



Wrecsam Clarion



Issue no 6
April 2023

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



Bishop's Column

The very sad and sudden death of Father Shaji Punnattu Thomas at the end of last month pulls into sharp focus a number of realities about which we should all be concerned. Father Shaji was the second youngest priest of the Diocese and we have no men -young or older - in formation. Even if we did, would we be able to afford the seminary formation and, on ordination, be able to provide for them adequately from parish resources? How is the Church of Wrexham to sort her priorities - parishes, schools, evangelisation because on current numbers we will not be able to afford all three? If we can't afford the buildings how far are people and priests being asked to travel to the nearest church? Over the last twenty-five years, Bishop Edwin and I have sought to answer these and other similar questions in our respective pastoral plans for the Diocese. They have been presented on a principle-based and reasoned strategy, but we have been overtaken by circumstances quite beyond our control and they have run their course. The time has come for that work to be re-visited and so through Eastertide and Pentecost I propose that the work is begun.

In the meantime we are to celebrate the very core of our faith; the **Death and Resurrection of Jesus** who promises to all who believe in him a new life that overcomes death. But alongside that we read in the Gospel on two occasions that Jesus wept:

- i. at the tomb of Lazarus, brother of Mary and Martha (Jn 11:35) and
- ii. as he drew near to Jerusalem that last fateful time before his passion (Lk19:41).

Are these occasions evidence of his true humanity? Or does he weep because of his friends' unchristian reaction to death, on the one hand and the attempts to silence the proclamation of faith by the crowd as it proclaims, 'Blessed is the King, who comes in the name of the Lord!' on the other? Are they so without hope? Has his teaching in Jerusalem, 'the hour is coming when the dead will

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Fr Shaji Punnattu Thomas RIP

On Thursday 23rd March died in his sleep, aged 51. Fr Shaji came to the Diocese as a member of the SDV Congregation in Holywell, and served in Holywell and Hawarden, as well as acting as the Chaplain at St Richard Gwyn High School, where he was regarded with affection.

Fr Shaji took the bold decision to leave the "Regular" (member of a priestly Order) and become a "Secular" Priest of the Diocese of Wrexham. In this position he was appointed by the Bishop to be Parish Priest in Denbigh, before moving to Blaenau Ffestiniog, and then to St Mair, Our Lady Help of Christians, Machynlleth, and St David, Tywyn. He was in his twenty-third year of Priesthood. Through his death, the Diocese and the Parish have lost a dedicated and committed priest, a friend to many.

We extend to his sister Sister Dr. Betty Thomas, OSB, his many friends in this country and in India and his parishioners past and present, our condolences at this time of his death. Please remember him in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

leave their graves at the sound of his voice' (Jn.5:28) or in Capernaum that 'everybody who believes has eternal life' (Jn.6:47) been forgotten to the extent that Christian hope has all but been lost. Does Jesus now weep over the Church we have become, His body so diminished? Are we individuals in whom the Spirit of God has no longer been made welcome? Writing to the Romans, Paul identifies the contrast between those who live by and for themselves without Christ '... who are interested only in unspiritual things' with those in whom 'the Spirit of God has made his home.' (Rom.8:8)

The issues of the number of priests, the viability of parishes, declining numbers of parishioners are all to be considered in the light of the new life of the Resurrection and the gift of Pentecost and for which solutions are needed now. In these days of Holy Week and Easter I ask you to be praying about the present realities in which we find the Church of Wrexham and by embracing suffering and the sacrifice of dying to ourselves we may truly embrace the new life of Easter in vibrant joyous communities at the service of God and our neighbour.

As ever please have the assurance of my good wishes and prayers. I wish you and your families a very blessed Triduum and a joyous and happy Easter.

+ Peter

Coronation of King Charles III

In 1953, in the week preceding the Coronation of the late Queen Elizabeth II, Cardinal Griffin, on behalf of the Bishops of England and Wales asked for a "Triduum of Prayer" that "God may bless Her Majesty and her realms." The culmination of the Triduum, on the Friday evening immediately before the Coronation on Saturday 2nd June, was that "In every public Catholic church throughout the country, Mass will be celebrated at 8pm." He continued "it will be the supreme moment at which the Catholics of England and Wales will be asking God's blessing upon our Queen." A commemorative booklet for the Mass was produced and distributed.

