



# Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 18  
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The newsletter of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham –  
serving the parishes of North and Mid Wales

To make clearly known  
To declare  
To clarify  
To call to prayer



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Visit the Diocesan website: [rcdwxm.org.uk](http://rcdwxm.org.uk)

For the second time in as many years the major celebration of the three Abrahamic faiths happen to coincide, an event that normally only happens once in every thirty or so years. This year the holy Month of Ramadan began in mid-March when the Christian Church was well settled into Lent and this Easter weekend is the same weekend as the Jewish feast of Passover. Easter and Passover are the same weekend more often than not, but for the two to fall in the second half of Ramadan and within days of Id al-Fitr is much less common. It is a wonderful opportunity for us of different faiths but with a common heritage to come together to celebrate our shared values of mercy and compassion, hope and renewal, and peace. This especially so when we look at the destruction and death that is being wreaked upon Christians, Muslims and Jews in the very region of the world of our common origin and countries of our shared holy sites.

At the moment hardly a day goes by when we don't hear or read in our news media of occurrences or alleged occurrences of antisemitism or anti-Judaism, of Islamophobia or of anti-Christian blasphemy; all reflect a religious hatred or intolerance and all can be criminal. When we consider our common roots in faith, and the religious practices that we hold important, this is sheer madness that we cannot as Jew or Christian or Muslim not only learn to live together but, together, be an ever greater force for good in the world in the tackling of environmental issues, natural disasters and man-made conflicts.

In response to a recent letter of Pope Francis to 'my Jewish brothers and sisters in Israel', Karma Ben Johanan a theologian of Jewish-Christian dialogue wrote: *"We are ready to collaborate so that hatred and violence are eliminated and the doors are opened to true peace for all of us who live in this land: Jews, Christians, and Muslims. We join Christians in the belief that religions can be a creative force capable of opening paths that would otherwise remain closed."*

More specifically, in the annual message, 'On the occasion

of the month of Ramadan and for the feast of 'Id al Fitr 1445 H. / 2024 A.D.', the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue sent a message of good wishes to Muslims all over the world, entitled "Christians and Muslims: Extinguish the Fire of War and Light the Candle of Peace'. In which we read: *"We look to the Almighty as God of peace, the source of peace, who in a special way loves all those who devote their lives to the service of peace. Like so many things, peace is a divine gift but at the same time the fruit of human efforts, especially in preparing the conditions necessary for its establishment and preservation."*

*"As believers, we are also witnesses to hope, as we recalled in our 2021 Message for Ramadan: 'Christians and Muslims: Witnesses of Hope'. Hope can be symbolised by a candle, whose light radiates security and joy, whereas fire, uncontrolled, can lead to the destruction of fauna and flora, infrastructure and the loss of human lives."*

*"Dear Muslim brothers and sisters, let us join in extinguishing the fires of hatred, violence and war, and instead light the gentle candle of peace, drawing upon resources for peace that are present in our rich human and religious traditions."*

Coming to the end of our Lenten fast and almsgiving may that hope-filled prayer for peace in the Holy Land be uppermost in our Easter celebrations as we stand in the light of the great Easter candle. We pray too for peace and reconciliation among those of different faiths, "respect the absolute value of the life of each person and his or her right to physical integrity, security and a dignified life will likewise contribute to the condemnation and rejection of war, any war and all wars."

With the assurance of my prayers and asking for yours I wish you, your families and the whole Diocese a blessed, joyous and happy Easter.

Blessings in the Risen Lord Jesus, Alleluia, Alleluia,

+ Peter

### **SALVETE ET VALETE - COMINGS AND GOINGS**

(A 'Welcome and Farewell' from Bp Peter: *for more details about the Sisters, turn to page 6*)

We welcome to the Diocese the sisters of the congregation of Daughters of Divine Love (DDL) in the persons of Sisters Geraldine, Maria Elonna and Mary Leona. They arrived in the Diocese on 6<sup>th</sup> February and established their community in the Presbytery at St. Asaph. Their pastoral work will be in North Denbighshire and especially in Rhyl parish.

Shortly before Christmas we were able to welcome Sister Triphosa of the Missionary Congregation of the Evangelising Sisters of Mary (MC-ESM) to Ruthin where she is the first of her congregation of sisters to establish a community there. She is to be joined by two more sisters in the near future. Their pastoral work will be based at the Cathedral parish.

