



Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 22

September 2024

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



September, the month of harvest, and of golden wheat! Time to pick the free gift of blackberries, until St Michael's day!

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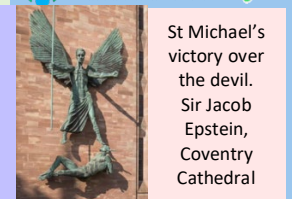
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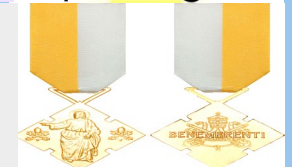
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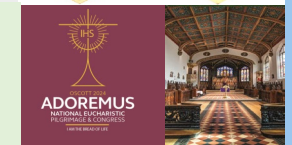
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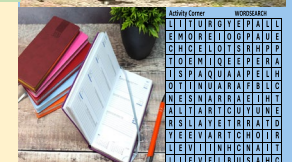
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Two young men
on pilgrimage



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New! Wordsearch



It was in 1829 with the passing of the Catholic Relief Act that most of the remaining restrictions and prohibitions, imposed by the English Reformation upon Catholics in the United Kingdom, were finally repealed. Thus, the process of emancipation reached its culmination after fifty years.

This Act of Parliament paved the way for Pope Pius IX to restore the Catholic Hierarchy to England and Wales in 1850 with the creation of thirteen dioceses. For the first time since the reign of Mary Tudor (1555-1558), Catholics now had a full hierarchy consistent with that of Catholic countries.

Eucharistic Congresses began during the second half of the 19th century in France. This was thanks to the incentive taken by a lay-woman Emilie Tamisier (1834 - 1910) who organised, under the inspiration of St Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1868 and called the "Apostle of the Eucharist"), the first International Eucharistic Congress at Lille in 1881. This undertaking, in which she was assisted by other lay persons, priests and bishops, received the blessing of Pope Leo XIII. The theme of this congress was: "The Eucharist saves the world". It was believed in fact that a renewal of faith in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist would provide the remedy for ignorance and religious indifference.

Just 27 years later the 19th Congress was held in London. That event in 1908 would prove controversial in a country where Catholic Emancipation was less than 100 years old and the Catholic hierarchy had been re-established for only 60 years, within living memory of many of the participants of the 1908 event.

The 53rd International Eucharistic Congress takes place at the Quito Metropolitan Convention Centre in the Ecuadorian capital from 8th -15th September 2024.

'*Adoremus at Oscott*' has been scheduled to coincide with the International Congress in Ecuador. Oscott was chosen because it was there that the first National Eucharistic procession took place in the years between 1881 and 1908.

We may regret that the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress at St Mary's College, Oscott, is not a public event, unlike '[Adoremus in Liverpool](#)' in 2018 although each diocese, eparchy and the ordinariate* is sending pilgrims and will be represented.

On the following day – Sunday 15th September all parishes are invited to dedicate their own time of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Less than a year ago, Pope Francis returned to this theme of encouraging Eucharistic Adoration, when he said in an homily:

"Let us devote time every day to intimacy with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, adoring him in the tabernacle. May the Church adore: in every diocese, in every parish, in every community, let us adore the Lord! Only in this way will we turn to Jesus and not to ourselves. For only through silent adoration will the Word of God live in our words; only in His presence will we be purified, transformed and renewed by the fire of his Spirit. Brothers and sisters, let us adore the Lord Jesus!" (29TH October 2023)

The history of the Catholic Church in these countries in the last two hundred years is permeated by a love and demonstration of the importance, significance and value we place in adoration and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. This is because in the previous 250 years Catholics had suffered, been imprisoned and died for the sake of having Mass, Communion and the opportunities which we now freely enjoy.

May Eucharistic prayer be the foundation of our lives again and may it figure prominently among the preparations we make for the Jubilee Year 2025.

May you be blessed in the Risen Lord Jesus and know the peace and joy of the gift of the Holy Spirit that unites us in charity and in our care and concern for one another,

+ Peter

('Eparchy' – equivalent to a 'Diocese' representing Eastern churches, eg Ukrainian, and Greek Orthodox, and the Syro-Malabar Eparchy.

'Ordinariate' -eg the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, for former Anglicans and Methodists. – Ed.)

GOVERNMENTS AND PREMIERS

Who would have thought that at the beginning of the Summer holidays, not only would there be a new UK Government and Prime Minister brought to power by the General Election, but that there would be a new First Minister of the Welsh Government brought to power by the resignation of Vaughan Gething and an uncontested appointment? To both Sir Keir Starmer and (Baroness) Eluned Morgan we offer our congratulations, best wishes and - most importantly - our prayers, as they face the responsibilities of bringing new peace and prosperity to the peoples of our nations, and justice, reconciliation and respect for human rights to the peoples of the world.



Gospel Year of Mark

Jesus foretells his Death and Resurrection and the cost of Discipleship

(24th Sunday of the Year)

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ...

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life would lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

(Mark 8:31,34-35 ESV-CE)

The Exaltation of the Cross

O cross of Christ, the Christians' hope,
Guide of the wanderers, haven of the storm-tossed,
Victory in warfare, firm foundation of the world,
Physician of the sick, resurrection of the dead
Have mercy upon us.

The cross is the guardian of the whole earth,
The cross is the beauty of the Church,
The cross is the strength of kings,
The cross is the support of the faithful.
The cross is the angels' glory, the demons' destruction.