HM King Charles III will be crowned alongside Queen Camilla on Saturday 6th May 2023 in Westminster Abbey. The Bishops of England and Wales have proposed that an act of prayer similar to that of seventy years ago should be requested of all the faithful in our countries to pray for the King as he is crowned. To this effect:

- i. A Triduum of Prayer (from Wednesday 3rd to Friday 5th May) when in each community, people are encouraged to pray for the King as he assumes the fulness of his responsibility. This can be in any form that the community thinks best.
- ii. On Friday evening 5th May, a Mass for the intentions of the King should be celebrated where possible.
- iii. On Sunday 7th May, the day after the Coronation, a Prayer of Intercession for the King should be included in the Universal Prayer along with the option for saying (or singing) the *Domine, salvum fac* in English or Latin and/or the National Anthem at the end of Mass.
- iv. Bishop Peter will celebrate the 10.30am Mass in the Cathedral on the Sunday for the King.

Prayer cards for this occasion will be printed and distributed to all churches.

The Church of England has produced a book of daily prayers from Easter Sunday to the Coronation Day for use by all. <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/coronation-prayers>

Marriage Care

Marriage Care offers a 'Preparing Together' course for those preparing to get married in the Catholic Church this year. The course will take place at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Jubilee Road, Buckley. CH7 2BF on Saturday 22nd April 2023. This is a full day course, with arrivals from 9.30am for a 10am start, and the course will finish at 4pm.

This course is designed to complement the preparation and accompaniment couples receive within their local parish. In addition to the material shared with them about building and sustaining relationships, we'll also explore with them the importance and significance of the vows they will make in Church, before God, family and friends, in terms of their religious and public commitment to each other. A certificate is available on completion of the course.

Booking is essential and is online at [Find a Preparing Together Course \(In person\) - Marriage Care](#)

A fee is charged and couples from our Diocese benefit from a reduced fee of £110. If couples are in a situation where this fee is unaffordable, they can contact the Marriage Care booking service on:

0800 389 3801 Mon – Thurs (9 am–6 pm)

Marriage Care will, without judgment, book their place and reduce or waive the fee altogether.

A reminder also that relationship counselling is available through Marriage Care too, for any couples who may wish to use their services. Further information about counselling services may be found here:

<https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/how-we-help/relationship-counselling/>



**marriage
care**

**better relationships
better lives**

EVANGELISATION CONFERENCE 2023:

THE ART OF ACCOMPANIMENT

FRIDAY 30 JUNE-SUNDAY 2 JULY

The Department of Evangelisation and Discipleship is organising a conference open to all those involved in evangelisation and catechesis at the diocesan level. It will take place at Liverpool Hope University. Through talking, sharing and praying, it is hoped to encourage all in the dioceses to develop new strategies to accompany each other as the People of God to grow in our faith and meet the Lord in the sacramental life of the Church. Sharing good practices which are already part of our diocesan catechetical life and seeking to hear afresh how the Lord is speaking to his Church are core outcomes of the Conference. Please contact Bishop's House (pa@rcdwxm.org.uk) if you would like to attend or would like further information.

A Philosophy for All...

***Don't look for flaws as you go through life,
It is easy enough to find them.***

***It is wise to be kind, and sometimes blind,
And to look for the virtues behind them. (Anon)***

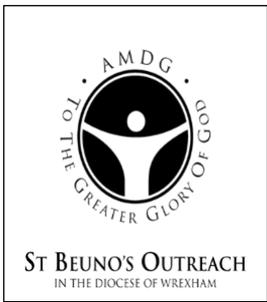
Lamb at Easter?

- Soup: 1. A slow one
3. An East Indian Curry
- Fish: 5. The immortal part
7. Forgotten at the wedding?
- Meat: 9. Extract of man
11. A child of Noah
- Game: 13. Fashion's lost glory
15. A sailor's privilege
- Vegetables: 17. Bad for ships
19. A policeman's round
21. The era of taxis
- Dessert: 23. Inebriated fruit
25. Stale jokes
27. A Washington dish
- To drink? 29. Imaginary ills
31. An Atlantic island
33. A French poorly beak
35. Duchy of Europe

Can you decipher the menu?

