

Hallam News

January 2016

No. 312

FREE

Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to All Our Readers

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Everyone at St Wilfrid's was delighted to welcome the Papal Nuncio to Great Britain, Archbishop Antonio Mennini, who visited the Centre alongside his Secretary, Monsignor Vincent Brady.

To complete the auspicious group they were also privileged to have with them Bishop Ralph and the founder of St Wilfrid's Centre, Monsignor William Kilgannon.

The Archbishop really enjoyed his visit and chatted freely with clients, enjoying a good laugh along the way. During a rendition of the 'Greasy Chip Butty Song' sung by the Centre's Sheffield United contingent, his Excellency was given the words and enthusiastically joined in.

However, just for the record the Archbishop is a Roma supporter.

The Archbishop enjoyed tea and freshly made scones, baked by the clients, and left very much inspired by the work of St Wilfrid's Centre.

Pictured above from rear, Mgr William Kilgannon, Mgr Vincent Brady, Bishop Ralph, Kevin Bradley with the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Antonio Mennini during a tour of St Wilfrid's Centre. Archbishop Mennini is also pictured along with the other guests with staff, volunteers and clients at St Wilfrid's Centre.

Photographs courtesy of The Sheffield Star.



Honoured Guests at St Wilfrid's



Read more about St Wilfrid's on page 7, and read about the Papal Nuncio's visit to the Furniture Store in Sheffield on page 3.

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What's on in January

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| 1 | Deadline for articles for next issue of the <i>Hallam News</i> . | Support Group Drop-in/coffee morning, 10.30am-12noon, The Annunciation Centre, Chesterfield. |
| 2 | Hallam Ascent Group meet at the Assisi Hall, St Francis of Assisi, 277 Sandygate Road, Sheffield, S10 5SD, 1.45-3.45pm, for Epiphany Carols, Readings, Prayers and Party, with a presentation by Loraine Healy about the Furniture Store, Ascent's charity for this year. For more details telephone 0114 2306797 or 0114 2304633, ascent@jngreen.plus.com, or visit the website: http://hallascent.weebly.com . | 9 Irish Tea Dance at the Philadelphia Club, Martin Street, Upperthorpe, Sheffield, S6 3DP, 1-3pm with live music. For more details please contact Gerry on 0114 2618788 or 07544979686. |
| 8 | Sheffield Branch Walsingham Association serves refreshments after 12.45pm Mass at St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield. | 11 Ordinariate Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, Spring Water Avenue, Hackenthorpe, S12 4HJ, setting by John Merbecke. Lunch to follow at the Phoenix Inn, Ridgeway, S12 3XF. Everyone welcome. |
| 9 | Chesterfield Bereavement | 22 Sheffield Branch Walsingham Association serves refreshments after 12.45pm Mass at St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield. |

Getting Married in 2016?

Two day Marriage Preparation Course delivered by trained volunteer presenters, Bill and Laraine Henderson on **16 and 23 January**, 9.30am – 1.30pm, at St Peter-in-Chains, Chequer Road, Doncaster, DN1 2AA. Attendance at both days is required to complete the course which will look at communication, transitions, conflict management, family patterns, sex and sexuality, parenting and how to live our wedding day promises.

Booking is essential. Please contact Bill and Laraine on 01302 533 926.

Hallam News is the monthly newspaper of the Diocese of Hallam
Editor: Marian Bolton. **Address:** Hallam News, Hallam Pastoral Centre, St Charles Street, Sheffield, S9 3WU. **Telephone:** 0114 2566406. **Fax:** 0114 2562673. **E-mail:** hallamnews@hallam-diocese.com. **Website:** www.hallam-news.com. **Publication:** fourth Sunday of the month dated for the following month. **Publishers:** CathCom Ltd.

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:

- 3 St Mary, Herringthorpe.
- 10 Blessed English Martyrs, Askern.
- 17 St Helen, Oldcotes.
- 24 Mother of God and St Wilfrid, Sheffield.
- 31 St Patrick, Harworth.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2016

Booking forms are now available for the 2016 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The fare has been held at the 2015 level of £625 (or £599 where pilgrims have their own travel insurance policy) departing from, and returning to, Doncaster Sheffield Airport, including 5 nights' full board accommodation.

