

The CDA wishes all the members a very

MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a peaceful New Year

Congratulations to the **Most Reverend Richard Moth**, Archbishop of Westminster. He will officially take up his role after installation in February 2026.

The CDA prays for him and that he will support the work of the CDA.

The Chair of CDA, Jocelyn Taylor, will write a letter of congratulations to the new Archbishop of Westminster.

While at Hinsley Hall for the CDA AGM, **Sister Maria McCready MBE** was awarded the title of "President of CDA" for her commitment, dedication and unwavering support to the CDA. The chairperson, Jocelyn Taylor, gave her a framed photographs of CDA committee to thank her for her long service.

Congratulations Sister Maria

Well deserved.

Pope Leo has extended the Jubilee year until 5th January 2026. If you would like to donate to CAFOD, go to cafod.org.uk/jubilee

AGM

CDA AGM 2025 was held in Hinsley Hall, Leeds on the weekend of 10th – 12th October. It was lovely to have a chance to chat to members about taking the CDA forward with suggestion and feedback. We had a wonderful guest speaker, who had just flown back to the UK from Rome – **Father Eamonn Mulcahy** – who gave a very enthusiastic presentation on the "Pilgram of Hope" theme. He was captivating! We thank Father Eamonn for his time. The most memorable event of the weekend had to be the rousing auction of various items to raise valuable funds for CDA. We all had so much fun here. Roll on to the next one.

Rome 2025

Fifteen members of the CDA was privileged to attend the Rome Pilgrimage from 26th – 30th April. Unfortunately, Pope Francis had died and his funeral took place on the very day many of us arrived in Rome. **Ian Urguhart** has written an excellent article about our stay there, you can find it on the CDA website. Thank you Ian for taking the time to write an informative, historical and fascinating article. It is well worth the read. We met quite a lot of deaf Catholics from all over the world. And it is always nice to be amongst our brothers and sisters in Christ sharing the same values, even if we don't share the same sign language!

Blackpool 2025

On 5th April 2025, CDA held a one day conference in Sheraton Hotel, Blackpool. The day began at 10.30 and ended with a nail-biting auction. I think Father Paul quite enjoyed this very much! The presentation by Father Paul Fletcher and Peter McDonough was on the "Pilgrims of Hope", linking to the Jubilee year. It was both interesting and thoughtful, it gave us much to ponder about. The Jubilee year is held every 25 years, however, there is an exception. The next Jubilee year will be in 2033. Why? The birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Do you want the CDA to organise something to celebrate? Come to the next CDA event and ask. There are plenty of opportunities to let us know what you want and expect as a member of the CDA. Come to the next one day conference in Blackpool on the 14th March 2026. Walsingham on the 16th May 2026 or at the AGM on 26th September. Your opinion, suggestion and feedback are always welcome.

Walsingham 2025

There were over 55 deaf pilgrims taking part in Our Lady of Walsingham Pilgrimage on the 21st May. The youngest being 9 years old. It was lovely to see her being involved, CDA would like to extend their appreciation to her parents who brought her enabling her to take part. We all met in the Church of the Annunciation at Friday Market, next to the Black Lion hotel. Most of us walked along the 'Holy Mile' stopping at intervals to recite the Mysteries while taking in turns to carry Our Blessed Virgin Mary on the processional bier. There were a few hairy moments where I thought she would fly off the seat as no one was in union with the stride and pace, the poor Lady was being tossed about all over the place. In the end, things went smoothly when the stride and pace was in unison. For others, there was a minibus provision to take them directly to the National Shrine. Father Paul gave a funny homily in the Chapel of Our Lady of Reconciliation, bringing laughter to both the deaf and hearing pilgrims. There were opportunity for feedback from the pilgrims and many have been taken on board, there will be a few changes in the next Walsingham pilgrimage. Thank you to all who participate. New faces are always welcome.

Boston Spa Reunion

Over 200 former pupils attended Boston Spa reunion on the 28th June 2025. The event was special as it celebrated 150th anniversary of Saint John's School for the deaf.

Congratulations

Wendy Daunt was awarded an OBE from Prince William in May 2025 for her work with the Royal school for the deaf in Derby and to the deaf community. The ceremony became memorable after Wendy hugged Prince William—show casing the deaf culture way of greeting—which delighted Prince William.

Welcome home

Congratulations to Yasser McAndrew and David Cartner who have been confirmed into the Catholic faith.

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Father Paul Fletcher and James Fitzgerald (interpreter) will be attending Lourdes with the HCPT 556 group.

15th—22nd August 2026.

Full board, insurance, flights and transfers along with full itinerary—£1,400

Please contact HCPT group 556 directly to book at group556@hcpt.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Blackpool one day conference—**Saturday 14th March 2026**

Walsingham Pilgrimage—**Saturday 16th May 2026**

CDA AGM—**Saturday 26th September 2026**

CDA Rosary Prayers

Wednesday at 8am

Join us for Rosary Prayer hour via Zoom.

Please contact Maria Booker via CDA for link.

Deaf Afternoon Club

12—4pm

Every Tuesday

Deaf Darts/Social Night

7—11pm Bar open

Every Tuesday

Both event is in

The Victory

39-41 North Bridge Road

Sunderland, SR5 1AH

(this is not organised by CDA)

South Wales deaf get together

11—2pm

2nd Saturday of every month

Deaf Hub Wales

163 Newport Road

Cardiff, CF24 1AG

(this is not organised by CDA)

Swindon Deaf coffee group

12—3pm

Wednesday

Route 45 café

Swindon, SN2 2QJ

(this is not organised by CDA)

Cornwall BSL café meet up

9.30—11.30am

10th January 2026

Tyack's Hotel

Camborne, TR14 8LD

(this is not organised by CDA)

CDA Faith group

Open to all.

Whatspp faith group to share our faith, information, announcements.

Please contact either Peter McDonough or Maria Booker for link.

Doncaster Deaf Leisure Club

7pm on wards

Every fortnight Friday

Next one is 2nd January.

Milton Walk

Doncaster

DN1 3QG

(this is not organised by CDA)

Keynsham d/Deaf club22

Waiting for information

(this is not organised by CDA)

If you know of a “get together” café, club or fellowship. Or if your church has signed Mass and would like to put this information on CDA newsletter.

Please email

secretary@catholicdeaf.org.uk