

HALLAM

Spring Quarterly Meeting

The Spring Quarterly Meeting was held at Holy Rood Parish, Barnsley on Saturday 2 February 2008. Fr Andrew Browne, Diocesan Spiritual Director, and Fr Terance Boyle Parish Priest of Holy Rood concelebrated the Candlemas Mass. It was a wonderful occasion as over 50 members gathered from all over the



Hallam Spring Quarterly Meeting

Diocese to celebrate this feast before our meeting.

At this meeting we elected our new Diocesan President Dorothy Fishwick from St Joseph's Foundation in Staveley. Dorothy will succeed our retiring President Angela Mellors when she is presented with her badge of office at the AGM on 3 May 2008.

St Catherine Foundation Sheffield.

St Catherine's has had a breath of life breathed into it as new ladies have joined the UCM.

The existing foundation has valiantly been kept going over the years by the strength and determination of Mrs W Robinson and Mrs C Davies, so it will come as a great delight to them that younger ladies are showing interest and the foundation is once again becoming active.

This is a wonderful boost for the UCM as St Catherine's has been in existence for many years and it is a credit to the earlier mentioned ladies and Father Albert Savaille that it did not close down. Long may they reign and grow even stronger.

*Kathleen Goodwin,
Diocesan Media Officer*

LEEDS

Golden Wedding

Rita and Jack WILLIS are the parents of our Diocesan Spiritual Director Father Chris Willis. Rita is a member of St Clare's Foundation Bradford.

Rita and Jack were married at the church of St Columba Bradford on 15 February 1958. They have five children and 11 grandchildren, soon to be 12, God willing. The Bishop was unable to attend our Diocesan AGM and had asked Father Willis to represent him. Father Willis came to the meeting at St Ignatius Ossett, Nr Wakefield then went back to Bradford to celebrate Mass that evening for his Mum and Dad with family and friends on their special occasion. The best man had come over from Australia for the Golden Wedding celebration.



Rita and Jack Willis celebrate their Golden Wedding

LIVERPOOL

St Thomas of Canterbury Foundation

Two UCM members from St Thomas of Canterbury in Liverpool have been invited to a reception at Buckingham Palace with the Queen. Enid Cain is a volunteer at Aintree Hospital and Doreen Thomas is a volunteer at the Woodlands Hospice. The reception will take place on the evening of 20 May 2008.

60th Birthday Celebrations

Margrette Speers, Our Lady of Compassions Secretary.

AGM

Hallam AGM was held on May 3 at St Vincent's Sheffield and was attended by National President Maureen McVann, Bishop of Hallam Bishop John Rawsthorne, Chaplain Father Andrew Browne and 60 members. The retiring President Angela Mellors welcomed the newly elected President, Dorothy Fishwick. Following the AGM Bishop John, Fr Walsh parish priest of St Vincent's and Fr Browne concelebrated the Mass of Sts Philip and James, Apostles.

Members of St Vincent's UCM prepared and took part in the liturgy and 50 year certificates were presented to founder member Molly Clarke and Foundation President Theresa Finnigan.

Members and guests enjoyed a beautifully prepared lunch before the meeting took place. The highlight of this meeting was the enthusiastic report given by a new member on her first attendance as delegate to the Study / Welfare conference.

St Vincent's

This Year, 2008, sees the 50th Anniversary of the UCM in St Vincent's parish in its present form. The mothers of the parish originally met under the title of 'St Anne's Guild' in the parish hall on Monday afternoons. The parish priest at the time felt a similar group should be formed for the mothers in the north of the parish. The inauguration took place in May 1958 and the meetings were held after evening Mass on Wednesdays with Sister Agnes as the first Spiritual Director. So ... what do we do?

The first and most important thing we do is PRAY together. We have a monthly Mass for our special intentions – a different intention each month.

We PROVIDE funds for various charities, assistance, sympathy and help in the parish.

We PLAN during our business meetings for any fundraising events, including raffles, cake sales and the Christmas shoebox appeal etc. We attend Diocesan meetings, National Conference and Walsingham.

When all this has been accomplished – we PLAY. We enjoy the theatre, meals together and have an annual day out to places of interest. At our weekly meetings we have quizzes and raffles, invite guest speakers and participate in parish activities.

Angela Mellors, Diocesan Media Officer

MIDDLESBROUGH

Women's World Day of Prayer Service.

A large congregation of women of many denominations attended this years WWDP service at the United Reform Church in Middlesbrough.