The pilgrimage dates are Sunday, 26 June to Friday, 1 July.

Pilgrimages have a special place in this Jubilee Year of Mercy pilgrimage, and the theme of the 2016 Pilgrimage is "Merciful Like the Father". Demand is expected to be high and an additional aircraft is available to meet that demand, if numbers are sufficient, so pilgrims are encouraged to book as early as possible to secure their place. Fr Pat O'Connor, Pilgrimage Director, says, "I would like to invite parishioners across the Diocese to consider joining the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2016. That might be as someone who needs some form of help and support during the pilgrimage, as a helper, or as a pilgrim in this Holy Year of Mercy. I would particularly like to encourage volunteer helpers to travel in order to give physical help to

other pilgrims who may require some form of assistance, but everyone is very welcome indeed to join the pilgrimage – we go on pilgrimage together, serving one another in so many different ways. There are various ways in which helpers travel to support other pilgrims. This includes the medical support from doctors and nurses but also assistance provided by volunteers who simply wish to help others on the pilgrimage, are reasonably healthy, and undertake/hold a DBS check by the Diocese. As Bishop Ralph commented recently at our Lourdes Reunion Mass, 'our experiences on the Pilgrimage this year revealed the extraordinary actions of God in the ordinary stuff of everyday life, in the laughter shared, the conversations over meals, and the help given to one another'.

For further details about travelling on the pilgrimage, or about volunteering as a helper, please contact Rose Shay on 07724 650 066 (Tuesdays and Wednesdays or other weekdays after 6.30pm), or Fr Pat O'Connor on 01302 853937 or e-mail hallamlourdepilgrimage@gmail.com.



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DIOCESE OF HALLAM

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Led by: Rt Rev Ralph Heskett

Monday 7th March
to
Monday 14th March

TANGNEY TOURS

Pilgrimage will include visits to all major religious sites.
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 Joe McNally - Tel: 0114 230 4070
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PAPAL NUNCIO VISITS FURNITURE STORE



On Friday, 20 November, during his visit to the Diocese, the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Antonio Mennini popped into St Vincent's Furniture Store, Sheffield accompanied by Bishop Ralph, Mgr Kilgannon and Mgr Vincent Brady. During his short time at the Store he spoke to all the volunteers and staff and was also given a guided tour of the Store. Archbishop Mennini was impressed

with the fantastic work that is carried out at St Vincent's and was also impressed with the amount and quality of furniture that is given to the vulnerable and marginalised.

He told everyone to keep up the good work.

Pictured above are, left to right, Archbishop Mennini, Bishop Ralph, Lorraine Healy, Mgr Vincent Brady and Mgr Kilgannon.

Special Guest at St Vincent's Furniture Store Annual Meeting



On Thursday, 19 November, St Vincent's Furniture Store held their 28th Annual Meeting.

Every year a guest speaker is invited to come and talk about their work and how the Furniture Store impacts on this. This year Paul Blomfield MP agreed to come along as our speaker. The Furniture Store is actually based in Paul's constituency and therefore it was very fitting that he attended the meeting.

Paul spoke about the fact that he had been brought up to avoid waste and had therefore given to the Store on a number of occasions. Although his politics are led by his beliefs he is keen that politicians should also be practical. His constituency includes some of the wealthiest parts of the city and some of the most deprived areas, and

he is aware that there is a great willingness to help and a great need. Comparing the work of the Store to that of the S2 food bank, with which he is deeply involved, he said that it was vital that the work of the Furniture Store continue so that sharing could continue.

He pointed out the extent to which Council funding had been cut over the past few years and said that he was glad that the Council had been able to continue its support to the extent that it does.

Mike O'Callaghan, Chair of the Management Committee, thanked Paul for coming along and also for his support and positive words.

Paul Blomfield MP is pictured above on the right with Mike O'Callaghan and Lorraine Healy, Manager.



