



Issue no 21
July/August 2024

Wreccsam Clarion

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



This month's banner aims to reflect the gift of the sun, the blue sky, and the green of growth. God's gift of Creation

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It is timely and not inappropriate that the Holy Father's monthly prayer intention for August is for political leaders, as by that time not only will the outcome of the General Election be known and raked over endlessly, but also we will know the nature of the new UK Government, and some idea of the direction in which it is to take the country and represent it on the world stage.

Last month, I wrote about the 'political vocation' thinking particularly about those who put themselves forward as candidates and also about our role and responsibilities as electors. Now I want to say a little about those who have been elected, and especially those who sit in government and hold high office in the land – those who have now to live out the vocation to politics to which they have been called, but also of our ongoing responsibilities.

Those elected are to know at all times the excellence of role to which they have been called as well as the difficulties and risks which that entails.

As the Fathers of the second Vatican council said, and St. Pope Paul VI also, politics is the use of legitimate authority in order to attain the common good of society: a common good which, embraces "the sum of those conditions of social life by which individuals, families and groups can achieve complete and efficacious fulfilment" (*Gaudium et Spes*, 74). Political activity ought therefore to be carried out in a spirit of service; and Pope Paul VI affirmed that, "politics is a demanding way of living the Christian commitment to serve others" (*Octogesima Adveniens*, 46).

It is profoundly distressing for us all to think of those areas of the world *afflicted by endless wars and hostilities*, by endemic hunger and by terrible diseases, environmental pollution and the disastrous consequences of climate change. As the Church we must 'pray night and day' and be like the apostolic community praying for Peter in prison.

There needs to be a greater spirit of solidarity in the world, as a means of overcoming the selfishness of individuals and nations. Only in this way will it be possible to curb the pursuit of political power and economic wealth with no reference to other values. In a now globalised world, in which the market, which of itself has a positive influence on human freedom and creativity in the economic sector (cf. *Centesimus Annus*, 42), nonetheless, tends to be severed from all moral considerations and to take as its sole norm, the law of maximum profit.

In all, this means that laws, whatever the areas in which the legislator intervenes or is obliged to intervene, must

always respect and promote human persons - in all the variety of their spiritual, material, personal, family and social needs. Hence a law which does not respect the right to life - from conception to natural death - of every human being, whatever his or her condition - healthy or ill, still in the embryonic stage, elderly or close to death - is not a law in harmony with the divine plan.

For Christians today, it is not a question of fleeing the world in which God's call has placed them, but rather of bearing witness to their own faith and being faithful to their own principles in the difficult and ever new situations which mark the world of politics.

The times in which God has granted us to live are in many ways dark and filled with difficulties, for they are times in which the very future of humanity is at stake in the decades before us. In many men and women today, fear and uncertainty prevail: where are we going?; what will be humanity's fate in the next century?; where are the extraordinary scientific discoveries of recent years, especially in the fields of biology and genetics, technology and artificial intelligence leading us? We are conscious of being merely at the beginning of a journey, but we do not know where it will take us and whether it will bring benefit or harm to the men and women of the twenty-first century and beyond.

As Christians living in these formidable and yet wonderful times, we share in the fears, the uncertainties and the questioning of our contemporaries. Yet we are not pessimistic about the future, for we have the certainty that Jesus Christ is the Lord of history, and in the Gospel we find the light which illumines our way, even in moments of difficulty and darkness.

We closed last month with the celebration of the Apostles Peter and Paul who are our constant reminder of how an encounter with Christ changes one's life and the good news of that is to be shared.

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 our looking out for one another.

+ Peter

In Memoriam Fr John Lochran

Former Parish Priest of St Asaph and Rhuddlan, Fr John Lochran went home to the Lord in June. Fr John retired from the Diocese and moved to Coatbridge, Scotland. Bp Peter attended his funeral at the beginning of July. Please remember Fr John in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

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

With the help of the image, you may like to pray this text from St Mark's gospel by imagining yourself present in the scene. Perhaps you are in the boat itself, together with Jesus and the disciples. Read the text a couple of times, slowly and reverently, and then turn to the suggestions for prayer.

