



Diocese of Leeds

Annual Review 2020



Come, let us adore him



Lourdes 2020 Virtual Rosary





DIocese of Leeds - Youth Section - LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2019



THE GOD WHO SPEAKS



EP 9

I think Greggs went out of business when you left Leeds

PIPE UP!
THE ORGAN PODCAST
WITH DAVID PIPE





Welcome from Bishop Marcus

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

When my fellow Catholic Bishops in England and Wales and I decided that 2020 would be designated a Year of Scripture, it was originally to encourage a greater knowledge and love of the Word of God, by encountering Him afresh through a more regular and closer reading of the Bible. Working with Bible Society, the initiative was named The God who Speaks and a busy year was planned in all dioceses, not least our own, to open our eyes and ears to how God's timeless love is communicated to us through the words, music and images inspired by His Holy Scriptures.

Little did we all realise how timely this would be!

The Bible acknowledges every human emotion: the Living Word providing a lamp for our feet even when we tread the darkest paths. With the Coronavirus pandemic came a great need for words and images of comfort and encouragement - both human and divine - as liberties, livelihoods and loved ones were taken from us during long months of lockdown.

As its purpose is to celebrate the events and successes across the seventy-eight parishes which together comprise our Diocese of Leeds, it may seem as if there is little good news to celebrate in this year's *Annual Review*. Yet, despite the months when churches were closed, with activities cancelled, curtailed, or celebrated in private, and the continuing sadness and uncertainties, by holding fast to the Good News of the Gospel we can still celebrate the triumph of the human spirit with the help of God's Grace. Acknowledging the many acts of charity, sacrifice, kindness, compassion and creativity - even if subject to restrictions or taking place 'online only' - which have been carried out in Faith, Hope and Love by members of our Diocesan Family during this time is more important than ever before.

The last word should, as ever, go to Our Lord Himself who remains unchanging in His love for us throughout our times of joy and tribulation, as He reassures us:

Do not be afraid. I am with you always: even to the end of time.

Pray for me, as I do for you.

Your servant in the Lord Jesus Christ,



+ Marcus Stock

✠ Marcus Stock
Bishop of Leeds



In times such as these, we are all reliant on God's mercy. The Cathedral's icon was blessed on Divine Mercy Sunday.



This year also marks the Rededication of England as the Dowry of Our Lady. Our Lord spoke from the cross to give His Blessed Mother to be mother to us all. In these uncertain times, we place ourselves, our families and our country under her loving protection.

The Diocese of Leeds is a charity with
Four Charitable Purposes

- Advancement of the Catholic Religion
- Promotion of Catholic Teaching
- Provision and Care of Priests
- Provision and Maintenance of Churches, Presbyteries and Schools

The Year of the Word in our Diocese was planned and co-ordinated by Catechist Dr Gregory Stacey and Fr (then Deacon) Henry Longbottom. Some of the country's most distinguished theologians and Bible scholars were invited to give talks, at first in person and later online.

The Year of the Word Speaker Series packed out Hinsley Hall before lockdown and has continued to be just as popular online. The Year of the Word team had adopted a multi-media approach which would serve them well when lockdown came along. Fr Mark Jarmuz's popular 12-part series for parish Bible study and prayer groups **Encounter with the Word of God** was designed to be accessed online, as were the **At Home Resources** including Gregory Stacey's own features on Music Inspired by Scripture, illustrated wherever possible through the recordings of our own diocesan choirs.



The Story of the Word in Twelve Treasures from the Diocese of Leeds began with the tale of 'Skipton's Saintry Stone': a rock from the actual spot where St Stephen, the first martyr, was put to death which was brought back to Yorkshire by a benefactor of St Stephen's Church in the C19th.

Fr Henry took to YouTube with his three-minute **Stay Safe Homilies; Window on the Word** is a digital photography activity, to link what can be seen from the safety of home or garden with a Bible verse; and **St Matthew's Gospel Unlocked** enabled the many different voices and accents of our diocesan family members to be heard reading the whole of that Gospel. All are still available online.



Caritas Leeds developed resources to help people with disabilities to engage with Scripture and during the pandemic, it has, through the charities it represents, come into its own. In addition to signposting toward practical help, Caritas distributed prayer resources to support people spiritually during lockdown, including targeted material from the **Dementia Group**. Liaising with Leeds Citizens' Mental Health Commission has been another priority during this time, as has escalating 'Clapping for

Carers' into meaningful action by supporting the Citizens UK campaign for care workers to be paid the real living-wage.



The pandemic has brought economic hardship to many who are now for the first time unable to feed their families. Supporting families positively with dignity is the aim of **Catholic Care's Community Markets. Catholic Care's Community Support Package** was also a lifeline for those who were shut in, providing dog-walking, supermarket vouchers, fruit for children - and a much-needed supportive presence at the end of a telephone.



With the dining room at **St Patrick's Mission** in Bradford too small to allow for physical distancing, the enterprising Franciscan Friars of the Renewal filled food parcels to be collected outside the Mission. Three times the usual number of clients during the lockdown has meant the Friars are now operating their 'outdoor take-away' service an extra day a week. A local civil engineering company has donated a much-needed £15k to help support the work of the Mission.

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

1 John 3:17-18

It is impossible to know all the ways, great and small, that every parish and individual has shown themselves to be the hands, face and feet of Christ on earth during this year. In addition to Catholic Care's work, food banks and telephone befriending was undertaken through the **Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission and also parish members of the SVP**, which in addition to online prayer groups and liturgies, often helped clergy stay in touch with vulnerable parishioners and those not contactable online by distributing bulletin notices and priests' prayers and messages of comfort and encouragement.

Advancement of the Catholic Religion

Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

John 14:6

Although our Christian witness could not for much of this year take place through public worship and events, information, resources, activities, encouragement and prayers were all to be found online.



Members of St John Mary Vianney Parish's prayer group kept up their meetings throughout the lockdown.

First Year of the Diocesan Website

Users - 155k
Page Views - 839k
Sessions - 333k

Some of our usual diocesan pilgrimages could also be attended via the internet. Lourdes Pilgrimage Director Fr Phillip Hall led a decade of the Rosary on YouTube, and Hospitality Team Anita Bodurka and Kim O'Connor organised a Spiritual Pilgrimage to Lourdes through pilgrims' 'virtual' participation in the Masses and Devotions they would have attended via [Lourdes TV](#) and a Mass celebrated in Leeds Cathedral by Bishop Marcus.

