



Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 39
January 2026

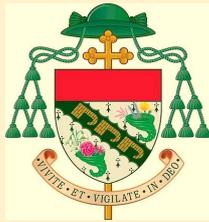
The newsletter of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham –
serving the parishes of North and Mid Wales

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



During January, we enter Ordinary Time (green), but with several saints to celebrate (white). The Christmas season ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, however the 40 days of Christmas end on February 2nd, the Presentation of the Lord.

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Humour, Lunacy,
And pause for thought

Reflections on Forgiveness

To err is human, to forgive divine *(Alexander Pope)*
It is easier for the generous to forgive, than for the offender
to ask for forgiveness *(J. Thomson)*
Forgiveness is man's deepest need and highest achievement
(Horace Bushnell)
Know all and you will pardon all *(Greek proverb)*
They who forgive most shall be most forgiven *(English proverb)*
He who cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which
he must himself pass *(George Herbert)*

What to look for in this issue:

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Relax with a smile but keep tongue firmly in cheek!

Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwxm.org.uk

Many of us are still deciding what New Year's resolutions to make, or perhaps remake, or looking for alternatives because after a couple of weeks the first ones have all dissolved away like the snow after a little warmth. There may be greater success with spiritual resolutions rather than the temporal, material or physical ones that have a lot to do with trying to get fit after an over-indulgent Christmas. I would suggest that looking at ways in which we can, personally and as parish communities, deepen our discipleship, as in this coming year that discipleship is going to be tested afresh.

When I prepared, now some ten years ago a pastoral plan for the Diocese I made the commitment that I would do my utmost to maintain a Sunday Mass in every church every weekend of the year. This would involve the closure of some churches, a rationalisation of Mass times within parishes and also within clusters, or vicariate areas of the Diocese. The period of Christmastide -just passed- has now demonstrated that that can no longer be sustained. Now, there are fewer priests: currently, and for some time, the Diocese is running on minus three priests and that is possible only because of the generosity of retired priests, some of whom are from other dioceses and the bringing in of supply priests; what has been a general decline in Mass attendance and the inevitable consequence of reduced income; added to that sickness, if only seasonal among the active priests. We don't have sufficient number of active priests and in reality even with more, parish communities would not be able to afford to keep them and the central services of the Diocese as an organisation does not have the assets to provide for week to week expenditure.

Some, but by no means all of the parishes are seeing some signs of growth either because of migration due to work opportunities and needs; or small numbers of enquirers seeking a place in the Church and at the Sacraments, but neither are sufficient across the Diocese to reverse the current trends. And so, painful as it is to even have to consider it, the likelihood of further church closures cannot be ruled out during the course of this year. The redeployment of priests by

reducing the number of Masses, and changing Mass times will also help. But the Church is more than the celebration of the Sacraments or the reception of the Blessed Sacrament from a tabernacle, about which Church law is itself quite clear.

What is most important of all is discipleship, our own commitment to community as well as individual prayer, reading of and reflection upon the Scriptures, formation in the faith and not least, the care of, and for, one another and charity to our neighbour, all of which depend on each and every one of us and cannot be imposed by any shepherd or authority.

A starting point for us all might be a reflection on the passage in St. John's Gospel when some Greeks, asked Philip for an introduction to see Jesus (12:20-26) Please read the passage and ask yourselves, 'When have I been asked by someone to introduce them to Jesus whose disciple I am? And what would I do if they did?' Over the years there has been the offer of adult catechesis and formation, through reading, attending group meetings and more recently online, but with minimal take up, it seems it is only when there is thirst that there is desire to drink even the most delicious of offerings. It would not be extreme or an exaggeration to say that the key to the future of the Diocese -the Church in North Wales- is in your hands, but only you can put it in the lock, turn it and open the door to the One who knocks. (Revelation 3:19-22)

As soon as I have prepared a new pastoral paper I will circulate it in preparation for consultation meetings across the Diocese.

May 2026 be a year in which we face our own challenges and those of the world with hope, the peace of Christ we have received and the spirit of the Saviour who was sent and whose birth we have celebrated. Be assured of my prayers and the service I am able to give. With every good wish and blessings for a happy New Year to you, your families and parishes.

