



Issue no 3  
January 2023

# 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



## Bishop's Column

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."  
And he replied:  
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."  
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.  
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.*

It was King Charles' grandfather King George VI who brought to public attention these words which he quoted in his 1939 Christmas broadcast that first December of the Second World War. They are a preamble to a poem 'God knows' by Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957) written in 1908 but which had had little acknowledgement until brought to the King's attention by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and then used by him in that momentous broadcast.

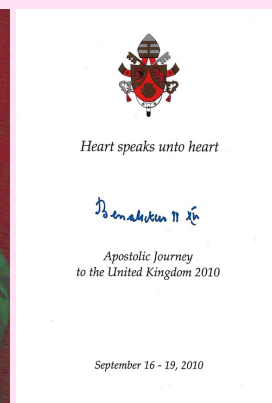
The words have understandably been used many times since then as they speak into a world that is surrounded with all the uncertainty, anxiety and worry of its time. The biblical imagery is powerful and shot through with Easter hope with reference to 'the hills', so commonly a meeting place with God; the 'lone East' the place where the sun rises and the New Day dawns.

St. Matthew's Gospel, much of which we will hear through 2023 in the Sunday and weekday liturgy, speaks clearly of how we are to achieve what is asked of us, because already God in Jesus has stretched out His hand in the mystery of the Incarnation into which we are to place ours. Jesus is Emmanuel (God with us) as we heard again last week and we will be reminded of this through the year as we hear of Jesus' presence in the world through his word and teaching, his signs and miracles and ultimately in his post resurrection promise before his return to the Father, 'and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.' (Mt.28:20)

Whatever you do, wherever and with whoever you are, may you know the closeness of Jesus to you in your joys, challenges, successes, failures and sorrows throughout 2023.

May it be for you and those dear to you, to our Diocese and to the World, a year of peace and prosperity. Please be assured of my continued prayers,

† Peter



Pope Benedict's visit to the UK, 2010

**Pope Benedict XVI**

**Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger**

**16th April 1927 - 31st December 2022)**

**Pope and Bishop of Rome**

**19th April 2005 until 28th February 2013.**

**(resigned)**

As we mourn the passing of Pope Emeritus Benedict and give thanks to God for the blessings bestowed upon the Church and the world through this successor of St. Peter, may he know through the love and compassion of God and the birth of the Good Shepherd among us, forgiveness of sin, reward for the goodness of his life and be brought to the glory of the heavenly Kingdom.

***Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him, may he rest in peace. Amen.***

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**Sign up for your personal copy of Wreccsam Clarion and visit the Diocesan website:**  
[rcdwxm.org.uk](http://rcdwxm.org.uk)

## Visit the website!

No doubt you heard of the elderly couple who arrived at BBC Headquarters and asked to see the Website. They told the Commissionaire that they were responding to the invitation to “**Visit our website**”.

Equally confusing is the on-line invitation to “**Subscribe**” –

**No!! It does not require payment!** *There is no cost to subscribing, unless you are purchasing a ‘service’, eg an ‘App’.*

In this edition there is a number of invitations to seek **extra information**. To help you, these are listed below. All you need to do is to ‘click / double click’ the website address underlined.....

For information on:

**Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ),**

Click <https://www.carj.org.uk/>

**CBCWEW newsletter:** Newsletter from the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales (CBCWEW)

Click <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/newsletter-signup/>

**Christian Unity, Week of Prayer**, including resources,

Click <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2023/>

**Church Services tv -for Mass streamed on-line**

Click <https://www.churchservices.tv>

**Crib offerings** will go to the following,

**(World Villages for Children and Mary’s Meals)**

Click [www.worldvillages.org.uk](http://www.worldvillages.org.uk)  
[www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

**Holocaust Memorial Day** information, and resources at the Council of Christian and Jews:

Click **Download** from the CCJ website

**Pax Christi,**

Click <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023>  
(to donate), click <https://tinyurl.com/yxfcw67x>

**Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**

Click [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope\\_Benedict\\_XVI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Benedict_XVI)

**Prego meetings** at St Beuno’s, email:

[stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com](mailto:stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com) and for Prego leaflets,

Click <https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/>

**“The God Who Speaks”** is available at:

Click [The God Who Speaks Newsletter Sign-up - Catholic Bishops’ Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/the-god-who-speaks-newsletter-sign-up)

**Urbi et Orbi** The Pope’s Christmas message is available:

Click [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

**World Peace Day** To read Pope Francis’ message

Click [here](#)

**World Youth Day** information:

Click [www.lisboa2023.org](http://www.lisboa2023.org)

and to register for **World Youth Day**: click to email:

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

**‘Wrecsam Clarion’**

To send articles, comments etc, email

[clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk](mailto:clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk)

To “subscribe” and for other Diocesan information..

Click [www.rcdwxm.org.uk](http://www.rcdwxm.org.uk) (yes, it is FREE!),

**REMEMBER –‘Clarion’ is a monthly newsletter; for up-to-date information and times, check the Diocesan website**

### Cycle of Prayer

In the winter season of Ordinary Time, we are invited to pray for these intentions;

**January** Peace on earth (especially 15<sup>th</sup> January);

Christian Unity (especially 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January);

**February** Victims of Human Trafficking and those who work to combat it (especially 8<sup>th</sup> February).

The Sick and those who care for them (especially 11<sup>th</sup> February);

### Prayer Intentions

-

Openness to the Word of God (especially 22<sup>nd</sup> January);

the Unemployed (especially 19<sup>th</sup> February).

## Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI RIP

Diocesan arrangements:

Bishop Peter celebrated a Requiem Mass in the Cathedral on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

Pope Francis will preside over the funeral of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January in St. Peter’s Square at 9.30 CET (8.30 am in the UK). *At the time of writing the Clarion, it is not confirmed if it will be broadcast live in UK. However, Vatican Radio will certainly broadcast, and this may be accessed on line. Go to [vaticannews.va](http://vaticannews.va) and click Vatican Media live for a live broadcast on YouTube.*

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 12noon** Requiem Mass in St. Mary’s Cathedral, Wrexham

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 3.30pm** (1530hrs) Solemn Evening Prayer St. Mary’s Cathedral

*(To this liturgy, multifaith, ecumenical, state and civic representatives will be invited giving them the opportunity to pay their respects. Bishop Peter will try to include a broad cross section of NorthWales society in the invitation)*

The life and work of Pope Emeritus Benedict is far too great to be summarised in ‘Clarion’, so a very full curriculum vitae is given on-line. To learn more, go to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope\\_Benedict\\_XVI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Benedict_XVI) the ‘Wikipedia’ resumé can be recommended as an introduction.



### Pope Francis' Christmas Message

Pope Francis has released his annual Christmas message, *Urbi et Orbi*, on the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, 25 December 2022.

In his traditional Christmas Day message, Pope Francis underscores how Jesus’ birth shows us the way to peace in our lives and our world and encourages us to contemplate the face of the Child Jesus and be deeply moved by God’s love, so that peace may be born in our hearts and shared.

*The text is available at [vatican.va](http://vatican.va), it can be found by entering ‘urbi et orbi’ in the search box.*

### What do you think of it so far?

You may well remember this simple question which was turned into a standing joke by Morecambe and Wise!! Eric Morecambe ALWAYS replied “Rubbish”! However, the same question **needs** to be asked of ‘Wrecsam Clarion’, because it is intended to be readable, informative, and interesting. Do send in your comments to [clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk](mailto:clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk)

## ESV-CE

### *The new Lectionary*

Increasingly you will see ESV-CE used after scripture quotations here and on other articles and documents. The initials stand for 'English Standard Version Catholic Edition' which is the approved translation for liturgical use. The new Lectionary replaces the Jerusalem Bible Lectionary that has been used in the current edition for the last forty years and in the first edition for the previous ten.

