

Hallam News

FEBRUARY 2015

No. 301

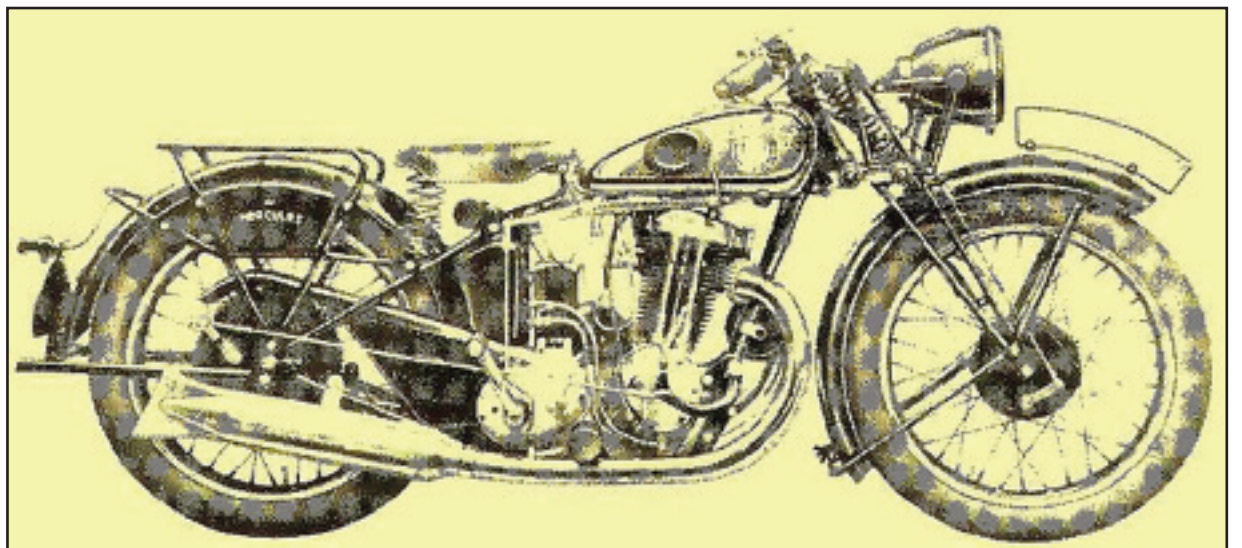
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RIP FR REGINALD BESSLER




.... a priest of whom it was said, "His inner child never truly died" and, "He gave glory to God by being fully alive."
During the course of his long life he enjoyed painting, books, travel, food, cars, motorbikes and Speedway racing.
On page 5 read extracts from the homily Fr Mark McManus delivered at Fr Bessler's funeral.




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What's on in February

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Deadline for articles for next issue of the <i>Hallam News</i> . | 11 | Irish Tea Dance with live music, 1-3.30pm. Everyone welcome. FOR DETAILS OF THE NEW VENUE please contact Gerry from the Sheffield Irish Association, tel: 0114 2618788, mobile 07544979686. |
| 10 | Sheffield Branch Walsingham Association serves refreshments after 12.45pm Mass at St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield. | | |
| 11 | Chesterfield Bereavement Support Group Drop-in/coffee morning, 10.30am-12noon, The Annunciation Centre, Chesterfield. | 24 | Sheffield Branch Walsingham Association serves refreshments after 12.45pm Mass at St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield. |

Hallam Cursillo Event 2015 will take place at the Retreat Centre in Crich, Derbyshire from 28-31 May. For more details please contact Terry Mortimer on 01246 590058 or mortimer504@btinternet.com.

Catenians and Clergy Advent Lunch

Barnsley Catenian president, Peter Brannan, pictured below on the left, was delighted to welcome a trio of clergy to the Circle's Family and Clergy lunch held at Shaw Lane, Barnsley during Advent.

Fr Terry Boyle, second left, is Peter's own parish priest but the Circle were equally happy to greet Fr Denis Norman, second right, whose parish is in Doncaster but he is a Barnsley lad. The third priest, Fr Martin Stone, was recently appointed as parish priest to Corpus Christi parish in the Dearne Valley.



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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:

- 1 Our Lady and St Thomas, Sheffield.
- 8 St Hugh, Chesterfield.
- 15 St Joseph, Rawmarsh.
- 22 Christ the King, Rossington.

HALLAM ASCENT GROUP

Hallam Ascent Group is part of an international movement within the Catholic Church. Ascent is aimed at those in the second half of life, men and women who are over fifty, retired or preparing to retire. The movement is based on the three strands of Friendship, Spirituality and Mission. Each group develops these basic themes according to the interests of the Group members. Here is the 2015 Programme for Hallam Ascent.