† Peter.

SANTO NIÑO – 18TH JANUARY

Among the Filipino community especially, the third Sunday of January is preceded by a novena of prayer to Santo Niño and the celebration of the feast which in many cities in the Philippines is done with great festivity and processions following the celebration of Mass, this is especially so in Cebu where up to two million pilgrims and visitors gather to see the spectacular celebrations. Search online Santo Niño de Cebú and Sinulog Festival

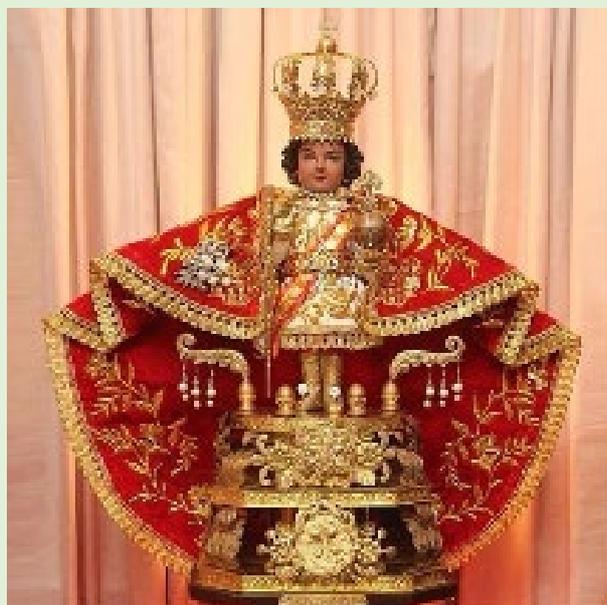
Between now and the feast is also a time of blessing of children:

Let us pray.

All powerful God and Father, you are the source of all blessings, the protector of children, whose presence enriches family life and the life of the church.

Look with favour on these children reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, keep them faithful in the life of the family of the Church, there to share in your kingdom and with us to bless your name forever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN



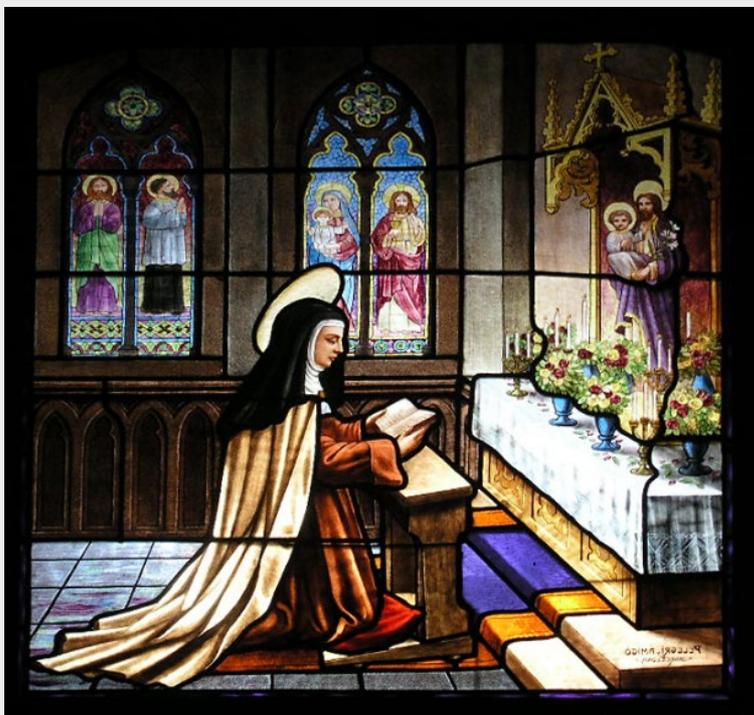
Praying with St Beuno's Outreach: 'As one friend to another ...'

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

As Christmastide draws to an end this month, we continue to ponder in different ways the miracle we have just celebrated: the birth of Jesus our Saviour, the one who is Emmanuel, meaning 'God-with-us'.

Just as our loving God is with us, we are called to be God's instruments on earth, for it is through *us* that God lives and connects with people. To help ponder on this more deeply, you may like to pray with these well-known words attributed to St Teresa of Avila (1515–82).