With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us cross over to the other side'. And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But Jesus was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, 'Master, do you not care? We are going down!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?' They were filled with awe and said to one another, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.' Mark 4: 35-41

You can draw on all of your senses to enter more deeply into this scene. Perhaps you hear the noise of the wind whipping the sails ... or feel the billowing waves threatening to engulf the little boat ... or you taste the spray. Take time to notice the terrified disciples ... and Jesus himself in the stern, worn out and fast asleep among all the general mayhem.

Perhaps you, too, feel that you are living through a 'storm' in your own life, or you can recall that experience. Pause a while and ponder. Did you sometimes feel that Jesus was asleep, and you needed to wake him up?

Take a few moments now to speak to the Lord as one friend to another, telling him in your own words how you felt then, and how you feel now.

As you watch Jesus calming the wind and the sea, how far can you sense his presence stilling the storms in your own life?

As all becomes calm, the disciples ask one another, 'Who can this be?' Take time to reflect on this yourself. Perhaps you now have a better understanding of who Jesus is for you, and how you might answer the disciples' question?

As you slowly bring your prayer to a close, thank the Lord for his presence in your life, and ask him to hear your cry 'for those in peril on the sea'.



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

On the second Sunday of July, many churches in the UK observe Sea Sunday (14th July this year), which has been celebrated annually since 1975. On this day, we give thanks for the work of seafarers and fishers both across the world and here at home in our own diocese, acknowledging the vital role that the maritime industry plays in our lives. We also pray for all seafarers and their families, and for all who live their lives near to the sea, or depend upon it for their livelihood. Life at sea is often difficult. As well as facing severe weather and long days away from home, seafarers can suffer from loneliness and depression, and in some parts of the world, exploitation.

The Roman Catholic Church has long had its own international maritime charity, founded in Glasgow in 1920 as the 'Apostleship of the Sea'. Now renamed [Stella maris](#), it is a reminder that people at sea have often trusted in Mary, 'Star of the Sea', for protection. Stella maris is now the largest ship-visiting network in the world, and its emblem depicts the Sacred Heart of Jesus on an anchor. Its chaplains and volunteers offer practical, spiritual, and emotional support to those of all faiths and none, and can help arrange Mass on board for Catholic seafarers.

One of the most popular hymns often sung on Sea Sunday is 'Eternal Father, strong to save', to the familiar tune 'Melita'. Its words can also become our prayer for those who risk their lives at sea.

Eternal Father, strong to save,
 Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
 Who bid'st the mighty ocean deep
 Its own appointed limits keep;
*O hear us when we cry to Thee,
 For those in peril on the sea.*

O Christ, whose almighty word
 The winds and waves submissive heard,
 Who walkedst on the foaming deep,
 And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;
*O hear us when we cry to Thee,
 For those in peril on the sea.*

W. Whiting (1825-78)

Image: © BernardAllenArt

This month's image is specially chosen for Sea Sunday (14th July). It is an icon of Jesus calming a storm on the Sea of Galilee. Notice how Jesus is depicted twice – once fast asleep in the stern with his head on a red cushion as the waves billow around him, and a disciple tries to wake him; once standing with his arms outstretched in the prow of the boat, as the sea becomes calm at his command.

The icon is the work of Bernard Allen, a self-taught artist based at St Patrick's Studios in Wapping, East London, founded as a Catholic centre for art. Bernard graduated with a philosophy degree from Heythrop College, London, in 2007, and his work includes murals, candles and statue renovations, as well as traditional gilded icons in egg tempera. His art can be seen in Westminster Cathedral, as well as in Catholic parishes in England and Ireland.



Gospel Year of Mark

Now when he rose on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

After these things he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

(Mark 16:9-13)

Saint Mary Magdalene - Apostle of the Apostles.