Venue: St Francis of Assisi Church Hall, Sandygate Road, Sheffield, S10 5SD.

Meeting: First Wednesday of the month

Time: 1.45—3.45pm

Hallam ASCENT Committee

Leader: Veronica, 0114 2306797

Treasurer: Helen, 0114 2364683

Website: John, 0114 2307768

Other: Michael, 0114 2304633

Alternatively, email: ascent@jngreen.plus.com and check our website: <http://hallamascent.weebly.com> which is frequently updated.

PROGRAMME 2015

5 February Fr Colum Kelly - Apostleship Of The Sea. Please bring sweaters, hats, gloves, socks, toiletries, chocolates and other treats.

18 February Ash Wednesday Soup and Cheese Lunch after Noon Mass. Fundraising for Apostleship Of The Sea.

4 March Stations Of The Cross at St Michael's Church, Rivelin, followed by cup of tea at Rivelin Café.

1 April Bring your sandwiches (and hot cross bun) for a post Chrism Mass (11am at the Cathedral) Social.

6 May Northern Retreat Day at York. Details nearer the time.

3 June Fr Lee Marshall - My First Year As A Priest

1 July Retreat Day at Immingham Docks - Fr Colum Kelly, Apostleship Of The Sea.

5 August Cream Tea Social with Prize Tombola.

3 September Deacon Stephen Parker - Hospital Chaplaincy.

7 October Dominic Baster - Why I Became a Catholic.

4 November Lisa Markham - Hurt By Abuse.

25 November Annual Ascent Lunch.

2 December Matthew Hazell - The O Antiphons.

Social events, usually mid-month, on a Wednesday or Thursday, to include a pub lunch, walk, theatre visit etc, are planned nearer the time of the event.

Please note: All programme items are subject to change - any updates will be on our website, <http://hallamascent.weebly.com/>.

Subscriptions are due in January each year. Current rates £10 single or £15 for a couple.

Prayer of The ASCENT Movement

O Divine Trinity, we are the senior members of your Church. Increase in us Faith, Hope and Charity that YOU may:

Reveal your love to children — through our kindness

Give your encouragement to the young — through our understanding

Give your help to adults — through our readiness to serve

Give your peace to fellow elderly — through our serenity

Give new confidence to the sick — through our concern

Show your support to the downtrodden — through our friendship

We thank you for counting on us to be the witnesses of your wisdom

and tender love in today's world.

Through Mary and our friends in heaven we surrender ourselves to your love.

While awaiting the blessed day when you will lavish happiness upon us,

we offer you our lives for your Glory and for the Salvation of the world,

you who love us now and forever. Amen.

Menswear Wanted!

If you received new sweaters, hats, gloves or scarves this Christmas, please consider giving your old ones, or ones you don't like, to the Apostleship Of The Sea.

Hallam Ascent are collecting them, plus toiletries, sweets and chocolates, as well as money, and will be handing them over to Apostleship Of The Sea Chaplain, Fr Colum Kelly, at their February meeting (details above). Please contact Veronica Sowerby, 0114 2306797 or John Green, 0114 2307768.

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Big Thank You Celebration

It was a 'Big Thank You' celebration day at St Marie's Cathedral on 29 November. The Parish Pastoral Council and Fr Chris Posluszny hosted a special event for all volunteers who had contributed in any way to the running of the Parish during the past year. The event commenced with a special thanksgiving Mass which brought the year to a close and during which thanks were offered for the many talents and gifts of time that had been generously given to the running of the parish. The Mass was followed by a joyously festive meal in the Houlden Hall. The

feast of many different dishes was very much appreciated by the volunteers. The tables had been decorated with symbols representing the various activities that volunteers had engaged in during the year – such as flower decorating, altar serving, making teas and coffee, reading the scriptures and singing in the choir and music group. Parishioners were honoured that Bishop Ralph shared this event with them and were pleased to hear that this celebration of volunteering is to become an annual event. Pictured opposite and below, the celebration is enjoyed in the Houlden Hall.



Photographs courtesy of Jose Solis Cordova



FUNDRAISING CONCERT AT HOLY ROOD



Peter Brannan presents the cheque to Fr Terry Boyle

Barnsley Catenians and Holy Rood church choir recently organised a concert by Voce. At the concert, Barnsley Catenian president, Peter Brannan presented Fr Boyle with a cheque for £1000 towards Holy Rood church restoration. This project was one of Peter's charities for his year in office and his fund to help his other charities received a boost of £215 from the evening.