2. A double on
4. A reticent stew
6. A particular spot
8. A photographer
10. A foreign language
12. Is life worth living?
14. Origin of the Dickin medal
16. A break in the mountains
18. Capital shoots
20. Automobile decay
22. James Bond's producer
24. Two of a kind
26. 1066 and all that
28. A political one
30. A French seaport
32. An inlet for bivalves?
34. A sour musical instrument
36. Bristol, Liverpool, Calais

Answers – on the second back page!



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.

This month's picture of Peter and the beloved disciple running to the sepulchre is by the French artist James Tissot (1836-1902), whose great series of paintings on the life of Christ can be seen in Brooklyn Museum, New York. Our Scripture verses come from the Gospel for Easter Sunday (Year A).

Rejoice!

At the beginning of April we journey with Jesus through the sorrow of Holy Week, each in our own different way. But our arrival at the empty tomb brings us great hope and joy! Now we pray for the grace to know the gladness and joy of the Risen Lord in this Easter season.

Mary Magdala saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,' she said, 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciples to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first. He went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground. Until this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

You may then like to ponder:

To whom do I feel most drawn in this passage?

With whom do I identify?

Is it Mary, who seeks out her Beloved Lord in sorrow?

Or perhaps Peter, the impetuous one, who rushes in and sees the linen cloths?

The truth slowly dawns on each of them: He is risen!

What does that mean to me?

At the end of my prayer, what do I want to say to Jesus?

Speak to him as one friend to another.



You can download the weekly Prego at <https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/>
Contact us at stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com

A French Proverb –

God often visits us....

But most of the time we are not at home

Moment of Marian Prayer for the Synod

The Synod Office has requested that May 31st, the Memorial of the Visitation of Our Lady and the end of the Marian Month, be marked by a moment of Marian prayer for the Synodal Journey. The Standing Committee asked that each parish should, on this day, at the conclusion of Mass or at another time, have a dedicated prayer to Our Lady at the Marian Shrine in our churches. The Synod Office has begun to gather resources that can be used for this moment of prayer – these can be found here:

<https://www.synodresources.org/31may2023/>

Gospel Year of Matthew



The Resurrection

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know you seek Jesus who was crucified.

He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you”. So, they quickly departed from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshipped him.

(Matt.28:5-9. ESV-CE)

Weekly Worship of the Christians.

And the wealthy among us help the needy; and we always keep together; and for all things wherewith we are supplied, we bless the Maker of all through His Son Jesus Christ, and through the Holy Ghost. It is on the Sunday that we all assemble ... because Sunday is the first day: the day on which God transformed darkness and matter and created the world, and the day on which Jesus Christ our Saviour rose from the dead. He was crucified on the eve of Saturn’s day, and on the day after, that is, on the day of the sun, he appeared to his apostles and disciples, he taught them these things, which we have submitted to you also for your consideration.

St. Justin (d.165) Apologist and Martyr
First Apology Chapter 68.

Apology, Apologists, Apologetics

From the Greek *apologia* meaning a ‘speech in one’s own defence’. Christian apologetics is a defence of the faith on intellectual grounds by theologians and philosophers. Historically this work through the 2nd century was the presentation of the case for Christianity to non-Christians by providing a reasoned defence of the faith to converts from among the educated classes, as well as making the case to the State for Christianity’s very right to exist. Their object was to gain a fair hearing for Christianity and to dispel popular slanders and misunderstandings thereby providing an early account of Christian belief and practice. Justin Martyr is probably the one whose name is best known of the apologists not least because of his two part essay *First & Second Apology* addressed to the Emperor Antoninus, (138-161) in which Justin demands to investigate accusations and explains what Christians believe and do. The first Apology contains one of the earliest accounts of the Mass. (cf. chpt.67 -The Eucharist).

The Season of Easter

Quasi Modo Sunday – April 16th

“Like newborn children, you should thirst for milk, on which your spirit can grow in strength”.

What has that to do with “The Hunchback of Notre Dame”?
Simply, the Entrance Antiphon for the 2nd Sunday of Easter begins ‘Quasi modo’ – ‘in the same way’, or ‘like’. The ‘hunchback’ was found on the steps of Notre Dame on that Sunday and became ‘Quasimodo’ the grotesque but kind-hearted bell ringer. Victor Hugo called the book “Notre Dame de Paris” because the Cathedral itself is the centre piece of the story, rather than the characters!