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SAFEGUARDING IN THE DIOCESE

Safeguarding and the Call for Justice - Changing our World Hallam Catholic Safeguarding Commission Annual Gathering

Some messages from the day

"Safeguarding is not bolted on but is vital
to the mission of the church"
Judge Michael Murphy

"May we know your love
in our lives"
Fr Martin Trask

"It's a story for justice,
right at the heart of the
gospel message and
affects everybody"
Liam Harron
Justice and Peace
Commission



"The cornerstone of
gospel, a uniqueness of
being human, a
responsibility for justice
and the offer of hope"
Chris Pearson
Acting Chair
National Catholic
Safeguarding Commission

"Faith communities have the largest voice, together,
to engage with all, for the safety and protection of all"
An audience member

"You should make hospitality your special care"
Bishop Ralph, St Paul to the Romans 12:1-2.9-18

The event was held at St Patrick's, Sheffield Lane Top and began with Mass in St Patrick's School Hall. Opening prayers were said by Fr Martin Trask, Dean of Sheffield North, who asked "may we know your love in our lives". In introducing the event Lisa Markham, Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator, reminded those present about the 'Towards a Culture of Safeguarding' standards. Towards a Culture of Safeguarding requires a collaborative approach between clergy and lay people, and the sharing of the gifts and talents of all. She suggested that the event represented how working together is an essential safeguarding requirement. A question was posed to her the week before; 'Is there room for flexibility and discretion in implementing Towards a Culture of Safeguarding?' Her answer was "Yes, as long as we do it somehow, and continue to keep embedding safeguarding in our culture and encourage the hospitality and warmth that is central to Church life". A very warm applause in welcome was provided to Munir Hussain from Rotherham Interfaith Safeguarding Network, who was attending with

members of his family and network with a message of hope from sisters and brothers in the Islamic communities. Christopher Pearson, Link Member to the Commission and Acting Chair of the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission, began his input on national and diocesan issues by introducing the National commission itself, which was established in 2008 following the Cumberlege Review of Safeguarding. Its role is to provide strategic direction to the Church's safeguarding policies. Recognising the need for "a changing shape of how we commission in collaboration with those we work with", the aim is to create more successful partnerships that are based on "the cornerstone of gospel, a uniqueness of being human, a responsibility for justice and the offer of hope". He also discussed the need for presenting a "compelling and coherent safeguarding theology". He then encouraged participants to see the Goddard Enquiry into institutional sexual abuse as a positive step; that it is about being held to account and gives us a chance to atone. It also provides the opportunity for us to show



how far we have come in ensuring theology and actions. Chris described Pope Francis' message of hope. In the Letter to All Presidents of Bishops Conferences and Religious Orders, February 2015, His Holiness says that the Church has a "duty to express the compassion of Jesus toward those who have suffered abuse and toward their families", which is why each diocese and religious order should set up pastoral care programmes "which include provisions for reconciliation and healing for those who were abused". Priests and heads of religious communities "should be available to meet victims and their loved ones; such meetings are valuable opportunities for listening to those who have greatly suffered and for asking their forgiveness", he wrote. Chris pointed out that survivors and victims are a part of the Church, not 'the other', and that "Safeguarding is everyone's business, at the centre of the Church's mission. It is not just a procedural process and duty but the will of God to love, care and protect those who are at risk or marginalised. Victims come first and are at the heart

of what we do." He thanked the Diocese of Hallam for initiating and leading the Hurt by Abuse project which listens to victims. He encouraged us to see the unique position that the Diocese finds itself in with the Rotherham abuse scandal on our doorstep but also recognising that this abuse occurs worldwide. Cath Ratcliffe, a member of the Hallam Catholic Safeguarding Commission, summarised Chris' talk with a reflection on the local scene and an important message that, "We need to listen to our intuition and not ignore things that we feel are wrong and seek support in the Deanery". She also highlighted the need to focus on prevention. Overall, she emphasised that "we should keep going because we are doing a good job". Cath and Dave Coefield, both Local Safeguarding Representatives and Commission members were formally thanked for their unpaid contribution to Towards a Culture of Safeguarding training. Sheila Marren, Local Safeguarding Representative in Hoyland and also a volunteer trainer, was not present due to illness but her contribution was acknowledged.



SAFEGUARDING IN THE DIOCESE

Safeguarding and the Call for Justice - Changing our World Hallam Catholic Safeguarding Commission Annual Gathering

Liam Harron and Chrissy Meleady, and colleagues from the Hallam Justice and Peace Commission who co-produced 'Voices of Despair, Voices of Hope', gave readings direct from those who have experienced sexual exploitation.