Lourdes has been for me personally one of the real 'highlights' of each year that I have been Bishop of Leeds since November 2014. I will miss greatly the time it affords me to be with the sick, together with their carers and family, the young people and all of the pilgrims. Each time, I have come away with my faith confirmed and my hope strengthened. I am already looking forward to next year when, if it pleases the Lord, we will all be able to gather again at Our Lady's Shrine in Lourdes itself. The success of the annual pilgrimage is without doubt due to the incredible care and attention to both the collective and individual needs of the pilgrims which you and all the members of the Lourdes Hospitality team provide. Thank you for organising this invitation as a way of expressing that same care and concern for the pilgrims at this time.

Bishop Marcus, Message to the Friends of Lourdes, July 2020

Also online were the regular September Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham and National Pro-Life Pilgrimage, both led from Walsingham by Bishop Marcus, supported by Fr Sean Crawley and Leeds Walsingham Director, Fr Ben Griffiths and shown on [Walsingham Catholic TV](#).

Instead of a three-day residential event at Hinsley Hall, with a maximum attendance of 50, this year's Diocesan Retreat led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal reached 1.6k people when it was broadcast direct from St Pio's Friary at Bradford's St Patrick's Mission via the [Friar's Facebook page](#).

Some annual events were able to take place, subject to Covid-safe Risk Assessments. Between August and November, organised outdoor physical activity was not only permitted and not subject to the 'Rule of Six', but actively encouraged with up to 30 people able to walk at any one time. The Friends of St Patrick's Mission's regular August THREE Peaks Challenge went ahead as the **ONE Peak Challenge** and even reached its target of £10k in sponsorship to maintain the work of St Patrick's Mission.



The fifth annual **St Wilfrid's Way**: the two-day Diocesan Pilgrimage between Leeds and Ripon went ahead almost as usual in October. Many thanks to the Ramblers, the Local Authorities and West and North Yorkshire Police for their help and advice to ensure the Camino could take place in a Covid-secure way with the permitted maximum of 30 walkers.



Pilgrims on Camino get the green light to set off from Knaresborough's 'Finisterre'!

'Camino Supremo', Stephen Habron was not able to walk this year owing to family commitments, but Stephen's carefully-planned 31 mile route began at Leeds Cathedral with a Pilgrims' Mass celebrated by his son, Fr Matthew Habron who is the Dean, and ended with Mass at St Wilfrid's, Ripon celebrated by his former parish priest, Fr Ian Smith!

Even some of our regular appearances in BBC broadcasts managed to fit in around the lockdown:

The 2019 BBC One *Christmas Day Mass* was celebrated by Bishop Marcus, Frs Chris Angel, Tony Rosso and Marc Homsey and sung by the Bradford Catholic Youth Choir to great acclaim from those who contacted the Bishop, Diocesan Communications and the BBC.



Sunday Worship is BBC R4's flagship Christian worship programme and was recorded individually this summer by Fr



Michael Hall with reflections from the newly-ordained (just 48 hours previously!) Fr Henry Longbottom with hymns and choral music from the CD's of our Diocesan Choirs. The episode, entitled *A Word for All Seasons*, marked the Year of the Word and Catholics' engagement with the Holy Scriptures, and the readers, drawn from the St Matthew's Gospel Unlocked project, were Stella Shyanguya and 12-year old Ben, both from Holy Redeemer Parish in Huddersfield, Maisie from St John Fisher School in Harrogate and Lucy from St Bede's and St Joseph's School in Bradford.

When churches were about to be closed for public worship, Leeds Cathedral acted quickly, working with videographer Matt Shears of [Shears Media](#) to start live-streaming via a new [YouTube Channel](#) first Sunday and then weekday Masses and Devotions. Matt also provided technical help and advice for several other parishes which also began to live-stream Mass and priests' short homilies and messages of encouragement. Communications' [Guide to Live-Streaming from Scratch](#) was reviewed by the Digital Manager of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) as the 'best by some way' of all guides produced to help Catholic churches' first forays into live-streaming.



Bishop Marcus's homilies at the Sunday Mass on Leeds Cathedral Live were his pastoral messages to the Diocese throughout the first period of lockdown, and were much appreciated by the local, national and international Catholics (and several

non-Catholics) who comprised the Cathedral's 'virtual congregation'.

Moderators report remarkably few internet 'trolls' and the policy of trusting people who choose to use the YouTube 'live chat' only to make responses, pray for one another's and their own intentions has created a warmly supportive community amongst strangers.

Leeds Cathedral Live Statistics

First Mass - 22 March 2020

Views to date - 530k+

Subscribers to date - 4.5k

Most watched - Good Friday 2020 (40k views)

Numbers at Sunday Mass - 3-10 times the Cathedral's 450-seat capacity

The live streaming of Mass from the Cathedral has been, quite literally, a Godsend. The global community that has participated has been amazing. Thanks to all, including the 'back-room boys' who move mountains to bring the liturgies to us. And the brotherhood of the bishop and his Cathedral clergy is inspiring. I found the two ordinations most humbling: simpler, moving and so blessed. Bishop Marcus's homilies were personal, uplifting, challenging – brilliant as all his homilies are. Parishioner, Leeds.

As ever, Diocese of Leeds Music led the way with fellow church and cathedral music professionals during the lockdown, hosting webinars attended by 100 church musicians from King's College, Cambridge, St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and internationally. Whilst most of these choral foundations and cathedrals had immediately furloughed all their music staff, Ben Saunders and his team were busy ensuring a continuation of music to enhance the Cathedral's live-streamed liturgies by keeping 18 auditioned after-school choirs rehearsing (including the 6 Leeds Cathedral Choirs) and maintaining their renowned Schools Singing Programme (SSP) to future-proof our tradition of Catholic sacred music. SSP Director Tom Leech was invited on to BBC R4's *Sunday Programme*, his interview enhanced by one of the first choral recordings made under lockdown conditions by the Cathedral's Girls Choir.



As soon as it was permitted the choirs were back safely rehearsing and singing in church again with 100% attendance.



Leeds Cathedral Boys Choir in 2019

Diocese of Leeds Music's encouragement of children from across the Universal Church to have the opportunity of singing in a first-class cathedral choir was acknowledged in the national press. The President of the

Cathedral Music Trust, Harry Christophers of 'The Sixteen', described the need for the cathedrals to learn from those which are '... succeeding brilliantly with diversity programmes'.