Born in Spain, Teresa entered a Carmelite convent when she was eighteen, and later became a mystic, a reformer, and a writer.



Window in the Convento de Sta Teresa, Avila, Spain (Wikimedia Creative Commons)

More from St Beuno's Outreach

A Date for your diary: Day of Prayer for Lent, Saturday 14 March 2026, 10 am to 4 pm. More details to follow soon. Contact us at stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com, and download our resources, including the weekly Prego, at <https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/>.

**Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the
world.**

**Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.**

**Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.**

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Read St Teresa's text several times, pausing often to ponder.

If you find it hard to pray with these words, ask the Lord to help you wait with patience, simply trusting that 'God-is-with-you'.

You may like to spend some time going through each part of the body mentioned, and then ask yourself:

In my everyday activities, in what ways do I use my hands ... my feet ... my eyes ... my whole body ... to reflect God's love and presence?

How do people around me know that God is with me? Is it connected to what I do ... what I say ... where I go ... or where I look?

Ponder a few moments.

Perhaps you can remember a time when you consciously let God's presence shine through you in the way you chose to act. Give thanks in gratitude for that.

Or if nothing comes to mind, simply ask for the grace to reflect more deeply that 'Christ has no body now on earth but *yours*'. Spend a few moments speaking with the Lord about this, as one friend would to another.

You may like to read St Teresa's words again, now making them personal to you: Christ has no body on earth but *mine* ... *mine* are the hands ... *mine* are the feet ... *mine* are the eyes ...

Notice what happens.

Finally, end your prayer with your own words of praise and thanksgiving to the God who is always with you.

OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE IN WALES

Members of the Senedd, the Welsh Parliament, will be asked to decide whether Wales should give its consent to Westminster's Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill — a law that would legalise assisted suicide. This would be a profound change for Wales and would mean that, for the first time, doctors could be asked to assist a patient in ending their life intentionally.

If enacted, this bill would put the most vulnerable in our society at risk of coercion. The conscientious objection clause for doctors is inadequate. Furthermore, Parliament has

explicitly rejected an amendment whereby care homes and hospices could opt out of facilitating assisted suicide on their premises and yet many care homes and hospices will want no involvement. Even with stricter rules, experience from other countries shows that once assisted suicide is introduced, the safeguards soon loosen and those who are elderly, disabled, or feel they are a burden begin to feel subtle pressure to choose death. Write to your member of Senedd: [Oppose Assisted Suicide in Wales - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)



Gospel Year of Matthew

JESUS CALLS THE FIRST DISCIPLES

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee.

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.'

Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee, their father, mending their nets, and he called them.

Immediately they left their father and followed him.

Matthew 4:12, 18-22 *ESV-CE*

Reflection Prayer – On Divine Calls

"Such are the instances of Divine Calls in Scripture, and their characteristic is this: to require instant obedience, and next to call us we know not to what; to call us on in the darkness. Faith alone can obey them. But it may be urged. How does this concern us now? . . . For in truth we are not called only once, but many times; all through our life Christ is calling us. He called us first in Baptism; but afterwards also; whether we obey His voice or not, He graciously call us still. If we fall from our Baptism, He calls us to repent; if we are striving to fulfil our calling, He calls us on from grace to grace, and from holiness to holiness, while life is given us. Abraham was called from his home, Peter from his nets, Matthew from his office, Elisha from his farm, Nathanael from his retreat; we are all in course of calling, on and on, from one thing to another, having no resting place, but mounting towards our eternal rest, and obeying one command only to have another put upon us."

John Henry Newman. *Parochial and Plain Sermons*. Sermon 2

Have you heard and answered his call to-day?

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – November

Every month Pope Leo entrusts his Worldwide Prayer Network with prayer intentions that express his great concerns for humanity and for the mission of the Church. His [monthly prayer intention](#) is a global summons to transform our prayers into "concrete actions"; it is a compass for the mission.

For prayer with the Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Commentary:

It is no exaggeration to say that the call of the first disciples is the first miracle that Jesus performs in Matthew's Gospel. These radical decisions to follow the Lord cannot be explained in any natural way. Instead, we are invited to see something supernatural at work here: when the word of Jesus goes forth, it goes with the power and grace of God.