At the November Plenary meeting the Bishops of England & Wales gave their final approval to the new Lectionary which will now be sent to Rome for its definitive approval. The Lectionary will use the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition with the Abbey Psalms and canticles. It is hoped that following the *confirmatio* from the Holy See the lectionary may still be published and ready for use in our parishes in a year's time. In the coming months there will be catechetical, scriptural and liturgical articles and further information about the translation and the text.

### 'Sign-ups'

Do you appreciate having the *Wrecsam Clarion* delivered fresh to your inbox? If you do, you may also value the weekly **Newsletter from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales** (CBCEW) <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/newsletter-signup/>

and also the monthly **God Who Speaks** newsletter in which you'll find updates of news, events, resources and developments beneficial for your continued engagement with the Bible – whether individually, as a family, as a parish community, or to share the Scriptures more broadly [The God Who Speaks Newsletter Sign-up - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/newsletter-signup/)

You can opt out of these sign-ups at any time.

### Please remember -

**The "Wrecsam Clarion"** is **YOUR** newsletter. It is intended to be informative, and readable.

**News from Parishes** Everyone is welcome to send in news of **your** parish to [clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk](mailto:clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk)

**Spotlight:** What makes **your** parish special? You can include a photo, as well as text.

**Questions?** We can seek expert answers!

**Our priests:** If we are to be more effective as a community, it is helpful to know our priests....

**Our schools:** 'Clarion' welcomes contributions from the schools – successes, and pupil activities....

**Insights:** into the liturgy and the rituals of the Church.

**Spiritual Reflections and Meditations:** The "Clarion" is the place to share your experiences, and reflections – your name does not have to be published if you prefer- please indicate.

**Discussion:** Perhaps it needs to come *out into the open!*

### YOUR DEADLINE?

**ALWAYS, the penultimate Sunday of the month.**

**Urgent material *may* be accepted until publication on the Tuesday prior to the FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.**

*('Clarion' is often published with parish newsletters)*

Deadline dates: 29<sup>th</sup> January, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 30<sup>th</sup> April, 28<sup>th</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> June, 27<sup>th</sup> August, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 29<sup>th</sup> October, 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Please check each issue for details of any amendment.

## Extracts from Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Peace

"At the very moment when we dared to hope that the darkest hours of the Covid-19 pandemic were over, a terrible new disaster befell humanity. We witnessed the onslaught of another scourge: another war, to some extent like that of Covid-19, but driven by culpable human decisions. The war in Ukraine is reaping innocent victims and spreading insecurity, not only among those directly affected, but in a widespread and indiscriminate way for everyone, also for those who, even thousands of kilometres away, suffer its collateral effects – we need but think of grain shortages and fuel prices.

Clearly, this is not the post-Covid era we had hoped for or expected. This war, together with all the other conflicts around the globe, represents a setback for the whole of humanity and not merely for the parties directly involved. While a vaccine has been found for Covid-19, suitable solutions have not yet been found for the war. Certainly, the virus of war is more difficult to overcome than the viruses that compromise our bodies, because it comes, not from outside of us, but from within the human heart corrupted by sin (cf. *Gospel of Mark* 7:17-23).

What then is being asked of us? We can no longer think exclusively of carving out space for our personal or national interests; instead, we must think in terms of the common good, recognizing that we belong to a greater community, and opening our minds and hearts to universal human fraternity. We cannot continue to focus simply on preserving ourselves; rather, the time has come for all of us to endeavour to heal our society and our planet, to lay the foundations for a more just and peaceful world, and to commit ourselves seriously to pursuing a good that is truly common.

