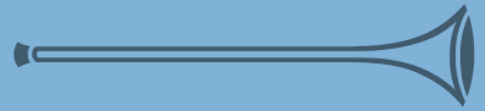


Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 12
November 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



Plan NOW for Advent!

Has the 'Clarion' lost its mind?

Has 'Clarion' succumbed to the world of 'shop early for Christmas'?

No! But with just one month to go before Advent, you do need to be able to plan for events, such as Bishop Peter's Advent Retreat, or the Marriage and Family Life Commission 'Advent Family Day'. Also, there is the St Beuno's Day of Prayer, and the Vocation Awareness Day. See this page or inside for details.

Readers will also notice that Bishop Peter's Column is on page 2, in order to keep the print size 'easy to read'! See the panel of contents to find your usual favourite items!

This month we complete the first year of 'Clarion'. Why not contribute an article, a 'Spotlight' on your Parish, or even a letter? Perhaps there is an issue you would like to raise? Or simply, what would you like to see in 'Clarion'?

E-mail the Editor at clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk It IS that simple....

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Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM

The ACN Red Wednesday is 22nd November. Show how you care for persecuted Christians. Wear something **RED**, a scarf, or jumper! Put a **RED** light bulb in your window! Light up the church in **RED**! Go to Mass - it is St Cecilia's memorial, so **RED** vestments!!! Add a tomato to your meal! It shows that you are thinking of others

Vocations Awareness Days

For Those Discerning a Vocation to the
Priesthood & Permanent Diaconate



THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE COMMISSION INVITE YOU TO...

Advent Family Day

SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2023

at Church of the Immaculate
Conception, Flint, CH6 5BQ



Starts at 12:30PM

Bring a picnic lunch, drinks provided

All are welcome to celebrate family and begin Advent; with crafts and activities for all ages - including making an Advent wreath for your family. Concludes with a Family Advent Service followed by hot dogs and mince pies.

This is a FREE event.
However, booking is essential by
Monday 27th November 2023.

Please e-mail Jeanie Larkin at:
mfl@cdwxm.org.uk

Or telephone: **07542 268728**

ADVENT RETREAT

1st – 3rd December

The traditional Advent Retreat will be at the House of Prayer, St. Augustine's Priory, Old Colwyn.

Bishop Emeritus Edwin began the tradition, and Bishop Peter is pleased to continue this annual 'Bishop-led' retreat. For more details, see

www.houseofprayer.org.uk

In the month of the Holy Souls, and of Remembrance we keep in our prayers those killed in Ukraine, the Middle East, and other areas of conflict.

Could This Be YOU?

9th December 2023
13th April 2024
13th July 2024

10am Holy Mass
10:30 Coffee
11-12:30 Seminar
12:30 Lunch
1:30 - 2:30 Seminar
2:30 - 3:30 Adoration

Church of The Immaculate Conception
17 Coleshill street, Flint, CH6 5BQ

Contact Canon Adrian on: 01352 732245
For Further Details.

www.rcdwxm.org.uk

Wrexham Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No: 700426

Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwxm.org.uk

If you were organising a “Justice and Peace Catholic Quiz Night”, one question that could spawn others could be:

“What thread joins these dates in 2023- 11th April, 29th September, 16th October and 19th November – (and for a bonus point, 15th October 2023)?”

There may be others, but having written last month about water, the one that particularly comes to my mind is **‘food’**.

Seventy-five years ago in December 1948 forty-eight of the 91 member States pledged themselves, in cooperation with the United Nations, to the thirty Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including; *‘Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.’* (Article 25)

Sixty years ago, (now) Pope St. John XXIII in his encyclical *Pacem in Terris*¹ ‘Peace on Earth’, (11th April 1963) wrote that because of our inherent dignity - being made in the image and likeness of God - all human beings have basic human rights such as the right to life, food, clothing, shelter, health care . . . (Pacem in Terris, N.11).