One could say that the disciples' response is a miracle no less outstanding than Jesus' many acts of healing, exorcism, and food multiplication. Certainly, these are works that display the sovereignty of God over the natural and spiritual world. But the movement of the human will in response to grace, here displayed by four instantaneous acts of generosity and sacrifice, is just as extraordinary.

This is not to say that grace is irresistible. It is to say only that the call of Jesus can change the lives of ordinary people in radical and wonderful ways.

God's New Covenant of grace builds upon, perfects, and elevates our human nature. The natural skills of these fishermen are thus raised to a new and spiritual level by grace, enabling them to gather souls for the kingdom as missionaries in the Church. Three of them, Peter, James and John enjoyed a special relationship with Jesus (cf. 17:1, 26:37)

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:

During Ordinary Time (Winter) we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Peace on Earth;

Openness to the Word of God;

Christian Unity;

the Sick and those who have care for them;

Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to

Combat It;

the Unemployed.

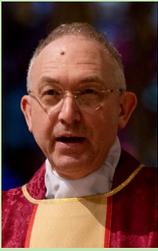
Offering Prayer

Good Father, I know you are with me. Here I am on this new day. Place my heart once more next to the heart of your Son Jesus, who is giving himself for me and who comes to me in the Eucharist. May your Holy Spirit make me his friend and apostle, available for his mission of compassion.

I place in your hands my joys and hopes, my works and sufferings, everything that I am and have, in communion with my brothers and sisters of this Worldwide Prayer Network.

With Mary, I offer you my day for the mission of the Church and for the prayer intentions of the Pope and my Bishop for this month. Amen.

EPISCOPAL NEWS



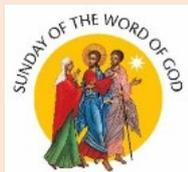
Canon Gerard Bradley, has been appointed as Auxiliary Bishop in Southwark. He has a degree in Music from King’s College, London. He has been assigned the Titular See of Beverley, in Yorkshire, the birthplace of St John Fisher who was Bishop of Rochester in the Diocese of Southwark [Read more](#) from the CBCEW

With the acceptance of the retirement of **Bishop Terence Drainey** as Bishop of Middlesbrough, Pope Leo has appointed Bishop



Marcus Stock as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese, in addition to his current office as Bishop of Leeds. [Read more](#) from CBCEW

Please remember them in your prayers.



THE WORD OF GOD

This seventh Sunday of the Word of God is a profoundly pastoral initiative given to the Church by P.Francis to make people understand how important it is in the daily life of the Church and of our communities to refer to the Word of God, a Word that is not confined to a book, but which always remains alive and becomes a concrete and tangible sign.

The biblical expression with which these resources for the Sunday of the Word of God is intended to be celebrated is taken from Saint Paul's letter to the Colossians: "Let the word of Christ dwell among you" (3:16).

The pastoral aid is an aid that is offered to parish communities and to those who gather for the celebration of the Holy Sunday Eucharist, so that this Sunday may be lived intensely.

[Sunday of the Word of God 2026](#)

Additional monthly resources for individuals, parishes and schools are available from the Bishops of England and Wales on their Biblical Apostolate website <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>

Where there is also the amazing interactive Mosaic Experience 'Little bits of God.'



Holocaust Memorial Day 27th January

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2026, 'Bridging Generations', is a call-to-action. A reminder that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors - it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us.

This theme encourages us all to engage actively with the past - to listen, to learn and to carry those lessons forward. By doing so, we build a bridge between memory and action, between history and hope for the future.

As the years pass, we're growing more distant in time from the Holocaust and from the other, more recent genocides that are commemorated on HMD. That distance brings a risk – memory fades and the sharp reality of what happened becomes blurred, abstract or even questioned.

Bridging Generations highlights the crucial role of the next generation in preserving the memory of the Holocaust and carrying it forward. It highlights the power of intergenerational dialogue – of listening to those who came before us and of sharing those stories with those who come after. In doing so, we don't just preserve memory – we connect it to the present.

Genocide doesn't discriminate by age: infants, children, adults and the elderly have all experienced unimaginable suffering in different ways. In many cases, entire family lines were erased. *Bridging Generations* invites us to honour each life – and honour those who left no family to carry their legacy – whose legacies live on not through bloodlines but through books, films and other interpretations.