We cannot ignore one fundamental fact, namely that the many moral, social, political and economic crises we are experiencing are all interconnected, and what we see as isolated problems are actually causes and effects of one another. We must revisit the issue of ensuring public health for all. We must promote actions that enhance peace and put an end to the conflicts and wars that continue to spawn poverty and death. We urgently need to join in caring for our common home and in implementing clear and effective measures to combat climate change. We need to battle the virus of inequality and to ensure food and dignified labour for all, supporting those who lack even a minimum wage and find themselves in great difficulty. The scandal of entire peoples starving remains an open wound. We also need to develop suitable policies for welcoming and integrating migrants and those whom our societies discard."

### This is ISSUE Number THREE of 'Wrecsam Clarion'

Have you received the other **two??**

Issue ONE was published for the First Sunday in Advent.

A **special** issue number TWO was published for Christmas.

Now, Issue number THREE is published for 8<sup>th</sup> January, and from now on it will be published MONTHLY, usually on Wednesday or Thursday before the FIRST Sunday of the month: 5<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2<sup>nd</sup> April (Palm Sunday), 7<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> July. No issue in August. 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 3<sup>rd</sup> December.



## Gospel Year of Matthew

And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

(Matt.3:16-17. ESV-CE)

The Christian mysteries are an indivisible whole. If we become immersed in one, we are led to all the others. Thus the way from Bethlehem leads inevitably to Golgotha, from crib to the cross. When the blessed Virgin brought the child to the temple Simeon prophesied that her soul would be pierced by a sword, that this child was set for the fall and the resurrection of many, for a sign that would be contradicted. His prophecy announced his passion, the fight between light and darkness that already showed itself before the crib.

Edith Stein. From The Writings of Edith Stein, Trans.: Hilda Graef. Paulist Press.



### Retreat Centres

The Christmas issue of 'Clarion' carried details of the Guided Prayer available at and from St Beuno's, and the programme of retreats at the Vincentian Divine Retreat Centre in Pantasaph. In the Friary, a Devotions and Healing Service is held every First Saturday, and Family Healing Retreats on 13-15 January, 10-12 February, and an Inner healing Retreat 10-12 March.

To learn more of St Beuno's 'Prego' meetings, email [stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com](mailto:stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com) for times and dates, or find the Prego leaflet here: <https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/>

Aged between 18 and 35?? This is FOR YOU.....

Register your interest for World Youth Day 2023

Pope Francis will meet young people in Lisbon for the next World Youth Day in August 2023.

We hope a group from the Diocese of Wrexham will travel from July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 7<sup>th</sup> to join in this wonderful event.

If there are people in your parish who will be aged 18 to 35 by August 2023 and would like to go to Lisbon, please could you invite them to register their interest by emailing Catherine McCormack at

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

to receive further details. [www.lisboa2023.org](http://www.lisboa2023.org)



### Inspirational thoughts and sayings

*From the journal of Dag Hammarskjöld 1905-61 who died in a plane crash, 2<sup>nd</sup> General Secretary of the UN*

Give me a pure heart that I may see Thee.

A humble heart that I may hear Thee,

A heart of love that I may serve Thee,

A heart of faith that I may abide in Thee.

For all that has been — Thanks.

For all that shall be — Yes.

Never measure the height of a mountain until you have reached the top. Then you will see how low it was.

Our work for peace must begin within the private world of each one of us. To build for man a world without fear, we must be without fear. To build a world of justice, we must be just.

## The Season of Christmas and beyond.....

### Crib Offerings

***Not of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, but Education, Food and Opportunity***

Your kind donations made at the manger scene in your church this Christmastide will be divided between

**World Villages for Children** [www.worldvillages.org.uk](http://www.worldvillages.org.uk)

(Registered Charity No.1058973) whose vision is for every child to grow up free from poverty. They know that education is the key to a good start in life and freedom from hardship and disadvantage. They work to provide care and access to education for the world's poorest children by raising funds to support the humanitarian programmes of the Sisters of Mary.

