

Good afternoon, ladies, and gentlemen,

Slide 1

First of all, we welcome Bishop Moth from Arundel & Brighton who is our new Archbishop of Westminster, sign name [demonstrate], He replaced Cardinal Vincent Nichols who retired at age 80 after 16 years. CDA wrote a letter on 30th December 2025 to congratulate him on becoming the new Archbishop of Westminster. We hoped he would be able to support the CDA and the work we do for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind people. We informed him we need more clergy capable of signing the Mass to the Deaf community. He wrote back in January 2026 to say he was supportive to the Deaf Service at Arundel & Brighton where he was based and he will continue to support. He also noted our concerns the number of priests who are unable to celebrate signed Mass and will keep this in mind for the future.

Slide 2

We had our annual one-day conference in Blackpool on 14th March. Continuing to be well attended. 51 people came from Manchester, Burnley, Bolton, Dublin, Leeds and Newcastle. The theme was 'The Jubilee of St. Francis'. It is 800 years since St. Francis of Assisi died. The day was enjoyed by all.

Slide 3

On Saturday, 16th May we held our annual pilgrimage to Walsingham, open to all participants and all are welcome to join us to do a journey of faith. It was well attended with up to 50 pilgrims. We thank all who helped to make the day a success including Fr. Paul Fletcher, Peter McDonough, Bishop Paul McAleenan from London, Fr. David Quiligotti from Salford, Sr. Pauline from Manchester who led the choir, also the Shrine staff based at Walsingham.

Slide 4

As always, Fr. Paul Fletcher continues to celebrate an online signed Mass at 8.00am every Sunday. It was started on Palm Sunday 2020 during COVID and it continues to be valuable especially it is accessible for BSL viewers. As usual, Mass can be accessed on CDA website, Facebook and YouTube. I mentioned this last year, and I repeat, providing this service is not free. Although Fr. Paul and individuals take turns to do the signed readings and spotlighting, it is done on a voluntary basis. The CDA pays for the cost of subscriptions and WIFI. From September 2025, we received £370. Thank you for your support for this unique service.

Slide 5

The real cost to run Zoom subscription for the Mass this year is **£167.88** compared to **£155.88** last year. An increase of **£12.00**. The mobile WIFI dongle [USB] for Fr. Paul to use is now **£23.00** a month compared to **£21.68** last year, an increase of **£1.32**. This now works out at **£276.00** compared to **£260.16** last year, an increase of **£15.84**. The total cost for Zoom subscription and the dongle is **£443.88** compared to **£416.04** last year, an increase of **£27.84**. These costs do not cover electricity, candles, Eucharist hosts and wine. We need donations to help us to continue providing this unique service

Slide 6

National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) invited Peter and I to run a workshop; the title; '*The beauty of God's Word in Sign Language*'. We explained about how sign language started with a monk, who were not allowed to speak as they chose a vow of silence. We moved on how to communicate with Deaf people. Each diocese has a responsibility to serve all people and the includes deaf people. We explained the use of Liturgy that we have and Deaf people to access Mass in BSL.

We had an exhibition stall showing what the CDA does which is a good advert for the CDA to promote its work and what we do.

I'm sure you will be wondering what NJPN do in its work....

NJPN is strongly rooted in Catholic Social Teaching in England and Wales, however, they work with people of different religious faiths or beliefs. Their key issues of concerns are:

- Immigration
- Environment
- Peace
- Poverty and inequality

Slide 7

For those who attended the AGM at Newcastle in 2024, will remember I mentioned the Constitution was last updated in 1973. It is now up to date and with the trustees approval, it is now on the website under the members login page.

We have a Safeguarding Policy and is not on the website yet. It is your responsibility and mine to ensure children and vulnerable adults

are safe during any of the CDA events, e.g. Conferences, Mass or Pilgrimages etc. It would be helpful if you could read the policy to understand why it is important to safeguard, and we also have an email and mobile number for direct contact. We have a safeguarding team: Fr. Paul Fletcher, Theresa Higgins and myself. Theresa Higgins is the main contact person and it is important that information you have should not be shared but contact Theresa straight away without delay.

Slide 8

Have any of you heard of 'Easyfundraising'. It's a free way to raise money for a charity while you shop online. All you have to do is register your details and there is a box where it will ask you which charity to support, type in Catholic Deaf Association. There are over 8,100 retailers and they will donate to the CDA. You pay for your items online as normal and the CDA will receive free donations from your shopping. You don't pay any extra.

Slide 9

Planning for 2027.

We do not have a date for the Walsingham Pilgrimage as there are management and staff changes and we will not know until October if the date we have asked for will be accepted.

AGM is still in the planning stages as we are still trying to find a venue in the north of England.

Slide 10

Other News

We have Dorothy who is our newsletter editor. We started in February this year and I would like to share with you, statistics overview of how many of you do actually open your email to view the newsletter.

If you wish to receive emails, please provide your email address to CDA secretary who will add your name on the list. Please do send in your news and photographs to Dorothy as we are interested in what's happening in your area. You would receive CDA news much quicker than waiting for the next AGM.

I repeat this each year; the CDA receives no funding but relies on fundraising and there are several ways and ideas of how to raise money. This would support the work of the CDA. Please remember, you are free to use our Fundraising Logo if you wish to raise money for CDA.

Slide 11

As always that we continue to offer special thanks to our Chaplain Fr. Paul Fletcher and Peter McDonough for their hard work supporting the CDA. This includes celebrating Mass via Zoom and uploading onto the website for you all to view.

We must offer our thanks to Sue Myatt, our Independent Examiner, in dealing with the accounts.

Slide 12

I thank all the Council and TRUSTEES for their efforts to assist in the smooth running of our Catholic Deaf Association – long may that continue with YOUR ACTIVE help and support!

We have a vote of thanks to the hosts who have supported us here at Westminster Cathedral in making us welcome and for their hospitality.

Lastly, we mustn't forget the interpreters, both ISL and BSL to thank them for their hard work in aiding the ease of communication both for the meeting and throughout the weekend.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2027 at **Liverpool**.

Joselyn Taylor
CDA Chairperson