To the Isle of Anglesey we welcome Fathers Leo Philomin, OMI and Godfrey Emmanuel, OMI who will be continuing the Mission of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate on the island replacing Fathers Joe Daly, OMI and Frank Murray, OMI who from the beginning of March entered a well-deserved state of retirement though they will remain in the Diocese for the time being. To Fathers Leo and Godfrey we wish every joy and happiness in their ministry here which we pray will be fruitful and blessed for the people of Ynys Mon and the Diocese. To Fathers, Joe and Frank we give our thanks for their years of service to, and prayer for, the Diocese and wish them health and happiness in their retirement, wheresoever it may take them.



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH  
IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

### Praying with St Beuno's Outreach: 'As one friend to another ...'

In this monthly reflection, St Beuno's Outreach invites you to pray with an image and a verse of Scripture or other material.

Since 2000 the Sunday after Easter (Low Sunday) has been designated as the Feast of Divine Mercy. On this day, we are called to reflect more personally on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and all the blessings we have received. The focus is on God's compassion, reminding us that the risen Lord offers us love that pardons, reconciles, and opens our own hearts to love.

Divine Mercy Sunday was instituted by Pope John Paul II following the canonisation of the Polish religious sister and mystic Maria Faustina Kowalska (1905-38) in 2000. Sister Faustina, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Krakow, experienced visions of Jesus and had conversations with him which she recorded in her diary. This earned her the title of 'Secretary of Divine Mercy'.

#### The painting of Divine Mercy

Sister Faustina's diary records an instruction from Jesus that she should paint the vision of him that she saw, and include the signature 'Jesus, I trust in you' with it. Though not an artist herself, Faustina was helped by her priest-confessor to commission Eugeniusz Kazimirowski of Vilnius to paint the first image of Divine Mercy in 1934. The painting was based directly on Faustina's verbal description of her vision, where Jesus appeared to her in a simple robe with red and pale rays emanating from his heart. Kazimirowski's original now hangs in the shrine of Divine Mercy in Vilnius, though it has been reproduced many times over in slightly different forms, and a version now hangs in many Catholic churches here in the UK.



The original 1934 painting of the Divine Mercy in the shrine church at Vilnius. The signature 'Jesus, I trust in you' appears below the picture in Polish, and elsewhere in the church in Latin.

**Other resources** Go to [www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com](http://www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com) for more resources, including the weekly Prego and Prego Plus leaflets.

This month's text from Psalm 102 (103), in praise of God's mercy and love, reflects the compassionate theme of Divine Mercy Sunday. Mary herself quotes from this psalm as she sings her 'Magnificat' to her kinswoman Elizabeth.

Take a moment to read the verses slowly and prayerfully, perhaps aloud or on your breath if you can, to fully appreciate their rhythm. Then stay with any one line or phrase that 'speaks' to you more particularly. You might like to choose this line as your own response to this psalm and repeat it at the beginning and between each stanza.

**My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless God's holy name.**

**My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all God's blessings.**

**The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.**

**The Lord will not always chide,  
will not be angry forever.**

**God does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.  
But the love of the Lord is everlasting  
upon those who fear the Lord.**

**My soul, give thanks to the Lord!**

Psalm 102 (103) vv. 1-2, 8-10, 17

What feelings arise in you as you read this text?

In what way do these words relate to events in your own life?

Do their reassurance and comfort help you to trust in the Lord?

Maybe the psalm brings to mind times in your life where you needed and experienced the Lord's love, mercy, and compassion.

What do you want to say to him now?

Perhaps you want to assure the Lord not of your 'fear' – an Old Testament expression – but to tell him in your own words of your awe, respect and love for him. At this time when we ponder Divine Mercy, you may also like to pray for greater trust.

Speak to the Lord as one friend to another, and take time to listen to him.

#### PRIEST AND DEACON FORMATION FUND

(Previously the Church Students' Fund)

On Good Shepherd Sunday - the World Day of Prayer for Vocations a collection may be taken up within your parish to assist making your contribution for this element of the Diocesan Levy. This Fund exists to pay for the formation costs of priests and deacons as well as the on-going formation costs (Continuous Professional Development (CPD)) of the clergy of the Diocese.

The current total costs for taking a student through discernment and seminary formation to priesthood are

in the region of £250,000.00 over eight years and for the diaconate £15,000.00 over four years.

The theme of the Holy Father's Message for the 61st World Day of Prayer for Vocations this year is '*Called to sow seeds of hope and to build peace.*'

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messaggi/vocations/documents/20240421-messaggio-61-gm-vocazioni.html>



## Gospel Year of Mark

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him.

And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back-it was very large. And entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you. And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

(Mark 16:2-8 ESV-CE)

### Prayer Intentions

#### THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION - April

Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

#### THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:

During Eastertide we are asked to pray for  
the Right Use of the Media;  
the Church; Human Work.

