



Our National Study Day at the Oblate Retreat Centre in Wistaston in February was titled "Blesseds and Venerables - Saints in Waiting"



The process for Canonisation of Saints has changed over time and we have recently witnessed the canonisation of the first Millennial Saint - Carlo Acutis. There are many Servants of God, Blesseds and Venerables waiting for their cause to proceed and our Study Days brought some of those names to our attention, allowing us to participate in their cause and maybe one day witness their Beatification and Canonisation. We learned about holy men and women from our dioceses and from around the world, who need us to promote their cause on their path to sainthood and our aim is that by getting to know about them we can adopt them in prayer in our dioceses and foundations.

Several of the participants were inspired to do further reading and research about candidates in their own dioceses.

The Retreat Centre grounds are full of spaces for quiet contemplative prayer and we had Mass in the chapel on the last day. There was a lovely camaraderie with all the members attending from many dioceses and we shared lots of laughs too.

I wish to send many thanks to all the participants for your support and encouragement on my first study day and for the lovely feedback.

I look forward to visiting the dioceses who have invited me to their meetings, and hearing about their local candidates. This year we have invited feedback from foundations and dioceses to choose the topic for the next study day from the list of suggestions given to the study officers at the study day. These should be submitted to me by the time of the National Council in May so that a decision can be made then. My email is ucmstudy@gmail.com

Louise George National Study Officer

Deadline for Submission to next Newsletter

10th/11th JULY 2026

Send to email: ucmnews@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.theucm.org.uk>

Arundel & Brighton

Hove Foundation

In December 2025, the Hove Foundation of UCM formally enrolled two new members, Mary Moss (left) and Jennifer Canneaux (right) during a special Mass. The parish community gathered to witness and celebrate this important moment in strengthening the Foundation's ongoing mission and service. Both members expressed enthusiasm about contributing fresh ideas and supporting the Foundation's work in the year ahead. They are accompanied by Trish Longley, Hove President and Canon David Parmiter, parish priest.



Photo: Eileen Harris MBE Text: Trish Colley

Hallam

New Diocesan President



On Wednesday 18th March 2026 members of the Union of Catholic Mothers attended Holy Mass at St. Vincent's, Crookes, Sheffield which was celebrated by Fr. Lee Marshall assisted by Deacon Peter Marshall.

The AGM followed with the enrolment by Deacon Peter of our new Diocesan President Mrs. Louise George of the Foundation of St. Joseph, Handsworth, Sheffield.

Mrs. Sheila Godley continues as Diocesan Secretary and Mrs. Dorothy Anderson as the new Welfare Officer for the Hallam Diocese.

Dorothy Anderson (Foundation President at St. Vincent's)

Westminster Diocese

On Saturday 21st March 2026, we held our Annual Diocesan Mass. The celebrant Fr Brian O'Mahony also gave certificates to long term UCM members. Celebrations were held afterwards in the Church Hall of Our Lady of the Rosary Church. l/r: Mrs Abimbola Cletus, Sonia Mullings, Rosemary Parsons Westminster UCM Diocesan President and Mrs Grace Aka-Hogan. Sonia Mullings also received certificates on behalf of Anne Squires and Maria Theodore. All members were enrolled in 2001. Elizabeth Bottomley Westminster Media Officer



CONGRATULATIONS

80th Birthdays

May Sullivan	St George, Maghull
Anne Hill	St George, Maghull
Carole Kaye	St. Mary and St. Philip Neri, Radcliffe
Bernadette Smith	St. Mary and St. Philip Neri, Radcliffe
Marion Broughton	St Joseph's Castleford

Liverpool Archdiocese
Liverpool Archdiocese
Salford Diocese.
Salford Diocese.
Leeds Diocese

90th Birthdays

Mary Henderson	Guardian Angels	Salford Diocese
Kath Curley	St Joseph's Redditch	Birmingham Archdiocese

Foundation Anniversaries

24th January 2026 60th anniversary: All Saint's, Anfield, Liverpool Archdiocese

Leeds

Leeds Diocesan UCM AGM

On 14th March Leeds Diocese held its AGM in Wheeler Hall, St Anne's Cathedral. We had representatives from all our Foundations plus some Diocesan Independent Members. We discussed the possible merger of Leeds and Middlesbrough due to the latter now having no Bishop.

One of the highlights of our meeting was Kathryn Waugh from St Joseph's stepping up as Vice President and Lesley Senior- Watson and Joy Armitage from St Ignatius taking on the roles of Media and Welfare. We are extremely grateful Ladies.

The other highlight (apart from refreshments and chat) was getting to know a potato! Were all the potatoes the same? Did we recognise our own potato the second time around? Are we prejudiced accepting stereotypes and having negative attitudes towards others? As Christian people do we have open minds and hearts? Do we always remember that every human is created in God's image? All peoples deserve respect, hope, love and dignity. Always remember Jesus was a refugee. Thanks go to Trisha Sandbach (St Benedict's) for providing this thought provoking exercise. Susan Oldroyd
Leeds Secretary

Lord of the Excluded

Open my ears to those I prefer
not to hear
Open my life to those I would
prefer not to know
Open my heart to those I would
prefer not to love
Open my eyes to see where I
exclude you.