The 2nd Sunday of Easter was called Low Sunday, in contrast to the height of exultation experienced on Easter Sunday of the Resurrection. Saint Pope John-Paul II re-designated the day as ‘Divine Mercy Sunday’. Whatever you choose to call it, the Gospel is always John 20:19-31 -the appearance of Jesus to the Twelve in the locked room. It is of special significance in India, because ‘Doubting’ Thomas is credited with taking the Christian faith to that country and continent, around Kerala.

It was April 15th 2019, that a devastating fire spread through the Cathedral. Mass will be celebrated on April 15th, next year, 2024, exactly five years after the fire to mark the restoration and re-opening of the Cathedral.

Christmas, Candlemas, Lent, and Easter –

what do they have in common?

The answer is ‘Forty’. Why?

Starting with Candlemas, it is the only one with a recognisable date, February 2nd. The reason for that is that Christmas is the major Feast of the Church on a fixed date, 25th December! From Christmas to Candlemas is 40 days.

Lent is 40 days, before Easter, during which Christians prepare for the forthcoming feast. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness, fasting, before he began his public ministry. *(Actually it is 46 days, because Sundays are ‘feast’ days, and therefore do not count!)*

Easter is the central point: according to Acts 1:3, the Risen Jesus spent 40 days appearing to the Disciples, and therefore Ascension Day is 40 days after Easter.

Quarantine, the period of ‘isolation’ to prevent disease, ‘Quarant Ore’, the 40 hour devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

What’s in a number? Well, 40 is a VERY significant number in faith. The rains which caused the Great Flood lasted 40 days - and Moses and the Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness. Several Kings reigned for ‘40 years’. This is interpreted to mean ‘a generation’. ‘40’ appears 146 times in the Bible – which, incidentally, may have been written by 40 authors!!

News from the wider Community

Pope Callistus II and St. David's, Wales

At the Council of Clermont (1095) the First Crusade was organised, and it was decreed (can. ii): "Whoever, out of pure devotion and not for the purpose of gaining honour or money, shall go to Jerusalem to liberate the Church of God, let that journey be counted in lieu of all penance".

Similar indulgences were granted throughout the following centuries, the object being to encourage these expeditions which involved so much hardship and yet were of such great importance for Christendom and civilization. The spirit in which these grants were made is expressed by St. Bernard, the preacher of the Second Crusade (1146): "Receive the sign of the Cross, and thou shalt likewise obtain the indulgence of all thou hast confessed with a contrite heart."

Pope Callistus II, who called the First Lateran Council (1123) (*see the March issue of 'Clarion'*) visited the city of Clermont in 1120. Among the decrees of the Lateran Council was that indulgences previously granted to crusaders were renewed.

Pope Callistus added and granted the privilege to St. David's, Wales, declaring that two pilgrimages to the Cathedral there were the equivalent of one to Rome and three to Jerusalem. Thousands of pilgrims from the humblest through to Kings such as William the Conqueror (1066-87) and Henry II (1154-89) made their way to this smallest of cities in remote west Wales.

In medieval times the pilgrimage route to St David's was as important a destination as the Camino (Santiago Compostella) in Spain.

See also British Pilgrimage Trust

<https://britishpilgrimage.org/>

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The SVP is 190 years old this year. The kind of work we do currently is visiting and helping the lonely. We visit Berwyn prison and will be providing the men with Easter eggs and also giving Easter eggs to the children of the prisoners. We undertake practical work and recently one of our conferences cleared a beneficiary's fuel debt so that they could be warm during the cold snap. Below is a link to our website. We are actively recruiting and would love to welcome new members. My contact details are below [St Vincent de Paul Society England and Wales \(svp.org.uk\)](http://St Vincent de Paul Society England and Wales (svp.org.uk))

Katherine Spreag, SVP MSO Wrexham diocese
katherineS@svp.org.uk 07557562715

LAUDATO SI' ANIMATORS' COURSE

The Vatican backed *Laudato Si' Movement* organises an online Laudato Si' Animators' Course which is set up to educate and enable people to inspire others, in parishes, schools and in the world at large, to engage in dialogue and action on the current environmental crises. The Course, which starts on the 19th April this year, will educate and empower you to bring the Laudato Si' Encyclical to life.