And

**Mary's Meals** [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

(Registered Charity SCO22140) whose intent is to bring new hope to desperately hungry children in the poorest parts of the world with life changing school meals.

### The Twelve Days of Christmas

Significant feasts between Christmas and the Epiphany are The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1<sup>st</sup>), the Feast of the Holy Innocents (Martyrs)

Also celebrated are the feasts of

St. Stephen, (martyr)

St Thomas Becket, of *Canterbury*, (martyr)

St John the Evangelist

### Ordinary Time - Winter

Sunday 8th January (The Baptism of the Lord) marks the beginning of Ordinary Time or Weeks of the Year, so from Monday (9<sup>th</sup>) we begin Week 1:

Lectionary cycle - Sunday Cycle A;

Weekday Cycle 1

Liturgy of the Hours – Psalter – Week 1

### World Day for Peace - 15<sup>th</sup> January

In these countries we observe PEACE SUNDAY on the second Sunday of January and this year the message from Pope Francis tells us: 'No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace'. The Holy Father's 2023 Message for the 56<sup>th</sup> World Peace Day can be read at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va). He asks us: 'What did we learn from the pandemic? What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?' A vaccine has been found for Covid-19, says the Holy Father, but we still need to tackle the virus of war, and of inequality, and this can only be done together. In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi, which aims at working together to promote peace through parishes, schools and social media.

Their website suggests ways we can all become better peacemakers. There are activities for families to do at home, including a peace liturgy for young children. Prayer cards, resources and other materials can be obtained from Pax Christi <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023>

Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. A collection for Pax Christi may be taken up in your parish or if you'd prefer to make a donation direct, small or large here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfcw67x> or send a cheque payable to 'Pax Christi' to:

Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY  
Tel: 0208 203 4884

### 'Sharing the Church's Story' Conference

Catholic Voices and Word on Fire are hosting a one-day conference called '*Sharing the Church's Story*'. Come and join 1300 Catholics who are passionate about the renewal of the Church in the UK and a host of dynamic speakers including the internationally renowned speaker and author, BISHOP ROBERT BARRON. So, whether you are a volunteer, parent, catechist, clergy, religious, or just want a boost for your faith life, then this conference is for YOU. WHEN? SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2023, 10am-5pm  
WHERE? QEII Centre, Westminster, London, SW1P 3EE  
REGISTER/FIND OUT MORE?

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

### Racial Justice Sunday

This year Racial Justice Day which is on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January very closely picks up on the Octave of prayer for Christian Unity. A collection may be taken up in your parish on this Sunday to support the work of Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) <https://www.carj.org.uk/>

Moses was leading his people through the desert for 40 years. It seems, even in Biblical times men avoided asking the way.

### Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

18th to the 25th January

#### ***Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice.***

For this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we are guided by the churches of Minneapolis as we seek to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society. Through this resource, the CTBI writers' group has also focussed our attention on the 30th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, which we mark in 2023. The work of restoring hope through justice undertaken in Stephen's memory continues to inspire and change lives for the better.

As we join with other Christians around the world for the Week of Prayer we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

Resources and further information for personal and congregational use can be obtained from:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2023/>

### Holocaust Memorial Day – 27 Jan 2023

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 is 'ordinary people'. Through this theme, we are invited to think about all the millions of ordinary victims of Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides. We are also prompted to think about how easy it is for 'ordinary people' to become perpetrators. In this light, today ordinary people must be alert to the dangers of antisemitism, racism, and intolerance, and strive to combat the evil of genocide in our world.

The Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) has produced a resource for churches to observe Holocaust Memorial Day 2023. It includes examples of 'ordinary' people who demonstrated extraordinary acts of solidarity, resistance, and perseverance through their faith. There are also prayers to consider saying around Holocaust Memorial Day, to dedicate ourselves and our communities to never forgetting the horrors of the Holocaust, and to praying for a world where such hatred is overcome.