### The first description of the Mass.

It is on Sunday that we all assemble, because Sunday is the first day: the day on which God transformed darkness and matter and created the world, and the day on which Jesus Christ our Saviour rose from the dead. He was crucified on the eve of Saturn's day, and on the day after, that is, on the day of the sun, he appeared to his apostles and disciples and taught them what we have now offered for your examination.

### PILGRIMAGE: The Road Through North Wales



**BBC Two Wales Friday 29th March 9.30 pm and iPlayer thereafter.**

Seven celebrities of differing faiths and beliefs experience an emotional journey on a pilgrimage in North Wales, a route linked by churches dedicated to Celtic early Christian saints. Eshaan Akbar, Amanda Lovett, Spencer Matthews, Christine McGuinness, Tom Rosenthal, Sonali Shah and Michaela Strachan begin their adventure at Flint Castle on the bank of the Dee Estuary.

St. Winefride's Shrine figures in the first scenes of the series "making it such a special and powerful one, in so many ways. It very much set the tone for the pilgrimage, making this what I think is the best series yet."

(Toni Williamson, Series Producer, CTVC)

## The Season of Easter

### Low Sunday Quasimodo Sunday Thomas Sunday

The Second Sunday of Easter has a number of different names.

Since at least the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, it has been '**Low Sunday**', possibly in contrast to the 'High' celebration of Easter, or a corruption of 'laudes'.

The opening Antiphon begins in latin; Quasi modo géniti infántes, - 'As newborn babes' (in the same way as...)

In the Hunchback of Notre Dame, by Victor Hugo, the baby was found on Low Sunday, and the canon of the Cathedral named him 'Quasimodo' -some suggest because he was always as simple as a new born babe.

The Gospels tell us that it was 8 days later that the Disciples gathered in the Upper Room – that is the equivalent of our 'Sunday' -and since Thomas was now present, it has become known in the Eastern Church as 'Thomas Sunday'.

The name '**White Sunday**' came from the tradition that the newly baptised wore white for the 8 days after Easter.

In 2000, Pope St John Paul II dedicated this Sunday as '**Divine Mercy Sunday**' (see the St Beuno's Outreach on page 3)



*The incredulity of Thomas* Caravaggio

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; put out your hand and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

— [John 20:26–29](#)

### Alleluia! Alleluia!

From now until Pentecost, we shall respond "Thanks be to God, Alleluia! Alleluia!" at the dismissal at the end of Mass.

## World Day of Prayer 2024

By Fr Ebuka, msp

The atmosphere was serene and peaceful on March 1, as Eglwys Y Bugail Da Church in the picturesque town of Llanrwst, welcomed participants of this year's World Day of Prayer. World Day of Prayer is an annual event observed by millions around the globe, aimed at fostering unity, understanding, and prayerful reflection across various cultures and denominations to pray for specific global issues.

The theme for this year's World Day of Prayer was "**I beg you, bear with one another in love.**" It emphasised the importance of faith and love despite difficulties and differences in addressing global challenges and to unite in prayer for just and harmonious solutions that would bring an end to human suffering; and the need to commit ourselves to journey with each other to achieve security and peace for all people around the world. The theme was beautifully incorporated into the prayers, hymns, and reflections throughout the event.

The programme began with a warm welcome by the parish priest Fr Ebuka, and the organisers, followed by hymns, readings and reflections on the theme. Participants engaged in heartfelt prayers for peace, justice, and reconciliation across the world. Special attention was given to Palestine, the land in which Jesus was born that is experiencing conflict and hardship, with prayers for healing and hope.

Local community leaders and representatives from various Christian denominations actively participated in the event, underlining the significance of collaboration and solidarity in addressing global issues. Their presence highlighted the importance of grassroots efforts in fostering positive change.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the event was the story of resilience, truth telling and of flourishing from three Palestinian Christian women who witness to the power of bearing together in love. Their stories illuminate the experiences of Palestinian Christians from three different generations. The symbol of an olive tree represents the three generations through its trunk, branches and leaves.

Other symbolic gestures, such as lighting candles and offering gifts, added depth and meaning to the prayers and reflections. These gestures served as tangible reminders of the participants' commitment to promoting peace, justice, and reconciliation in the world.

The World Day of Prayer at Eglwys Y Bugail Da, Church was a resounding success, bringing together individuals from various Christian denominations in a spirit of unity, prayer, and reflection. The event underscored the power of collective action and solidarity in addressing global challenges and building a more compassionate and inclusive society. As attendees dispersed, the sense of kindness, hope and inspiration lingered, serving as a catalyst for continued dialogue, collaboration, and service within the community.