We should reflect on Mary's attitude and the great love she felt for Christ; for though the disciples had left the tomb, she remained. She was still seeking the one she had not found, and while she sought she wept; burning with the fire of love, she longed for him who she thought had been taken away. And so it happened that the woman who stayed behind to seek Christ was the only one to see him. For perseverance is essential to any good deed, as the voice of truth tells us: *Whoever perseveres to the end will be saved.*

From a homily on the Gospels.
Saint Gregory the Great, Pope

In July 2016 Pope Francis elevated the liturgical celebration of St. Mary Magdalene from 'Memorial' to the status of 'Feast' (22nd July) in order to stress the importance of this faithful disciple of Christ. She was also formally given the title 'Apostle to the Apostles.'

It was St Thomas Aquinas who originally gave her the title of "Apostle of the Apostles". Her name comes from her home town of Magdala, a fishing village on the western shore of Lake Tiberias.

CANONISATION

On 23rd May following the second miracle attributed to prayer and the intercession of Blessed Carlo Acutis, Pope Francis issued the decree that on Monday 1st July in the Consistory Hall of the Vatican Apostolic Palace, he would preside over the celebration of the liturgical Hour of Terce and the ordinary public Consistory for the canonisation of a number of 'Blessed's and announce the date of their canonisation ceremonies.

As it happens, the Pope has delayed the announcement (1st July) of the date for Blessed Carlo Acutis, possibly to make the announcement at a time when young people are especially involved.



BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

was a young layman born on May 3, 1991, in London, England, and died on October 12, 2006, in Monza, Italy, succumbing to leukaemia at the age of 15. Acutis was noted for his cheerfulness, computer skills, and devotion to the Eucharist, which became a core theme of his life.

Pope Francis beatified him in 2020 in Assisi, where Blessed Carlo had made multiple pilgrimages and where his mortal remains rest.

Accounts of his life, legacy and the miracles attributed to him can be found on many websites such as that of the Catholic News Agency –

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/46048/who-was-carlo-acutis-a-cna-explainer>

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

'Do not cast me off in my old age'

In his Message for the Fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will take place on Sunday, 28 July, Pope Francis recognizes the situation of many elderly people today, and assures them: "God never abandons His children, never". "Do not cast me off in my old age" (cf. Ps 71:9): this sincere plea, taken from Psalm 71, is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for this event, which is organised by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. In his Message, Pope Francis reassures that "God never abandons His children, never" and underlines that the elderly are "the firm foundation" on which "new" stones can rest, in order to join in erecting a spiritual edifice.

For the full message please see

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonni/documents/20240425-messaggio-nonni-anziani.html>

Reminder of the SSG Summer School

Summer School 2024 'A Symphony of Praise in Word and Music'

31st July to 3rd August 2024 Liverpool Hope University

The Summer School conference is a chance to gather together with parish musicians and liturgists from all over the country and to worship together. Full residential or day attendance is available. Bursaries and financial support are available on application from the McElligot Bursary Fund. All enquiries are confidential For further details: ssg.org.uk or summerschool@ssg.org.uk

The Society of Saint Gregory is a Registered Charity No. 1103280

A Journey of Faith and Unity
North Wales African Catholic Community Pilgrimage to Holywell Shrine & Well:— by Fr. Anthony Nnamah, MSP

26th May, 2024, a bright and hopeful Sunday afternoon, the African Catholic Community of North Wales marked by vibrant faith, cultural expressions, and a profound sense of unity, embarked on a heartfelt pilgrimage to the Holy Well Shrine, a place of deep spiritual significance and history.

For centuries pilgrims from various backgrounds have visited this sacred Well, a beacon of hope and a site of miracles, seeking solace, healing, and divine blessings. For the African Catholic Community, this pilgrimage was not just a tradition but a living testament to their enduring faith and commitment to God. Families, dressed in colourful traditional attire, gathered at the Parish Church of St. Winefride in Holywell.

One of the highlights of the pilgrimage was the integration of African cultural elements into the worship experience. Traditional African songs and dances were performed during the Mass, led by Bishop Peter Brignall, with nine African Priests and Nuns. The rhythmic beats of drums and the graceful movements of dancers added a unique and joyful dimension to the solemnity of the pilgrimage. These cultural expressions enriched the experience, making it a memorable celebration of the community's heritage and faith. The journey to the Shrine and Well, was not merely a physical one but a spiritual voyage. Singing hymns and praying, the pilgrims walked together, their voices blending in harmonious praise. Each step was a reminder of the collective journey of faith and the shared goal of drawing closer to God.