Resources: [Who are the Generations?](#) [Download Full Theme Paper](#) or [Full Theme Paper\(Welsh\)](#)

At the time of writing , the Vatican has not released the Church's 2026 message and resources for this day.

WORLD PEACE DAY

The theme of this year's day, the 59th which is observed in these countries on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (18th January 2026) is

'Peace be with you all: Towards an "Unarmed and Disarming" Peace.'

More information and resources can be found on the Pax Christi website: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2026/> and the Holy Father's Message in full on:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/peace/documents/20251208-messaggio-pace.html>

[Peace Sunday 2026 - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](#)

A retiring collection to assist the work of Pax Christi may be taken in parishes on this day.

Bishop Richard Moth Archbishop Elect of Westminster

Just before Christmas the Holy Father appointed Bishop Richard Moth, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton as successor to Cardinal Vincent Nichols as Archbishop of Westminster on his retirement.

The Archbishop Elect will be installed at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 14th February.



Biography

Richard Moth was born in Chingola N. Rhodesia (now Zambia) on 8th July 1958. His father an accountant, and his mother enjoyed amateur dramatics.

The family returned to the UK in 1960, and settled in Kent, where Richard went to school. His interest in the priesthood began as an altar server, and at 18 he entered St John's Seminary in Wonersh (near Guildford).

In 1982, he was ordained for the Archdiocese of Southwark, and served at St Bede's, Clapham Park in London.

From 1985-87 he studied Canon Law at St Paul University, Ottawa. Returning to England he served at St Saviour and St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist, Lewisham. At this time he was appointed Territorial Army Chaplain, and he also served on the Marriage Tribunal.

For nine years from 1992-2001 he was Private Secretary to Archbishop Michael Bowen, Vocations Director, and as Ecclesiastical MC to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

In 2001 he was appointed Vicar General and Chancellor of the Southwark Diocese.

In 2009, Pope Benedict appointed him as Bishop of the Armed Forces.

Pope Francis appointed him as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton in 2015.

A few days before Christmas, 2025, Pope Leo appointed him as successor to Cardinal Nichols in the Archdiocese of Westminster.

As the premier appointment for England and Wales, the position of Archbishop of Westminster is regarded as the leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Although not obligatory, it is usual for a Cardinal's hat to be granted in time to come.

Cardinal Nichols himself had been asked to remain in post after the retirement age of 75, and therefore took part in the Conclave which elected Pope Leo, and before he reached his 80th birthday.

Areas of interest of the Archbishop-elect

A Bishop always has many areas of interest, but 'past actions indicate the potential for future performance'. In this sphere, Bishop Richard Moth demonstrates his concerns. During the pandemic in 2020 he called for those too easily forgotten to be considered. Therefore as the Bishop for Prison Ministry he welcomed the release of pregnant women and new mothers from prison, and called for the release of the older, unwell and vulnerable.

He is keenly involved with the **Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT)** whose CEO said, "On Christmas Day Bishop Richard is always in prison somewhere, celebrating Mass". "At a recent Advent service, he spent a lot of time talking to two women. One had a son in prison -struggling with mental health issues, which was why he ended up in prison. The other had been in prison herself and had to learn the challenge of living again after release, and how to be a mother again. The Bishop was focused on them, rather than the celebrities and VIPs in the room".

As **Chair of Governors of St Mary's University**, Twickenham, he always has interest in the students who may be the first to attend University, or who come from deprived backgrounds. He has been the bishop responsible for mental health issues, the Cinderella service of health provision. "He stands for commitment to social justice"

Just before the announcement of his appointment, he stated, in response to 'the tensions that are growing in society and the desire by some groups to sow seeds of division in our communities'; "The Holy Family had to travel to Egypt as refugees. We should empathise with all who come to this country for their safety", and on the day of his appointment he said the Church "must persevere in talking about the dignity of the human person, and insist that everyone has value, wherever they come from".