They emphasised the need to listen to people because "if they cannot tell their story uncensored then they feel dirty, that it is their fault. They need to feel confident to speak out", even though the stories are not always easy to hear. "Speaking out allows them to feel like good is coming out of bad. It's a story for justice, right at the heart of the gospel message and affects everybody".

Chrissy concluded by thanking the Diocese of Hallam for its "ground-breaking work in learning how to listen. It was the Diocese of Hallam that stood with us when no one else wanted to support us or hear us. The reconciliation started here, not only for survivors but also for the Church. And from there it will be rolled out across the world."

After a quick comfort break, Bob Levesley, a Learning and Development Consultant and Local Safeguarding Representative, who has previously been a Senior Social Worker, enthusiastically took up the topic of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 implemented from 2010. The Act supports decision making for people who lack capacity, allows preparation for future decision making and covers people caring for others (whether professionally or not). "The Act applies to everyone who looks after, or cares for, someone who lacks capacity – this includes family carers or other carers" (Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice page 2).

Bob said that the Act can be seen as hard to implement because "we are used to intervening with children but adults are seen to be in control, therefore it is culturally difficult to intervene with adult decision making." Although it does mean that the provi-

sion of care in the future can be based on "what is important to me now?" He notes that capacity relates to "individual decisions, not all decisions", is time flexible, and he joked that "there are a lot of people who didn't have capacity on Friday night who do now. Things change. Adults get to choose unless there is a 'reasonable belief' through an investigation that they do or don't have capacity for that specific decision. We should ask ourselves: Can the person

- Understand the decision?
- Weigh up the pros and cons?
- Remember any relevant information?

And communicate it with you (not necessarily verbally)?"

If still unsure about mental capacity, Bob emphasises the need to go away and have a think about why you are worried, write down your thoughts, ask for help from the Safeguarding Office or visit <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/caresupport/adult/adult-abuse/professionals/mcadols/mental-capacity-act.html>.

A plenary was then led by Judge Michael Murphy, Co-Chair of the Hallam Catholic Safeguarding Commission, who thanked all the speakers for setting the tone that "safeguarding is not bolted on but is vital to the mission of the church". "What we didn't realise was the effect abuse was having on people. As a Judge, I can tell you that cases are changing - there are many more abuse cases, which shows a change in mind-set. Safeguarding is what the Church is about. Everyone here is a VIP in safeguarding: invested, focused enough to attend on a Saturday morning."

Questions were then asked from the floor. Liam Harron was asked about the situation in Rotherham. He said there was ongoing interfaith mediation between the communities, and that because there was a mixing of child sexual exploitation and racism cases, that

it is a particularly dangerous time.

Invited to comment on the Muslim perspective, Munir Hussain said "What is the point of society if we don't know how justly we can hear victim's voices? How we treat victims is a reflection of how we are judged as a society. Faith communities have the largest voice, together, to engage with all, for the safety and protection of all", which cemented the key ideas about partnerships heard from Chris Pearson earlier in the morning.

In his closing reflection, Bishop Ralph Heskett offered his personal thanks to all involved for being present and for efforts throughout the year, and provided a reading of the letter of St Paul to the Romans 12:1-2,9-18:

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil. Love each other as much as brothers should, and have a profound respect for each other. Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit. If you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying. If any of the saints are in need you must share with them; and you should make hospitality your special care.



Judge Michael Murphy

Bless those who persecute you: never curse them, bless them. Rejoice with those who rejoice and be sad with those in sorrow. Treat everyone with equal kindness; never be condescending but make real friends with the poor. Do not allow yourself to become self-satisfied. Never repay evil with evil but let everyone see that you are interested only in the highest ideals. Do all you can to live at peace with everyone.

Bishop Ralph closed the event by identifying that Paul's understanding of the hallmarks of Christian life is hospitality and a warm welcome for everyone, and this is for us all to live up to.



Terror in Paris

With one voice, British Muslims condemn the Paris attacks unreservedly

- We offer our condolences to the victims and their families.
- The barbaric acts of Daesh (or ISIS, as they are sometimes known) have no sanction in the religion of Islam, which forbids terrorism and the targeting of innocents.
- Muslims have held vigils and donated blood for the victims. It is not the terrorists who represent our faith but brave individuals like Stade de France security guard Zouheir, who risked his life to stop the attackers.
- We re-affirm our commitment to the values of pluralism and tolerance as the best defence against those who seek to create division and fear.