Upon reaching the Shrine and Well, the community participated in a series of prayer services and reflections.

The shrine's tranquil environment provided the perfect backdrop for moments of personal introspection and communal worship. Many pilgrims took the opportunity to draw water from the Shrine Well, believed to have healing properties, and to pray fervently for their intentions and those of their loved ones. The Relic of St. Winefride was exposed and Pilgrims filed in line to touch the Relic at the same time presenting their requests to God.

The pilgrimage was a beautiful reflection of the unity in diversity within our diocese. Members from different African nations: Kenya, Zambia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana across the diocese came together, transcending individual differences. This unity was a powerful testament to the universal nature of the Catholic faith, which embraces all cultures and peoples.

Bishop Peter's homily reflected the importance of faith, perseverance, and community ending with up with the story of St. Winefride and St. Beuno. He encouraged the pilgrims to carry the spirit of the pilgrimage back into their daily lives, to be witnesses of Christ's love, and to support one another in their faith journeys.

The African Community Pilgrimage to the Holywell Shrine and Well, was not just an event but a profound experience of spiritual renewal and communal strength. It reminded us all of the power of faith to bring people together, to heal, and to inspire. The pilgrimage to the Holywell Shrine and Well, has left an indelible mark on all who participated. It was a day of prayer, joy, and deep spiritual connection. Let us give thanks for the blessings received and pray that our faith continues to grow stronger through such enriching experiences. May the Holywell Shrine remain a place of hope and miracles for all who seek God's grace. Amen.



Members of several African nations unite in Holywell



Youth 2000 Summer Festival 2024

The annual “Youth 2000” Summer Festival will take place from **Friday 23rd August - Monday 26th August 2024** in the beautiful surroundings of **Ampleforth Abbey, North Yorkshire**.

This festival is an opportunity for young people (aged 16-35) from across the UK to grow in their relationship with God, form friendships and be inspired to live out their faith! The programme will include input from incredible speakers, a wonderful variety of workshops, and loads of opportunities to be with Jesus and encounter his love. Tickets (which include food and accommodation) can be purchased from www.youth2000.org/events.

Tickets are also available for priests, religious, families and groups. If you have any questions, please email events@youth2000.org.

SEA SUNDAY – July 2024

‘Sea Sunday’ will be on 14th July this year. It is when you are asked to encourage prayer and financial contributions to support the work of Stella Maris, the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church. The mandatory second collection is vital for the future of Stella Maris and its support of seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world. You are kindly asked by Bishops Paul Mason and Hugh Gilbert that you observe this Sunday in prayer and with generosity.

Stella Maris Registered Charity No.1069833

For further information

<https://www.stellamaris.org.uk/>



In the Spotlight



**Rev Deacon John Goggin,
Wrexham Diocesan Director for Missio**

From tea caddy to cashless giving

When Fr Thomas Jackson MHM had the idea in the early 1900s of collecting coins in a tea caddy, he could never have imagined the almost cashless society in which we now live. Although the Red Box and cash collections are not going anywhere anytime soon, many of you have asked about other ways to contribute towards supporting missionaries around the world. Whether you choose to give regularly through Direct Debits or Standing Orders, giving online, you are part of the Red Box family, and we are truly thankful! If you don't already have a Red Box then please contact your parish coordinator.

Whether you continue to put cash into your Red Box, or if you just keep it as a reminder of our sisters and brothers around the world, the next time you see it, please remember those communities the box supports, and remember that they, too, are praying with us.

THANK YOU to parish coordinators in Wrexham Diocese who tirelessly continue to champion the work of Missio by distributing and collecting the Red Boxes, banking money and distributing Missio Together magazine. You are a vital link to enabling our continued support of Missio - thank you for the many hours you all put in supporting Missio.