The Course requirements include weekly readings including chapters from the LS Encyclical, discussion groups, videos to watch, some webinars and some homework which may include things like writing your reflections.

The Course will explain the causes and consequences of climate change, will show how the Laudato Si' Encyclical fits into Catholic Social Teaching and will encourage a personal ecological conversion to enable action for the planet.

For more information and to register:

<https://laudatosianimators.org/>

Become a Laudato Si' Animator and join the global community of Guardians of Creation.



Cyfeillion Cymru/The Lamp Society.

Christopher Magner writes:

I have just done an intensive illustrated study of two amazing Merseyside organisations that in the period 1940s and 1970s worked so hard for the success of the church in Wales. If anyone is interested in having a copy please email me: chrismagner45@yahoo.co.uk or 21 Dunval Road, Bridgnorth WV16 4NA for details of cost etc 100+ pages

It must be true -they said it!

If you want anything said, ask a man

If you want anything done, ask a woman *Margaret Thatcher*

I have come to regard the law courts not as cathedrals but as casinos
Richard Ingrams

An unbiased opinion is absolutely valueless *Oscar Wilde*

The last person who went into the House of Commons with good intentions was Guy Fawkes

-Alfred Wintle

They say hard work never killed anyone, but I figured why take the chance?

-Ronald Reagan

Prayer Intentions

The Pope's Prayer Intention - April

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

The Cycle of Prayer

During Eastertide we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Survivors of Abuse;

New Members of the Church;

Vocations;

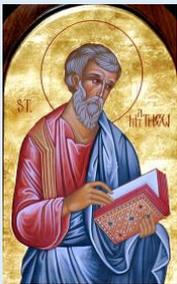
The Right use of the Media;

the Church;

Human Work.



The Triduum - The Sacred Three Days



Palm Sunday

Our Holy Week begins with the blessing of palms – Hosanna to the King! The short Gospel reading after the Blessing of Palms links seamlessly to the Last Supper.....

This year, we listen to the Passion according to St Matthew. The important point about the Palm Sunday Passion reading is that we hear each of the evangelists in turn, Years A, B, C). It is always John's passion on Good Friday, so it is worth listening carefully to detect who Matthew was writing for. We need to remember that he was writing for a Jewish audience – therefore his respect for the Old Testament traditions can be heard. Remember that his account of the birth narrative is a long genealogy, to convince his Jewish hearers that Christ is truly God made Man, and a descendant of David. Since it is probable that Matthew copied from Mark, all the details which appear in Mark's version appear also in Matthew, but with Matthew's own purpose written in.

Jesus' Passion and Death is the fulfilment of a prophecy. Jesus is the obedient Son of God – and Jesus is fulfilling his God-given destiny. The liturgy of the day focuses on the Solemn procession, with everyone holding palms, and the reading of the passion narrative.

As Holy Week begins, it is good to plan to attend the three services: It is in the unity of all three services that the true emotion, joy, and fulfilment of our Catholic Faith create in us a sense of awe and thanksgiving. The services can truly move us through all our emotions!

The Triduum - Maundy Thursday

The Mass of the Last Supper -the institution of the Eucharist.

“This is my body – This is my blood”

The liturgy of the mass is a moment of joy before the impending tragedy. Only Jesus, (and perhaps Judas?) knew what was in store. Therefore the Disciples are joyous, and we echo that in the ringing of the bells all through the Gloria. This is not a tolling bell, but we recognise that the cheerfulness will end, because from this moment on, the bells are silent.

Jesus, the Suffering Servant, (a theme of Mark's Gospel) acts as a servant and washes the feet of his disciples. For that reason we re-enact that sign, when the Priest washes the feet of today's disciples.

As we prepare to receive Communion on this special day, we have a chance to reflect seriously on what receiving Communion means to us – we have gathered as a community of thanksgiving.

The liturgy, so recognisable, day-in and day-out, has a special moment in store: The Stripping of the Altars. It is preparing us for the bareness of tomorrow, Good Friday, and perhaps we should also reflect on the tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his Garments- all dignity is lost. The coverings, cloths and colours just disappear in a few seconds of silence, before the chance to spend time before the Altar of Repose.

