CENTRE

Panto Time at St Wilfrid's

The St Wilfrid's drama group recently performed their version of Aladdin to packed audiences at the Mother of God Parish Hall, Sheffield.

Creative Arts Tutor, Rachel Wood wrote and directed the humorous interpretation of the popular panto. Fifteen clients took part in the production and later Director of the Centre, Kevin Bradley commented, "I am very proud of the clients who already face many disadvantages in life. Their performances were first class and they certainly have the X Factor".

A collection was taken at the end of the performances in aid of the Residential project and realised a magnificent £900. Photograph of the cast on the left, courtesy of Sheffield Star Newspapers.

ADMIRATION AWARD PRESENTED

London based charity, Path to Success, visited St Wilfrid's Centre for the homeless and vulnerable to present their 'Admiration Award' to Workshop Tutor, Keith Dewsnap. Keith's story is remarkable as he started attending the Centre as a client having suffered a breakdown. His confidence and self esteem were gradually restored once he started to take

part in our Workshop activities. His gifts in that area quickly became apparent, so much so that he was able to assist other clients. An opportunity of paid part time work became available at the Centre, Keith applied for the post and was successful. He now works 3 days a week as a Skills Workshop Tutor. Keith's past experiences enable him now to help

clients who may be in a similar situation as he used to be. This enables him to empathise and have a better understanding of their problems. Director, Kevin Bradley said, "Keith is a great addition to our team and it just goes to show how anyone can turn their lives around." On the right, Nasim Malhotra from Path to Success presents Keith Dewsnap with the award.



Volunteers Day at the Centre

A day especially for those who help at St Wilfrid's Centre for the homeless and vulnerable was recently held at the Centre. Volunteers Day 2014 consisted of a feedback of the previous year's work given by the Director and other senior members of the team and the day included work-

shops and active participation. A fascinating talk was given on drugs used in mental health by NHS Chief Pharmacist, Peter Pratt.

Eighty volunteers attended (pictured above) and also enjoyed a superb lunch provided by Catering Supervisor, Pamela Corkell and her team.

School Children Collect Food for Local Food Bank

The Children of St Joseph Catholic and Church of England Primary School, Staveley, Chesterfield celebrate Harvest Festival with their Church of England Priest, Fr Stephen Jones (pictured below left) and their Catholic Priest, Fr Craig Fitzpatrick. The food was donated to the local food bank.



Notre Dame Students and Staff Working to Make St Wilfrid's Residential Unit a Reality

Notre Dame Catholic High School continued its annual fund raising in aid of the Bishop's Walk with students determined to beat last year's total.

Deputy Headteacher, Sean Pender, who represented the school on the walk, explained to each year group during assemblies at the beginning of 2014, that with two Bishop's taking part

in this year's walk, outgoing Bishop John and newly arrived Bishop Ralph, Notre Dame had to pull something extra special out of the bag. Throughout September and October form tutors

from each year group have worked with their students on a range of fund raising activities aimed at raising as much money as possible for St Wilfrid's Centre. As Sean Pender pointed

out, the students need little encouragement to support St Wilfrid's. "When I ask in assembly who has never heard of St Wilfrid's Centre, there is barely a hand raised.

"It's a true Sheffield institution and our students are well aware of the invaluable work that goes on there supporting the most vulnerable members of our society. It's a great reference point for us to highlight what faith in action and social justice look like, right on our doorstep." Kevin Bradley, Director of St Wilfrid's Centre, visited a Year 8 assembly to receive a cheque from students for the grand total of £1,740.48. In addition, Sean Pender received sponsorship from staff and members of the school community, raising a further £600. Kevin was keen to thank the students for all their efforts and took time to explain to them the difference such fund raising makes in the lives of so many people who rely on the centre. The whole school community is very excited to think that, with the help of God, before too long, they will be able to point to a brand new residential unit on Queens Road and proudly proclaim that they did their bit to help make Kevin's dream a reality. Pictured on the left, Notre Dame students hand over the schools' fund raising total to St Wilfrid's Centre Director, Kevin Bradley.



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The Crusade of Mary Immaculate

A group of parishioners representing the Crusade of Mary Immaculate at Our Lady of Lourdes, Sheffield made their first visit to the National Centre of the Crusade of Mary Immaculate at All Saints Franciscan Friary in Manchester to join other Crusaders in the first Saturday Mass and Devotion on 4 October. The visit included welcoming refreshments, praying the Rosary together, the celebration of Mass with the beautiful singing of the Philip Neri choir and an opportunity for Confession.

The group met the Franciscan Friars and had a chat with Brother Christopher. Deacon Tony showed us around this beautiful church and described its rich history. There was a variety of Franciscan publications available in the hall for purchase.