Earlier this year, in a message for The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste² (on 29th September) Pope Francis wrote to H.E. Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director General of the FAO*: ‘the scourge of food loss and waste is as alarming and disastrous as the tragedy of hunger that so cruelly afflicts humanity.’ . . . ‘How can food loss and waste be stopped? . . . I would like to stress this, that the food we throw away is unjustly taken from the hands of those who lack it; from those who have a right to daily bread because of their inviolable human dignity. Saint Paul was clear when he said that it is not a matter of relieving others of hardship; it is a matter of equalizing. The abundance of some must

compensate for the lack of others (cf. 2 Cor 8:13-15). . . .’

‘The person who goes to bed with an empty stomach is our brother. To share with him what we have is an imperative both of justice and of that fraternal solidarity which springs from family relationships.’

Two weeks later, (16th October) in another message to Mr Qu Dongyu, this time on World Food Day³, reflecting on this year’s theme ‘Water is life, Water is Food, Leave No One behind’ the Pope says, ‘The condition of hunger and malnutrition that seriously wounds so many human beings is the result of an iniquitous accumulation of injustices and inequalities that leaves many stranded in the gutter of life and allows a few to settle in a state of ostentation and opulence. This applies not only to food, but also to all basic resources . . .’ He stresses, too, the essential nature of water for food security and returns to the essential need to counter the throwaway culture ‘with actions based on responsible and loyal cooperation on the part of everyone.’

In two weeks, (19th November) in his message for the Seventh World Day of the Poor⁴, Pope Francis quotes from the Book of Tobit:

“At our festival of Pentecost, which is the sacred festival of weeks, a good dinner was prepared for me and I reclined to it. When the table was set for me and an abundance of food was placed before me, I said to my son Tobias, ‘Go, my child, and bring whatever poor person you may find of our people among the exiles of Nineveh, who is wholeheartedly mindful of God, and he shall eat together with me. I will wait for you, until you come back’” (2:1-2).

Having taken us back to Pacem in Terris he reminds us that we cannot ignore ‘those forms of speculation in various sectors, which have led to dramatic price increases which further impoverish many families. Earnings are quickly spent, forcing sacrifices that compromise the dignity of every person. If a family has to choose between food for nourishment and

medical care, then we need to pay attention to the voices of those who uphold the right to both goods in the name of the dignity of the human person.’ (N.7)

Concluding his Message with reference to St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Pope Francis pleads that no one be deprived of the light of charity. ‘Caring for the poor is more than simply a matter of a hasty hand-out; it calls for re-establishing the just interpersonal relationships that poverty harms. In this way, “not turning our face away from anyone who is poor” leads us to enjoy the benefits of mercy and charity that give meaning and value to our entire Christian life.’ (N.8).

The national statistics for domestic food waste are not to be taken lightly as the effects upon ourselves are financial, environmental and humanitarian. In the concluding words of the Holy Father’s Encyclical *C’est Confiance*⁵ (15th October) in which he has spoken of St. Thérèse’s poverty and simplicity in life, and wealth of Gospel love he says: ‘In an age that casts aside so many of our brothers and sisters, she teaches us the beauty of concern and responsibility for one another.’ (N.52)

As inevitably our preparations for the Christmas festivities begin let us save ourselves and help save the world by considering what we don’t need and how it may benefit others.

With every good wish and continued prayer, + Peter

*Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations

1 https://www.vatican.va/content/john-xxiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_j-xxiii_enc_11041963_pacem.html

2 <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2023/documents/20230929-messaggio-sprechjalimentari.html>

3 <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/food/documents/20231016-messaggio-giornata-alimentazione.html>

4 <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/po-verti/documents/20230613-messaggio-vii-giornatamondiale-poveri-2023.html>

5 <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost-exhortations/documents/20231015-santateresa-delbambinogesu.html>

**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



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH
IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Take a moment to ponder the image, and then read these words from the Book of Wisdom.

**But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.
For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.
Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great
good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of
himself;
like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them.
Those who trust in the Lord will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.** (Wisdom of Solomon 3: 1-6, 9)

November is the month when we particularly pray for and remember the faithful departed. (As the October *Clarion* reminded us, the feasts of All Saints and All Souls fall one after the other on 1 and 2 November). Many parishes will open books of remembrance inviting us to record the names of departed loved ones this month, and it is often a source of great comfort to know that special prayers and masses will be said for those no longer with us. November is also the time when we remember and give thanks for the sacrifice of all those who have fallen in war and are still dying through acts of war. (Remembrance Sunday this year is on 12 November, the day after Armistice Day.)