(Hymn for the feast of the Triumph of the Cross
(14th September) from the Orthodox Church)

The Season of Creation 2024

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION – 1st September



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

'Hope and Act with Creation'

The Day's theme this year is "Hope and Act with Creation," drawn from Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans (8:19-25), in which the Apostle explains what it means for us to live according to the Spirit, and focuses on the sure hope of salvation that is born of faith, namely, the newness of life in Christ.

The message of Pope Francis highlights our responsibility to take care of our Common Home. It stresses that, as Christians called to live in faith and charity, caring for the environment is "*a task to be undertaken freely, in obedience to Jesus' commandment of love.*"

The full message can be read on:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/cura-creato/documents/20240627-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>

Today (1st September) marks the beginning of the **SEASON OF CREATION** that continues until the feast of St. Francis of Assisi (4th October)

Resources for parishes, schools and individuals are on <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

"If we learn how to listen, we can hear in the voice of creation a kind of dissonance. On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this, our common home".

Pope Francis

An Appeal

For the Diocese I am still looking for, appealing for a volunteer to be the **Environmental Lead** to assist and support our parishes in their awareness of what can be done to reduce the Church's detrimental impact of the world, and to circulate already created resources to assist us all to work towards a carbon neutral society. This is the ideal kind of role in leadership that was being called for during the Listening Meetings across the Diocese earlier in the year. Interested persons please contact Bishop's House for more information.
Many thanks, +Peter

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – SEPTEMBER

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overloaded by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER: In Ordinary Time (Autumn), i.e. from September to Christ the King, we are asked to pray for these intentions: ➡

The Spread of the Gospel;
Students and Teachers;
The Harvest;
Fruits of human Work, and the Reverent use of Creation;
Justice and Peace in the World;
All Victims of War;
Young people;
Prisoners and their Families.

EDUCATION DAY

Education Sunday is marked this year on 8th September - just after the new academic year starts. The theme this year is, "He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak", taken from St Mark's Gospel (7:31-37).

Education Sunday is one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in England and Wales, established 175 years ago in 1848. It provides an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to all involved in making Catholic schools places of enlightenment, as well as to look forward in anticipation of the year ahead.

The Catholic Education Service (CES) has produced an Education Sunday guide and a prayers booklet to be used this year across schools and parishes. Also available on the website is Bishop Marcus Stock's education Sunday message [Education Sunday Prayers and Resources - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://EducationSundayPrayersandResources-CatholicBishopsConference.cbcew.org.uk)

A retiring collection may be taken up in parishes today to assist payment of the Catholic Education Service element in the Diocesan levy.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM DAY -15th September

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday is named after Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on the 'Joy of the Gospel', the day offers the Catholic community in England and Wales the opportunity to celebrate the beauty of our faith and our commitment to witness to the fullness of life in Christ in discipleship and proclamation

The origins of this Sunday lie in the work of the Catholic Missionary Society, created by Cardinal Bourne in 1903 and which closed in 2003. This special Sunday focused on the evangelisation work that takes place in each parish and diocese, offered a theme and resources for reflection on this Sunday and asked each parish to have a collection so that the national work of evangelisation could be supported through the Home Mission Office.

Following a restructuring of the work at the Bishops' Conference, the Home Mission Office no longer exists, but the work of encounter and evangelisation continues through the Directorate for Mission.

A mandatory collection is taken in each parish this day to support the national work of evangelisation in our countries.

[Evangelii Gaudium Sunday - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://EvangeliiGaudiumSunday-CatholicBishopsConference.cbcew.org.uk)

CARMELITE MONASTERY DOLGELLAU

We offer our congratulations, best wishes and prayers to **Sister Loretta Anne of the Annunciation**, OCD and the Community of the Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Peace on her Solemn Profession as a sister of the Discalced Nuns of the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel on the feast of the Queenship of Mary.

The Consecrated Life, deeply rooted in the example and teaching of Christ the Lord, is a gift of God the Father to his Church through the Holy Spirit. By the profession of the evangelical counsels the characteristic features of Jesus — the chaste, poor and obedient one — are made constantly "visible" in the midst of the world and the eyes of the faithful are directed towards the mystery of the Kingdom of God already at work in history, even as it awaits its full realization in heaven. (Apostolic Exhortation Vita Consecrata N.1. P. Benedict XVI 25th March 1996.)



CANON JOE'S 40th ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Canon Joe Stewart from Connah's Quay Parish celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination on Wednesday 26th June.

On Friday 21st June a Special Mass was celebrated by Bishop Peter at Connah's Quay Church with many other priests in attendance. A good number of family, friends & parishioners also attended. Afterwards we had a get-together and buffet at the Civic Centre, Connah's Quay.

Congratulations to Canon Joe

The OMI's Mission Office in Anglesey

has two new telephone numbers::

Landline: 01407 521393 **Mobile:** 07856 153314 (please use this parish mobile if not able to contact a priest by landline)

Address: Anglesey Mission Office, Ty Mair, Longford Road, Holyhead, Anglesey LL65 1TR, North Wales, UK

Email: secretaryanglesey@rcdwsm.org.uk

Email for Fr Godfrey Emmanuel OMI, Moderator
priestanglesey@rcdwsm.org.uk

Email for Fr Leo Philomin OMI, Assistant Moderator:
asstpriestanglesey@rcdwsm.org.uk

Amlwch, Benllech, Beaumaris, Llangefni & Holyhead, Rhosneigr.