...look at the way that Leeds Roman Catholic Cathedral operates. Five or six different choirs, all drawn from inner-city state schools, ticking every diversity box, and a music outreach programme that reaches over 4,000 kids each week. That's fantastically encouraging and a great role model. With the state of music in state schools so dire at present, cathedrals can play a huge part in reaching out to children who will otherwise miss out on any sort of music education.
Harry Christophers, The Times, 4 August 2020

As ever, Diocesan Curia departments look for ways of bringing all the homes, schools and parishes of our Diocese together, and BKCAT Choir's Choral Director Charlotte Kitson worked with colleagues in Music and Communications to launch **Hymns@Home**. Bishop Marcus and priests whose parishes benefit from a choir through the SSP introduced prayers and blessings in the *Songs of Praise*-style subtitled singalong of Catholic hymns and choral pieces recorded by the choirs during lockdown and broadcast on **Diocese of Leeds Music's YouTube Channel** for everyone to join in. The event was such a success that **Carols@Home** (known colloquially as 'Yuletide@Your Place!') was broadcast in lieu of the usual Christmas concerts and services of Lessons and Carols.



Available throughout the Christmas Season



Hymns@Home is set to become a regular feature: ONE Diocese, many voices!

The Youth Commission known as **The Twelve**, is a Caritas Leeds initiative being progressed collaboratively with Leeds Citizens and the Diocesan Youth Service. The term 'The Twelve' is symbolic: there are actually 14 of them, including several young people who are practising their faith (and evangelising by example) in non-Catholic schools. The group's chosen priorities for the foreseeable future are Communications and Social Action, having carried out a simple listening initiative with their friends to decide upon these two areas.



The Twelve

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

The virtues, leadership and listening skills being encouraged and developed in our young people help the Church to face the future with confidence.

Also considering faith in our future is an initiative being pursued by our Pastoral Council which Bishop Marcus convened last year. The Bishop has asked Fr Martin Kelly, assisted by Dcn John Walsh, to co-ordinate a 'listening project' involving all clergy, laity and schools across the many parishes which together comprise our ONE Diocese. Provisionally entitled 'From Parish to Mission', ALL constructive views will actively be sought, so watch the diocesan and parish websites for details of how to contribute to the information-gathering!



Leeds International Organ Festival is another opportunity to evangelise through our sacred music. This year, LIOF Live went ahead using CD

recordings of the distinguished recitalists from around the world, who gave lively and amusing interviews to the Festival's Artistic Director David Pipe's aptly-named podcast, [Pipe Up!](#)

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.*

Psalm 100

EP
4



I felt I was running round

like a chicken with my head cut off



PIPE UP!
THE ORGAN PODCAST

WITH DAVID PIPE

*Praise him with strings and pipe!
Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!*

Psalm 150

Promotion of Catholic Teaching

You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul ... Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. **Deuteronomy 11:18-19**

Two major publications this year have promoted Catholic Teaching for both adults and children.

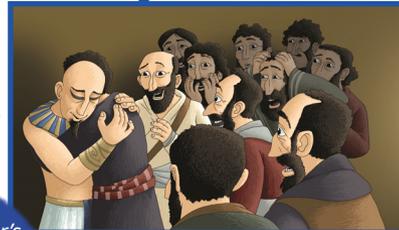
Catholic Social Teaching on Justice and Mercy was at the heart of a major two-year research project: the Caritas Leeds Criminal Justice Inquiry. Co-chaired by Dcn Joseph Cortis and Tom Chigbo of Leeds Citizens and a Holy Rosary Chapeltown parishioner, the Inquiry sought the opinions of victims of crime, former offenders and their families, those involved in dispensing justice, charities and journalists. Restorative Justice allows victims to choose to inform the perpetrator of the true effects of their crime, and this was explored as just one of the ways of reforming the Criminal Justice system to reflect both Justice and Mercy. The findings and recommendations of the [Caritas Leeds Criminal Justice Report](#) is enlightening to all with an interest in Criminal Justice, as well as giving details of practical ways our Catholic parishes can make a difference.

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another. **Zechariah 7: 9-10**

Catechists in the [Vicariate for Education](#) have produced another major publication this year as a follow-up to last year's First Holy Communion Resources. Committed to the Bishop's vision for young people and their parents, guardians, and carers to share a faith journey through the first Sacraments in 'Family Catechesis', the Vicariate's eagerly-awaited Reconciliation Resources were published during the summer. [Heart Speaks to Heart: the Gift of Reconciliation](#) introduces two delightful characters: Max, a mischievous monkey, and his friend Droogo, a well-meaning but easily-led trainee-dragon.



The Adventures of Max and Droogo are based around stories and drawings from young people who entered last year's schools competition. Simultaneously lively and yet conveying a serious message, the charming 'cautionary tales' and prayer and learning resources are designed to engage the whole family and guide young people as they approach their First Confession. Several other Catholic dioceses have expressed an interest in the resources and author and Episcopal Vicar for Education, [Fr Tim Swinglehurst](#) has more books planned with illustrator Si Smith.



Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

Proverbs 1:8

Schools News

Staff and pupils, including the school's Mini Vinnies found

creative ways of raising money for charitable causes at [St William's Primary School](#) in Bradford. This came



after Ofsted inspectors had recognised how the school had changed from a long-standing 'Requires Improvement' to 'Good'.

Catholic values are at the heart of everything in the school. All staff promote love, respect and kindness. Pupils are well behaved. They develop empathy for one another. Older pupils often support and care for younger pupils. Pupils are happy. They are proud to be part of the St William's community... Ofsted Inspector

Congratulations go to [St Joseph's Primary School](#), Wetherby: the first school in the Diocese to win [CAFOD's 'Live Simply Award'](#)!



We began our journey by making a whole school banner using only reused and recycled materials to remind us of our Live Simply mission across school. To respect, reduce, repair, reuse and recycle is now well embedded in all that we do across school and our Year 6 children have left a legacy to ban single use plastic bottles at St Joseph's.
Louise Milivojevic, Head Teacher

St Joseph's Primary School in Batley Carr also received accolades from Ofsted for helping to educate not only the children but also the wider community: inviting the children's families in for special sessions to help with complicated administrative issues such as applications for Income Support. The school also benefited from PTA fundraising to create a pathway round the school field's perimeter so that pupils could improve their physical and mental well-being by walking a mile each day.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6



Remembrance commemorations at St William's Primary, Bradford and Holy Family High School, Keighley held the same degree of reverence and solemnity as ever for the students who took part in physically-distanced class groups as well as individually.