The aim of attacks like those inflicted on Paris and other cities across the world is to turn communities against each other.

As Muslims, Britons and Europeans, we must stand together to make sure they do not succeed.



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Bishop Ralph Visits Corpus Christi Parish



Bishop Ralph with Fr Martin Stone, celebrating Mass at St Michael and All Angels, Wombwell. On the right, Bishop Ralph with Fr Stone after Mass at Sacred Heart Parish, Goldthorpe.



The Bishop with Tess and Phil Lynch at the Macmillan Coffee Morning held at Hoyland Catholic Club in the Parish of Corpus Christi in memory of former Parish Priest, Fr Brian Davies. Above right, Brad Jacobs (fourth from the left) who organised Fr Brian's memorial Coffee Morning, together with his band of helpers.



Catenian Draughts Trophy

Derby to Barnsley is over fifty miles, but seemed a short distance to the Derby Daves (Barke, Perry, Gascoyne and "Dave" Eddie Gray!) as they set out confidently to win the Austin Jahnsdorf Draughts Competition.

However, the journey back probably seemed like a hundred miles as Barnsley retained the trophy from last year. Andrew Hartley was the winner last year and this year he shared the trophy with Peter Brannan. No Daves featured in the winning line up.

Pictured on the left, Peter and Andrew flank a happy Mike Starford as the Barnsley president presents the trophy.

CONGRATULATIONS FR LEONARD MAY!



Fr May cuts his special cake



Fr Len May is presented with a Papal Blessing at the celebration of his 90th birthday

Fr Leonard May, former Parish Priest of St Mary Magdalene's, Maltby, celebrated his 90th birthday on 24th November.

On Saturday, 21st November, St Mary Magdalene's parish and many from outside the parish celebrated with him. The day started with Mass, concelebrated by some twenty priests, including Bishop Ralph, Archbishop Antonio Mennini, the Papal Nuncio, and four of Fr May's former curates. The homily was given by Monsignor Mark Crisp from Birmingham Diocese, and formerly of St Mary Magdalene's parish. The church was packed with friends from across the country. The celebration continued with a very enjoyable buffet at Maltby Catholic Club.

We all wish Fr May many happy returns and hope that we will be able to celebrate his centenary in 2025!



Fr Len May

St Wilfrid's Wins National Recognition

It was a tremendous privilege for staff, clients and volunteers at St Wilfrid's Centre to be nominated for the Christian Funders' Forum Awards 2015, but little did they think they would win it.

The annual award ceremony held at the Charterhouse London took place in November and St Wilfrid's, represented by Kevin Bradley, Director, Louise Finnigan, Welfare Manager and Mandi Hunt, Fundraiser, won the 'Best Faith Inspired Social Action Project 2015'.

The event was attended by projects from all over Britain and it was a great honour for the Centre to be presented with the Gold Award.

St Wilfrid's Centre had been nominated by the Laing Family Trust which has also provided financial support for the Residential Project.

Pictured below with the award are, left to right, Mandi Hunt, Consultant Fundraiser, Kevin Bradley, Director St Wilfrid's Centre and Louise Finnigan, Welfare Manager of St Wilfrid's Centre.



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ADULT EDUCATION RELAUNCH

Monsignor John Ryan has been asked by Bishop Ralph to develop adult education in the diocese.

Last year he began giving days for readers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist and catechists in Barnsley, Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield. Over three hundred people heard him speak about the Real Presence of Christ in the Word and the Eucharist.

Such days will be held in the Spring in Chesterfield and Bassetlaw; and in a new series Fr John will look at Luke's Parables of Mercy and the Eucharist as Sacrament of Mercy.

In Lent he will be talking about the Passion of Jesus in six talks which will take place in six venues around the

diocese, with each talk being repeated in a different place. See the Hallam Diocesan website for details.

In September the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) will be relaunched after a fallow year, with new courses added; and opportunities for further guided study after the awarding of the Certificate. For those who might find study and essay writing a step too far at present, but wish to know more about their faith, there will be talks and discussions at centres around the diocese throughout the year on aspects of the Scriptures and a close examination of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

All the details can be found on the Diocese of Hallam Website.