The Crusade of Mary Immaculate (MI – Militia Immaculata) is a worldwide Catholic Church movement founded by St Maximilian Kolbe, which promotes personal consecration to Mary. By joining the Crusade, members become willing instruments of Our Lady and work for the Church and salvation of others. The visible sign of that is wearing her Miraculous Medal.

St Maximilian and the History of Militia Immaculata

St Maximilian was born on 8 January, 1894 in the village of Zdunska Wola in Poland and given the name Raymond. His parents taught him to follow the Catholic faith and devotion to Mary, who was formally enthroned by Polish kings of yore as the Queen of their Polish realm. The Kolbe family loved Mary and would sometimes journey on pilgrimage to the national shrine in Czestochowa. One day young Raymond full of enthusiasm vowed to the Blessed Virgin Mary that he would be her faithful subject and offered himself to battle for her cause. Later in life, he would come to understand that God wished this patriotic Marian vow to be transformed by the deep religion consecration. Despite all good examples of daily religious practice, young Raymond was sometimes too cheeky in his behaviour, so his mum was concerned about him and kept asking herself: "Raymond, what will become of you?!" Shortly afterwards, during his praying in Our Lady of Victory Church, Raymond had a mystical experience. He saw the Blessed Virgin Mary offering him two crowns, the white crown of purity and the red crown of martyrdom. With childlike abandon, Raymond accepted both crowns, and from that moment on he changed and wanted to be pure and self-sacrificing. After being ordained a priest, Kolbe began forming

the Crusade prayer groups and publishing a magazine called 'Knight of the Immaculata'. The publishing ministry grew so rapidly that in 1927 he built an evangelisation centre near Warsaw called 'Niepokalanow' – City of the Immaculata. By the time of the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939, the City contained 650 friars and was the largest Catholic religious house in the world. Kolbe utilised the most modern printing and administrative techniques available, enabling him and his friars to publish a daily newspaper and a number of periodicals. The Knight reached a circulation of over 1 million. Niepokalanow became the largest publishing house in Poland, perhaps the world. In his zeal to win the world for the Immaculata, Kolbe, in 1930, established a missionary centre in Japan, and had plans for centres in India and China. He built an airship to better distribute his newspapers, had his own radio station, and had drawn up plans for evangelising through television and films. St Maximilian Kolbe died in a concentration camp in Auschwitz on the eve of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. By giving his life for his fellow prisoner Franciszek Gajowniczek and accepting death by starvation, he gained the red crown promised by Mary – martyrdom. On 14 August, 1941 he was injected with a lethal drug – carbolic acid. On the day of the Assumption his body was cremated. Fr Kolbe was canonised by Pope John Paul II on 10 October, 1982, when he gained the other crown promised by Mary – the white one, symbolising sanctity. Gajowniczek was present at his canonisation.

Militia Immaculata in England

In England, the national centre for the Crusade is based in Manchester, where "The Crusader" magazine is published. Each month "The Crusader" is distributed to more than fifty countries of the world, including several African countries; from Ethiopia to Ghana, to Nigeria, Zambia and South Africa; from as far away as New Zealand to as close to home as Ireland; to the United States and Canada; to Brazil, Jordan and Japan, India and Sri Lanka.

The aim of the Crusade of Mary Immaculate, according to St Maximilian, is "to conquer the whole world, all hearts and each individual soul for the Queen of Heaven and earth" and "to win for God as many souls as possible".

How to Enrol in Militia Immaculata

If you want to enrol, select the date on which you want your name recorded in the official register of the Militia Immaculata, preferably a Marian feast

day, and on the day of your enrolment recite the official act of consecration. Then, complete the enrolment application and post to National Crusade Centre, Redclyffe Road, Urmston, Manchester, M41 7LG, UK. The Brothers will send you your membership booklet, your certificate, prayers and Miraculous Medal free of charge. As a Crusader of Mary Immaculate, you will be included in all the special graces and indulgences awarded by the Church to the Crusade. As a visible sign, you need to wear the Miraculous Medal of Mary Immaculate. The medal owes its origins to the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Paris in 1830. She appeared to Catherine Labouré, showing the young nun and future saint the design of the medal and promised untold graces given to those who wear it.

More information can be found on www.mi-sheffield.com. You can also follow the Crusade on Facebook: www.facebook.com/crusadeofmaryimmaculate.sheffield. The local Militia Immaculata centre at Our Lady of Lourdes has Bishop Ralph's blessing to promote the work of St Maximilian in the diocese.



Brother Christopher and Deacon Tony with the Crusaders from Our Lady of Lourdes at the statue of St Maximilian Kolbe

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