St John Fisher High School in Harrogate joined **St Mary's Primary** in Knaresborough when BBC One's *Songs of Praise* featured the **Chapel of Our Lady of the Crag**. The young people sang a Marian hymn and spoke eloquently about what shrines and holy places of pilgrimage meant to them.



With the usual Year 6 Primary School Leavers' Mass unable to take place at the end of the summer term, **Bishop Marcus recorded a short video homily** with a message of encouragement for those about to start high school in September.



The team at **Diocese of Leeds Youth** are a key part of the Lourdes Pilgrimage which in turn is a major milestone in Catholic school life for so many of our Year 7 and 8 students. With Youth Director, Fr Marc Homsey and young people and their School Lay Chaplains from across the Diocese, the team made an audio-visual presentation of the Rosary illustrated with photo-montages from past visits. The videos are still available on the **Leeds Diocesan Youth Service YouTube Channel**.



St Mary's in Menston also had a broadcasting success, as student George Kent won Best Debut Performance in the BBC R4 Audio Drama Awards for his portrayal of 'Billy Casper', the lead role in the latest radio adaptation of Barry Hines' 1968 novel, *A Kestrel for a Knave*.



The Twelve have also developed their own logo and will soon have their own designated area on the Youth Service website which will also link with that of Caritas Leeds.

Despite having no students to teach during the first lockdown, Design and Technology staff at **Notre Dame 6th Form College** in Leeds put their skills and time in school to good use, turning out 150 PPE visors a day for **Mount St Joseph's Care Home** and **St Gemma's Hospice** as well as for many NHS institutions in the region.



Lockdown homework and 'Welcome Back Tree' at St John's Catholic School for the Deaf.

The Diocese of Leeds Music Schools Singing Programme (SSP) did not miss a beat before going online to ensure children were kept singing and socialising. Its new **YouTube channel** kept to the regular timetable of singing sessions for pupils of all ages, as well as for the auditioned, after-school choir rehearsals and several recordings have been made individually and then edited together, one of them being used on BBC R4's *Sunday Programme* to illustrate their innovative work and tenacity.



Leeds Cathedral Girls Choir

Teaching staff and parents alike have been glad of the continuing engagement of children and the programme goes from strength to strength, with the most recent school to join the SSP being **St Wilfrid's Primary School** in Ripon.



My experiences with the Bradford Catholic Boys' Choir have shaped me as a person. Growing up in inner-city Bradford with limited options, the choir gave me the confidence to aspire to more. From singing weekly Vespers at the local church to performing on TV in front of millions, each experience has proven invaluable in my life journey and I will continue to draw on the lessons of resilience and perseverance gained here as I move on to my next chapter at the University of Oxford.

Josh - member of Bradford Catholic Boys Choir (pictured below left rehearsing for a BBC broadcast in 2013)



I'm going to Trinity College, Cambridge, to study Natural Sciences. I have been part of Bradford Catholic Youth Choir for seven years and I have gained so much from it, from the once in a lifetime opportunity to sing in the Vatican, to the many friends I have made along the way. One of the highlights for me was singing live on TV for the Christmas Day Mass. I've had such an incredible time in choir, none of which would be possible without the Diocese's Schools Singing Programme, it really has been a rewarding and enriching experience which I will cherish for the rest of my life!

Gabrielle - member of Bradford Catholic Youth Choir



Young people of all backgrounds, their parents and their teachers have always shown heartfelt appreciation for the opportunities - academic and social as well as musical - which benefit them through the Schools Singing Programme.



In November 2020, the SSP was given further national appreciation with one of the highest honours in UK classical music when it was recognised for the work done during lockdown with a prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Award.



A new free trial was started in lockdown to provide children with no access to a keyboard instrument with something portable and affordable. Ben Saunders and Organ Scholar Anthony Beckwith are now teaching more than 20 children a week to play the accordion. Cathedral Organist David Pipe's 50 organ, piano and now accordion pupils in what has been renamed the **Keyboard Studies Programme** now have a total of 6 tutors. The scheme is being generously supported over the next three years by the Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation, which helped launch our original Organists' Training Programme in 2016.

Diocese of Leeds Music would like to thank ALL donors who have generously supported their work this year, including grant funding from the following:

Ann Maguire Arts Education Fund
Basil Death Trust
Cathedral Music Trust (Diamond Fund for Choristers & Cathedral Choirs Emergency Fund)
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
Leeds Music Education Partnership
Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation
Radcliffe Trust
Sir George Martin Charitable Trust

 [Diocese of Leeds Music](#)

 [Leeds Diocesan Youth Service](#)

 [LEEDS YOUTH](#)

Provision and Care of Priests

Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.

Acts 20:28

During the months when churches were closed for public worship, our clergy were celebrating Mass alone each day. Many were themselves advised to 'shield', and were adopting new ways of fulfilling their ministry, often with unfamiliar technology. They rose to the challenge of reaching parishioners, especially the most vulnerable, online and by telephone, to give them spiritual and pastoral support, and in return many parishioners supported their priests and deacons with messages of encouragement and prayers.

Congratulations to all our Jubilarians!

Fr Bernard Battle, 70 years ordained on 16 April

Fr James Leavy, 50 years ordained on 6 June

Fr Gerald Thornton, 25 years ordained on 1 July

Canon James Callaghan, 25 years ordained on 4 November

Mention should also be made of the **Bishop Emeritus, Archbishop Arthur Roche** who in July celebrated the 45th anniversary of his ordination and **Archbishop John Wilson** who celebrated his Silver Jubilee in the same month.



The Bishop conferred on our Seminarians Marc Pitson and Yemane Aradom the Order of Acolyte and Lector respectively.

We currently have 5 men studying for the priesthood at seminaries in England and in Rome. As former Vocations Director Fr Michael Doody leaves **St Augustine's Parish** in Harehills to take up his appointment as Pastoral Director at the Venerable English College in Rome, the new **Vocations Director for the Diocese** is Fr Stephen Webb. He is Parish Priest at **St Joseph's Parish**, Bilton and Catholic Chaplain at Harrogate's Army Foundation College and may be contacted via stephen.webb@dioceseofleeds.org.uk and **01423 504124**

The Cathedral's Dean has received an honorary Canonry. Congratulations to Canon Matthew Habron, pictured here with his parents Christine and Stephen.



The newly-ordained Fr Henry Longbottom and Fr Darren Jones with family and friends, including fellow Seminarians from Oscott College.