This year the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes was fortunate to be able to partner the pilgrims from Lancaster Diocese. Other dioceses in Lourdes at the same time as ourselves or with whom we overlapped were; Westminster, Portsmouth, Salford, Liverpool, Arundel & Brighton, Hexham & Newcastle; all of which had significant numbers of youth and young people who were impressive in their involvement and participation in the events and activities, and assistance of less able pilgrims. Mass shared with Lancaster Diocese was at the Grotto on the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne and at which Bishop Paul Swarbrick presided and Bishop Peter preached the homily. In conclusion, he spoke of our all *'being aided in the pilgrimage or procession of our lives through the example of obedience, prayer and penance of St. Bernadette, and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary who herself was inspired by the faith and hope, piety and love, wisdom and virtue of Sts. Anne and Joachim whose praises we celebrate in this place to-day.'* Bp Peter's Mass intention was for of all the sick and infirm of the Diocese.

Later that day the pilgrims took part in the Blessed Sacrament procession and Benediction remembering in prayer the entire Diocese and the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of our parishes.

On Sunday we joined some thousands of pilgrims, those with sickness or disability, and those without, including some fifteen bishops, together with a hundred or more priests from around the world for the International Mass in the Underground Basilica on what was the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Bishop Paul who was the main celebrant spoke in his homily, of Jesus' concern for the scraps of food left after the feeding of the five thousand and how he instructed that they be gathered up; an image for his concern for the very least of humanity and the place and importance of every person, every life - in Jesus' world there is no waste. Bp Peter's Mass Intention that day was all the people of the Diocese of Wrexham, their needs and their joys.

Later we were part of the great Marian Torchlight Procession - a single light made up from a multitude of candles and the expression of faith in prayer of a host of people witnessing to the universality of the Catholic Church under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Following Mass on Monday afternoon in the Rosary Basilica the pilgrims took the Diocesan Pilgrim Candle to the Chapel of Light. This candle symbolically holds all the prayers of the pilgrims, their intentions and those for whom we had been asked to pray and the prayer of the whole Diocese. As the candle gives its light it gives itself in sacrifice and so as well as being lit in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary it remains for the hours and days after a continuation of our votive offering, prayer and the uniting of ourselves in the sacrifice of Christ the Light of the world.

Mary, Immaculate Mother of the Saviour, pray for us.
St. Bernadette, pray for us.

A gallery of pictures from the Pilgrimage can be seen on the Diocese website, with the invitation to you to join the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage in 2025. Details for next year's pilgrimage will be publicised as soon as they are available.

On Tuesday 23rd July 2024 our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes began. It was an early start for all of us but especially for those as far away as Pwllheli who began their journey to the airport at 3.15 am. We all met up at Liverpool Airport ready for our flight to Lourdes Airport departing at 8.40 am.

Our party consisted of Bishop Peter, Bishop Edwin, Canon Doyle, Canon Morgan, Canon Lordan & Father Francis. Together with 13 Wrexham Pilgrims representing the parishes of Bangor, Buckley, Connah's Quay & Pwllheli & one very welcome visitor. A total of 20 of us.

On the outgoing flight we joined with the Pilgrims from the Diocese of Lancaster accompanied by their Bishop - Bishop Paul Swarbrick. They had very kindly agreed that our Diocese could join with them in their Pilgrimage Itinerary. However, our first and last Masses were celebrated as a Diocese.

During the week Mass was celebrated every day in various venues e.g. Cote de Carmel, St Joseph's Chapel, the Grotto, Pius X Au Fond, Underground Basilica, Rosary Basilica & the Poor Clare's Convent.

On the Sunday we all joined in the International Mass in the Underground Basilica where thousands of pilgrims from all over the world gather together to celebrate Mass. Two of our Pilgrims were part of that celebration – Diane from Pwllheli was our flag bearer for the week & Paula from Bangor read a bidding prayer as well as reading at other masses during our week. Bishop Paul (from Lancaster) was the main celebrant for this International Mass so much of the Mass was in English! We also went as a Diocese to walk the High Stations of the Cross & the following day we joined with Lancaster to follow the Low Stations of the Cross. On Friday afternoon we were invited to join a trip to the Lake of Lourdes. Once we arrived at the Lake, Bishop Paul was happy to lead anyone who wanted to – to walk around the lake.

At tea time we joined in the Blessed Sacrament Procession. On the Sunday evening we joined in Our Lady's Procession together with hundreds & hundreds of other Pilgrims.

Other highlights of the week were Mass for Vocations, Mass of Anointing with Reconciliation, Holy Hour, Group photo, delivering all the intentions to the Grotto & taking the Diocesan candle to The Chapel of Light based directly across the river from the Baths & it was then lit by Bishop Peter. Finally we had a surprise birthday meal for Paula.

For those of you who have been to Lourdes before, bathing in the Baths is no longer available for Health & Safety reasons. This stopped during Covid & has not been reinstated yet. However, the 'immersion' in the water at the Baths has been replaced by the 'Water Gesture'. This can be done with family members or friends at the Baths. Volunteers invite you to remember your intentions, wash your hands in the Lourdes water poured from a jug, wash your face & then drink the water from your hands followed by a short prayer of thanksgiving. A very personal experience.

During the week Bishop Peter also remembered Bernadette Gavin who religiously joined the Wrexham Pilgrimage to Lourdes for very many years. Sadly Bernadette passed away on 26th June. She was greatly missed.

