

# THE MOUNT GRACE *MESSENGER*

The Friends of the Lady Chapel Newsletter

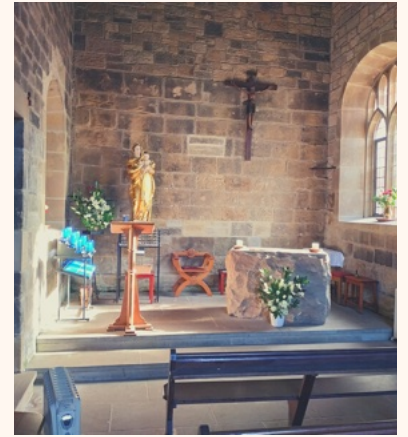


PHOTO BY JOSH MCGEARY

## Crowds gather for Assumption Pilgrimage

**The faithful from across the diocese gathered for the annual Pilgrimage to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady.**

The Rosary was recited before an outdoor Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace.

Bishop Terry was the principal celebrant, while new rector of the shrine Canon Paul Farrer gave the homily.

The pilgrimage gave members of the party who travelled to Lisbon for World Youth Day earlier in the summer the chance for a reunion.

They are pictured above right with Bishop Terry.

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# Fixing the roof

## WORK TO RE-ROOF THE HALL AND SIDE CHAPEL TOOK PLACE EARLY IN 2019.

As well as replacing clay and sandstone tiles, guttering was also cleaned, painted and repaired, while slipped tiles on the chapel were fixed back in place.

The project included repairing or replacing any rotten timbers or damaged wall plates and addressing issues with some of the lead flashing. Repairs were also carried out to timber in the roof of the adjoining cottage.

The work was approved by the Diocese of Middlesbrough Historic Churches Committee and carried out by Stockton firm NT Sweeting after a tendering process.

A carving of the Holy Trinity that was bequeathed by Lord Eldon is now in place in the chapel. The statue of Mary and the child Jesus has been restored and a CCTV system has recently been installed.

Plans are in hand to convert the top floor of the cottage for use by the many schools and other groups that visit the Lady Chapel.

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**The annual Mass for the Friends of the Lady Chapel will be celebrated on Saturday October 28 at 3pm.**

All are welcome to join us!

**THE FRIENDS OF THE LADY CHAPEL WAS LAUNCHED BY BISHOP TERRY IN 2016 TO PROMOTE THE SHRINE WITHIN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND FURTHER AFIELD AND RAISE FUNDS FOR ITS MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT.**

MEMBERS ARE REMEMBERED IN AN ANNUAL MASS AND DAILY PRAYERS. THEY ALSO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER AND INVITATIONS TO EVENTS.

INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS ARE ALL WELCOME TO JOIN AND MEMBERSHIP IS BY DONATION.

VISIT [LADYCHAPEL.ORG.UK/FRIENDS](http://LADYCHAPEL.ORG.UK/FRIENDS) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

PLEASE CONSIDER LEAVING A LEGACY TO THE FRIENDS OF THE LADY CHAPEL IN YOUR WILL.

BY DOING SO YOU WILL BE HELPING TO PRESERVE THIS IMPORTANT SHRINE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND BEQUESTS ARE FREE OF INHERITANCE TAX.

YOU CAN DOWNLOAD A LEGACY FORM AT [LADYCHAPEL.ORG.UK/FRIENDS](http://LADYCHAPEL.ORG.UK/FRIENDS)

## WELCOME, CANON PAUL!

**Canon Paul Farrer is the new rector of the shrine, part of his responsibilities as dean of St Mary's Cathedral Parish, which includes the Lady Chapel.**

Canon Paul, who is originally from Hull, is a well-known figure in the diocese, having previously served in several Middlesbrough parishes and as director of our Lourdes pilgrimage.

His most recent role was rector of the Royal English College of St Alban in Valladolid, Spain.

The college is where candidates for the priesthood from throughout England and Wales and across the world spend the initial part of their training, the propaedeutic year.

## CONTACTLESS GIVING RAISES OVER £10,000

**Contactless giving is now available in both the church and the religious repository.**

The move has been a major success, with the Dona device in the chapel so far raising £3,762 and the GoodBox at the repository raising £6,397.