Bishop Ralph presents CCRS certificates to students who have successfully completed the course
See also page 9

Rejuvenated Education Programme Enthuses Lay Readers, Ministers and Catechists

Around 120 Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and Catechists from across the Hallam Diocese gathered at All Saints' School in Sheffield to attend the first session of a rejuvenated adult education programme.

They heard Mgr John Ryan speak about the Word of God as Truth, The Word of God as Alive and Active and The Real Presence of the Lord in Word and Eucharist.

Mgr Ryan emphasised the Bible's nature, not as a single book, but as a library. There were myths, narratives based on what was remembered of history, apocalyptic writings designed to

assert God's eventual victory to a persecuted and dispossessed people, law and writings that focused on relationships between people and between people and God. He explored the differences in accounts of the same event and how stories like Noah and the Flood appeared in texts pre-dating biblical writings like the Epic of Gilgamesh and the Babylonian creation epic Enuma Elish, explaining how they could illuminate the understanding of God's message.

Mgr Ryan explored apparent contradictions in the story of David and Goliath and questions over the timing of events immediately before Christ's Passion.

"When reflecting on the Bible, one of the real issues is truth," Mgr Ryan told a rapt audience. "It is the Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit."

"There are conflicts in the Gospels and the Bible itself and we have to be grown up about it. We believe in the truth of the Bible, but not the literal truth – we are not fundamentalists; fundamentalism is intellectual suicide. "The stories ... are profoundly true because all of them tell us about ourselves – the human condition – about God's relationship with us and our re-

lationship with each other."

Mgr Ryan also touched on the symbolism in names adding further depth to Bible stories: Abel, meaning "Whisp," Isaac – "He who laughs," Jacob – "The One Who Grasps."

Locations and actions could also be significant. Whenever a well appears in the Bible the reader should think "wedding bells," while the modern day equivalent of Judah giving Tamar his signet ring would be handing over a credit card.

The day ended with Mass and commissioning for the Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and Catechists, presided over by the diocese's Vicar General, Mgr Desmond Sexton. "It was a fascinating day," said one participant. "It broadened my understanding, but also made me realise there is so much more to learn and so much depth and richness that can be revealed."

Details of further sessions in the rejuvenated Diocese of Hallam adult education programme will be published in Hallam News. Anyone wanting to add their name to the e-mail circulation list for future events should send their details to adulteducation@hallam-diocese.com.



Mgr John Ryan

St Wilfrid's Parenting Course

Congratulations to the twelve parents who have successfully completed the Fives to Pre-Teens Parenting Course which ran for eight weeks at St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, Sheffield.

All the parents showed a great deal of commitment to the course which was led by Laura Rendell from Hallam

Caring Services and Linda McLoughlin, St Wilfrid's Learning Mentor. Some of the skills looked at were active listening, encouragement, choices and consequences and holding family meetings. The parents all feel they have some new ideas and approaches to help them develop better relationships in their families. As one parent said,

"Small changes have made a big difference."

Linda hopes to run another course in the spring. For more information, please contact Linda at St Wilfrid's School, l.mcloughlin@stwilfridssh-effield.co.uk.

Participants and leaders are pictured below.



CONGRATULATIONS

Three students who have successfully completed the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies course in the diocese are pictured receiving their certificates from Bishop Ralph at a presentation evening held recently at the Hallam Pastoral Centre – left Lyuba Herbert, below left Mike Reynolds, below Jim Hogan.



Visit to House of Lords

Caritas Social Action Network is the official agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for domestic social action.

Hallam Caring Services is a member of Caritas Social Action Network and was invited to send two representatives to the parliamentary reception held on 4 November in the River Room in the House of Lords. Bridget Warren and Susan Tym mingled with parliamentarians and members and representatives of Catholic and faith-based organisations. Addresses were made by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Baroness Williams of Trafford, Lord Touhig and Helen O'Brien, Chief Executive Officer of Caritas Social Action Network.

Cardinal Nichols congratulated those present for the emergency support that they provided, but also the capacity building facilitated which allows people to live self-sufficient lives.