In the year when England is re-dedicated as the Dowry of Our Lady, Fr Philip Moger, previously Dean of Leeds Cathedral and more recently the Parish Priest of **St John Mary Vianney Parish** in Leeds, began his five-year term in September as Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk.

As Mgr Moger's bishop, I am reluctant to see him leave us to minister outside of this Diocese, albeit for a limited term of office; as a member of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales though, I am delighted that we have a priest of such talent and ability leading one of the Catholic Church's important national institutions. I know that Mgr Moger will be sorry to leave the parish of St John Mary Vianney in Leeds, only a year after having taken up appointment there last summer. I know too that he will miss living nearby to you, the clergy, religious and lay faithful of our Diocese, during the course of these next few years. However, Mgr Moger can be confident that he will take up his new appointment with the assurance of our prayers, affection, friendship and support.

Bishop Marcus



Next in line to be ordained to the priesthood in 2021 is Dcn Christopher Butler. A student at the Pontifical Beda College, Chris was ordained Deacon in June.



In February, Bishop Marcus joined Fr Ghebreyesus Ghebrezghi and our Eritrean congregation at Holy Rosary Church in Chapeltown to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Eritrean Chaplaincy in the Diocese of Leeds.

Our **School Chaplains** play a key role in building strong relationships between school and parish communities so that both children, families and teaching staff gain a deeper appreciation of the beauty of Catholic liturgy and traditions throughout the Church's Year.



Fr Paul Redmond organises a Swedish Cardinal's visit to St Clare's, Fagley in November; the children learn what it means to 'Chalk the Doors' with **20*C+M+B 20** at the Feast of the Epiphany; and the following month, St Brendan's School pupils and teachers celebrated Candlemas and the Feast of Bradford's Patron, St Blaise with the traditional 'Blessing of Throats'.



Year 1 children at Immaculate Heart of Mary Primary in Leeds were helped by their Chaplain, Fr Joshua Hilton, to build a 'play chapel' for a better understanding of the liturgy and the roles of priest and laity.

Fr Gerald Creasey was one of the last priests in the Diocese to be ordained before the Second Vatican Council. The Creasey Papers now form a unique collection in the archives of the Venerable English College in Rome and Fr Gerry has now written a memoir **From Venerable to Vulnerable: a 60 Year Journey** from his school days at St Michael's College in Leeds in the 1940s through Seminary studies, to his many years as a teacher and priest.



Fr Gerry ordained in Rome in 1961 by the late Cardinal Luigi Traglia.

Working closely with **Diocesan Archives**, Fr Nicholas Hird has produced more Illustrated biographical sketches of more than 200 priests ordained between 1915 and 1939, who served in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Volumes 3 and 4 of **Our Fathers in Faith** are now available from the author via nicholas.hird@dioceseofleeds.org.uk or **01274 872984**. The cost is £25 plus postage for the set.

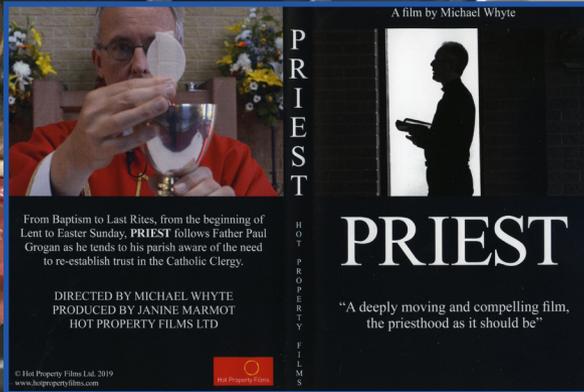
As a follow-up to **Priests in Uniform**, his history of Great War Catholic Chaplains to the Forces, Dr James Hagerty has published **No Ordinary Shepherds: Catholic Chaplains to the British Forces in the Second World War**. Published by Gracewing and priced at £25.

The children have enjoyed helping to build our 'church' and have had great fun whilst being engaged in practical learning. We also hope that the play chapel might also help encourage vocations to the priesthood within our own school.

Angela Phillips, Head Teacher



A skill not taught at Seminary! Fr Chris Angel at the 2019 Christmas Day BBC broadcast rehearsal.

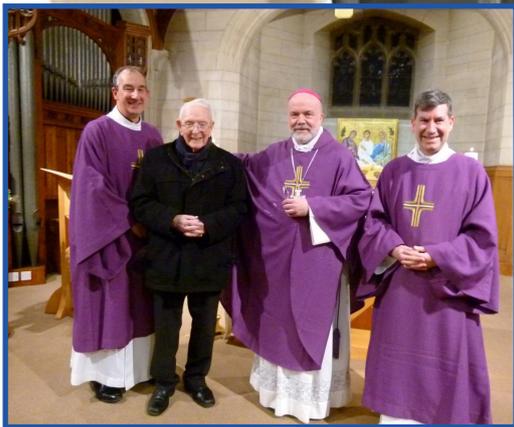


The new documentary about Fr Paul Grogan's ministry at Mary Mother of God Parish made by Bradford-born film-maker Michael Whyte, may be purchased to stream on Amazon.

Harrogate rode to Fr Jim Leavy's rescue with the community raising double the amount needed to replace his stolen electric e-tricycle!



On your bikes, Sisters! Little Sisters of the Poor Sr Christina and Mother Caroline Mary join with Mount St Joseph's staff Ann and Mark on a sponsored bicycle ride from Rodley to Saltaire and back to help raise some of the £250k needed to meet enhanced fire safety requirements.



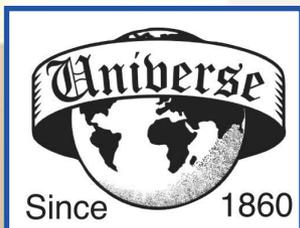
Silver Jubilees were celebrated by our Permanent Deacons, David Arblaster (St Aelred's, Harrogate) and Keith Ballard (Immaculate Heart, Huddersfield). Deacon Edwin Murphy (St Edward's, Clifford) whose Silver Jubilee was last year, is the longest-serving Permanent Deacon in the Diocese, and celebrated his 100th birthday in December.



Super Server! Senior Altar Server John Gallagher receives the Guild of St Stephen golden medal at St Paul's, Alwoodley in St John Mary Vianney Parish. Beginning at St Joseph's, Hunslet, John has now been serving Mass in the Diocese of Leeds for 62 years!

Leeds Cathedral also celebrated years of faithful service: the bells' and bell ringers' 40th Anniversary was honoured during Mass on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (8 December 2019).