Those who know him describe him as a self-contained, private person, who enjoys being a bishop, and cannot imagine life other than as a priest. Clear-thinking and articulate, he addresses questions briskly. Some say he is a great listener, and his chairing is a masterclass. Viewed as a diplomat, intelligent and sophisticated in his understanding. Above all, he is described as "calm, warm, drily humorous and deeply caring taking every step to bring people with him and not needing the approval of those around him".

Interesting times ahead, as Dame Sarah Mullally takes the role of Archbishop of Canterbury, both leading the Christians of our countries.

(Read more at CBCEW, and in 'The Tablet')

Around and About in the Diocese

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

January

01	10.30am	New Year's Day Mass	Cathedral
06	10.30am	Mass of the Epiphany	Cathedral
08	7.00pm	RCIA Course	Flint
14	6.00pm	Youth Commission Meeting	Location tbc
18	10.30am	Santo Niño Celebration	Cathedral
20	5.00pm	Vespers for the Proclamation of St John Henry Newman as Doctor of the Church	Westminster Cathedral
25	10.30am	Sunday of the Word of God	Cathedral
30		Christ the Word School (Patronal Feast Day)	Rhyl

February

02		Final Profession of Sr Elizabeth John, OCD	Carmel, Dolgellau
04	6.30pm	Mass at University Chaplaincy	Bangor
05	11.45am	Mass	Loreto Convent
06	6.00pm	Confirmations	Flint
07	12Noon	Marriage Mass	Cathedral

Annual Mass for the Archconfraternity of the Guild of St Stephen and the Renewal of Altar Servers' promises

Altar Servers from around the Diocese gathered at the Cathedral on Saturday 27th December 2025 to join Bishop Peter at Mass celebrating the role of altar serving and renewal of promises

This annual Mass for Servers in the Diocese takes place around the feast day of the Guild Patron, St Stephen, recognising the work altar servers commit to their parishes and wider diocese and the renewal of their promises and commitment to serve regularly, with reverence and understanding for the glory of God and the service of the Church. As well as the renewal of the Guild promise, 8 servers were enrolled as new members of the Guild.

In his address Bishop Peter spoke of the importance of service both during Mass and more widely in life, mentioning not only the example of St Stephen, patron of the Guild, but also the two recently canonised Saints; Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati a young man from the early 20th century and Saint Carlo Acutis: a teenager from our own times, encouraging all servers to take both St Stephen and the two saints as models to follow in offering themselves in faith and service

All servers together with their friends and families gathered together after Mass to enjoy social time and hospitality.

Anyone interested in learning more about becoming an Altar Server should contact their Parish Priest in the first instance

A reminder of the dedication of your Crib offerings

In contemporary terms, Mary and Joseph could be an archetypal couple, young - Mary at least - homeless and with a baby, made refugees by circumstance firstly internal and then across borders, for which reasons Bishop Peter has chosen as the recipients of your Christmas Crib Offerings; 'Depaul UK' whose work is grounded in the teachings of 17th-century Catholic reformer St Vincent de Paul. His vision – rooted in compassion, dignity, and putting words into action – inspires them to help young people move out of homelessness and towards a brighter, more secure future.

<https://www.depaul.org.uk/winterappeal> Registered Charity Number: 802384.

And with an awareness of the ever increased suffering piled upon the people of the Palestinian West Bank, the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust's Hospice at Home, a unique Sheffield-based licensed palliative care provider in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) www.bethlehemcareandhospicetrust.org Registered Charity Number 1158406

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

JANUARY

Sun 18 th	Santo Ninio Blessing
	Peace Day
18 th – 25 th	Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling"(Ephesians 4:4)
Sun 25 th	Sunday of the Word of God. "Let the word of Christ dwell among you" (Col.3:16)
Tue 27 th	Holocaust Memorial Day – 'Bridging Generations'

FEBRUARY

Sun 1 st	Racial Justice Day
Mon 2 nd	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
Sat 7 th	Celebration of Marriage Cathedral
Sun 8 th	St. Josephine Bakhita Day for the Victims of Trafficking & Modern Slavery and Those Working to Combat it.
Mon 9 th	11.00am Celebration of Religious Life in the Diocese Colwyn Bay
Wed 11 th	World Day for the Sick
Sat 14 th	Mass & Anointing of the Sick. Cathedral
Sun 15 th	Day for the Unemployed
Wed 18 th	Ash Wednesday
Sun 22 nd	First Sunday of Lent. Rite of Election 3.00pm Cathedral

OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18th – 25th January

The theme for 2026 is:

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling"(Ephesians4:4)

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which concludes on the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul extends an invitation to draw upon shared Christian heritage and to reflect on our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide.