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CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOLS

Remembrance Day



The children in Year Two at St Theresa's Catholic Primary School, Sheffield attended the memorial service at the Cenotaph on Wednesday, 11 November. The children were recognised by the Master of Ceremonies for

attending the event and the Lord Mayor of Sheffield met with some of the children. The children really enjoyed the visit and were complemented on their impeccable behaviour.



St Bernard's High School Revisit School in Lesotho

On 13 October, 26 students from St Bernard's Catholic High School embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime expedition to Lesotho.

The three-week trip was the result of 18 months of dedicated fundraising by these students and their families, who succeeded in raising over £50,000 for the expedition.

With the monies raised, St Bernard's were able to travel back to the community of Ribaneng, where older students had previously visited in 2012 and installed a piped water facility within the school grounds. This return journey had a new focus, as both the inside and outside of the entire school building needed a good clean and then painting. This was no easy task, as the conditions of the walls were not ideal; smoke from the cookers had scorched the walls and this in itself took many hours to clean.

In order to enable the Ribaneng school to become more self-sufficient, the team also created several 'keyhole gardens', which hopefully will grow veg-

etables for the community. The digging was a tough process for the students, as a drought had hit Lesotho. The soil was bone dry and there was no piped water available. This tested everyone involved in the project, as digging was extremely difficult and water had to be carried in buckets from a well far away. These testing conditions, sadly, are what the Ribaneng schoolchildren are used to; the St Bernard's students quickly adapted, however, and cheerfully worked hard alongside their new Lesotho friends. The locals taught them how to 'sing as they worked'. By the end of the visit, songs were being learnt by both groups of students and shared by singing them together.

The people of Ribaneng expressed their utter joy at the gifts St Bernard's and its Learning Community gave them at Mass on the Sunday during the visit. The Mass itself is always celebrated there with the most wonderful singing and dancing anyway; this Mass was no exception. The celebration of the 'Gloria' was a sight to be-



Mgr John Ryan presents the Headteacher of Ribaneng High School with a Papal Blessing

hold; visitors from St Bernard's were lucky to witness this uplifting display of praise and couldn't help but join in! The expedition began and ended with tours of various parts of South Africa, including Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela had been incarcerated. This enriched the students' understanding of the history of South Africa

and also explained the political situation regarding Lesotho, an independent, 'landlocked' country within South Africa. This helped students to understand why they were witnessing some of the cruellest extremes of wealth and also how they could then continue to help some of their poorest global neighbours in the best possible way.



Staff and students from St Bernard's and Ribaneng High Schools



CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOLS

Deputy Headteachers and
RE Leaders Conference



This group recently met with Bishop Ralph and Fr Adrian Tomlinson to explore the distinctive mission and identity of Catholic Schools and the need for Catholic Leaders to lead by example. Each school showcased their own community and explained how they share their faith. The children of St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy School were thanked for their presentation of what their faith means to them and how they express that meaning.



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CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOLS

Notre Dame Students and Staff Contribute to Making Kevin's Dream a Reality

Notre Dame Catholic High School's annual fund raising in aid of the Bishop's Walk focused on the reality, rather than the dream, of providing a St Wilfrid's Residential Unit this year, as the school year began with news that building work had begun on the

Queens Road site over the summer. 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 the residential fund. Sean Pender, Deputy

Head teacher and the schools' representative on the Bishops' Walk, spoke about the strong relationship that has been formed between St Wilfrid's

and Notre Dame. He commented, "Our students take a real interest in the work that goes on at the centre and the enthusiasm and commitment that goes in to the fund raising, although supported by form tutors, is driven by our young people putting their faith in to action. It's more than simply raising money, it is raising their awareness of social justice."

Kevin Bradley, director of St Wilfrid's centre, visited a Year 8 assembly to receive a cheque from students for the grand total of £1,463.33. In addition, Sean Pender received sponsorship for the Bishops' Walk from staff and mem-

bers of the school community, raising over £500 and thus bringing the grand total to just over £2000.

Kevin spoke to the students about recent developments with the building of the residential unit and the impact their fundraising will have on the lives of many vulnerable people. He also mentioned that when he first proposed raising £2 million to build the centre many people described him as 'crackers' and 'a dreamer'.

Students and staff at Notre Dame are delighted to play their part in making the dream of 'Crackers Kevin' a reality.



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