*'To thy cross I flee'*

Pilgrim's inscription on the Lady Chapel wall

# Lady Chapel welcomes school groups for summer retreats

**SCHOOL GROUPS FROM ACROSS THE DIOCESE AND BEYOND VISIT FOR END-OF-TERM RETREATS. ONE SCHOOL, ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN HARROGATE, ENJOYED THEIR VISIT SO MUCH THAT THEY MADE A SUBSTANTIAL DONATION, WELL ABOVE THE USUAL FIGURE. HERE THE SCHOOL'S LAY CHAPLAIN, FRANCIS ATKIN, TELLS US MORE ABOUT THEIR VISIT...**

Summer 2022 marked the welcome return of our visits, retreat and pilgrimage programme for St John Fisher Catholic High School, Harrogate.

We were looking for a suitable place for our Year 8 form retreats and I had heard about the Lady Chapel Shrine at Osmotherley, but never had the chance to visit. After contacting Christa at Middlesbrough Cathedral, we arranged suitable dates in June and July.

As the pupils alighted from the coach to walk up the track to the shrine, they were greeted by beautiful views of North Yorkshire.

The theme chosen for the retreat was "Journey" and the young people immersed themselves in the theme as they chatted, joked and encouraged one another along the way.

On arriving at the Lady Chapel, we were greeted by Flora, a volunteer who helps to look after the shrine. She gave us a warm welcome and shared with us a little about the history of the chapel.

The large open area in the front of the chapel allowed us space to stretch our legs and get involved in some icebreaking activities before engaging in some reflective tasks.

We had use of indoor space for the group but found the natural surroundings provided a peaceful atmosphere to reflect on questions such as "What are my gifts and talents?" and "How can I use these on my journey to serve God and others?"

A shared packed lunch and more fun and games on the lawn before the afternoon activity of an Emmaus Walk. Pupils recalled the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32) before being put into pairs.

The pairs then set off on a circuit route that took in the views of the rolling hills and joined part of the Cleveland Way.

This was the highlight of many of the pupils' day - enjoying one another's company and sharing fellowship - topped off with the sight of newly-born calves in the neighbouring field!

Our final session was back in the chapel, where we asked Our Lady for her prayers for ourselves and our loved ones before we set off back down the path and return to school.

A great day was had by all in this most beautiful and special of locations. A special thank you to Christa, Flora, Gerard, Maureen and all the Friends of the Lady Chapel, from Year 8 and everyone at St John Fisher's.

***For more information about retreats at the Lady Chapel, email [christa.kamanga@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:christa.kamanga@rcdmidd.org.uk).***

***To find out how to support the shrine by becoming a Friend of the Lady Chapel, visit [ladychapel.org.uk/friends](http://ladychapel.org.uk/friends).***





# Can you help fund our new canopy?

**AN APPEAL HAS BEEN LAUNCHED TO BUILD A NEW CANOPY THAT WILL PROVIDE COVER FOR THE OUTDOOR ALTAR AT THE LADY CHAPEL.**

The Friends of the Lady Chapel are hoping for donations to help their ambitious plans become a reality.

The canopy will be erected where Mass is celebrated for the diocesan pilgrimage for the Feast of the Assumption in August and other special occasions.

The plans, which were first unveiled in 2019, include a wooden structure with a shingle roof and open sides so that large numbers of clergy can concelebrate Mass.

"A suitable canopy will enable Mass to be celebrated outdoors more frequently and in a more dignified way on those solemn occasions when we come together as a diocese," said Bishop Terry.



A stone altar, which was formerly at St Joseph's in Stokesley, is already in place beneath the proposed canopy. The stone was originally quarried from the Lady Chapel.

It is hoped to have the new canopy in place for the next Assumption pilgrimage, on Sunday August 11 2024.

The shrine which lies at the top of a hill above the North Yorkshire village of Osmotherley, has been a place of pilgrimage since at least the 14th century and is now under the care of our diocese as part of St Mary's Cathedral Parish.

To find out how to support the shrine by becoming a Friend of the Lady Chapel, visit [ladychapel.org.uk/friends](http://ladychapel.org.uk/friends) or scan the QR code on this page.



If you would like to contribute to the next Mount Grace Messenger, please email [communications@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:communications@rcdmidd.org.uk).