We would like to thank Bishop Peter for all that he did in making our Pilgrimage such a success and so memorable. Also, thank you to Bishop Paul and the Lancaster Pilgrimage Team who helped to organise the itinerary. Another thank you goes to Deacon Stephen Pendlebury the Music Co-ordinator & his wife (who was the organist) for all their hard work in organising & arranging all the music for all the services.

We are also grateful to Finn – Joe Walsh's representative who is in training in Ireland to become a priest. He looked after us and guided us during our week in Lourdes. Volunteering in Lourdes was his holiday placement.

The majority of us stayed in the Hotel Solitude. It was very comfortable with excellent service. There was ample food and with plenty of choice. *If you have never been to Lourdes before, then please consider joining next year's Pilgrimage (date still to be arranged). I don't think you would be disappointed.*

(PM)

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes



The Pilgrims



Diane -flag bearer



Pilgrims with Bp Peter



Paula reads a Bidding Prayer at the International Mass in the Underground Basilica

Sr Eileen Creedon RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sister Eileen Creedon, of the Little Sisters of the Assumption, who died in March 2024.

For many years Sr Eileen was based in Salisbury Road, Wrexham, and was for many years a member of the Wrexham Diocesan Service Team for Charismatic Renewal.

She ministered for many years in Wrexham, Cork and Dublin, and will be remembered fondly by many in the Diocese during her 70 years of religious life.

May Eileen's gentle spirit Rest in Peace

Visitor Centre Manager at St Winefride's Well

An opportunity now arises for the right person to show their skills in managing, contributing effectively to the operation of the Visitor Centre, and ensuring a good experience for all visitors/pilgrims to this ancient religious site of St Winefride's Well/Shrine in the care of the Roman Catholic Church's Diocese of Wrexham (Registered Charity No.700426). Visitors to this historic Well, Chapel and grounds are served by a Visitor Centre that includes an Interpretative centre, museum, exhibition and a shop/repository. The Trustees are seeking a full-time manager of the Centre who is open to flexible working, can work alternate weekends and cover holidays, is highly motivated, and self-driven. The postholder when on duty would normally be the first point of contact for visitors to St Winefride's Well /Shrine. Applications are invited from those with good customer service and management skills, including retail knowledge or experience and who are interested in the religious and historical features of this delightful heritage site, who can promote and develop the retail, heritage and spiritual experience.

Summary The postholder will:

- manage the Visitor Centre, with support of a small customer services team, motivating and developing staff including in their historical and spiritual knowledge of the Well / Shrine.
- deputise for the Facilities Administration Manager when necessary.
- create a welcoming atmosphere and great 'one to one' visitor experience, engaging at all given opportunities.
- - employ the necessary skills to develop the Centre's promotional materials and create the right atmosphere to maximise visitor involvement and the making of kind donations when desired.

Essential Requirements

- Ability to communicate well with people at all levels of society and in the diverse communities and visitors served.
- Ability to work autonomously and deal with all issues that may arise calmly.
- Retail and Customer service experience, Stock Control, Purchasing, tills & PDQ, cash handling and associated procedures.
- Experience with all aspects of Office 365.
- Prepared to make presentations to and guide individuals and groups, enjoying and being motivated by this aspect of the role.
- A Catholic with a good knowledge of the Christian faith and motivated and enthusiastic to increase knowledge of the Cult of St Winefride, the Well and Shrine, and the related historical tradition.

Desirable:

Ability to speak Welsh

Full time working alternate weekends on a Rota Basis, holiday cover
The right Candidate will be flexible and adaptable to last minute changes.

Benefits of being a member of the team for Wrexham Diocese:

- Flexible working where possible
- Free parking
- NEST pension scheme
- Real Living Wage employer
- Attractive Salary
- Uniform provided

If you would like further information on the vacancy please contact Rebecca Garratt

businessmanager@rcdwxm.org.uk 01978 262726

CLOSING DATE 13TH SEPTEMBER 2024

<https://www.rcdwxm.org.uk/working-for-us>

(For a realistic view of the role of the Visitor Centre Manager, watch Bp Peter in the BBC 2 programme "Pilgrimage" on BBC iplayer)

LORETO SPIRITUALITY CENTRE, LLANDUDNO

Retreats, Autumn 2024

'I listened to God's deep dream for me.' (Mary Ward)

Weekend Retreat 30 August - 1 September

A discernment weekend, drawing on the life and writings of Mary Ward, to help us reflect on the choices we make.

Josette Zammit-Mangion IBVM and Ewa Bem IBVM

'For to me, to live is Christ' (Phil 1:21a)

Weekend Retreat 20-22 September

Praying with St Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Josette Zammit-Mangion IBVM

The Sea within:

Wellbeing and Sandplay for a Changing Era

Weekend Retreat 27-29 September

A relaxing and refreshing space to get in touch with your own inner resources and gift through sandplay, poetry, quiet meditation and stillness, and incorporating Wellbeing practices such as Tai Chi, self-acupressure, and Circle Dance.

Anne Harrison

Space to Grieve

Weekend Retreat 15-17 November

A weekend for those who have recently been bereaved. There will be opportunities to share our stories, reflect and pray together, and plenty of space for yourselves. Individual accompaniment will be available.

Ewa Bem IBVM and Rev. Kate le Sueur

Praying with Poetry

Midweek Retreat 18-22 November

During this weekend retreat we will spend time praying with material from poets, including: George Herbert; Patrick Kavanagh; R.S. Thomas; Denise Levertov; Elizabeth Jennings.