The Triduum – Good Friday

As we enter the church, we dip our hands into the holy water stoup. Empty! Oh dear! They have forgotten to refill it. Then we see the open tabernacle. A bare altar, statues covered.

Even God seems to have left us. We prepare to consider how human beings could treat another like this.

The liturgy is simple - Prayers, Passion, Veneration – we bow, genuflect, we reverence the cross. Very little singing, the mood is sombre- we leave in silence -the silence of the grave.

The Triduum -The Easter Vigil

The cleaners have been busy -the flowers have returned, the brasses are shining! The liturgy begins with a solitary flickering candle, lit from a flint (nowadays a lighter!). Christ is that light, and we share it as it spreads through the church -Priest, people, then the church lights. Suddenly it is coming out of the gloom. And we exult -the Exsultet, that great hymn of praise. Exult, hosts of heaven, Angel ministers! We are to be joyful, and the readings reflect our history, our origins, and the stories we have heard since childhood. Genesis, Exodus (the crossing of the Red Sea, that miracle of circumstance). And suddenly, the silent bells ring out again during the gloria, as the altar candles are lit -no, we did not forget them!

This is high emotion -this is Resurrection, life after death. We renew our baptismal promises with the newly blessed water. The words of blessing are somehow even more poignant now.

Our Communion is a new life – and for the next six weeks we shall sing and shout that joyful Alleluia!!

Let us go in the peace of Christ!

Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Did Jesus have to die? –

Without the Crucifixion, there can be no Resurrection.

“If the life and death of Socrates were those of a man, the life and death of Jesus were those of God” (Jean-Jacques Rousseau)

Around and About in the Diocese

Mass of the Chrism – St. Mary’s Cathedral -

Wednesday 5th April - 7.00pm

Bishop Peter invites the whole Diocese to join with him, and the priests, to this principal Mass of the Church in which the Oils are blessed and the Oil of Chrism consecrated. These will be used throughout the Diocese in the coming twelve months. The consecration of the Oil of Chrism makes this occasion a demonstration of the unity of the Church of Wrexham as well as being an opportunity to us all to pray with and for our priests as they renew their priestly promises.

The Deacons will renew their diaconal promises at a Mass on Saturday of the Third Week of Easter (29th April).

Marriage & Family Life

Spring Dementia Friends Get Together, Monday 24th April 2023 7pm - 8pm via Zoom

The Dementia Friendly Diocese Steering Group invites all parishes to come to our next online gathering to share the latest information and support which is available for our carers and loved ones with dementia. Join us to prepare for Dementia Action Week next month and share ways in which we have developed valuable relationships from this work within our local communities, as we strive towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Diocese.

Booking Essential by Monday 17th April 2023

Please e-mail Jeanie Larkin

at: mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk Or telephone: 07542 268728

Lenten Alms

[Ukrainian Welcome Centre](#) a project of the Eparchy of the Holy Family of London which has been set up to provide a single point of contact for essential information for arrival, settling and long-term living in the UK for those fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Registered Charity No.240088

At the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, the Roman Missal (n.14) gives the instruction (rubric): ‘At the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, there may be a procession of the faithful in which gifts for the poor may be presented with the bread and wine.’ This would be a fitting time, but not the only time, for the parish’s Lenten Alms to be presented as its gifts for the poor.

Who do you think you are?

A pessimist looks both ways when crossing a one-way street.
An optimist starts a crossword with a fountain pen.

Events and Invitations

APRIL

Wed 5th Mass of the Chrism. St. Mary’s Cathedral
Thur 6th The *Sacred Three Days* - Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Sun 9th Easter Sunday - Resurrection of the Lord
Tue 21st Meeting of the Trustees of the Diocese
Sat 29th Mass for Deacons & Annual Renewal
(NB Transfer from 22nd)
Sun 30th Fourth Sunday of Easter –
World Day of Prayer for Vocations

MAY

Sat 6th Coronation of King Charles III
Tue 9th National Day of Prayer for the Victims and Survivors of Sexual Abuse
Sun 14th National Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Taper, Cardigan
Sun 21st World Communications Day
Sat 27th Mass for New Catholics: ‘Mystagogia’ Mass
Sun 28th Pentecost

Clergy Moves

Last year, it was announced that the Vocationist Fathers would withdraw from Holywell after Easter. As a result, Bishop Peter has made the following appointments:

Fr Matthew Bond (currently Assistant Priest in Flint) will become Priest in Charge at St. Winefride’s, Holywell under the overall responsibility of **Canon Adrian Wilcock** and

Fr Abraham Vargis, CMI (Parish Priest of Saltney) will become Parish Priest of Sacred Heart, Hawarden. Fr Abraham remains as Parish Priest of Saltney.