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CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOLS

150th Anniversary at St Mary's Catholic High School, Chesterfield

The happiest days of our lives are said to be our school days and readers may be hard pushed to disagree as they marvel over 150 years of educational anecdotes and pictures in a fabulous new book.

One of the Diocese's most successful schools is celebrating its 150th anniversary with the launch of a book charting its proud history in such a way as to evoke classroom memories for many generations.

The book entitled *St Marys' Catholic High School, Chesterfield – Celebrating 150 Years* has been written by Leonie Martin, who used to be a bursar at the school, and it was launched at Chesterfield Library on Saturday, 3 January. She said, "This book will appeal to a wide audience. It's not just about Catholic education in Chesterfield. It's also a social history. From the log-books and other original sources we have been bequeathed, it offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse of our community through the decades."

From its humble origins in Spencer Street and Cross Street to its present day at Upper Newbold, the book tells a story through its Headteachers, staff and school records with over 300 photographs.

Current Headteacher, Sean McClafferty said, "It's amazing. I feel privileged to be a part of St Mary's and to be part of such a deep, fascinating history."

The school which boasts an outstanding Ofsted rating was considered many years ago as undesirable. One former Headteacher between 1968 and 1992 recalls how he received calls asking if he had any idea of how rotten the school was and parents would only consider St Mary's if results improved.

But there are no such concerns today after the school was ranked among the country's best comprehensives in a Sunday Times' survey.



Students from St Mary's Catholic High School at the launch of the anniversary book



St Mary's Catholic High School, Chesterfield



St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Cross Street, Chesterfield

Profits from the £15.99 book will go to Ashgate Hospice and to St Mary's Burkina Faso school in Africa.

It is available from the school and Chesterfield Football Club's shop.

Those with stories and pictures about the school are urged to email 150th@stmaryschesterfield.org.uk.

To find out more visit www.st-maryshigh.derbyshire.scho.uk/150th-anniversary.

FR REGINALD BESSLER RIP Homily at the Funeral Mass delivered by Fr Mark McManus

We are here to offer the Holy Mass; to make Thanksgiving. In offering to our loving Father the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ, we seek today to give particular thanks for the life of a much-loved priest, Fr Reginald D Bessler.

Today, 17 December, marks the beginning of the second part of the Advent season. The part where we assert Christ's future coming in glory by beginning to focus upon his first coming to us in his Incarnation. In coming into existence as God-Man, Jesus entered our world of time and space, of flesh and the senses. In meditating upon this truth one of the early Christian Fathers, St Irenaeus, proclaimed that people may truly give glory to God only by being fully alive, Gloria Dei homo vivens.

Fully alive is how I think of Fr Bessler. His inner-child never truly died. Even when he reached ninety years he proclaimed he still felt fourteen inside. Indeed, when he left this parish (The Immaculate Conception, Herringthorpe) in 1999 at the age of seventy-seven to take up, what he called 'retirement with ministry', he treated himself to a low-slung, two-door sports coupe and enrolled himself on a course

for home computing so that he might not only conquer the road but the information super-highway also.

In the aftermath of World War One the Besslers were a very modern looking European family with Franco-German-Irish roots. Born in Sheffield on 27 July, 1922, to William and Edith Bessler, the young Reg, along with his older sister Marie-Antoinette, enjoyed a happy childhood. He always expressed a deep and abiding gratitude for his parents, the upbringing they had given him and for the family life that he and his sister shared. His sense of family remained very important to him and he remained close to members of his family, visiting them in Cheshire, London, Berlin, Paris and the Bahamas. He was proud of his family and their achievements.

At the age of six he was taken to see the Speedway at Owlerton Stadium, Hillsborough, and he never looked back. He discovered a lifelong passion for motor bikes and motor cars that endured until the end. When he left De La Salle School at fourteen he went to work on the bikes at Owlerton as an apprentice electrical-mechanic.

His Catholic upbringing stirred his soul and even as he worked on his



Fr Reginald Bessler

motor-bikes at Owlerton the young teenager heard the Lord call to him and invite him to follow him in service of his holy people.

He was ordained a priest at St Anne's Cathedral, Leeds on 24 April, 1949 and served many parishes in the Leeds Diocese and the Diocese of Hallam.