Peter Bradshaw retired in January 2020 after a long association with the Cathedral both as Cathedral Caretaker and Site Manager of Wheeler Hall. Joining Caretaker Gerry McKenny in March, a new member of the team was welcomed: Jeffrey Manulid, whose son sings in the Cathedral Boys Choir.



As ever, our friends at the [Catholic Universe](https://thecatholicuniverse.com) have been supporting our diocesan clergy and laity by reporting stories from around our parishes.

For world, national and parish news and features with a Catholic perspective, you can usually find your copy of the *Universe* at the back of church - or please consider subscribing via:

<https://thecatholicuniverse.com/product-category/subscribe-digital/>

To have good news stories from **YOUR** parish published on the diocesan website or in this *Annual Review* please contact communications@dioceseofleeds.org.uk



Provision and Maintenance of Churches, Presbyteries and Schools

My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Isaiah 56: 7



There was much rejoicing when it was announced that from 4 July, 2020 churches would be able to open for public worship. One of the first to open was Our Lady of Victories and St Anne's in Keighley.



Owing to the pandemic, most non-essential work on our buildings has been paused other than projects that are at an advanced stage, therefore most of the Diocesan Property Department's work this year has been enabling churches to reopen safely.

Work has been ongoing for some time at a former convent at **St Stephen's Parish** in Skipton to create from the old building a 'mixed economy' of accommodation to benefit the parish: a new vestry and presbytery, parish rooms including a large function room, catering and WC facilities, increased parking, plus three self-contained flats to let.



No charity can survive without financial support: **THANK YOU** to **ALL** whose giving through Offertory, donations and legacies has helped us fulfil the Church's mission, including the following generous grants received this year for buildings maintenance and charitable work in our parishes:

Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation, All Churches Trust, Catholic Women's League, Garfield Weston Foundation, Historic England, Idlewild Trust, Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, National Churches Trust, National Lottery Awards for All, St Joseph Tadcaster, Sir Harold Hood Charitable Trust, Swinton Trust, Tempest Trust, Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust

Historic England gave the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) a total of £1million to be distributed for funding the completion of work on Grade I and Grade II* Listed churches which had been affected by the current situation. Three of our historic parish churches benefited, including **St Wilfrid's Church**, Ripon, where in addition to other grants and generous donations and legacies from parishioners, it will pay for restoration work on this architectural treasure of the Diocese. The church will hopefully be open again by Easter 2021 and the next big parish project will be to raise funds to install the 'new to us' pipe organ found for St Wilfrid's by the Diocesan Organ Advisor John Rowntree and renovated by local organ builders Wood of Huddersfield.



An organ donated from a redundant Nonconformist chapel in Scotland was recently installed in St Anthony's Church, Beeston and much to the delight of Parish Priest, Fr Timothy Whitwell and Organist Catherine Harris. Bishop Marcus blessed the organ in the customary manner (with incense rather than water) and Diocesan Director of Music, Ben Saunders gave the inaugural concert.

A former gym in the basement area of **Cathedral Chambers** has been re-ordered to create a large space for choir rehearsals and instrumental lessons. The Cathedral campus now has 7 practice organs: 5 pipe and 2 electronic, of which one of the pipe organs for restoration is a rare and important instrument by the famed French builder Aristide Cavaillé-Coll: a 'Rolls Royce' of French organs, one of only 3 in Britain, and donated for free by a church in Cardiff!



Both the interiors and exteriors of our churches are cared for and put to good use for the community. Half an acre of allotment at **St Benedict's Church** in Garforth produces staples such as cabbages and potatoes, 75% of which is given away to the **SVP Centre on York Road** which has been providing two cooked meals a day for around 5,000 local people. Another beneficiary is 'Garforth Net', a Churches Together initiative supporting older people, run by St Benedict's parishioner, Monica Walker. This service provides not only food packages but also befrienders in the parish, staying in touch with around 2,000 people a week who would otherwise have been isolated and alone during lockdown.



In addition to the human community, St Benedict's is home to an avian one. Benedict the cockerel thinks he presides over his hens – but bantam Bernadette is really the boss, and is 'mother hen' to Scholastica and the new arrival, Therese of Lisieux, so-named because of her Carmelite brown and white feathers.

There have been regular updates on the wild flora and fauna to be found in the woods at **Myddelton Grange** from the Myddelton Estate Manager, Paul Elgar. Paul also enabled wider community use of the property as a resource for locals when approached by an Ilkley-based choir. Six members of the usually 50-strong Cantores Olicanae were blessed with mild and sunny weather when they rehearsed their sacred music repertoire in the unique acoustic at Myddelton Calvary, and reported, 'We had a great time and gave two visitors an excellent rendering of Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus*.'



The **Laudato Si' Pilgrimages** around the Calvary and woodland will resume as soon as possible, and it is hoped that David Jackson and his fellow online graduates from parishes such as **St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross** in Shipley who have become our local Laudato Si' Advocates will be able to join events, including one planned for next September/October's Season of Creation.

As a diocese, 71% of Gas use is now from renewable sources: further improvement from last year ... and on the subject of 'green' issues ... Although not one of our own diocesan properties, it will be of interest to Catholics of Irish descent that the Leeds Irish Centre on York Road – the first purpose-built Centre of its kind – is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a book by local journalist Sharon Boyle. *Fifty Years in the Making* can be ordered via book@leedsirishcentrebook.co.uk

The biggest cost in securing the future of **Our Diocesan Treasures** across all our parishes is essential maintenance and repairs to buildings, including restorations and refurbishments of historic churches, and the provision of our Catholic Cemetery at Killingbeck.

Significant funding is needed to support the churches and parish centres at the heart of our family and community life. This enables the Catholic Church to carry out both its Sacramental role and mission to care for the true 'Treasures of the Church': the poor, the sick and the vulnerable.

The Diocesan Property Department assists parishes with the administration and management of their properties, working with the Finance Department's fundraising team to provide vital information needed to apply for grants and funding for our parishes across the length and breadth of our Diocese.



Congratulations to parishioners at **St Mary of the Angels** in Batley and to their Parish Priest Fr Eamonn Hegarty; the church, which is home to the Batley Torchlight Procession, is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

Diocesan Pastoral and Conference Centre, [Hinsley Hall](#) had a new website developed this year and thanks to Diocesan Health and Safety Officer, Barry Lewis, the building exceeds all Covid-safety standards and has been well used by NHS Training providers, ALS throughout the year.



