



President's New Year Message

Dear Friends in UCM I'm so excited as it is the start of a New Year and in 2025 we will see changes to our UCM. My term of office as National President comes to an end, and we get a new National President, Eileen Priest. I know you will give her the support and encouragement that you have given me during my term of office.

We are also hoping to have our new revamped website up and running shortly and as with most websites there will be a regular "News" item rather like this Newsletter.

With love and prayers Joan Hodge

WINDSOR FOUNDATION CELEBRATE THEIR 60th ANNIVERSARY IN STYLE

On 4th December, Windsor St Edward's Foundation marked their 60th Anniversary with a wonderful celebration with Mass with many of their former Parish Priests (including Bishop Emeritus, the Rt Rev Peter Doyle, the Diocesan Spiritual Director Jozef Gruszkiewicz, as well as the current PP, Canon David Hopgood. The Windsor President, Mrs Theresa King, invited members from all the Diocesan Foundations so there was a Parish Hall full of 50+ guests. The members of nearby St Mark's Foundation served (and cleared) the buffet. Importantly, Father Jozef was asked to enrol a further 8 new members into St Edward's Foundation. Photo shows Mrs. Bel Flynn presenting certificate



BIRMINGHAM CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Today we held our Christmas Social in the Grimshaw Room, although reduced in number due to the storm. We played bingo, had stand up bingo, quizzes and monologues. We then had a shared lunch together and finished with Carols.

Eileen Priest National President Elect

DIOCESAN UBI CARITAS AWARD

At St Ambrose Catholic Church Kidderminster, on Saturday 7th Dec. '24 Christine Vass received the Diocesan Ubi Caritas Award presented by the Principal Celebrant Bishop David Evans. She has contributed so much to the life of the parish and we at Kidderminster Foundation are so proud of her.



USEFUL LINKS;

Knitting for others - contact Sarah Davis PSO ucmindmem@gmail.com

Stella Maris 'Beanies for seafarers' See their website: stellamaris.org.uk



SALFORD DIOCESE ANNUAL BENEDICTION SERVICE held at the Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist on the 23rd November. The full Diocesan Committee, led by President Mrs Kathleen Henderson-Playfair with their Spiritual Adviser Fr Emmanuel Ugwouke supported by Canon Fr David Ryder, Canon Fr Anthony McBride, Altar server Dominic, were joined by Foundation Members and the Liverpool Archdiocesan President, Deputy President and Secretary, and the National Treasurer.

GOOD NEWS:



At least one Diocese has reported two Foundations which they believed were closing are remaining in UCM. Several Foundations around the country have reported enrolment of new members this past year. See photos.



St Edward's Portsmouth

Whilst some Foundations are closing a few of the ladies from these Foundations are choosing to become Diocesan Independent Members so we pray that at some time in the future we may be able to reopen the formal structure of the UCM in their parishes.

St Joseph's Clifton

PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION



On the 12th September 2024, Arundel & Brighton Union of Catholic Mothers and the Knights of St. Columba met at the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in West Grinstead, West Sussex for their Annual Pilgrimage.

There was the usual social gathering over coffee and tea in the garden before going into the church for a reflection on Prayer from Canon Tom Treherne (our Spiritual Adviser), in which he referred to the writings of Cardinal Basil Hume.

This was followed by Holy Mass. We then had lunch in the sunshine in the garden and some members and visitors were given a visit to the priest's bolt-hole and secret chapel. Just as lunch finished it started to rain, so after UCM and Knights prayed in the church, we all remained in the church for the Rosary and Adoration. The day ended rather wet, but we departed feeling happy to have shared this spiritual gathering together.

YOUTH PROJECT:

Following on from our successful Study Event in June 2024 and our Autumn Meeting in October 2024 at least 3 Diocese have reported contact with the Youth organisations who are involved with the CYMFed National Catholic Award in their Diocese. We are encouraging UCM members to be aware of this Award, faithinactionaward.co.uk to contact local deliverers and support these deliverers where possible in whatever way they can.



WALSINGHAM SUB COMMITTEE: This photo from 2023 shows Angie Higginson and Marie Harvey who have stepped down from their roles in 2024 we thank them for all their hard work.

NATIONAL HOLIDAY AND REST HOME SERVICE:

In line with our 4th Object: *To offer love, sympathy and practical help to the family in difficulty*, NHRHS exists to provide financial support for members and their families in need of a short break, perhaps for convalescence after illness, or respite when caring for a loved one.

To ensure we continue to operate the service we need two things of equal importance:

1. **Funds.** We are asking each Foundation to agree how much you will donate each year (or more often!) and send your cheque to the NHRHS Administrator Anne Emblem, made out to *Union of Catholic Mothers National Holiday and Rest Home Service*. Bank Transfer Donations also welcome.
2. Is there anyone in your Foundation who would benefit from a break? Contact your Welfare Officer or President who will get in touch with Anne.

OTHER PILGRIMAGES



Southwark - Aylesford Priory June 2024

On Saturday June 1st, 2024, Southwark Diocese held our annual Pilgrimage to Aylesford. Our Diocesan President Sharon Bishop welcomed everyone, and the Mass was led by Archbishop John Wilson assisted by our own Spiritual Advisor Father Doug Bull. We had a glorious celebration, the Archbishop said the breeze was the sign that the Holy Spirit was among us. Archbishop John gave the most wonderful, moving homily based on his own Mother and the phrase 'I Love You' it was very thought provoking. The day was very well attended by our Southwark Foundations, our Diocesan area leaders organised coaches to get as

many members to Aylesford as possible. A special mention for Hythe Foundation who led us beautifully in the singing of our Hymns.

The photograph shows President Sharon Bishop with Joanne Pavitt Southwark Media Officer and Penny Curran SE Area Leader and Justice & Peace Officer holding the Southwark Banner.

Hallam Diocese at Holy Mass in Padley Chapel where Priests and family of Padley Manor were arrested in 1588. The priests were executed and Pilgrimages have taken place in their honour since 1898



OTHER NEWS:

DIOCESAN INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

As a member she is entitled to have a voice, make her opinion known on any issue within her Diocese and could also represent her Diocese as a Delegate at Study/Welfare Days and National Council/AGM. She should be actively encouraged to take part in the Diocesan events and is eligible to stand for office. In addition, one Independent Member may be subsidised at a National Meeting, AGM/Council meeting and Autumn Council.

THE MEMBERSHIP FEES for 2025 are £16.00 and reviewed annually'

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

National Study	11 th -12 th February
National Council	19 th -21 st May
Walsingham	1 st -2 nd July

MORE GOOD NEWS

We have had an article accepted by WUCWO for their magazine 'Women's Voice' a short quote from their acceptance email.

'What a wonderful and hope-filled initiative you are carrying out! Please know that we remain united with you in prayer, and we encourage you to continue with your activities, they bring so much goodness to the world and touch many hearts.'

We hope you have enjoyed this Newsletter. Please let Jean know ucmnews@yahoo.com Please send your pictures and news as they happen so we can keep the Website updated. Please send us the dates of forthcoming events in your Diocese so neighbouring Diocese' can join with you and/or you can join with them.