There are not so many now who can remember him as anything other than as a priest. This is surely appropriate for he was above all else Fr Bessler, a priest of the Church. His fervour in proclaiming the Gospel and celebrating the Sacraments are well known to

us. So too his good example and gentle, dignified service. Following his retirement he lived for another fifteen years. Twelve of those years were spent at The Annunciation, Chesterfield but he also lived at St Anne's Residential Home, Burghwallis, before finally returning to his native city at The Mother of God parish. To the end he remained what he was: a good and faithful priest, still able to help and inspire others.

The full text of the homily is available on the Hallam News website, www.hallamnews.com.

Young Geography Teacher of the Year



The McAuley Catholic High School, Doncaster is celebrating after a member of their staff won an important award. Rebecca Quigley was identified as the Rex Walford Young Geography Teacher of the year. This is a very prestigious accolade that involved Miss Quigley preparing and submitting a sequence of lessons to be used to teach students nationwide on a theme considering 'How Geography could help you'. Miss Quigley is now a fellow of the

Royal Geographical Society, joining an illustrious list of geographers.

A representative of McAuley School said, "As a geography department and a whole school community we are very proud of her excellent achievement. We hope this will inspire our budding student geographers to participate in the 2015 'Young Geographer of the Year' competition."

Pictured above: Miss Rebecca Quigley was presented with her award by Wendy Walford (left) and Nick Crane, presenter of the BBC Coast series.

NOTRE DAME REUNION ~ The year who started in 1966 and finished in 1971 (O levels) or 1973 (A levels) are having a reunion on Saturday, 28 February. This will include a visit to the school in the afternoon, Mass at St Marie's Cathedral at 5.30pm and a meal in central Sheffield in the evening. For more details contact Evleen Towey, evleen1@aol.com or Martina Pickin, martina.pickin@ntlworld.com.



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CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOLS



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School Celebrates Forty Years on Firshill Crescent

Towards the end of last year, St Catherine's Catholic Primary School celebrated forty years of the school on Firshill Crescent providing high quality education for the local community.

Headteacher, Fiona Rigby said, "All Catholic Schools have changed and developed over those forty years and St Catherine's is no different. Ours is a vibrant, diverse and outstanding Catholic Primary School. Staff and Governors have responded positively to the changes in our community; brave decisions have been made, al-

ways in the interests of The Common Good and guided by Gospel values. We are proud of our school and all that it has achieved and we really do look forward to the next forty years and supporting hundreds more children and their families.

"The Mass was a celebration of all that has gone before us, the work of so many who fought for the school to be built and then worked tirelessly to make sure it was successful. It was also a celebration of all that is so good now and all the potential that we see for the future, for all children we are able to welcome into our school regard-

less of ability, race or religion.

"Bishop Ralph came along to lead our celebrations. He was assisted by Fr Albert Savaille and a number of children who read, sang and undertook other tasks in Mass. Bishop Ralph congratulated the children on their behaviour, ability to proclaim the word and the real sense of dignity and spirituality they brought to the celebration. During Mass Bishop Ralph blessed our new altar.

"The altar was designed by artist Jason Thompson as a mark of our forty years. It has been designed to match the children's lectern that we had

made for the official "new" school opening. It is beautiful.

"We were joined in our celebrations by a number of retired staff and governors, including two previous headteachers! Refreshments were served after Mass, the cakes and cookies were lovely and all prepared by our children.

"A great day was had by all!"

Above: Bishop Ralph anoints and blesses the new altar, with Fr Albert Savaille. Below: Children take part in the Liturgy, placing candles on the new altar, and members of staff process to receive Holy Communion.



Visitors from Zambia

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Dinnington, were visited by two teachers from Zambia, Mr Patrick Kitakwa and Mrs Phyllis Mukosai, (pictured on the right with members of St Joseph's staff), who spent a week with the school, working in classrooms and sharing their experiences and knowledge with the children.

During the week, Patrick and Phyllis joined Breakfast Club, met an Anglo-Saxon visitor in Class 4, and saw a school full of superheroes during Children in Need day. Out of school hours, they met teachers from other schools, and had the chance to see a little of South Yorkshire.

Each class at St Joseph's studied an aspect of Zambia, and presented their work at a special assembly on Friday, 14 November, where they said "Good Bye" to Mr Kitakwa and Mrs Mukosai. The children sang the Zambian National Anthem and "God Save The Queen".

Pictures of their work can be seen on the school website: www.stjosephs-dinnington.co.uk.

In June 2015, two of the staff from St Joseph's, Mrs Schofield and Miss Powell, will visit Zambia and meet the children at St Joseph's in Kalulushi.



In these early months of 2015, we await Pope Francis' encyclical on creation and the environment. So we share CAFOD's 'One Climate, One World' prayers of intercession.