St Joseph's UCM Castleford welcomed the New Year with a 'New Foundation Banner', at their first meeting of 2026. UCM members and their Parish Priest Father John, were pleased to welcome parishioner Joyce Field who very kindly had offered to make their Foundation Banner. Joyce's needle work and embroidery skills can be seen throughout the year on display in church celebrating different liturgical seasons. Kathryn Waugh, Foundation President, thanked Joyce for giving so generously of her time and for making such a beautiful banner in honour of Mary the Mother of Our Lord Jesus

Christ. She cannot wait to show off their new Foundation Banner at the next UCM Rosary Rally at Leeds Cathedral. Carol Sidebottom Secretary, St Joseph's UCM Castleford

Archdiocese of Liverpool

At our bi-monthly mass at **Blessed Sacrament** church, Aintree, in November, foundations donated 67 selection boxes and £90 in cash.

Fifty selections boxes were given to the Salvation Army from whom Barbara Hetherington, Diocesan Welfare Officer, recently received a thank you letter.

We donated the £90 to Nugent Care, and the remaining selection boxes were given to a local SVP group.

All Saints Foundation Anfield celebrated their 60th anniversary on the 24th January 2026. Mrs Kathy Buck (Archdiocesan President) presented Mrs Cathy Price (Foundation President) with a 60th anniversary certificate on Saturday, 14th February 2026 at the end of the Archdiocesan business meeting at the Gibberd room in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool.

St Anne's foundation, Ormskirk The first bi-monthly mass of 2026 took place at St Anne's church on



Wednesday, 11th March at 7.30 pm. Three new members were enrolled during the mass. Also, the Archdiocesan President presented the Vocations Director, Father Ron Johnson, with a cheque for the Priests Training Fund.

l to r: Father David Potter (Diocesan Chaplain), Sue Mawtus (Foundation President), Pauline McDonnell, Helene Reed, Mary James (new enrolments), Kathy Buck (Archdiocesan President), and Father Ron Johnson (Vocations Director)

St Gregory's Foundation Lydiate raised £45 to buy Easter eggs for the Liverpool Seafarers Centre. Susan Hurlock Diocesan Secretary

Portsmouth Diocese

The Union of Catholic Mothers has had a presence in the Portsmouth Diocese for 87 years. Unfortunately, we only have nine foundations left, the longest surviving one being in Waterloo who celebrated their 84th anniversary last year. The "youngest" is in Hook, only 3 years old! Here in Windsor and Ascot we are now in our second year of being a joint parish and have two foundations. Last year Ascot foundation celebrated 70 years and Windsor foundation celebrated their 60th anniversary in 2024.

The two foundations meet on alternate weeks, Windsor on Tuesday mornings and Ascot on Thursday evenings. That way we can attend either or both meetings, which we have done and will continue to do. At Ascot our members have responded well to the challenge of leading and arranging meetings, as we do not have a full



committee. We have had a variety of activities including two flower arranging sessions, a beautiful reflection on Candlemas, a tricky Valentine's quiz focused on couples in the bible, a quiz about Ascot (it's amazing how much we didn't know about Ascot), with an Ascot hat parade. Not to mention VE day, St. George, book swaps and speakers. We enjoy outings to the local amateur dramatic societies' entertainments. Both foundations fundraise for local groups and CAFOD and the SVP.

Photo of our member Ann and guest florist, Liz with Easter flowers.

Each Advent and Lent the **UCM Fareham Foundation** have supported the Parish in its fundraising - different every season - by providing after the additional Mass in the penitential season to attendees. The breakfast is normally just porridge and toast etc with tea, coffee and fruit juice. The Charity chosen this Lent has been the Portsmouth Down Syndrome Association, which is an award-winning charity that provides a range of some of the best specialist services in the UK supporting the development and education of children and young people with Down Syndrome. They provide effective support to children and families from the point of diagnosis, helping to teach children the skills they need to succeed at school and become valued and productive members of their communities. Pictured are some of our regular supporters this year and the main stay of the UCM members who "do the work". The chief organiser is Pauline Williams, the foundation treasurer who sorts out the rota and does the shopping!!!(not in the photo!!). These generous supporters helped to raise in excess of £1700 for Portsmouth Down Syndrome Association.(Permission was given by all photographed)



ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD

Mary Bode,	St Gregory the Great, Lydiate	Liverpool Archdiocese
Pauline Haverin	St Gregory the Great, Lydiate	Liverpool Archdiocese
Pat Burke	St Gregory the Great, Lydiate	Liverpool Archdiocese
Patricia O'Donnell	St Benedict's Garforth	Leeds Diocese
Margaret Mitchell	St Benedict's Garforth	Leeds Diocese
Beryl Foster	Holy Apostles and Martyrs	Shrewsbury Diocese
Patricia Murphy	Holy Apostles and Martyrs	Shrewsbury Diocese