## WORLD DAY FOR CHILDREN

On the feast of the Immaculate Conception (8<sup>th</sup> December 2023) at the end of his Angelus Message Pope Francis said, 'And now I have the joy of announcing that the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of May next year (2024) we will celebrate the first World Day of Children, in Rome. The initiative, organised by the Dicastery for Culture and Education, responds to the question: 'What type of world do we want to transmit to the children who are growing up?' Like Jesus, we want to put children at the centre and take care of them.

## GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Last year you contributed £5,612.75 to the *Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land*. The money collected around the world not only supports the custody of the Holy Places that Jesus saw and were important in his life, but also assist the Christians living and operating in the Holy Land, amid the tragedies and difficulties caused by the selfishness of the powerful of the world. Over the centuries many martyrs have died so as not to see their Christian roots cut off. Their churches are an integral part of the history and culture of the East. The Christians of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon Jerusalem and Palestine turn to us and ask, 'Help us to spread the fragrance of Christ' (2 *Corinthians* 2:15) again in the East.

Now is your opportunity to help those who cry and those who die because of the madness of war, those who have lost their children or see them horribly mutilated or suffering extreme hunger. Your donation can support the local churches in finding new ways, opportunities for housing, work and educational and professional training so that these people can remain in the Holy Land, witness to their faith and continue their small businesses in the hope and expectation that pilgrims will return. Without these small communities the East will lose part of its soul and perhaps forever.

A summary of the works of the Custody of the Holy Land can be found on the website: [www.orientchurch.va](http://www.orientchurch.va)  
Colletta Terra Santa

## INTERNATIONAL MASS

Bishop Peter invites all who have come to Wales to make a home, to study or earn a living, to share their culture and our common faith in the celebration of this Mass on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May in St. Mary's Cathedral at 12noon following the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker (1<sup>st</sup> May). National costumes would be delightful. Refreshments in the Cathedral Hall afterwards.

## Climate, Environment, and Animal Rights

Bishop John Arnold of Salford is the CBCEW spokesman on Environment, and leads on the response to 'Laudato Si'. He is a speaker on a video of a webinar on 'Action for Animals'. It can be found at Link to YouTube Recording: <https://youtu.be/BIAxmnzFdXU>



### Young People

the next Flame Youth event will be held in March 2025. Any young people from Year 9 upwards are invited.

St Richard Gwyn HS is co-ordinating bookings, and parishes are invited to forward names of those interested to the email below.

Younger students may be accepted at discretion of the leaders

[flame2025@strichardgwyn.flintshire.sch.uk](mailto:flame2025@strichardgwyn.flintshire.sch.uk)

### Mind your 'Ps and RCs'!

The new young curate seemed to be taking an unusual amount of time visiting in hospital. The Ward Sister noticed how many people he was chatting to. So, as he passed her desk she remarked on the fact. "Well, Sister" he replied, "I noticed that the list on your desk shows '24 RC, and 4P'".

The Ward Sister struggled to control her mirth. "But, Father. That is my breakfast list for tomorrow. 24 Rice Crispies, and 4 Porridge"

### Economic realities of life

A couple approached their Bank Manager for a mortgage. After giving the details, the Manager responded, "By rights, I should refuse your request. But I will give you a sporting chance. One of my eyes is made of glass. If you can tell me which one, I will approve the mortgage.

The couple looked intently and then agreed with each other, "It is your right eye" "That is correct", said the Manager, "How did you guess?" The couple replied in unison "It's the kind and sympathetic one"

After the old cathedral of St Paul's was burnt down in the Fire of 1666, Christopher Wren designed a new one which was built in 35 years. The first stone which Wren picked up from the ruins of the old cathedral had one word written on it. 'Resurgam' - 'I shall rise again'.

In Walt Disney's film 'Bambi', Thumper the rabbit has a favourite saying - "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all"

### Do we really have faith?

A climber fell off a cliff. As he fell, he managed to grab a branch of a tree in a cleft. "Help", he shouted. A strong voice came from heaven "I will help you, my son. But first you must have faith in me" "Yes, yes", replied the climber, "I trust you"

The voice then said "Let go of the branch".

There was a long pause, and the climber shouted again, "Is there anyone else up there?"

A vicar ran out of petrol. Having no can, but a baby's potty in the car, he fetched petrol from the filling station 100 yards away. One of his parishioners was passing. "Heavens, Vicar" she said, "You've more faith than I have!"

### Unable to get to church? Technology can help.....:

For a variety of reasons it may be that some are unable to attend Mass, and the Easter Services. However, with the benefit of technology, you can share in the Mass, 'streamed live' to you at home.

On the internet, you can find the Mass through:

[www.churchservicestv.com](http://www.churchservicestv.com)

[www.mass-online.org](http://www.mass-online.org) as well as other sources.