We pray for the world we live in: that God may open our eyes to recognise the goodness of all creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift that we have been given.

We pray for world leaders: that God may grant them wisdom to make just decisions which respect the earth and all that lives in it, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable.

We pray for people who are struggling to grow their crops, who are hungry or thirsty, who cannot meet their needs because of droughts, floods or other extreme weather: that God may strengthen and support them and that they may have reason to look with hope to the future.

We pray for our local community:



that through God's grace we may be good neighbours to each other and to the whole of creation, restoring and caring for all that God has made.

Creator God,
You show us what love is
Through the beauty
of the earth
and the gift of your Son.

For the love of ...
Animal and plant
Mountain and forest
Sea and city
Woman and man
Friend and family
Those who live far from us
and those yet to be born

Move us to live more simply,
to protect the earth
and to speak up
for those in need.

Amen



I dream of a world
filled with peace and harmony
where humans and creation
really live as one,
where the sun of justice shines
on all the children of the
Creator Father and Mother Earth.

I dream of a world
where there are no exploiters
and exploited,
no slaves and masters,
no very rich and very poor,
no oppressors and oppressed.

I dream of a world where the
richness of forests,
the fresh air, fields and rivers
can, with humanity, live life to the
full and praise God the creator.

I dream of a world where the
reign of God
would also be a reign of justice
and peace and love
for the whole of creation.

If we all dream
The dream will become a reality...



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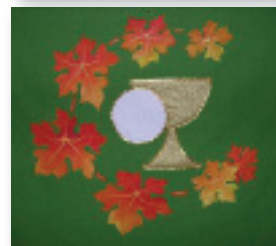
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LOOKING BACK AT CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE DIOCESE



Children from St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Sheffield Lane Top, celebrated Christmas by singing carols outside the local shops (above left). It was really cold but the children and parents really enjoyed it, as well as the customers. Each year the school organises a special Christmas celebration for grandparents when children from Year 6 serve them tea and coffee and look after them for the afternoon, pictured above right. Below, children take part in the Christingle Service held in St Patrick's Church next door to the school.



'The Best Party in Town' was how the leader of Sheffield City Council, Julie Dore described the Christmas Party at St Wilfrid's Centre for the homeless and vulnerable. Julie went on to say that of all the events that she has to attend throughout the year, with various dignitaries, this was the one that she most enjoyed. The annual Christmas Dinner for clients, pictured on the right, was also attended by Bishop Ralph, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Councillor Peter Rippon and his wife Sue, Nigel Clough, players and vice presidents from Sheffield United Football Club, to name but a few. The Christmas Dinner and all the trimmings were provided by Claremont Hospital and the entertainment performed by the staff team at St Wilf's. Santa Claus was also on hand to give out a present to each of the clients. The event concluded with a rendition of 'You will never walk alone'; this once again proved that there really is 'Only One St Wilfrid's Centre'.



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Local Homeless Centre on the Road to Success Thanks to Sheffield Car Dealer

Sheffield dealership and service centre Mike Brewer Motors helps spread some Christmas cheer by donating over £8,000 to St Wilfrid's Centre.

The Centre, who have been supporting the homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded of Sheffield for the last 24 years, were delighted with the donation, from Bramall Lane neighbours Mike Brewer Motors. TV presenter, Mike Brewer was in America, filming the next season of *Wheeler Dealers*; so colleague John Tustin was on hand to deliver the cheque.