Apostles of Jesus

We welcome to the Diocese, **Fr Jasper T. Omongo, A.J.** who joins us here and is appointed to the Cathedral as Assistant Priest. We look forward to his work here and the building of the Apostles of Jesus community in the Diocese.

New Diocese of Wrexham Education Website

After much hard work by David Tarbrook, *Director of Communications*, Wendy White, *Director of Education* and Colette Owen, *Primary Education Adviser*, a new, dedicated and comprehensive Education website has been launched and can be found at

<https://www.rcdwxmeducation.org/>

Sainthood

Saint ne peut pas, si Dieu ne veut pas.

Saint cannot, if God will not – A French Proverb

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

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

April		
05. 7.00pm	Chrism Mass	Cathedral
06. 7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	Cathedral
07. 3.00pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	Cathedral
08. 8.30pm	Easter Vigil	Cathedral
14-23	CBF Assembly	Argentina
24-27	Bishops' Conference Spring Plenary	Leeds
29. 12noon	Deacons' Renewal Mass	
30. 10.30am	Mass	Cathedral
May		
07 10.30am	King's Coronation Thanksgiving	Cathedral
2.30pm	Civic Service for the King's Coronation	Wrexham
11	Christ The Word School	Rhyl
13. 12noon	International Mass	Cathedral
14	National Shrine Pilgrimage	Cardigan
	<i>Led by Archbishop Mark O'Toole</i>	
23	Northern Bishops Meeting	Leeds
26. 7.00pm	Confirmations	Buckley
27. 12noon	Mystagogia Mass	Cathedral

Children's Corner

Can you find the answers to this Quiz?

1. What is the traditional gift at Easter?
2. What meat is often served at Easter?
3. From which language does 'Easter' come?
4. James II was the last monarch to do what?
5. What do we call each of the three sacred days?
6. Which colours are associated with Easter?
7. Where is the Easter parade in New York?
8. Name two sacred symbols of the goddess Eostre.
9. What is the Easter candle called?
10. What word is used to celebrate joy in the Mass?
11. Why did you not see statues for two weeks?
12. What is the name of the hill where Jesus died?
13. How many criminals were crucified with Jesus?
14. What did the crowds wave on Palm Sunday?
15. How is the date of Easter decided?

And Spring

16. What name is given to March 21st?
17. In which month does spring begin in Australia?
18. Which two animals describe the weather in March?
19. Which bird is the 'harbinger' of spring?
20. What effect does the weather in April have?

The Secret Service?

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the priest was standing at the door to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. "You need to join the Army of the Lord" he said. My friend replied, "I am already in the Army, Father". The priest looked quizzically and questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

My friend whispered back "I'm in the Secret Service"

Reception of Holy Communion under both kinds

At the last meeting of the Bishops' Conference in plenary session the permissive reintroduction of Holy Communion under both kinds from Holy Thursday this year was discussed.

Below is a summary of this discussion which aims to address queries about the mechanisms for this and corresponding implications