Brendan Comerford SJ

Advent Triduum: A Leap of Divine Joy

Midweek 2-6 December

Advent Scripture Reflections with Art, Poetry and Music

Tom McGuinness SJ and Magdalen Lawler SND

INDIVIDUALLY GUIDED RETREATS

16-20 September Midweek IGR

16-25 September 8 Day IGR

14-18 October Midweek IGR

with Workshops on Prayer for those who wish

4-13 November 8 Day IGR

For more information and details of our Individually Guided Retreats, please see our website: www.loreto.org.uk

Email address: loreto.org.uk@yahoo.co.uk

Phone number: 01492 878031 Registered Charity: 250607

Spirituality Centres in the Diocese:

The Loreto programme is given (see left). Other centres are: St Augustine's House of Prayer -Old Colwyn.

(enquiries@houseofprayer.org.uk)

Vincentian Divine Retreat Centre, Pantasaph

(pantasaph@gmail.com)

Noddfa, Penmaenmawr

(noddfa@penmaenmawr.com)

St Beuno's, Tremeirchion.

(info@beunos.com)

Check websites or the Diocesan website for details

Do YOU know your 'carbon footprint'?

Is it worth Offsetting?

How many of us know what our carbon footprint actually is? The average for those of us in the UK is around 6.0 tonnes of greenhouse gases (GHG) each year ([Our World in Data](https://www.ourworldindata.org/)) For comparison, it's 6.76 tonnes globally and 17.7 tonnes in the US and 9.8 in China.

Many of us have made a good effort to reduce our own carbon footprint as much as possible. We have, for example,

- made sure our homes are well insulated,

- installed LED lighting,

- moved to a green energy tariff,

- reduced our meat consumption, car use, food waste, and clothes shopping and

- increased recycling and reuse of items.

Some of us may have

- transitioned to an electric vehicle,

- installed solar panels, or

- an air-source heat pump.

But we may not, even then, be carbon neutral and we will still be putting CO₂ into the atmosphere.

If not before, is it now time for offsetting?

'Offsetting' can have a dubious reputation, but there are organisations, approved by The Institute of Chartered Accountants Scotland (ICAS) which points out that carbon offset projects can have the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), Gold Standard Voluntary Emission Reductions (VER) or Certified Emission Reductions (CER), which all give a level of confidence in their authenticity and reliability.

Such projects include:

['Carbon Neutral Britain™'](https://www.carbonneutralbritain.com/) for a fee it purchases carbon credits for projects around the world, with 10% on tree planting in Britain.

['My Carbon Plan'](https://www.my-carbon-plan.com/) supports UK-based schemes, currently mainly tree planting projects and a pilot scheme for retrofitting.

['World Land Trust'](https://www.worldlandtrust.org/), is an international charity which aims to protect the world's most biologically significant and threatened habitats by funding the creation of reserves and provides permanent protection for habitats and wildlife.

A small Christian Charity, ['Climate Stewards'](https://www.climatestewards.org/), uses projects through ['A Rocha'](https://www.a-rocha.com/), an international overseas network.

Calculating our carbon footprint focuses our attention on what we need to do to reduce our carbon emissions. By choosing valuable verifiable projects we can enable others to reduce their carbon footprint too.

Information provided by the "Laudato Si' Animators' Group"

This Month's Banner Headline:

Michaelmas -September 29th

The Feast of St Michael and All Angels is one of four "Quarter Days" of the financial, judicial and academic year. (Others are 25th December (Christmas), 25th March (The Annunciation) and June 24th (midsummer). Traditionally a goose was eaten (stubble goose -which fed on the stubble of harvest). The day marks the end of harvest and is the last day on which blackberries should be picked!!

When Lucifer was cast out of heaven by St Michael, he landed in a blackberry bush, and in his spite and anger, he cursed, stamped and spat on the fruit, or even worse, urinated on it, making it unfit for eating after this date.

The banner heading represents the colour of blackberries!



Christ alive in the Christians of Gaza

**Holy Family Church
and School,
Gaza**

In the Spotlight



**Parish Priest
Fr Gabriel Romanelli**

'Let's pray for the peace of Gaza'

The terrible suffering of the people of Gaza has been frontline news since October 2023. But throughout this period, the parishioners of the Holy Family church in Gaza City have provided an amazing witness to the Christian faith at a time when its very existence is threatened.

Christianity in Gaza

Though Christians are a tiny minority in Gaza, the Strip has a long Christian history. The church of the Holy Family is so named because Jesus, Mary and Joseph themselves would have taken the road through Gaza as refugees when they fled to Egypt from Bethlehem. In Acts (8: 26-39), Philip the evangelist is also told by an angel to 'go south to the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza'. Today Gaza is home to the third oldest Christian church in the world – the Orthodox church of St Porphyrius, a short walk from the Holy Family, and the two churches have worked closely to offer mutual support in the present conflict.

The Holy Family community

The Holy Family church is part of a complex built in 1974 by the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. It is located in the north of Gaza city, not far from Al Shifah hospital, now completely destroyed. It runs three schools for children of all faiths, two care homes for disabled children and adults, and has ten ambulances. Christians here have good relations with their Muslim neighbours.