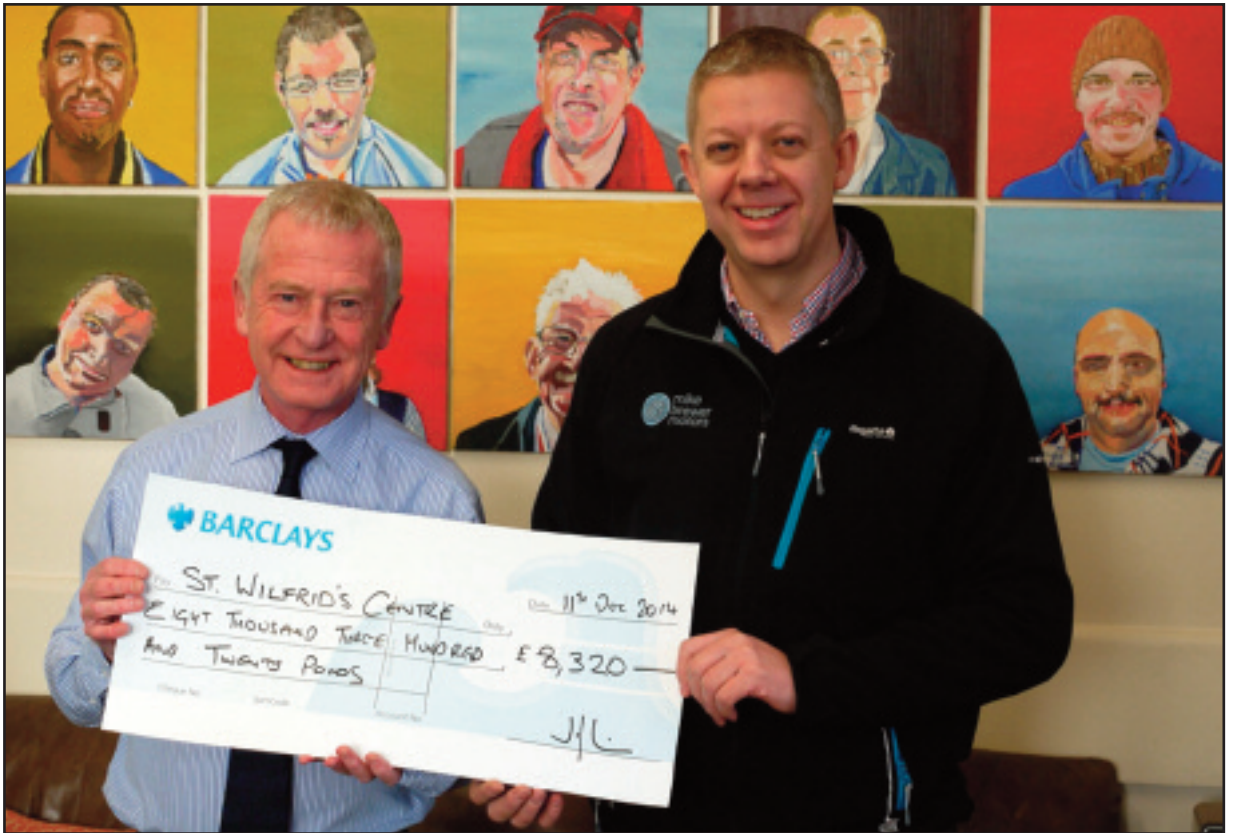
He said, "This is the first time we have been able to make such a sizeable donation, and we were keen to donate to a charity that works locally. When we visited, we were amazed at the amount of help they provide to those who need it, and all without any government funding. The fact that they

are continuing to look for ways to do more is inspirational. We're very proud to help - especially at this time of year - a charity that not only provides such great services, but does so from right across the street from our site!"

Kevin Bradley, Director at St Wilfrid's Centre added, "It is fantastic to be chosen to receive such a valuable donation, and we are very grateful to Mike Brewer Motors. This money will enable us to improve the services that we offer to vulnerable people in Sheffield."

If you would like to donate to St Wilfrid's Centre, please visit the website www.stwilfridscentre.org or donate at www.justgiving.com/stwilfridscentre.

Our photograph shows St Wilfrid's Centre Director, Kevin Bradley, (left) accepting the cheque from Mike Brewer Motors' Manager, John Tustin.