Donations from Wrexham Diocese increased by 10.19%

Well done and a huge thank you to all who have supported Missio in the diocese. Our contributions for 2023 amounted to £32,635 with Red Box contributions increased by 10.19% over the previous year:

Wrexham Diocese Contributions

Red Box Income 2022	Red Box Income 2023	% Change	Total Income 2023*
£20, 001	£22, 039	+10.19%	£32, 635

*Total income 2023 includes all Red Box contributions, in addition to all donations made to Missio

We are Missio: Today, Tomorrow, Together.

Missio's National Director, Fr Anthony Chantry extends a personal message of gratitude to all who support the work of Missio.

Thanks to God's grace, Missio continues to have a powerful impact within the church across the world; especially in areas of conflict, persecution, oppression and poverty. Being faithful to the mission of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations, Pope Francis encourages us to 'continue to go out to the end of the earth, to set out over and over again, without ever growing weary or losing heart in the face of difficulties and obstacles'. Through **your** prayers and donations, you continue to:

- Help missionaries share the love of Jesus
- Train tomorrow's Priests and Sisters
- Give hope to the world's poorest children
- Create a vibrant Catholic Church for the future

Missio is the channel through which you:

- Support the Church's infrastructure in poor and sometimes remote areas, by helping the local communities to build churches, convents, schools, children's homes, clinics, and dispensaries, so that they have the means to witness to the Gospel in their countries.
- Help train Priests and Sisters in young and developing Churches, who will lead, teach, and administer the Sacraments in their communities; reaching out to those most in need of God's love.
- Inspire children from all countries to pray and care for each other and prepare them to face the challenges of living the Gospel in our world.

Together we pray for our sisters and brothers throughout the world who are victims of wars, hatred, and violence. May the Lord strengthen the hand of all who are striving for peace with justice. Let us move forward with Faith, that with God's help and guidance we cannot fail; Hope, that what God promises will be fulfilled; and Love, that invites us in the name of Jesus Christ to reach out to those in greatest need.

With every blessing,
Fr Anthony Chantry
Missio National Director

32
convents, churches, and chapels
built or reconstructed



28,400
of the world's poorest
children supported

1,687
seminarians trained
for the priesthood



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

Article written by Deborah Castellano Lubov in Vatican News.

"Care for creation is an ethical and theological issue. Pope Francis has released his message for the 2024 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and appeals for humanity's conversion so that we acknowledge the disastrous effects of war and set ethical limits on the development of artificial intelligence," she writes.

Humanity's abuse of nature requires a true conversion and invites us to change our lifestyles.

Pope Francis made this appeal in his [Message](#) for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

'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 signed by Pope Francis on June 27 has nine sections, which all highlight 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.*"

Enslaved through no fault of its own

"Creation itself, like humanity, was enslaved, albeit through no fault of its own," the Pope laments, observing that it "finds itself unable to fulfil the lasting meaning and purpose for which it was designed."

The environment, the Pope decries, "is subject to dissolution and death, aggravated by the human abuse of nature." Yet, at the same time, he reassures, "the salvation of humanity in Christ is a sure hope also for creation, for, 'the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God.'"

Must be vigilant and willing to change

"In our hopeful and persevering expectation of the glorious return of Jesus," Pope Francis notes, "the Holy Spirit keeps us, the community of believers, vigilant."

The Spirit, he reassures, "continually guides us and calls us to conversion, to a change in lifestyle in order to resist the degradation of our environment and to engagement in that social critique, which is above all a witness to the real possibility of change."

Urgent to set ethical limits on AI

The Holy Father goes on to explain that hoping and acting with creation means joining forces and walking together with all men and women of good will. In this way, we can help to rethink, "among other things, the question of human power, its meaning and its limits."

In this context, the Pope says, "there is an urgent need to set ethical limits on the development of artificial intelligence, since its capacity for calculation and simulation could be used for domination over humanity and nature, instead of being

harnessed for the service of peace and integral development," as he quoted his 2024 Message for the World Day of Peace.

Devastating effects of war

The Pope decries how much evil there is in the world.