The service and the liturgy was prepared by the Christian women of Guyana and the theme was 'Gods wisdom provides new understanding. For the Lord gives wisdom and from his mouth came knowledge and understanding'.

The women's world day of prayer has come a long way in the last century. Today more than 170 countries and islands take part. It has become truly international and interdenominational. The service is translated into 60 languages and 1,000 dialects.

The day of prayer begins on the International Date Line. The first service is held at dawn at Tonga. Then as the earth rotates, a great Mexican Way of prayer rises through the Pacific and Asia, through the Middle East to Europe East and West; across the Atlantic to the Caribbean, south and North America until the last service of the day is held off the coast of Alaska.

Roman Catholic participation grew especially after Vatican II and the National Committee elected its first Roman Catholic chairperson.

Ann McGeever

NORTHAMPTON

World Women's Day of Prayer

All our Foundations took part in the World Women's Day of Prayer. This was a wonderful and very moving service from the women of Guyana, bringing us all together in a spirit of love and understanding. Canon Bennie from St Francis of Assisi Foundation, Shefford, recently had a request from the Church of England for Rosaries and Medals for schools in South Africa. UCM agreed this would be something they could help with and immediately sent 144 Rosaries and 144 Medals for this appeal.

Pat Byrne

A founder member of St Francis of Assisi Foundation, Shefford who celebrated her 80th birthday. Pat is mother of our spiritual director Fr Gerard, and is involved in many things in the parish. She also visits other nearby parishes where Fr Gerard has been in ministry. Fr Gerard encouraged the UCM in Kettering to start and is a keen 'Son of UCM'.

National Study and Welfare Day was hosted this year by Northampton Diocese. We were very moved by the subject of People Trafficking and the plight of migrant workers in our country, and came away resolved to take positive steps in any way we can.

However we were pleased to meet our UCM sisters again and thoroughly enjoyed providing the hospitality and entertainment.

Thanks to all for your help.

PORTSMOUTH

Father Joe's visit to Guernsey

At the beginning of December, the Guernsey Foundation of the Union of Catholic Mothers enjoyed a two-day visit from our Diocesan Spiritual Director Father Jozef and from Diocesan President Maureen Meacher.

A day of recollection was held on Father's arrival at the Convent of Marcy, by kind permission of Mother Bernadette. Father Joe spoke movingly on family life and the role of mothers and grandmothers. Mass was celebrated in the beautiful convent chapel. On the following day after attending morning Mass in St Joseph's Church, we took our guests to Les Cotils Christian Centre for coffee before visiting elderly and housebound members of The UCM. Those who were free to attend, met at the Houmet du Nord restaurant, where

we enjoyed a bar lunch before resuming our trip around the Island, visiting places of interest along the way notably 'The Little Chapel' at Les Vauxbelets.

That evening Father Joe celebrated Mass in Polish at St Joseph's Church for the Polish community and other Eastern Europeans living in Guernsey. Refreshments were provided and served by The Union of Catholic Mothers.

When our guests were due to depart, the members of UCM expressed their gratitude to both Fr Joe and Maureen saying how much their visit had been appreciated and enjoyed and we would be delighted to welcome them again.

We also thanked our Parish Priest, Fr Michael, for offering hospitality to Father Joe and to Betty Warr for having Maureen as her guest.

*Moirra Hearne Secretary,
Guernsey Foundation*

St Colman's UCM at Cosham

In the Winter edition of *The Catholic Mother* we reported the 90th birthday celebrations of Eileen McMeehan.

Eileen had been converted to the Catholic faith after her daughter entered the Poor Clare Colettine Community. Sadly, Eileen passed away after a short illness. Her daughter Sister Beatrix has written to St Colman's UCM saying many UCM groups visit their community at Hawarden in Deeside for a day of retreat, as they are not far from Liverpool and the North Wales Coast.

If any members do, St Colman's would love to hear about your day and please mention us to Sister Beatrix.

St Colman's can be contacted via their media officer, Elizabeth Christian, whose email address is: liz.christian@inc.pl

Please note:

Deadline date for items for inclusion in the Autumn (Sep) edition of the Catholic Mother is the 11 August.
Names for "Eternal Rest" column, 18 August.
All items to Val Ward by post or email.

Give us a smile



Making a Will is simply another way of expressing love for family and friends. It also provides a way of helping the good causes we supported in our lifetime.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is a professional childcare agency working with children and families in need. A gift to BCCS will help us to improve the quality of life amongst children with whom we work.

Giving just one child a reason to smile again would be a living testament to your generosity. Your gift would help us to do just that.

Childcare

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