**Download** from the CCJ website.

### New Year's Day:

Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual.

*Mark Twain*

One resolution I have made, and try always to keep, is this: To rise above the little things.

*John Burroughs*

Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account.

*Oscar Wilde*

# In the Spotlight



The colours used are:

white (or gold),  
purple (or violet),  
green,  
red  
rose pink.

## Liturgical Colours

The different colours are drawn from creation to remind those participating in a liturgy of the different blessings of God.

## The Church's Year through the seasons

### WHITE

White (or gold), since it is a festive, joyful colour, is used during the **Christmas** and **Easter** seasons, and on major feast days, such as, on the **celebrations of the Lord** other than of his Passion, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of the Holy Angels, and of Saints who were not martyrs, and on the Solemnities of All Saints. Because white symbolises the Resurrection, it is also the colour often used for funerals.

### PURPLE

Purple (or violet) symbolises **repentance** and **penance**. Vestments of purple or violet are used during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

The colour reminds us of the violet flower that bows its head and is a symbol of humility.

Lent is the season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is a quiet season of reflection.

The colour of Advent is more of a rose-purple, like the sky just before sunrise. This is the time of year when the Church waits in joyful hope to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

*Purple or violet dye was very expensive. An early Christian, Lydia from Thyatira, made her living from the purple dye trade and was able to support St Paul in his missionary work (Acts 16: 14-15).*

### GREEN

Green is a sign of life in nature and as such it represents growth, life and hope.

Green is the colour worn most often during liturgies in Ordinary Time. It symbolises the graces that draw people into the life of God.

Most of the Church's year is Ordinary Time.

### RED

Red symbolises both blood and fire. It is the colour that is used on Passion (Palm) Sunday,

Feasts and ceremonies associated with the Holy Spirit, such as Pentecost Sunday, and for celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

It is also the colour that has traditionally been associated with martyrs – those who have shed their blood for their faith – and so it is worn on the feast days of martyrs.

### ROSE PINK

Rose pink is an optional colour that may be used on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) and the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) On both of these days, the Entrance Antiphon calls us to rejoice, so the pink vestments mark a softening of the penitential tone of the season.

### BLUE

Blue is not normally used in the Catholic Church for vestments but is commonly used in decorations of vestments associated with the Virgin Mary.

Lapis Lazuli (mined in Afghanistan) was known thousands of years ago and came to Europe in the Renaissance. It means 'stone from heaven', and as the most expensive colour and the most perfectly pure colour, mediaeval artists used it for cloaks and in paintings of the Virgin Mary.



## Colours in art

### RED

Power, strength, energy, heat, love, passion, danger, warning, anger

### ORANGE

Excitement, confidence, encouragement, health, vitality, extroversion

### YELLOW

Bright, vibrant, youthful, energetic, sunshine, hope, intellect, happiness

### GREEN

Earth, growth, freshness, nature, balance, harmony, money, jealousy, envy, guilt

### BLUE

Peace, tranquility, loyalty, security, trust, intelligence, cold, fear, masculine

### PINK

Happiness, compassion, sweet, playful, immaturity, hope, inspiration, feminine

### PURPLE

Royalty, nobility, spirituality, luxury, ambition, mystery, fantasy, moodiness

### BROWN

Earth, outdoors, longevity, conservative, honest, natural, reliable

### BLACK

Formal, classic, elegance, power, luxury, protection, death, mystery, evil

### WHITE

Purity, innocence, goodness, fresh, clean, easy, simplicity

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."

Mother Teresa



## Around and About in the Diocese

### Entries for your Diary!

Your **brand new Diary** for 2023 is waiting for dates to be entered;  
'Clarion' is pleased to help with a few....