"Why so much injustice, so many fratricidal wars that kill children, destroy cities, pollute the environment and leave mother earth violated and devastated?" the Pope questions, as he suggested that "the entire universe and every creature therein groans and yearns impatiently for its present condition to be overcome and its original state to be restored."

"No" to possessing, manipulating and dominating nature

"To claim the right to possess and dominate nature, manipulating it at will," he underscores, "represents a form of idolatry, a Promethean version of man who, intoxicated by his technocratic power, arrogantly places the earth in a "dis-graced" condition, deprived of God's grace."

Creation, the Pope recalls, is "not static or closed in on itself," but is "continuously drawn towards its future."

Protecting creation, the Holy Father explains, "is not only an ethical issue, but one that is eminently theological, for it is the point where the mystery of man and the mystery of God intersect."

We are free, he notes, "precisely because we were created in the image of God who is Jesus Christ, and, as a result, are "representatives" of creation in Christ Himself."

Future in eternity is at stake

The Pope says that creation awaits "the revelation of the children of God" as it suffers "as in the pangs of childbirth."

"At stake, Pope Francis warns, is not only our earthly life in history, but also, and above all, our future in eternity."

Children of God can offer meaningful impact

The Pope encourages the faithful to remember their identity as "children of the Father," suggesting that we are empowered to effectuate concrete change amid living holy lives.

In this way, the message concludes, "our lives can become a song of love for God, for humanity, with and for creation, and find their fullness in holiness."

The full message can be read on

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

Wisdom in brief...

Don't test the depth of the water with both feet.

The heron's a saint when there are no fish in sight.

If I cannot do great things, I can do little things in a great way

God promises a safe landing, but not a calm passage.

He who forgives, ends the quarrel

Around and About in the Diocese

Investiture as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre (KHS)

Mike Bunting of St David's parish in Mold has recently been invested as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre -The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

The modern Order (it has a long history) is intended to support the Holy Places of Jerusalem, and members promise to work towards their preservation. Many members, and indeed Mike himself, have a special connection -Mike spent part of his working life in and around Jerusalem, and the Holy Land.

Members commit themselves to making at least one pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

There are 30,000 members worldwide, and the 'lieutenancy' of England and Wales is based in St George's Cathedral Southwark, where Mike was invested last month.

Day-to-day service as a KHS is in support of the Holy Land, through practical contribution and constant prayer. There is also a special devotion to Mary "Queen of Palestine"

As the photos clearly indicate, Knights are robed in white, and Dames in black. The insignia represents the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Jerusalem. It is one of two insignia permitted in a clerical coat of arms, and the bishops who are members (as Knight Commanders) will, when appropriate, wear a mitre with the insignia emblazoned on it.



Clockwise from top left: Mike (front, right) leads the candidates: taking the oath: invested with the crozier; the new Knights (and Dame) gather.

An Appeal Environmental Lead

I still seek a volunteer to assist and support parishes in the awareness of what can be done to reduce the Church's part in the detrimental impact on the world; to circulate resources to assist us all to work towards a carbon neutral society. An ideal role in leadership that was being called for in the Listening Meetings earlier in the year. Please contact Bishop's House for more information. Many thanks, +Peter

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS JULY

Tue 9th Meeting of the Cathedral Canons and 12 noon Chapter Mass.

Sun 14th Sea Sunday

Sun 28th IV World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

AUGUST

Tue 6th The Transfiguration of the Lord

Thur 15th The Assumption of the Bl. Virgin Mary
Holy day of Obligation

SEPTEMBER

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

Sun 8th Education day

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Prayers at the Grotto

The Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place from 23rd to 30th July. If you wish to request prayers to be made at the Grotto please place your intentions in a sealed envelope clearly marked **"Lourdes Pilgrimage - Prayers at the Grotto"**— to reach Bishop's House by 22nd July. **DO NOT include any money donations.** The envelopes are not opened and are eventually burned.

Should you wish to request a Mass Intention to be said in Lourdes please mark that envelope **"Please say Mass in Lourdes"**, and include your stipend/gift.