In this Diocese TWO parishes are streamed on churchservices.tv: Holyhead, St Mary, Help of Christians, and Mold, St David's.

Many streamings are a single view, of the whole sanctuary. At St David's a camera team controls the camera to observe the action of the Mass in close-up, helping the viewer to concentrate on the important action and readings.

Check other parishes for YouTube and Facebook streams.

Note to parishes: if you are live streaming your services, please send details to [clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk](mailto:clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk) for publication

**ELECTIONS** - within the next year you will be invited to VOTE in a General Election, or even local, or Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

**REMEMBER - from now on you WILL require VOTER ID at the polling booth.**

Why not make sure you know what is required?

Voting is a democratic right and privilege, and even a duty - so **DON'T be caught out without the right identification.**



# LOURDES



## WREXHAM DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2024

Led by the Bishop of Wrexham Rt. Rev. Peter Brignall

**23 JULY 2024**

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## Four African Nuns arrive in the Diocese of Wrexham.

By Father Anthony Nnamah, MSP

At the Bishop's invitation, the Missionary Congregation of The **Evangelising Sisters of Mary** (MCESM) and the **Daughters of Divine Love** (DDL) Sisters have arrived in the diocese to join the work of witnessing to the faith.

### EVANGELISING SISTERS OF MARY (ESM).

Sr. Triphosa Karugara Mukindia, of the ESM arrived the diocese of Wrexham on 17<sup>th</sup> November of 2023. She is currently in Ruthin presbytery. The Missionary Congregation of The Evangelising Sisters of Mary is a Religious Institute of Pontifical Right. It was founded in 1975 in Moroto Diocese, Uganda, by two Italian Comboni Missionaries namely; Rt. Rev Bishop Sisto Mazzoldi and very Rev. Fr. John Marengoni both of happy memory. The charism of the MCESM is mainly PASTORAL WORK, through primary evangelization and catechetical instructions in the Parishes, Schools and Universities. The Sisters participate actively in parish social works through helping the poor and vulnerable members of our society in hospitals, dispensaries, nursing homes and Rehabilitation centres. As of today, they have 437 professed Sisters. Currently the Sisters are in 10 countries: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa, South Sudan, Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, United States of America and Cuba.



From Left to right:

Sr. Leona  
Sr. Geraldine  
Sr. Triphosa  
Sr. Elonna

### THE DAUGHTERS OF DIVINE LOVE CONGREGATION (DDL).

Sr. Elonna Ugochukwu, Sr. Geraldine Enemuoh, and Sr. Leona Umeh arrived in the diocese on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February. They are currently at St. Asaph Presbytery. The Daughters of Divine Love Congregation (DDL) is a religious Order of women with Pontifical rights. It was founded on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1969 at Ukpok, Anambra State - Nigeria, during the Nigeria-Biafran Civil war. Moved by the sufferings of Biafrans, the late Bishop Godfrey Mary Paul Okoye, CSSP, of Enugu diocese, Nigeria, established the congregation to take care of the homeless, the sick and the hungry during the war. The Sisters are called to an audacious response to Divine Love Incarnate through contemplation, peaceful community living, and apostolic action manifested in selfless service to all creation. The Charism of the DDL Sisters, among others, is a generous loving response to Divine Love Incarnate. Their Motto is: Caritas Christi, Urget Nos (The Love of Christ, Urges us). The members pronounce publicly the vows of Chastity, Poverty, and Obedience. The Congregation, recognised by its **BLUE VEIL**, adapts their mission to the needs of their communities. The Sisters participate actively in feeding the hungry, in education, pastoral work, healthcare services and social works. They serve humanity with their gifts. The DDL mustard seed, that blossomed into a huge tree, has over 1000 Professed Sisters. The Sisters work currently in Nigeria, Gabon, Cameroon, T'Chad, Mali, Kenya, UK, Germany, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, the United States of America, Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti and France.

### INTO THE FUTURE 3 - LISTENING EXERCISE

The following constitutes a first report on the six Listening Exercise meetings held around the Diocese: (Also, one further meeting specifically for the priests and deacons of the Diocese) 330 ( $\pm 2\%$ ) attendees which represents approximately 10% of the Sunday Mass attendance;

75 ( $\pm 5\%$ ) attendees expressed a spoken view, opinion or suggestion;

43 written submissions of which 10 were the consequence of parish discussions and therefore were collective views, and some additional or re-statement of what had already been articulated by an individual at a meeting.

The main themes addressed at the meetings were (in no particular order):

a call for adult catechesis and formation in faith education and spirituality;

greater lay leadership and involvement;

a greater use of Services of Word and Holy Communion;

more to be done for young people and the youth;

a desire to build communities and as necessary existing parish communities.

