

THE MOUNT GRACE *MESSENGER*

The Friends of the Lady Chapel Newsletter



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- PILGRIMS WALK THROUGH RAIN AND SHINE
- THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO LOOK AFTER OUR SHRINE
- THE LADY CHAPEL'S YEAR IN NUMBERS

PHOTO BY JOE HARRISON

HOLDING ON TO OUR HOPE THROUGH MARY

Catholics from throughout the diocese gathered for our annual Assumption Pilgrimage.

As usual, we began with Rosary before the clergy processed onto the outdoor altar for Mass beneath our recently erected canopy.

In his homily, Bishop Terry said Pope Francis highlighted Mary's constant presence, encouraging young people especially to hold on to this hope as an antidote to despair.

"In the Gospel, we heard the Song of Mary, the Magnificat: it is the song of hope, it is the song of the People of God walking through history," Bishop Terry said.

"It is the song many saints, men and women, some famous, and very many others unknown to us but known to God: mothers and fathers, catechists, missionaries, priests, sisters, young people, even children and grandparents: these have faced the struggle of life while carrying in their heart the hope of the little and the humble.

"Mary says: 'My souls glorifies the Lord' - today, the Church too sings this in every part of the world. This song is particularly strong in places where the Body of Christ is suffering the Passion. For us Christians, wherever the Cross is, there is hope, always. If there is no hope, we are not Christian.

"Let us turn to Our Lady and implore the grace to rejoice in the freedom of the children of God, to use that freedom wisely in the service of our brothers and sisters, and to live and work as signs of the hope which will find its fulfilment in that eternal kingdom where to reign is to serve. Amen."

Pilgrims pray and walk come rain, come shine



The cross from the Lady Chapel is currently on display in St Mary's Cathedral for the Jubilee Year and is expected to return in January. Thank you to Ged O'Connor, who made the stand.



These three boys from the parish of Our Lady and St Peter Chanel in Hull are pictured with an icon of Our Lady that their grandma asked them to carry to the pilgrimage. They looked after it carefully throughout Mass and Bishop Terry thanked them during his final address.



Thirty-three people took part in the second walking pilgrimage from York Oratory to Osmotherley.

The pilgrims began with Mass at 6am on Friday before joining the Foss Path to walk through the Vale of York and on to Farlington, where they prayed in St Leonard's Church.

They group arrived at Ampleforth Abbey for Vespers, supper, Compline and sleep and after Mass on Saturday, set forth for Rievaulx, where they were joined by some younger parishioners.

They continued singing and praying through driving rain and stopped at All Saints, Old Byland, for hymns and prayers before arriving at the Lady Chapel at six o'clock, wet but grateful.

The pilgrimage concluded with dinner at the Queen Catherine, the only inn in England named after Queen Catherine of Aragon, who was a patroness of the Lady Chapel.

'To thy cross I flee'

Pilgrim's inscription on the Lady Chapel wall

DEDICATED TEAM BEHIND THE SCENES HELPING PILGRIMAGE GO SMOOTHLY



Brothers from Council 29 of the Knights of St Columba worked tirelessly on preparations in the days leading up to this year's Assumption pilgrimage.

We are grateful to the Knights for all their help, both before the pilgrimage and on the day, when they marshalled car parking, helped those who needed lifts up the hill and assisted during the Mass itself.

We would like to thank Flora James for the fantastic job she does in looking after the Lady Chapel and preparing it for so many services throughout the year.

Thanks also to everyone who helps by providing tea and coffee after Mass, lighting the fire during the winter and doing so much more wonderful work.

The Lady Chapel's year in numbers...

- More than 1,600 schoolchildren attended organised pilgrimages , as well as 300 people in parish and other groups. Many more made individual or family visits, including walkers on the Cleveland Way.
- 35 schools and parishes from the Diocese of Middlesbrough, the Diocese of Leeds and the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle visited and there was also one wedding.
- There have been 491 contactless donations over the past 12 months using the card machine at the Lady Chapel, mostly small and almost half gift aided. We are working to try to get the service improved.

Mass times, pilgrimages and diary dates

A Vigil Mass is celebrated every Saturday at 3pm - the first Mass in our diocese each weekend.

A priest may be available after Mass for anyone wishing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The chapel is open all year round for private prayer and pilgrimage. For pilgrimages bookings, including hospitality, email christa.kamanga@rcdmidd.org.uk to request an application form or call St Mary's Cathedral on 01642 597750.

Calendar for the remainder of 2025

Tuesday October 7, Rosary Pilgrimage: Rosary at Noon, Mass at 1pm

Friday November 21, Presentation of Our Lady: Rosary at Noon

Monday December 8, Solemnity of Immaculate Conception: Rosary at Noon

Wednesday December 24, Christmas Vigil: Mass at 3pm

Friday December 26, Feast of St Stephen (Boxing Day): Mass at 11am

Dates for your diary

Sunday August 16 2026: Pilgrimage to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady - Rosary from 2.30pm, Mass from 3pm

Saturday September 5 2026: Annual Mass for the Friends of the Lady Chapel

The Lady Chapel now has a dedicated live-stream - visit youtube.com/@TheLadyChapelOsmotherley.

HOW TO BECOME A FRIEND OF THE LADY CHAPEL

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 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

To find out how to support the shrine by becoming a Friend of the Lady Chapel, visit ladychapel.org.uk/friends or scan the QR code on the right.

If you would like to contribute to the next Mount Grace Messenger, please email communications@rcdmidd.org.uk.