Holidaying in North Wales

The Diocese offers a warm welcome to three Missionary Society of St Paul (MSP) priests this summer who will be ministering at Bangor and Caernarfon and staying at the presbytery in Bangor. They are:

Fr. Walter Ezenwosu, MSP in July; (*from Fort William*)

Fr. Charles Egbon, MSP in August; (*from Brixton, S London*)

Fr. Martin Yina, MSP from September to the second week of October.

We are grateful to them for their help and hope they will enjoy their stay in North Wales. We hope they will have the opportunity to meet their confrères who are serving our own parishes.

Reminders of previous notices: FORTHCOMING EMPLOYMENT or VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Diocesan Trustees will be seeking:

1. **Visitor Centre Manager** to work with the Shrine Administrator in the development of the National Shrine of St. Winefride, Holywell
2. **Environmental Lead** to help educate, advise and implement the Church's environmental policies within the Diocese. (see Bp Peter's note, left)

Formal advertising of these posts will be made soon. Please check the Diocesan website or in your parish.

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

July

01 7.00pm	Fr John Lochran RIP – Reception of the Body	Coatbridge
02 11.30pm	Requiem Mass for Fr John Lochran	Coatbridge
04 5.00pm	International Eisteddfod Mass	Llangollen
05 6.00pm	Silver Jubilee, Fr Innocent Abonyi, MSP	Llandudno
07 3.00pm	St. Thomas Celebration	Cathedral
09 10.30am	Chapter Meeting & Mass	Cathedral
23-30	Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes	
31-03/08	Society of St Gregory Summer School	

August

11 11.00am	Parish Feast Day Mass	Rhyl
15	<i>Assumption of BVM</i>	
22 11.00am	Solemn Profession of Sr. Loretta	Carmel, Dolgellau
25	Kerala Pilgrimage	Shrine of St Winefride Holywell

School's out ! Take time to relax..... and smile!!!

If Time is Money, How much is Eternity?

In discussion with God, a man asked "What is a million years like to You?" God replied, "Just like a second". The man asked "What is a million pounds like to You?" "Just like a penny", replied God. So the man asked "Can I have a penny?", to which God replied "Just a second!"

A salesman knocked at the door and was invited in. "Come in, have a seat, and I'll make you a cup of tea and cake". When they were both comfortable the salesman was asked "Now, what can I do for you?". The salesman was completely foxed "I don't know. I've never got this far before!"

Johnny was in the garden, filling in a hole. His neighbour looked over the fence. "What are you doing, Johnny?" "I'm burying my goldfish", he replied without looking up and still crying. "Well that is a very big hole for a goldfish, isn't it?", asked the neighbour. Johnny shovelled again and replied "That's because he's still inside your cat!"

In a maths lesson, little Peter was asked how he would share 10 potatoes among 20 people. "I'd mash them", he replied.

Nine year old Johnny came back from Sunday school. "And what did you learn today?", asked his mother. "Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines, on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge, and all the people walked across safely. He used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters to call in an air-strike. They sent in bombers to blow up the bridge, and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Johnny, is that REALLY what your teacher taught you?", his mother asked.

"Well, no, Mum... But if I told you what she really said, you'd never believe it"

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – July

Let us pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, bestows the Lord's strength to those who receive it and to their loved ones, and that it will become for everyone an ever more visible sign of compassion and hope.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – August

Let us pray that political leaders may be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking care of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poor.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:

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

A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Human Life; Seafarers

Apparently Henry Ford, on celebrating his Golden wedding anniversary responded to a reporter who asked "To what do you attribute your 50 years of successful married life?" replied, "The same formula as in making cars... stick to one model!"

After lessons on God's omnipotence, the Sunday school teacher asked "Is there anything God can't do?" A hand went up, and the teacher was disappointed that the teaching had failed. A boy answered "God can never please everybody!"

Looking at a pair of binoculars, I got them nicely into focus, when a passer-by, noticing my Roman collar, quietly advised "just tell them to move nearer the front, Father".

The main object of religion is not to get one into heaven, but to get heaven into one (*Thomas Hardy*)