Since the present Hamas-Israel conflict began, the Holy Family parishioners have experienced near-starvation and great trauma. They are also repeatedly told to leave by the Israeli army. Originally they numbered over 1000, but about 200 have now fled south and another 200 have left Gaza altogether. Three have been killed by Israeli snipers, and others have died from a lack of medical care or adequate nutrition. At the present time, around 500 people are crammed into the Holy Family complex, with very little food, one hour of electricity a day, and the din of bombing raids all around. Parish committees have been formed to deal with basic survival needs as best they can: finding food, cooking, cleaning, and caring for children and for the sick.



**The Church of the Holy Family:
Gaza's only Roman Catholic Parish**



**Fr Gabriel celebrating daily Mass at the
Holy Family church, Summer 2024**



**The parishioners learned how to make their
own altar bread when supplies ran out**



Contact with the outside world

The parish has been greatly sustained during these months by daily phone calls from Pope Francis. Their Argentinian parish priest, Fr Gabriel Romanelli, was able to return to Gaza in May, having been stranded in Bethlehem at the start of the conflict (he had gone to fetch medicine for a nun). Each day he shares something of their lives through social media, posting photos and short videos of daily Mass in Arabic (with overhead drones often audible in the background). Other pictures show the daily classes offered to children of all ages.

Holy Family parishioner and aid worker George Antone recently explained on a special World Service podcast ([Heart and Soul: Last Christians of Gaza](#)) why his young family have chosen to stay in Gaza. They do so to keep the faith alive and bring Christ to others. 'We are in Jesus's house, we are in his hands: we choose life, despite being surrounded by death.' And as Fr Gabriel says, 'Not only do we fix our attention on the negative things – on the cross and the death of Jesus – but also on the rising. We can bring his mystery to Gaza. Jesus is with us not as an image, but as a reality.'

How can we help?

Fr Gabriel asks us to continue praying for all involved in the conflict – especially for a lowering of the angry tone, so that a climate of peace might supplant the atmosphere of war. We can also donate via one of the many charities working in the region. The [Friends of the Holy Land](#) exists specifically to support vulnerable Christians in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and Jordan, through projects focusing on areas such as housing, health and education. It also provides prayer resources.

Around and About in the Diocese

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

SEPTEMBER

1st Sept.– 4th October Season of Creation

Sun 1st World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Sun 8th Education day

Sat 14th Feast of the triumph of the Cross

Sun 15th Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows,
Titular Feast of Wrexham Cathedral
Evangelii Gaudium Day

Sun 22nd Harvest Thanksgiving Weekend

Tue 24th Diocesan Trustee Board Meeting

Thur 26th Our Lady Star of the Sea (Stella Maris)
World Maritime Day.

Fri 27th 45th UN World Tourism Day 'Tourism and Peace'
<https://www.vatican.va/content/romancuria/en/dicasteri/dicastero-evangelizzazione/documenti.html>

OCTOBER

Fri 4th CAFOD Harvest Day.

Sat 5th Makhēl Mass and International Celebration -
Cathedral

Thur 10th Annual Diocesan Financial Reporting

13th -19th. Prisoners' Week

Sun 13th Day of Prayer for Prisoners'

Fri 18th Mass for Healthcare workers (after feast of St. Luke)

Sun 20th World Mission Day
Pilgrimage to St. Mary's Cathedral for the
commemoration of St. Richard Gwyn, Martyr

EMPLOYMENT or VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Currently the Diocesan trustees are seeking:

1. EMPLOYEE POST

Visitor Centre Manager to work with the Shrine Administrator in the development of the National Shrine of St. Winefride, Holywell as featured in the BBC2 series 'Pilgrimage'. (For details, see page 6)

2. VOLUNTEER POST

Environmental Lead to help educate, advise and implement the Church's environmental policies within the Diocese. (see page 3- "An Appeal")

If you would like further information on the vacancies please contact Rebecca Garratt

businessmanager@rcdwxm.org.uk 01978 262726

Well, what did you expect?

Heavy rain caused an horrendous flood. The local pastor went up to the floor above, and finally on to the roof. A man in a boat hailed him, but he said "No, thank you, God will help me". Later a motor boat driver was given the same answer. Eventually, the water rose higher and a helicopter hovered above. The pastor shouted the same answer.

As he finally was swept away, the pastor prayed "I prayed all the time, God. Why did you forsake me?"

"Forsake you?", replied God. "First I send a rowing boat, then I send a motor boat and finally, I send a helicopter".

Presentation
of the
BeneMerenti
to
Sheila Johnson
at
Our Lady of the
Assumption,
Rhyl.

Pictured:
Bishop Peter
and Fr Anthony
Nnamah MSP
with
Sheila Johnson



BENEMERENTI IN RHYL

In a heartfelt and joyous ceremony on Sunday, 11th August (the patronal feast of Our Lady of Assumption) in Rhyl, one of our dedicated parishioners, **Mrs. Sheila Johnson** was presented with a prestigious Papal Medal by Bishop Peter, recognising decades of selfless service and unwavering dedication to the parish community. The honour is testament to Mrs. Johnson's extraordinary commitment to her faith and to her fellow parishioners. It is awarded to individuals who have shown exceptional service to the Church and their community, often over many years.