Resources for prayer and how to turn reflections into actions for good are available from the CTBI:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity/>

Resources for the Octave and throughout the year

<https://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en/settimana-di-preghiera-per-l-unita/semaine-de-priere-pour-l-unite-des-chretiens-20241/anglais.html>

CELEBRATION OF MARRIED LIFE

Bishop Peter invites all married couples to a celebration Mass on Saturday 7th February at 12 noon in St. Mary's Cathedral.

Especially welcome will be those who have a significant (10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th+) anniversary in 2026 and also those engaged couples who are to be married this year. Even if you are not able to attend, please send names, anniversary and contact details as soon as possible to Wioletta Trebska, Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Coordinator, c/o Bishop's House or direct by e-mail to mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk

Light Refreshments will be available in St. Mary's Cathedral Hall after.

RACIAL JUSTICE DAY - 1st February

Racial Justice Sunday is a time for the Church to pray, reflect and take action against racism, while celebrating the diversity of our Diocese. Everyone is invited to take part, and those who wish may wear national or cultural dress as a sign of unity and pride.

Happy New Year from CAFOD North Wales

Here's to a happy and healthy 2026 to each of you in Wrexham diocese. We hope this year brings much joy to you!

If you're looking for a new challenge this year, perhaps you'd be interested in joining CAFOD's team of volunteers? We're on the look out for parish and school volunteers to deliver CAFOD messages to promote our work across the diocese. Please contact Colette for more information. cbyrne@cafod.org.uk / 07779 804 242.

Many thanks for your kind support this year. Your help in publicising CAFOD messages and activities is very much appreciated.

Colette Byrne

Community Participation Coordinator – CAFOD
(Wrexham Diocese and Liverpool Archdiocese)
07779 804 242

Spread the word: CAFOD.org.uk



Each month, Bp Peter invites readers to keep up to date with the interface between religious life and faith, and public life and politics.

He recommends that this can be done by looking at the weekly briefing from the Catholic Union of Great Britain. This weekly briefing is a source of news and items currently in the public forum and about which we need be informed and prepared to act: info@catholicunion.org.uk

Diocese of Wrexham
Marriage and Family Life Commission

Annual Mass in
Celebration of

Marriage and Married Life

All are welcome

Saturday 7th February 2026
at 12 midday

in The Cathedral Church of Our Lady of Sorrows,
Regent Street, Wrexham, LL11 1RB

- All married couples are welcome to take part in the annual renewal of vows with Bishop Peter
- Special blessing for engaged couples from Bishop Peter
- Buffet lunch afterwards with a very special anniversary cake

Please let us know by 23rd January if you are celebrating a special anniversary this year: 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th plus.

If you are unable to attend, a special blessing will still be granted and you will be in our prayers, if you let us know who you are.

Contact: Wioletta Trebska at mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk or 07542 268728

Marriage and Married Life

Priest: "Do you take this man for better or for worse"?

Bride: "Don't know about that, but I'll take him as he is"

One of the great similarities between Christianity and marriage is that they. Both get better as we get older. *(Jean Rees)*

"Sir, your daughter has promised to marry me".

"Well don't come to me for sympathy. I knew something like this would happen to you - hanging about the place every evening"

Father: "The man who marries my daughter will get a prize"

Young man: "May I see it please?"

Two elderly ladies coming out of Mass. "Well that was a fine sermon on the beauties of married life". "It certainly was", said the other, "I just wish I knew as much about the matter as he does"

The happiest wife is not the one who marries the best man, but the one who makes the best of the man she marries

(Joseph Fort Newton)

All marriages are happy. It is the living together afterwards that cause trouble

(from a 'Farmer's Almanac')

Proverbs:

Marriage is a covered dish *(Swiss)*

Marriage is Heaven and Hell *(German)*

Don't praise marriage on the third day, but after the third year *(Russian)*

How much water?