Hinsley Hall's Maintenance Officer, Kevin Noad tests the bell at Hinsley Hall's Chapel of the Holy Family. The plan is for the restored bell to ring the Angelus every day at 12 noon.



Statues of St Thomas More and St John Fisher, restored by Hinsley Hall Duty Manager David Ormondroyd and replaced in the Chapel corridor.



Always popular as a drama filming location, a professional German TV crew visited in the summer, using the exterior of Hinsley Hall to double as a hospital.



The Holy Family Chapel was also used for filming by Youth 2000, when all their regular retreats and events went online. The [NEWonline Retreat](#) is on 2 and 3 January 2021 with Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, inspirational talks, small groups, prayer ministry, Rosary and worship. The event includes sessions with the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Renewal – and the latter's 'Handmaids' prayer group for women may also relocate to Hinsley Hall's chapel and spacious meeting rooms.

Governance

Key to our collective expressions of faith at Mass and other liturgies, involvement in parish groups and social activities is how we interact with one another. Good **Governance** enables all of us to feel welcomed, to feel safe and to feel secure in all parts of our Diocese. Seeking always to have best practices in **Safeguarding** and **Health and Safety** has enabled us, during the pandemic, to open our churches and to express our faith albeit in different ways as safely and COVID-securely as we possibly can. The cooperation between the Curia and parishes, our priests and laity, in meeting the physical distancing regulations in our churches demonstrates our resolve to face and solve our challenges together, giving us the courage and strength to work together on new challenges.

The Six Pillars of Good Governance

- Adherence to the rule of law
- Moral integrity
- Transparency
- Participation
- Responsibility and accountability
- Effectiveness and efficiency

Safeguarding

As a diocese we remain committed to safeguarding the vulnerable - children, young people and adults who may be at risk - in accordance with Civil Law and Church policy.

The Diocese of Leeds Safeguarding Office in accordance with Church's national policies and procedures works closely with the **121 Parish Safeguarding Volunteers** to promote the best working practices for all activities and events involving children and adults who may be at risk. A key part of creating a safe environment is our 'Safer Recruiting' process which includes undertaking Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks at the appropriate level for all those involved in diocesan and parish ministry.

During the year, the Safeguarding Office established links with **Survivors West Yorkshire** which provides help and practical support to those who are living with the impact of abuse.

In the past year 1,109 DBS checks were carried out on adults whose role and responsibilities include children or adults at risk.

The Leeds Catholic Safeguarding Commission has independent members made up of senior health care professionals, senior Probation and Social Care Officers, an Inspector from West Yorkshire Police in addition to members of the clergy and laity from within the Diocese. The Commission's focus is specifically upon:

- The management of allegations and concerns including referral to statutory agencies.
- The management of risk for those who have been subject to concerns, allegations or convictions which are relevant to safeguarding.
- Responding to the individual needs of those affected by abuse within the Church.
- Safeguarding information by ensuring that advice and training are available, up to date and accessible.

Safeguarding in the Catholic Church in England and Wales
www.csas.uk.net

Safeguarding in the Diocese of Leeds
www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/safeguarding

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult talk to **Suzanne Mitchell, Safeguarding Coordinator** on **0113 261 8069** or **0751 559 8523**. To ensure the immediate health and safety of a child or adult dial **999** if necessary.

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) into the extent of any institutional failures to protect children from sexual abuse within the Church in England and Wales, and its recommendations to improve policies and practices, was published in November 2020.

The **IICSA Report** may be downloaded at:
<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/investigations/investigation-into-failings-by-the-catholic-church>

A further independent review of safeguarding structures within the Church was undertaken by Safeguarding Consultant Ian Elliot. All recommendations have been accepted by the Bishops of England and Wales.

The full text of the Elliott Report may be downloaded at:
<http://catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Independent-Review-Safeguarding-Report-2020-Final.pdf>

...we Bishops have stood together in profound shame. We express our sorrow and contrition before God ... The work of implementation will begin immediately.

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, Statement on Safeguarding, 20 November 2020.

*Our steps are made firm by the Lord,
when he delights in our way; though
we stumble, we shall not fall headlong,
for the Lord holds us by the hand.*

Psalm 36: 23-24

Health and Safety

This year the regulations regarding physical distancing and cleaning regimes have often changed at short notice. With support from our **Health and Safety** professionals parishes have risen to the challenge to enable our churches to open and for Mass to take place in a dignified and COVID-secure way. The role of volunteer stewards and cleaners before, during and after Mass has been key to allowing the celebration of the Eucharist. It is right and fitting that the costs of PPE and other sanitising equipment during the pandemic has been met by the Curia so that Health and Safety is never compromised.

We all have a part to play in our own and others' Health and Safety. To report all Health and Safety concerns or for general advice speak to **Barry Lewis** on **0113 361 8058**

Data Collection and Data Protection

Being able to communicate with one another either in writing, by telephone or via e-mail requires us to keep each other's information and contact details.

During the lockdowns many parishes have been able to provide a telephone ministry and use other imaginative ways of keeping in touch. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) does not stop us holding relevant details on individuals, but it does require us to keep this information secure and to use it appropriately in the running of our parishes.

Our Data Protection Officer is Robert Finnigan. He can give practical guidance and support on how parishes can use and protect personal data. Robert can be contacted via email DPO@dioceseofleeds.org.uk or by telephone on **0113 261 8031**.

For advice on setting up a secure and GDPR-compliant Parish Database contact **Anna Larkin** via anna.larkin@dioceseofleeds.org.uk or **0113 261 8028**

Financial Stewardship

In the Bible, Jesus speaks more about money than any other subject apart from the Kingdom of God. We are exhorted not to love money for its own sake, but instead to steward our financial resources wisely and with integrity. As a charity, the Diocese of Leeds is required to have a strong team of lay professionals to support the clergy and lay

volunteers in their mission of spreading and living the Gospel message, as this mission cannot be achieved without the key resources of people, time and money.

When churches were closed, the Curia Finance Department acted quickly in response to priests' and parishioners' requests for secure new ways of enabling people to continue contributing to their parish Offertory:

Online Standing Order and Gift Aid Forms
Giving by Text
Online Parish Offertory
Giving by Telephone – 0113 2618023
Leeds Cathedral Live YouTube Channel

Legacies

Although the Offertory is still the main source of income for our parishes, in previous *Annual Reviews* we have highlighted in more detail other financial mainstays: the role of our Second Collections in helping our wider Catholic community, and grant funding which supports pastoral work and also building projects in our Diocese. This year, we highlight the part that legacy giving plays both now and in the future across our parishes, diocesan organisations and projects.