Over the coming weeks Bp Peter will work through the meeting summaries and the written submissions and try to collate a coherent record of what was heard. That will inform a reflection in which he will prepare a way forward into the future. This will

inevitably depend for its success on the human skills and material resources that are volunteered from the faithful, at least in part. In the meantime the bishop asks that parishioners continue in their individual and collective prayer, reading of Scripture, and study of the document, *The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community in the Service of the Evangelising Mission of the Church* to be better prepared for what changes may ensue. <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/07/20/200720a.html>

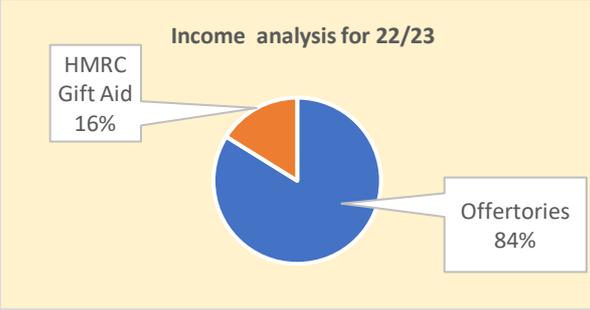
If lay leadership, as spoken of by respondents, is to develop within the Diocese, more parishioners will need to volunteer to be school governors, members of the Diocesan Commissions, members of Parish Pastoral Advisory Councils (PACs or PPACs) and Trustees.

You can volunteer by submitting your name and personal details including a brief statement of the skills, competences or qualifications that you can offer in the service of Church. These can be submitted at any time to the Diocesan Curia. Not all offers may be needed at this or any particular time, but lists will be held and volunteers should be prepared for succession as and when the time comes. This would be true too of liturgical ministers, catechists and other pastoral ministers.



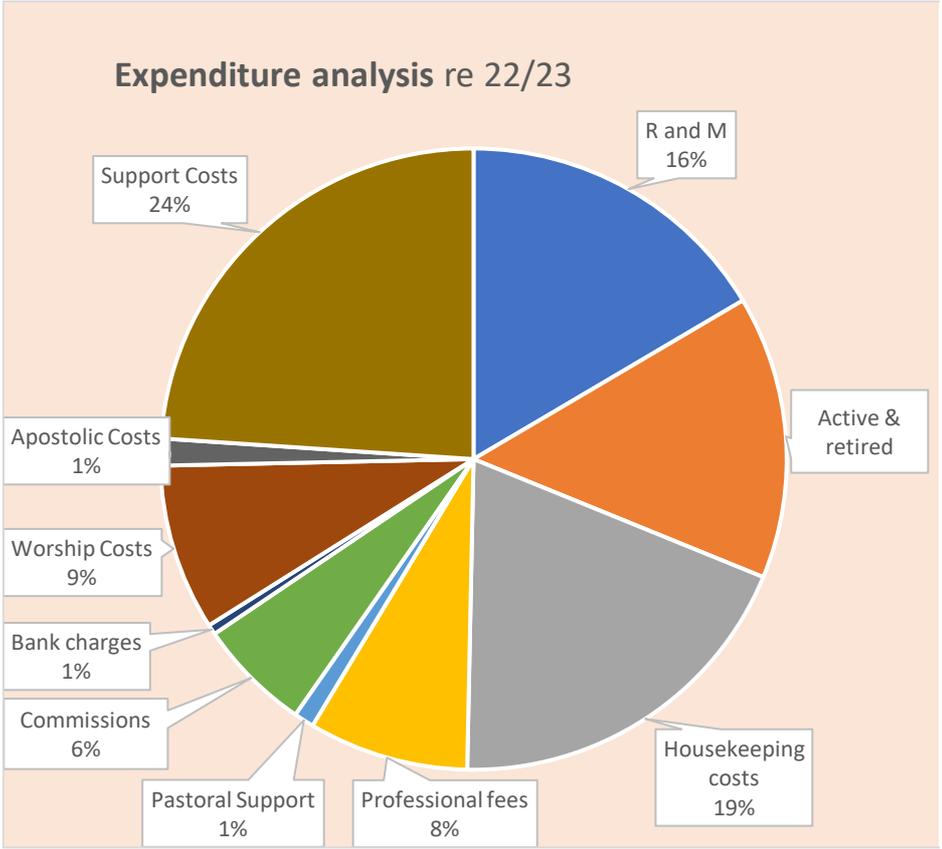
## DIOCESAN FINANCES

### Part 2 – Central Services And Parishes



In this second consideration of the Diocesan Finances the focus will be on the Diocesan Central Services and Parish expenditure/costs, and the Annual Levies. The figures given are in each case a vignette on part of the whole accounts, given in an attempt to give explanation, they are consolidated figures from the annual financial returns submitted by Parishes and St. Winefride's Shrine. The complete picture and detail is to be found in the audited accounts as filed and to be seen on the Charity Commission website <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/700426/charity-overview>

These are figures for the year ending 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023



**Income: £1,109,664.00**

This is the bread and butter income and is the weekly Offertory Collections **£931.k**

**£178.6k** HMRC Gift Aid raised against those contributions.

Additional income to parishes is by way of second collections and donations, fundraising, stipends and stole fees, grants and legacies none of which can be relied upon as basic income.