Two pastors were discussing forms of baptism. One favoured baptism by total immersion; the other, infant baptism. The latter asked "is one baptised if you enter the water to the chin?" The former replied "No". "Is one considered baptised if immersed up to the nose?" Again the response was "No". "Well, the eyebrows?" brought the same response.

The first pastor continued "You don't seem to understand. Baptism is by total immersion, until the head is covered in water".

"And that is my argument", said the latter, "It's only a little water on the top of the head that counts"

The Glory of Baptism

St Louis of France used to sign his documents 'Louis of Poissy', and not "Louis IX, King of France".

Asked why, he responded "I was baptised in Poissy, and I think more of that place than of Rheims where I was crowned King. It is a greater thing to be a child of God than to be the ruler of a kingdom. This title I shall lose at death, but the other will be my passport to eternal glory"

(F.H. Drinkwater)

Selections from the Ordo

Sun 11th Jan Feast of **Baptism of the Lord** (white)

Sun 18th Jan **2nd Sunday in Ordinary time** (green)

Wed 21st Jan **St Agnes** (*virgin and Martyr*) (Red)

St Agnes is named in the first Eucharistic prayer. The fountain in 'Good King Wenceslas' is named after her. She was martyred aged 12 or 13 on 21 January 304. Dragged naked through the streets, she was beheaded because attempts to burn her at the stake failed. Her remains are in Sant'Agnese fuori le mura and her skull in the Sant'Agnese in Agone in Piazza Navona

Sat 24th Jan **St Francis de Sales** (*Bishop & Doctor*) (white)

Bishop of Geneva, he was noted for deep faith at a time of religious division. Born in a noble family, he resided in Annecy because of the Calvinists in Geneva.

Sun 25th Jan **3rd Sunday in Ordinary time** (green)

Mon 26th Jan **Sts Timothy and Titus** (*Bishops*) (white)

Wed 28th Jan **St Thomas Aquinas** (*Priest and Doctor*) (white)

Sat 31st Jan **St John Bosco** (*Priest*) (white)

Known as "Don Bosco" he followed the spirituality of St Francis de Sales, and founded the Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB). His interest in youth and education has led to many 'Salesian' schools.

Sun 1st Feb **4th Sunday in Ordinary time** (green)

Mon 2nd Feb Feast of the **Presentation of the Lord** (white)

Also known as Candlemas, the feast represents the conclusion of the 40 days of the Christmas season. Instead of the penitential rite, candles can be blessed in the Mass.

Tue 3rd Feb **St Blaise** (*Bishop and Martyr*) (red)

A doctor who lived in Turkey he was also Bishop. He cured a child who had a fishbone stuck in his throat. As a result, the blessing of throats takes place on this day.

The Nothing People

Non-volunteers -

They do not lie,

They just neglect to tell the truth.

They do not take,

They simply cannot bring themselves to give.

They do not steal,

They scavenge.

They will not rock the boat,

But did you ever see them pull an oar?

They will not pull you down,

They will simply let you pull them up,

And let that pull you down.

They do not hurt you,

They merely will not help you.

They do not hate you,

They merely cannot love you.

They will not burn you,

They'll only fiddle while you burn.

They are the nothing people;

The sins of omission folk;

The neither good-nor-bad

And therefore worse.

Because the good, at least, keep busy trying,

And the bad try just as hard.

Both have that character that comes

from caring, action, and conviction -

So give me every time an honest sinner,

Or even a saint.

But God *and Satan*,

get together,

and protect me from the nothing people.

(Anon)

Some 'modern' Beatitudes

Innocence and knowledge make a person blessed

(St Ambrose)

Blessed is the one who is too busy to worry in the daytime, and too sleepy to worry at night

(Anon)

Blessed is the one expects nothing for they shall never be disappointed

(Alexander Pope)

Blessed are the simple, for they shall have much peace

(Thomas à Kempis)

Blessed is the one who has the skin of right thickness, who can work happily in spite of enemies and friends

(Henry T. Bailey)

Reflect on your present blessings, of which everyone has many; not on your past misfortunes of which every person has some.

(Charles Dickens)

The Gospel for the 4th Sunday is the Beatitudes