Mrs. Johnson has been a source of comfort and strength to countless patients and their families during some of the most challenging times of their lives. Her compassionate presence and gentle guidance have provided solace and hope to those facing illness and uncertainty. With a listening ear and an open heart, she has ministered to the young people in the parish preparing them for the Sacraments. Her involvement has spanned numerous ministries, including her compassionate outreach to the sick and the housebound. In his address during the ceremony, Bishop Peter highlighted the significance of the Papal Medal, noting that it is not merely an award but a recognition of a life lived in accordance with the Gospel. *"Mrs. Johnson exemplifies the Christian virtues of charity, humility, and service,"* said **Rev. Wynne Roberts, Chaplain Manager of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board**. *"Her life is a living testament to the teachings of Christ, and this medal is a symbol of the Church's gratitude for her unwavering dedication."* Receiving the medal, Mrs. Johnson expressed her deep gratitude and humility. *"I am overwhelmed by this honour, but I must say that everything I have done has been with the support and love of my parish family. This community has given me so much, and it has been my joy to give back."*

Also present at the ceremony were the retired Bishop of Wrexham, Bishop Edwin Regan and Father Frank Ryan, OMI. One of the highlights of the celebration was the integration of different cultural elements into the feast: traditional attire, songs and dances by the 43 different nationalities in the Parish which added a unique and joyful dimension to the celebration.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS – ADOREMUS AT OSCOTT

The 2024 National Eucharistic Congress is to take place at St Mary's College, Oscott on Saturday 14 September 2024. It has been scheduled to coincide with the 53rd International Eucharistic Congress in Quito, Ecuador from 8 – 15 September 2024. This enables us to unite in our parishes, and at Oscott, with the universal Catholic Church as we come before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

ADOREMUS IN MY PARISH

The Bishops of England and Wales invite all parishes across our countries to have a period of Adoration in our churches on Sunday 15th September. This will help to unite the faithful in focusing on the Eucharist in anticipation of the Jubilee Year 2025 with renewed and deepened devotion. This can be a Holy Hour or a period of prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Resources to support this solemn, beautiful time of prayer will be available.

[National Eucharistic Congress 2024 - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://cbcew.org.uk) and

[Joining together in Adoration at Oscott and in our Parishes - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://cbcew.org.uk)

BE Lectionary Aware!

In the new Lectionary, translations of the Scripture readings are made from the original biblical languages of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, not from the Latin translation of the Bible. As the new millennium began, it was felt that the translations in use needed refreshing.

There is a greater number of readings. The weekday Lectionary now contains readings for every single day, and an almost continuous reading of the synoptic gospels.

In the old lectionary, only about 1% of the Old Testament was heard at Mass - now it is 14%.

There is exposure to every one of the 27 Books of the New Testament, and to 46 of the Old, with the exception of Obadiah.

Deuterocanonical books are included (accepted by the Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, and Assyrian Church), but regarded as apocryphal by modern Jews, and Protestants.

The English Standard Version (ESV) was born in the 1990s amid a flurry of new translations. The ESV belongs to the oldest and most venerable of the traditions of translations in the English-speaking world, stemming from the King James Bible (or 'Authorised Version' of 1611. One 'offspring', the best-known and most widely used was the Revised Standard Version, (RSV), and Catholic editions have been used alongside the Jerusalem Bible since the 1960s. (...to follow - notes taken from an introduction by Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB, Bishop of Aberdeen.)

Preparation for the new lectionary in the Diocese

In the weeks leading up to the introduction of the new Lectionary on the 1st Sunday of Advent, the Deacons of the Diocese will lead a number of preparation days for those who exercise the ministry of Reader of the Word in our Parishes. The study days will take place across the Diocese and it is expected that all who wish to continue the ministry will attend one of the days. This formation is in addition to whatever may be provided by your parish. This will help to ensure consistency of the standard of formation and practice across the Diocese for this most important of liturgical ministries. Further information will come via your parish as to the dates, duration and venues of the days to which you will be asked to sign-up in advance so that adequate study materials can be prepared for those who attend.



CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal: Carving a Better Future

CAFOD's Family Fast Day is Friday, October 4th, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, an opportunity to reach out with love to our sisters and brothers.

In Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), CAFOD is helping young people overcome poverty and build better futures. Young people face ongoing conflict, poor infrastructure and few job opportunities. Many families cannot afford food or education for their children. Now CAFOD partners with local organisations like CAJED (Concerted Action for Disadvantaged Young People and Children) to operate a vocational training centre in Goma, teaching young people skills to earn a living.

"If God helps and this work expands, I can do greater things," says Daniel, a young man from Goma. His story shows the impact of vocational training. Despite his parents' hard work, Daniel's family often went hungry and there was no money for school. As soon as he could, Daniel took on labouring jobs to support his family. Reflecting on his childhood, Daniel said, "I never want anyone to go through the life I had when I was younger."



Determined to change his life, Daniel enrolled in an eight-month carpentry course at the CAJED centre. With the guidance of local experts like Simon, Daniel learned to make furniture like doors, chairs and cabinets.

Simon saw Daniel's potential, saying, "I saw that Daniel understands things quickly. I am proud when I see the young people I trained becoming independent."

Today, Daniel runs his own workshop, making furniture for customers in Goma. He earns a stable income and is supporting his family. Daniel's work is a sign of hope to others striving for better futures. The training centre needs ongoing support to provide tools, equipment, and teaching materials. Funds raised by our parishes make a significant impact. For example, £998.40 can fully fund a carpenter from training to independent work, including tools and materials.

Simon told us: "I would love for people in the UK to keep helping these young people so those on the streets can find occupations and have better lives."

How You Can Help:

This Family Fast Day, join CAFOD in making a difference. By supporting CAFOD, you contribute to vital projects worldwide addressing poverty, conflict, and climate change. Your generosity and your prayers enable more people like Daniel to carve out better futures for themselves and their families.