**Expenditure: £2,502,408.00**

This is basic Diocesan Central Services (Curia) and consolidated Parish Expenditure.

Details of the Diocesan Levies on Parishes, see the next page.

**Some analysis, explanation & Notes:**

**Repairs and maintenance -£412.1k** i.e. buildings costs across the Diocese including works on Bishop's House.

**Active & Retired Clergy -£368.7k** annual personal allowances, ongoing formation. Active clergy costs are paid by their parishes, retired clergy from central funds.

**Professional Fees £206.9k** – Property & Architect, Solicitor, Auditor, Accountant

**Pastoral Support - £26k** University Chaplaincy

**Commissions Employees -£146.7k** Safeguarding, Education, Marriage & Family Life, Music. The work of the commissions' members is freely given.

**Bank charges £13k** – consolidation of all the accounts held by the diocese.

**Worship costs -£216.5k** Parish and Diocesan Liturgy including St. Winefride's Shrine/Well.

**Apostolic Works £35k** – including Pastoral, catechetical and formation resources.

Other support costs –  
**Parish payroll £66.2k; Central Services Payroll £105.3;**  
**Parish Offices' running costs £83.6k; Levies unallocated £223.8k**

## Around and About in the Diocese

### Diocesan Levies on parishes

The components of the Diocesan Levy are those areas of expenditure, to which the lay faithful of the whole Diocese have a responsibility to contribute. There is, in fact, no other income stream to pay for them.

The amount levied in any year is the actual expenditure of the previous year; thus the income to Central Service always lags behind the expenditure by one fiscal year. There can be a natural fluctuation each year, but it would be fair and obvious to say that as the cost of living and salaries rise each year the levy will too.

The amount levied on each parish is a percentage of the sum of the Offertory Collection and Gift Aid. If a parish does not make a Gift Aid claim in one year, or accumulates a couple of Gift Aid claims, that will lower or raise their total income sum which in turn will affect the levy figure, but not the percentage contribution. Over the last couple of years this has remained around 37%. This means that those parishes which have a greater annualised weekly Offertory Collection income will be levied for a greater sum, but only ever the same percentage as those parishes that have a lesser income.

The sum used to calculate the 2022/23 Levies was the actual spend figures for 2021/22 which totalled at **£377.5k**

Diocesan Education Service	£ 59.8k
Clergy Welfare (Sick and retired)	£ 33.9k
University Chaplaincy	£ 37.4k
Levy on the Diocese by CaTEW	£ 8.7k
Priest and Deacon Formation	£ 3.4k
Mensal (provision & upkeep of the Bp)	£ 25.3k
Central Services	£184.9k
Commission & Pastoral Services	£ 56.5k
Poor Parishes R&M Grants credit	£ 2.5k

Specific donations or legacy gifts can be made to any of the above Funds at any time.

**Next month** the final part will explore and analyse the principal source of income to the Diocese, i.e. the weekly parish Offertory Collection.

### LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

#### APRIL

Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Deacons' Renewal Mass 12noon Cathedral
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Anniversary Mass for Fr. Shaji Punnattu, RIP 4.00pm St. David's Friary Church Pantasaph
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Liturgical Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord ( <i>transferred from 25<sup>th</sup> March</i> )
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	World Day of Prayer for Vocations (Good Shepherd Sunday)
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Day of Prayer for the Victims & Survivors of Sexual Abuse

#### MAY

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	St. Joseph the Worker
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	International Mass. 12noon Cathedral
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	World Communications Day National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Taper, Cardigan.
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Continent of Africa Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Winefride, Holywell

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND WELSH GOVERNMENT

For over forty years Our Lady's School, Bangor (Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes) has been classified as the Diocese's top priority school to be due for a new building. Last month it was announced that the Welsh Government had approved the scheme from Gwynedd Council to build on a new site at the total cost of nearly £8 million. The Diocese is to contribute around £1.2m.

After nearly one hundred and fifty years of providing Catholic education in Bangor in the existing buildings, new opportunities and resources will become available for one of the most diverse Catholic communities in the Diocese. Bishop Peter is delighted and grateful to all concerned who have worked to begin and create a new chapter in the life of Bangor and Caernarfon Parish.

