WALSINGHAM STORIES 2026

Arundel and Brighton Lead Diocese



It was a privilege for A&B to lead the UCM Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham this year. The anticipation has spanned a year of preparation for us all. With the dedication in planning and preparation, and the support of our spouses, we have pulled off the many assigned tasks. It was a joy to see many members and visitors appreciate our effort. The simple bouquet we arranged in offering around the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham, speaks of our love to Mary Our Mother "Cause of Our Joy".

Thank you to our President Eileen Harris MBE, for leading us successfully. It was wonderful teamwork, and we are blessed to have such dedication.

A special thank you to Gerry Ross, for his photos and video clips capturing the event so well and his support to the UCM over the years. May we continue to carry the joy and love that we receive to others we meet.

Photo by Sean Harkins **Cecilia Thuy Cameron (A&B Media)**

Nottingham Diocese

It was the beginning of a hot summer's day when 40 of us including UCM members and our parish supporters left from St Mary of The Annunciation Church in Loughborough at 7.30am for our Pilgrimage to Walsingham. We had a refreshment break half-way after which Brother Lawrence, a visiting Rosminian Seminarian from Kenya, led The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. We arrived at The Walsingham Shrine at 11-50a.m just in time for 12 o'clock mass after which we had lunch. There was then time to visit The Slipper Chapel, gift shop and socialise with our fellow pilgrims before the procession of our UCM banners. This began an afternoon of prayer and spirituality. At 5.45 we began our journey back home. After another refreshment break we arrived safely back home at 8.30, tired but grateful





to have had yet another opportunity to participate in this annual event. Our Lady of Walsingham pray for us.

Dorothy Hutchings St Mary of the Annunciation

Hallam Diocese

The 79th UCM Pilgrimage to the Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady, at Walsingham, took place on 6th and 7th July 2026.



The pilgrimage was led by Bishop Alan Williams SM, our National Chaplain who guided us through a day and a half of worship, procession and devotion to Our Lady. The pilgrimage opened on Monday evening with the Service of Light, followed by a torchlight procession along the Pilgrim Way from the Shrine to the village. On Tuesday morning, pilgrims processed along the Pilgrim Way back to the Shrine before gathering at the Chapel of Reconciliation for the Angelus and Holy Mass.

The afternoon programme included the Sacrament of the Sick, an opportunity to receive healing, strength and the comfort of the Sacrament. The Hallam Diocesan banner was carried by our Diocesan President, Louise George, escorted by former president, Dorothy Anderson. The pilgrimage ended with Prayers and Benediction in the Chapel of Reconciliation led by Bishop Williams.

Through its liturgies and processions, the pilgrimage offered members of the UCM an opportunity to renew their faith, strengthen their communion, and place their prayers and intentions before Our Lady of Walsingham. **Emma Green Diocesan Media Officer**

Salford Diocese

An enriching pilgrimage was enjoyed by members of the UCM in Salford Diocese travelling from Bury from the parish of St. Clement, several ladies from Guardian Angels, Bury and ladies from St. Hilda's, Tottington.

Our pilgrimage was uplifting and spiritual and there was tremendous camaraderie with our fellow pilgrims.





A number of ladies had the honour of carrying Our Lady's statue, bedecked with flowers a mile along the Pilgrim Way. It was accompanied with decades of the Rosary and hymns to Our Lady. Bishop Alan Williams gave a warm welcome to the UCM ladies and in the evening procession along the Pilgrim Way led the Rosary and hymns. Ending in the garden with night prayers there was much joy and celebration.

Equally with the Mass, Benediction and the procession of the ladies with their banners, there was much to be proud of and to celebrate. Everyone immersed themselves in the experiences and life in Walsingham. They also partook in an Ecumenical Healing Service in the Anglican Chapel which they found rewarding. Delicious meals were taken in the restaurant and walks enjoyed around the grounds. There was a visit to Sandringham by the ladies of the parish of St. Clement. Also from that parish, the party of 12 ladies from St. Hilda's enjoyed a few extra days at the 'Knights Hill Hotel & Spa near King's Lynn where they dined in the 'Captains Room' had lots of fun and laughs in shared friendship and visited the seaside at Holkham near Wells. We had a wonderful time and all returned with vim and vigour feeling restored and blessed.

L M Marsden, July 2026, Salford Diocese