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January                       | Requiem Mass for Pope Emeritus Benedict   |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January                     | Funeral of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (Rome)  |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> January                       | Feast of the Epiphany (Holy Day of Obligation)  |
| Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> January                       | Feast: Baptism of the Lord.   |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January                       | Ordinary Time begins (Green vestments) Wk1, Year 1  |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January                      | Funeral Deacon Iain Cameron (Cathedral)   |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> January                      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time – World Day for <b>Peace</b>  |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January                   | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins   |
| Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> January                    | Mass in Sign (BSL) 12 noon Bishop's House   |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January                      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday – <b>Sunday of the Word of God</b>   |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January                      | Holocaust Memorial Day  |
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February                    | Candlemas -Feast of the Presentation of the Lord<br>World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.   |
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February                      | St Blaise – Blessing of Throats   |
| Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> February                      | 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday – <b>Racial Justice Sunday</b>   |
| Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February                   | St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin. Day of Special Prayer for Victims of<br>Human Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it.<br>12noon Mass for Victims of Modern Slavery St. Mary's Cathedral |
| Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> February                   | Our Lady of Lourdes. World Day of Prayer for the Sick<br>12noon Mass for the Sick & Sacrament of Anointing St. Mary's Cathedral   |
| Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> February                   | 12noon Celebration of Marriage Mass St. Mary's Cathedral.   |
| Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February                  | Ash Wednesday Fasting and Abstinence Lent begins  |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> February                     | First Sunday of Lent.<br>3.00pm Rite of Election St. Mary's Cathedral.  |
| Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March                      | St. David, Bishop. Patron of Wales & of Wrexham Diocese   |
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March                         | CAFOD Lent Family fast Day  |
| Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> March                       | FLAME '23 London  |
| Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April                         | Easter Sunday   |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May                        | Feast of the Ascension Holy Day of Obligation   |
| Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> July -7 <sup>th</sup> August | <b>World Youth Day - Lisbon (18-35 year olds)</b>   |

### In Memoriam

#### The Reverend Deacon Iain Cameron, RIP

It was with great sadness we learned of the death of Iain Cameron on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December. Husband and father for nearly sixty years and Deacon of the Church for nearly 42 years. We extend to Vicki his wife, their children and grandchildren the condolences of the Diocese and the promise of our prayers for the repose of his soul and for their comfort and consolation.

The Funeral Mass will be on 13<sup>th</sup> January in St. Mary's Cathedral.

#### Rt Rev Monsignor Canon Peter O'Neill RIP

The death was announced in November of Canon O'Neill, a priest of the Diocese of Shrewsbury. He was the brother of the former Wrexham Diocese Director of Education, Rita Price. We remember her in our prayers.

**Requiescant in Pace**

### Your Personal Invitation

#### "Mass in Celebration of Marriage and Married Life 2023"

Saturday 18th February 2023, at 12 midday at the Cathedral Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, Wrexham. Please let us know if you are celebrating a special anniversary this year (by 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023) and for more information, contact Jeanie Larkin:

[mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk](mailto:mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk) or 07542 268 728



### Les Bons Mots – for January

Plan ahead - It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark  
Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.  
When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.  
We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.  
Be ye fishers of men. You catch them. He'll clean them.  
Some minds are like concrete: thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.  
God himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead,  
so why should you?  
People are funny. They want the front of the bus, the middle of the  
road, and the back of the church.  
God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called.  
God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over  
"religious nuts!"

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.  
Prayer: don't give God instructions, just report for duty!  
We don't change the message. The message changes us.  
The best maths equation ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4given.

#### And the finest piece of advice:

If God is your co-pilot, swap seats.

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Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Bishop or the Diocese.