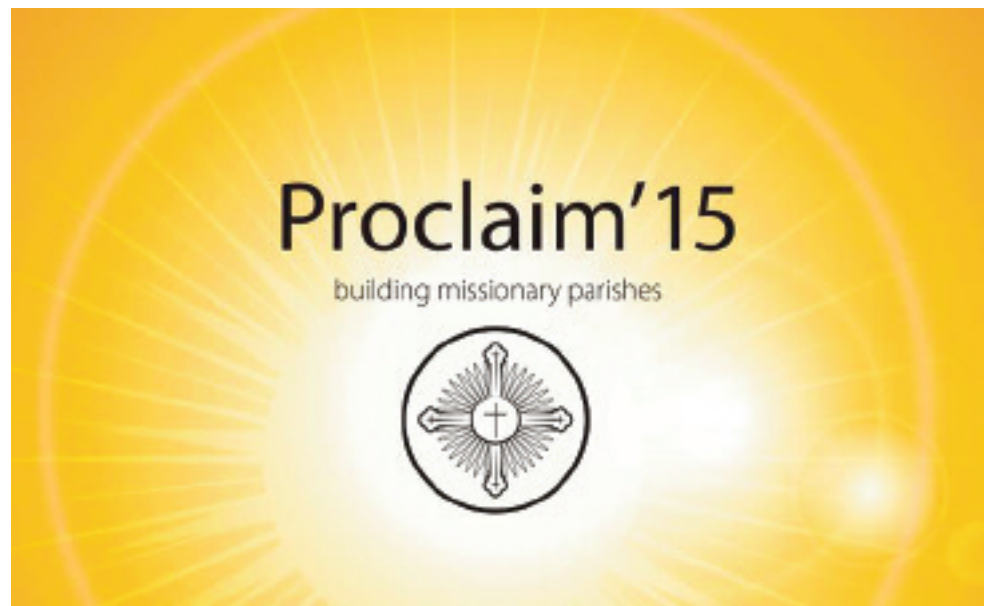


Westbourne School and Wilfrid Bear

When St Wilfrid's Centre for the homeless and vulnerable recently received a donation specifically for a life-size mascot, the problem was not what to call it, but what it should look like.

Development Manager, Deb Leonard immediately contacted Westbourne School in Sheffield, who the Centre had been working with, and asked them to get pupils to put in their designs.

The pupils submitted their entries, which were judged by Director, Kevin Bradley and he went along to present the award at their Christmas Assembly to winner, Year 3 pupil Elizabeth Goodfellow. Kevin also presented a plaque and a voucher for the Centre's shop to make an individualised clock of her choice.



Holy Island Welcomes "Even Sparrows"

A unique series of Christian retreats are being launched in 2015 in Northumberland. 'Even Sparrows' weekends start on Holy Island from 6 March and 8 May, and they involve the unusual combination of worship, biblical reflection and birdwatching. They take their name from the teaching of Jesus who told his followers that God loves even sparrows.

Organiser, Mark Winter says, "Each weekend will be a highly enjoyable mix of reflections on birds found in the Bible, Celtic Christian worship and guided birdwatching walks around Holy Island. We hope these enriching weekends will help introduce Christians to the joys of birdwatching and develop an appreciation of what Christian writer, John Stott has termed as 'orni-theology'."

The first weekend retreat on 6-8

March focuses on Owls, since short eared Owls are a wintering speciality of the island.

The second weekend on 8-10 May focuses on Doves - held at a time when breeding Collared Doves and Woodpigeons are seen and heard around Holy Island village. More details of both weekends can be found at <http://www.even-sparrows.co.uk>.

Mark Winter has been a birdwatcher in Northumberland for over 30 years. He is an active member of his local church in Northumberland and has led retreats that appealed to Catholics and other Christians alike. 'Even Sparrows' is a new development of his guided birdwatching business, Birdwatch Northumbria. For more information contact Mark on 07594 592684 or 01670 787028, email: evensparrows@gmail.com.



Birdwatching on Holy Island

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, is inviting Catholic dioceses, parishes and groups across England and Wales to support a Pope Francis-inspired outreach initiative. Speaking to coincide with the national distribution of information about the project titled Proclaim '15, Cardinal Nichols said, "This pioneering initiative 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 don't let this opportunity pass you by."

Proclaim '15 aims to support, inspire and encourage new expressions of parish evangelisation involving all 22 of the Catholic dioceses across our countries, as well as the Bishopric of The Forces and the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. Cardinal Nichols added, "Proclaim '15 has a practical and 'how to' focus because while there is enthusiasm within the Catholic community to share confidently and joyfully our Faith, it can at times be hard to discern where to begin. This initiative aims to address that difficulty and is inspired by Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, in which he writes: 'I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come.'" There are five parts to Proclaim '15

which include: the provision of small group materials for parishes (published in January); the resourcing of prayer vigils for the evening of 11 July 2015; the organisation of a National Catholic Evangelisation Conference in Birmingham on 11 July; the creation of templates to encourage the organisation of local Proclaim '15 events; the collation of New Evangelisation resources as a fruit of the National Conference.

Rt Rev Mark O'Toole, Chair of the Bishops' national Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis, said, "Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium* offers us a blueprint for Catholic evangelisation. We are invited to give our encounter with Jesus Christ simple, but radical and creative, expression in our local communities. Proclaim '15 aims to support and encourage as many parishes as possible to take new steps in service of this mission. It is being offered in partnership with generous co-workers in Catholic Dioceses across England and Wales and has a wholly practical focus. A specific step that is being encouraged is the development of dedicated parish evangelisation teams. Please do get involved in the variety of ways that are being proposed."

A booklet summarising the initiative is available for download, along with the Cardinal's letter, from: www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15. Parish small group materials were published online in January, with prayer vigil resources and event templates to be made available in Spring.