You can donate during parish collections for CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal this Harvest season. Remember to pick up your Family Fast Day envelope and Gift Aid your donation if you can. You can also give online at cafod.org.uk/envelope.

THE BACK PAGE

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

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

September

05	6.30pm	Youth Commission Meeting	Colwyn Bay
07	11am-4pm	Deacons' Formation Day – New Lectionary	Mold
10	2.30pm	Finance Secretariat Meeting	Bp's House
14		National Eucharistic Congress	St Mary's College, Oscott
24	12noon	Finance Secretariat Meeting	Bp's House
	1.30pm	Board of Trustees' Meeting	Bp's House

October

04	6.30pm	Confirmations	Flint
05	12noon	Makhël Mass	Cathedral
	6.00pm	Confirmations	Holywell
10	5.00pm	Clergy Finance Meeting	Mold

A Walking Pilgrimage

Joining parishioners at St David's Mold at Mass in August were James and his friend -two young men, early twenties,- from Burnley, and London. They walked from Wrexham to Mold, and then Mold to St Winefride's Well in Holywell over the Bank Holiday weekend. Perhaps enthused by the BBC2 programme 'Pilgrimage' they were valuing the spiritual benefits of their pilgrimage. **Inspirational Young Men!!**

School Lunch!

Young boy in the School Dining Room spots a basket full of apples. As he draws near he sees there is a notice on them saying: "Only take one. God is watching you!" The boy takes an apple, moves down the line and sees a basket of oranges. He turns to his friend and says, "Take as many as you like, God is watching the apples."

Activity Corner WORDSEARCH

L	I	T	U	R	G	Y	E	P	A	L	L
E	M	O	R	E	I	O	G	P	A	U	E
C	H	C	E	L	O	T	S	R	H	P	P
T	O	E	M	I	Q	E	E	P	E	R	A
I	S	P	A	Q	U	A	A	P	E	L	H
O	T	I	N	U	A	R	A	F	B	L	C
N	E	S	N	A	R	R	A	E	I	H	T
A	L	T	A	R	T	C	U	Y	U	N	E
R	S	L	A	Y	E	T	R	R	A	T	D
Y	E	E	V	A	R	T	C	H	O	I	R
L	E	V	I	I	N	H	C	N	A	I	T
L	I	E	V	E	L	B	U	S	A	H	C

Find the Missing Word: Using the words below, eliminate the letters to find a word of 9 letters from the remaining (unused) letters. Words may go up, down, forwards, backwards, diagonally in all directions, but always in a straight line!

NB Letters can be used in two or more words

The Missing word:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

AIR	CHAPEL	GOSPEL	NOTE	RITE
ALB	CHASUBLE	HOSTEL	PALL	ROME
ALTAR	CHOIR	LAY	PAPA	STOLE
APSE	CHURCH	LECTIONARY	PARTY	THOU
AQUA	CLERGY	LEVI	PREFACE	VEIL
AVE	ENTRY	LITURGY	QUARTER	VIRTUE
CHANT	EPISTLE	MANNA	RELIQUARY	YE

But first.... Challenge yourself to find the words in the square (first letter and number of letters is given);

- O God, how great art! (T..4)*
- Book of readings at Mass (L..10)*
- Contains a saint's relics (R..9)*
- Covers the chalice at Mass (P..4)*
- A small church, or part of (C..6)*
- Bishops, priests and deacons (C..6)*
- A white 'under vestment' (A..3)*
- The sign of priesthood (S..5)*
- A recess in (esp.) a cathedral (A..4)*
- Archaic form of 'you', plural (Y..2)*
- A group of singers (C..5)*
- Indicates a musical sound (N..4)*
- The format of a ceremony (R..4)*
- Where the Pope resides (R..4)...*
- And his title there! (P..4)*
- The non-religious in church (L..3)*
- 'Hail', especially to Mary (A..3)*
- Reading from one of four writers (G..6)*
- Priestly garment based on a toga (C..8)*
- Fabric worn to cover the head (V..4)*
- A high moral value (V..6)*
- Prayer leading to the Canon (P..7)*
- Leader of priestly tribe (L..4)*
- Psalm set to music (C..5)*
- Title of 4 days of the year (Q..7)*
- Formal word for 'letter' (E..7)*
- A child's celebration of birthday (P..5)*
- Accommodation for groups (H..6)*
- Desert food from heaven (M..5)*
- Format of religious worship (L..7)*
- Solemn start of a ceremony (E..5)*
- The table of sacrifice (A..5)*
- A tune, or what we breathe (A..3)*
- Latin for 'water' (A..4)*
- A building/the people of God (C..6)*

Are YOU a pillar or a buttress?

While I cannot be regarded as a pillar, I must be regarded as a buttress, because I support from the outside. (William Lamb Viscount Melbourne)

The church is not made up of people who are better than the rest, but of people who want to become better than they are. (Anon)

God's Banker: A novice crook went into a branch of Lloyds Bank. "I am a prophet, and God has sent me to collect £1,000". The cashier replied calmly "I am sorry, Sir. God banks with Barclays"

The Bank Manager considered a loan. "I will give you a sporting chance", he told the customer. "I have a glass eye. If you can tell me which one, I will grant the loan". Looking closely, the customer replied, "The right. It is the kind and sympathetic one"

A vicar ran out of petrol. With no petrol can, he used a baby's potty to put some in. A passing parishioner saw it and remarked, "Heaven's Vicar, you have more faith than I have"