- a. The reintroduction of Holy Communion under both kinds is permissive, not obligatory and the permission is given by the Diocesan Bishop as the moderator of the liturgy in his diocese. Bishop Peter has given that permission
- b. The Church's defined Theology of the Eucharist states: *Since Christ is sacramentally present under each of the species, communion under the species of bread alone makes it possible to receive all the fruit of Eucharistic grace. For pastoral reasons this manner of receiving communion has been legitimately established as the most common form in the Latin rite. But "the sign of communion is more complete when given under both kinds, since in that form the sign of the Eucharistic meal appears more clearly." This is the usual form of receiving communion in the Eastern rites.* (Catechism 1390)
- c. If communion is offered to the faithful under both kinds, the Instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum* (#119). is clear about the place and person who is to purify the sacred vessels after the reception of Communion: it is the priest, deacon or instituted acolyte. This task may not be delegated to an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.
- d. On the question of whether Holy Communion can be distributed by intinction. The bishops discussed this and decided to affirm the teaching in *Celebrating the Mass* (2005, #211) which states that this form of the reception of Holy Communion "is not recommended in England and Wales." Communicants are not permitted to receive Holy Communion by "self-intinction" where having received the Sacred Host in the hand, they proceed to the Precious Blood and "dip" the host themselves into the chalice. This is taught clearly in the General Instruction on the Roman Missal (#287).
- e. Exceptions to the above must be referred to the bishop by the priest.

The Diocese of Nottingham has produced a booklet which explains this, and more:

[The Eucharist - Lent 2023.pdf](#)



A Latin Riddle

Quid est colore albo
 et per atramentum
 atque omnino
 legendum?

Acta publica!!

Translation -page 9

Children's corner Quiz (for adults too!)

1. Eggs. Originally painted and decorated, nowadays they are produced in chocolate. They represent 'new life'
2. Lamb – a Jewish tradition -the sacrificed lamb of the Passover. It carried over into Christianity in which Christ is the Lamb of God, sacrificed for humanity.
3. Anglo-Saxon. The Goddess Eostre -maybe the same root as Ostern in German (Ost=East). Most other European words originate from Hebrew -Pesach, Pasch, Pâques, Pasqua)
4. Wash the feet of the poor. Queen Mary (1553-58) gave 41 pence to 41 poor people (her age), and this may have originated the Royal Maundy
5. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday. (Maundy from mandatum =command, and God's Friday)
6. Gold and white are traditional -see the colours of the papal flag!
7. On Fifth Avenue
8. The rabbit and the egg
9. The Paschal Candle
10. Alleluia!
11. They were covered in purple cloths
12. Calvary
13. Two, one on the left, and one on the right
14. Palms
15. It is the first Sunday after the first Full Moon after the Vernal Equinox (March 21st). The earliest date for Easter is March 22nd, and the latest is April 25th
16. The Vernal Equinox -vernal = spring. Equinox = equal night (and day) -12 hours.
17. September – September 21st ie the autumnal equinox in the northern hemisphere.
18. Lion and Lamb: March roars in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb.
19. The cuckoo. – Sadly it is rarely heard in the UK now. It has wintered in Africa.
20. Help flowers to bloom in May: 'April showers bring forth May flowers'

A Paschal Mystery of Biology?

I was showing my husband an egg which was speckled rather than all white, like the rest. "The Easter Bunny must have laid this one", I said.
 "Perhaps she did", he answered, absently, and returned to reading his newspaper.
 "I always thought the Easter Bunny was a 'he'", I reflected.
 "Look", said my husband, putting down his paper, "it's hard enough for a rabbit to lay eggs without being a male, too"

Ex Libri Aenigmatorum Latinorum

- Q. What is black and white and read (red) all over?
 A. A newspaper

**Have you solved your Menu dilemma?
 Or -How did you 'fare'?!?**

Soups:

1. Turtle
2. Onion
3. Mulligatawny
4. Clam chowder

Fish:

5. Sole
6. Plaice
7. Herring
8. Snapper

Meat:

9. Rib
10. Tongue
11. Ham
12. Liver

Game:

13. Hare
14. Pigeon
15. Grouse
16. Partridge

Vegetables:

17. Leeks
18. Brussels Sprouts
19. Beetroot
20. Carrot
21. Cabbage
22. Broccoli

Dessert:

23. Topsy orange
24. Pear
25. Chestnuts
26. Dates
27. Cherry Pie*
28. Cabinet Pudding

And to drink?

29. Champagne
30. Bordeaux
31. Madeira
32. Oyster Bay (other trademarks are available!)
33. Malbec
34. Limoncello
35. Burgundy
36. Port

**Remember that George Washington could not tell a lie after cutting down a cherry tree!!*

A fitting Epitaph?

Over Queen Victoria's mausoleum, buried next to her husband, is written:

"Here at last I will rest with thee, and with thee in Christ I shall also rise again"