“Immaculata” Children’s Group at Our Lady of Lourdes, Sheffield

“Immaculata”, the name is in honour of Mary Immaculate, is a Children’s Group at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Sheffield. The group sings and leads liturgy during Children’s Mass, which is every third Sunday of the month (except Summer Holidays) at 10.30. This is what the group has been up to throughout 2014. On Monday, 21 April 2014, the children from “Immaculata” recorded their first CD in Red Tape Studio in Sheffield called “Lord, it’s me”. The

songs were especially written and composed for the Canonisation of John Paul II and John XXIII. It was a wonderful experience and everybody enjoyed it a great deal. “Immaculata” also organised a concert on 27 April 2014, Divine Mercy Sunday, to celebrate this special Feast of God’s Mercy and in honour of the two new Saints. On 21 December 2014 the Group prepared a beautiful Advent Children’s Mass and after the Mass gave a Christmas Carol Concert. The per-



“Immaculata” Children’s Group with their Parish Priest, Fr Paul O’Hara



“Immaculata” Children’s Group performing during the Carol Concert

formance included, “Come and Join the Celebration”, “Little Jesus”, “The Little Drummer Boy”, “Little Donkey” and “Holy Night”. The atmosphere was great and the children performed so well. They were all thanked for their hard work and dedication. “Immaculata” also had the pleasure of taking part in a traditional Anglican Service of Nine Lessons and Carols led by the Mike Robinson Ecumenical

Choir on 22 December. “Immaculata” is looking forward to the next step of their work in the New Year and welcomes everybody who wants to join the Group. If you want to sing with us and follow our motto “Love Jesus and Mary more and more”, just come or contact us at crusade.sheffield@gmail.com. You can find us on: www.mi-sheffield.com/immaculata.



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Venerable Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters

The foundress of the Presentation Sisters was known as “the Lady of the Lantern” in 18th century Cork, Ireland. At great personal risk, she opened several schools in Cork and after her work in her schools, she walked the streets of Cork visiting the homes of the poor. She carried a lantern to light her way.

Nano Nagle was born Honora Nagle in Ballygriffin in Cork in 1718, a turbulent time in Irish history due to the Penal Laws. The Nagle family was a wealthy Catholic family and Nano had the benefit of a European education and privileged lifestyle. She devoted her life to God and to working with people on the margins of society. Her mission of educating the poor began in a ‘little school’ in Cove Lane in Cork in 1754. In setting up schools in defiance of the established colonial order she sided with those made poor and challenged the institutional injustice that perpetuated marginalisation and poverty. Nano responded to the needs of her time and developed an educational curriculum suitable to the individual capabilities of her students. Hers was a global vision as in 1769 she wrote to a friend, “For I can assure you my schools are beginning to be of service in a great many parts of the world.” Nano’s famous words are, “If I could be

of service in saving souls, in any part of the globe, I would be willing to do all in my power.”

In 1775, she gathered a small group of women around her and founded the Presentation Sisters on Christmas Eve

which has become a place of prayer and pilgrimage in her honour.

The Presentation Sisters can be found in the five continents working with those made poor and enabling them to secure a better standard of living for

To this day Presentation Sisters and Friends of Nano remain committed to working with those most in need through a broad range of ministries. Those ministries include spirituality, faith development, chaplaincies, life-long learning and innovation, social finance, social inclusion, outreach, human rights and justice, ecology and sustainable living and healthcare projects.

On 31 October, 2013, Pope Francis proclaimed Nano Nagle, Venerable, “The Universal Church has recognised Nano, as a woman of faith, hope and heroic virtue, whose vision and work transformed the lives of so many. For our Sisters, Associates and Friends of Nano throughout the world, Nano has been and continues to be a source of inspiration and challenge, as we respond to the needs of today, in fidelity to the Gospel and in the spirit of Nano.”

The Presentation Sisters came to Manchester in 1836, from Clonmel, County Tipperary, Ireland.

To-day we minister all over England. In the Diocese of Hallam, we can be found in Holy Family Parish, Sheffield and ministering in St Mary’s Catholic Primary School and St Mary’s Catholic High School in Chesterfield.

For more information, visit www.presentationistersunion.org.



1775, the culmination of twenty years of a life of devotion to the cause of improving the circumstances of others. She died in Cork in 1784 and is buried in the grounds of South Presentation Convent in Cork city, in a location

themselves, their families and their communities. The Sisters teach, nurse, engage in development work, visit the sick, comfort those who are struggling, work at the United Nations for a better deal for those made poor.

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