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[www.rcdwxm.org.uk](http://www.rcdwxm.org.uk)



## THE BACK PAGE

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

#### BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

##### January

|    |         |                               |           |
|----|---------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 06 | 12noon  | The Epiphany of the Lord      | Cathedral |
| 07 | 3.00pm  | Mass for the Kerala Community | Cathedral |
| 08 | 10.30am | Baptism of the Lord           | Cathedral |
| 27 |         | Holocaust Memorial Day        | Wrexham   |

##### February

|    |        |  |                   |
|----|--------|--|-------------------|
| 01 | 6.30pm | Confirmations                                  | Colwyn Bay        |
| 8  | 12noon | Modern Slavery – St. Josephine Bakhita Mass    | Cathedral         |
|    | 6.30pm | Mass for the Feast of St Thomas Aquinas        | Bangor Chaplaincy |
| 10 | 6.30pm | Induction of Fr Vimalarajan Parunanthu, OMI    | Colwyn Bay        |
| 11 | 12noon | Mass for the Sick                              | Cathedral         |
| 18 | 12noon | Mass for the Celebration of Marriage           | Cathedral         |
| 21 |        | Episcopal Ordination of Mgr Canon Philip Moger | Southwark         |
| 22 | 12noon | Ash Wednesday                                  | Cathedral         |
| 26 | 3.00pm | Rite of Election                               | Cathedral         |
| 28 | 12noon | Chapter Mass                                   | Cathedral         |

#### Reminder:

When Bishop Peter is celebrating Mass, it may be followed on Facebook (go to [rcdwxm.org.uk](http://rcdwxm.org.uk)). If you are unable to get to Mass, then you can also watch on-line through [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv). In Wales, St David's, Mold, and St Mary's, Holyhead stream the Mass. Some use 'static' cameras but you may follow the action in close-up in Mold, where video recordings of the homilies are available. Also check cbcew website for other Masses.

#### Children's Corner

This month's suggestion for children's activity looks at the 'Spotlight' article, to help children understand the significance of the colours used in church!

Print your own **'Liturgical Calendar and Colour Wheel'**

Go to the colour wheel in this edition of 'Clarion' and click or double click on the wheel itself.

It can be enlarged to provide an A4 printout of the wheel.

**For older children**, a valuable exercise is to draw a circle (teaches the use of compasses!). The circle is 360° which is accurate enough for 365 days!

Then, start at the top and working clockwise, count

Advent 2022 was 27 days: (colour it purple)

Christmas Season is 15 days (white or gold)

Ordinary time to Ash Wednesday is 44 days (green)

Lent lasts 46 days to Easter Sunday (purple)

Easter Period lasts 50 days (white or gold)

Ordinary time then lasts until Advent 20-23, which begins on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023. (green)

*(For accuracy, the Christmas season lasts liturgically until 2<sup>nd</sup> February, Candlemas, but is not usually observed as such, except that in Italy the cribs (nativity scenes) remain in churches, homes, and public places until 2<sup>nd</sup> February - The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord)*

Or, why not copy this picture, and colour in each of the correct liturgical colour for the church's season? It will help children be aware of what the priest is wearing – or why it is a different occasion or feast!



#### Dreadful New Year jokes!

**Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve.**

Middle age is when you're forced to.

**Did you hear about the guy who started fixing breakfast at midnight on Dec. 31?**

He wanted to make a New Year's toast!

**Why did the man sprinkle sugar on his pillow on New Year's Eve?**

He wanted to start the year with sweet dreams.

**My resolution was to read more...**

So I put the subtitles on my TV.

**In what year did Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall in the same year?**

Every year! (*I hope you did not need to think about that one!!*)

**Knock knock. Who's there? Cheese.**

Cheese who? For cheese a jolly good fellow.

**What happened to the woman who stole a calendar on New Year's Eve?**

She got 12 months.

**My New Year's resolution is to stop procrastinating.**

But I'll wait until tomorrow to start.

**New Year?**

I've only just got used to the last one!

**I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year ...**

... but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.

**At the beginning of this year I made a New Year's resolution to lose 10 pounds ...**

... Only 15 more to go!

**What is a New Year's resolution?**

Something that goes in one year and out the other.

**When I thought about the evils of drinking in the New Year**

... I gave up thinking.