Many if not most of the Church's buildings, artefacts, furnishings, organs, and charities in our parishes have been provided through legacy giving. In the past four years legacies have averaged £250k for our parishes and £100k for funds and projects administered through the Curia.

Parish legacies have enabled restoration work to be completed, as well as having provided vital support for a parish's pastoral work for many years to come. Curia legacies have supported our seminarians' training for the priesthood (it costs £30k a year to study for the priesthood). These legacies have also helped enable infirm pilgrims to visit Lourdes, and have aided the support of our catechists and the pastoral work which our Diocesan Youth Service and Music Department undertake for future generations in our Diocese. Legacies also enable our Diocese to provide housing, support and care for our retired clergy.

Leaving a gift of just 1% in your Will to your parish or chosen fund means those closest to you still receive 99%. All parishes and funds are part of the **Leeds Diocesan Trust Registered Charity Number 249404**. The correct wording helps to ensure that your wishes are carried out. To make a gift in your will you need to provide the charity number and state the particular cause that you would like to support such as: Your Parish, Leeds Cathedral Priests Training Fund, Poor Mission Fund, St Patrick's Mission, Music Fund. For more information please contact your parish priest. Alternatively, you can email: legacies@dioceseofleeds.org.uk or call **0113 261 8023**.

Financial Review

Year ended 31 March 2020

As Catholics in the Diocese of Leeds our mission is expressed through our four principal Charitable Purposes. As a charity, the Civil Law requires us to adhere to these objectives.

Our Four Charitable Purposes are:

- The Advancement of the Catholic Religion;
- The Promotion of Catholic Teaching in the Diocese and beyond;
- The Provision and Care of Priests;
- The Maintenance of Churches, Presbyteries and Schools.

We continue to fulfil these objectives through our collective good stewardship. This is summarised in our Financial Strategy by continuing to work together to bring our diocese's expenditure into line with its income on an annual sustainable cash basis. The Strategy recognises that we need to invest in meeting our mission and make appropriate investments in our places of worship.

Operating Summary

	2020	2019
	£k	£k
Income	11,304	11,389
Expenditure	(11,888)	(11,533)
Net Operating Expenditure	(584)	(144)

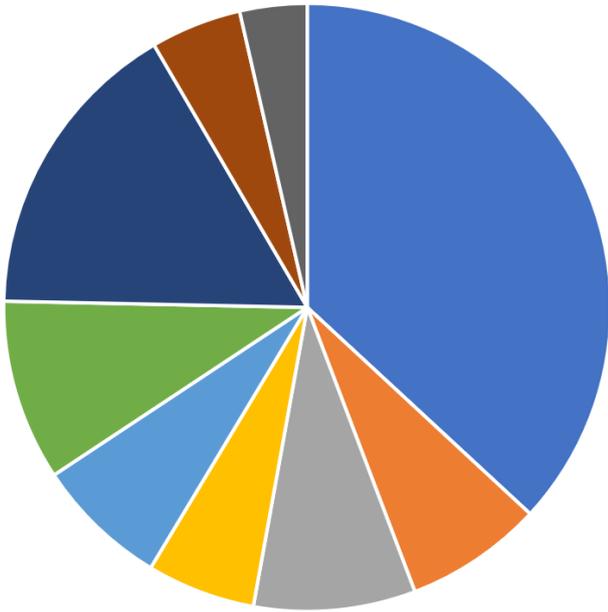
Whilst continuing to report net operating expenditure presents challenges on which we continue to work together, investment in our places of worship and other parish properties has been maintained at £1.6m. Net resources increased in the year by £2,154k. The net operating expenditure in the year of £584k is summarised above. The increase in net resources in the year is principally due to the revaluation of investment properties at £4,340k and gains on the sale of assets of £8k offset by decreases in the market value of investments of £1,610k.

Cash Generation Summary

	2020	2019
	£k	£k
Cash generated from charitable activities	(570)	(973)
Cash proceeds from investments	1,793	1,678
Cash proceeds from the sale of property assets	914	5,427
Cash invested in properties	(1,669)	(1,358)
	468	4,774

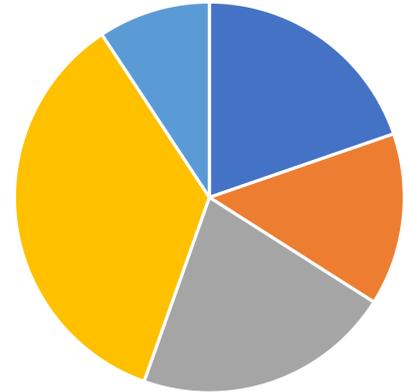
The pie charts below illustrate all our income sources and how that income is allocated across our four principal charitable objectives.

2020 Income



■ Offertories	£k
■ Gift Aid	4,169
■ Legacies and Donations	831
■ Special Collections	974
■ Investment Income	653
■ Charitable Activities	800
■ Trading Activities	1,088
■ Grants	1,837
■ Other	547
	405
Total:	11,304

2020 Expenditure



■ Advancement of Catholic Religion	£k
■ Promotion of Catholic Teaching	2,345
■ Care of Priests	1,697
■ Maintenance of Properties	2,549
■ Trading Activity, Interest and Investment Costs	4,191
Total:	11,888

In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Acts 20:35

The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.

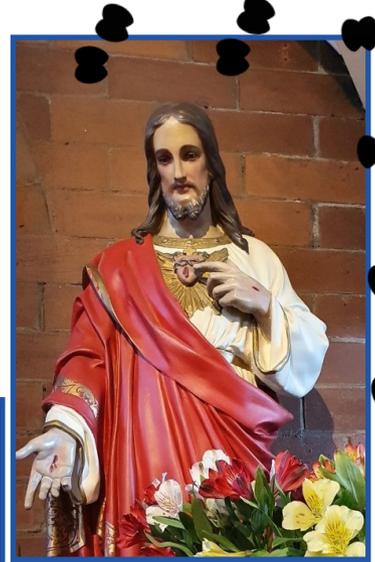
Nahum 1:7

170,000 Catholics

One Diocese

78 Parishes

33,000 Students in 93 Catholic Schools



26,464 Phone calls

£25,590 spent on supermarket vouchers

616 visits to the supermarket

1585 Fruit visits to homes

12,926 Pieces of fruit to schools