At the same time and in separate arrangements the Welsh Government has awarded grants of nearly £1.5m to the three Wrexham schools (St. Mary's, St. Anne's, and St. Joseph's Catholic & Anglican High School), for essential repairs and maintenance works. No Diocesan contribution is required for these three projects.

### DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE VICTIMS & SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

This is an annual day called for by Pope Francis and chosen by the Bishops of England and Wales to be observed on Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter. In June last year Bishop Peter inaugurated St. Winefride's Shrine and Well as a place of prayer and healing for the victims of sexual harassment, abuse and violence. Drawing on the story of Winefride, who was a teenage victim of sexual harassment and violence and who found healing and new life in the actions of her uncle, the priest Beuno, the Shrine is offered as a place of healing, hope, peace and forgiveness for all

those whose lives are blighted by the outrage of sexual attack of any kind.

The Shrine is open throughout the day (10.00a.m. to 4.00p.m.) and there will be short services at 12noon and again at 3 o'clock to pray with and for those lives have been affected by sexual abuse.

We are all invited to reflect and pray this day (Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April) for the victims and survivors of sexual abuse.

Resources: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/prayer-for-survivors-of-abuse/>

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**Bishop's Engagements, and a 'gallimaufry of serendipity'**

**BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS**

**March**

27	7.00pm	Chrism Mass	Cathedral
28	7.30pm	Mass of the Lords' Supper	Cathedral
29	3.00pm	The Lord's Passion	Cathedral
30	8.00pm	Easter Vigil	Cathedral
31	10.30am	Easter	Cathedral

**April**

05	6.30pm	Confirmation	Holywell
06	12noon	Deacons' Renewal Mass	Cathedral
07	4.00pm	Memorial Mass for Fr Shaji Punnattu	Pantasaph
12-19		Bishop's Conference Meeting & Retreat	Buckfast Abbey
30		Day of Prayer for Victims of Abuse	St Winefride's Shrine

**May**

04	12Noon	International Mass	Cathedral
08		Episcopal Ordination	Clifton
09	12Noon	The Ascension of the Lord	Cathedral
11		Episcopal Ordination	Bangor Cathedral
12		National Pilgrimage of Our Lady of the Taper	Cardigan
18	12Noon	Mystagogia Mass	Cathedral
19	10.30am	Pentecost	Cathedral
	3.00pm	Confirmations	Cathedral
25	12Noon	Padre Pio Day	Pantasaph
26	2.00pm	African Pilgrimage	St Winefride's Shrine



Anne Thomas of Connah's Quay Parish was presented with the Benemerenti Medal by Bishop Peter at the evening Mass on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February.

Anne has been a parishioner at Connah's Quay for over 50 years and in that time, she has always been a person to volunteer to help in whatever capacity that she could. In the past Anne has prepared the Parish Bulletin, acted as housekeeper to the late Canon David Eccleshare and assisted him in his later years as his health deteriorated.

For well over 20 years Anne has organised the Parish Social and Fund-Raising activities (Christmas and Summer Fairs & Raffles) and served on the Parish Advisory Council for the same amount of time. She assists Canon Joe Stewart, especially when he goes away on holiday. She helps organise the supply priests when they arrive & makes sure that things run smoothly while he is away. Added to that, she is also an Eucharistic Minister & a flower arranger. Sadly, Anne's husband, Chris, passed away before Anne was presented with her award but he had been aware that she was due her presentation.

The parishioners are thrilled that Anne has been rewarded. Well & truly deserved.

**Update from CAFOD**

It has been a very busy year so far. Thank you so much to everyone who supported CAFOD's Lent appeal through parish donations, soup lunches and of course, participating in the Big Lent Walk!

Our wonderful new school volunteer, Cecilia, has had a great term too, visiting Catholic Primary and Secondary schools to deliver CAFOD assemblies and workshops. She said, "I love going into schools representing CAFOD. It's easy, fun and very rewarding. CAFOD provides all the training and the resources and you - as a school volunteer - have the fun part of presenting it!" We're looking for more people to join our school volunteering team and we have some summer training dates lined up, please get in touch if you're interested.

Contact Colette Byrne on [cbyrne@cafod.org.uk](mailto:cbyrne@cafod.org.uk) 07779 804 242.



We look forward to an exciting summer of campaigning ahead of the General Election to continue the fight for justice. In the meantime, from all at CAFOD, we wish you all a very blessed Easter.

**A Christian.....**

Is a mind through which Christ thinks  
 Is a heart through which Christ lives  
 Is a voice through which Christ speaks  
 Is a hand through which Christ helps.

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