This month's image is by Elizabeth Wang (1942-2016), an artist, housewife and mother who spent much of her time writing and speaking about prayer and the Catholic Faith. Her painting for All Souls reflects the belief that our prayers can be channelled to the faithful departed through Christ and his saints.

After reading this text a few times, what phrase resonates with you today?

Spend the time you need with these words, mulling them over, or as St Ignatius suggested, sucking them as you would a boiled sweet.

Maybe you remember the time and place when you first heard this passage.

Bring to mind the circumstances and the way you felt at the time.

Speak to the Lord about this, as one friend to another.

Perhaps you can tell God about one particular soul you wish to pray for today. You may like to light a candle for that person later.

When you are ready, close your prayer with your own words of thanks.

**Saturday 25 November, 10.30 am to 4 pm
Advent Day of Prayer with St Beuno's Outreach**

New conference room, St Beuno's

An opportunity to pray and reflect in the beautiful surroundings of St Beuno's. Please do join us if you live near enough!

There will be a time of gently guided reflection, plenty of space for private prayer, and an opportunity for sharing in small groups for those who wish.

The day will end with Mass. All are most welcome.

Tea and coffee are provided, but please bring your own lunch.

More details from stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com.

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

Sunday 10th December, 7pm:

Advent Journey by Zoom with St Beuno's Outreach.

Please email us for the Zoom link.

stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com

Prayer Intentions

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION - November

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.



Gospel Year of Matthew

Saint Andrew, Apostle

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, [Jesus] saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the Son of Zebedee and John, his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. (Matt.4:18-22 ESV-CE)

The lessons we are to learn

"Prayers of the Faithful"

The next edition of 'Clarion' will appear on the 1st Sunday of Advent.

Those who are involved in the preparation of the (Bidding Prayers/ Intercessions), may wish to plan ahead:

CYCLE OF PRAYER

During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions: Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers

from the example of this great saint:

St. Andrew, before he came to Christ, was a disciple of John the Baptist, (Jn.1:35,40) trained up to devotion and penance in that excellent school of the great forerunner of our Lord. See, my soul, the great advantage of early piety and of a saint-like education! It is good for man,' says the prophet, 'that he bear the yoke of his youth.' (Lamentations 3:27) And it is a proverb, says Solomon, Proverbs 22:6 'train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.' St. John, the true friend of the bridegroom, who sought not his own honour and glory, but the spiritual advantage of his disciples, directed them to Jesus. St. Andrew and another heard him saying of Our Lord, 'Behold the Lamb of God!' and they presently followed him and accompanied him to the place of his abode, and there they stayed with him that day. O! what entertainment did he give them! O! what heavenly conversation did they enjoy! Christians, see you take care to fit up a lodging for Christ in your own interior, and invite him in thither and entertain him there by the exercise of recollection and of mental prayer, and you may also be happy as to relish the admirable sweetness of his divine conversation.

Meditations for Every Day in the Year.

Richard Challoner (1691-1781)

With effect from next month, the cycle of Readings moves to Year B, the Year of Mark. A small challenge in this month is to 'catch up' by reading the whole of the Gospel of Matthew, before we change!!

The Season of Holy Souls

LEGACY

The month of November when we pray especially for the Faithful Departed and think of the Last Things is an appropriate time too to consider afresh what gift we might leave to the world on our departure from it. These are not morbid thoughts but a realistic and practical consideration of what is inevitable sooner or later. Responsibilities to dependants must first be honoured and fulfilled, but beyond that everything is in your gift.

A leaflet explaining how you are best able to make this ultimate gift to the Church is available in your parishes, from Bishop's House or on the Diocese of Wrexham website. Your generosity would not be known until after your death or it can remain anonymous, but please be assured your gift will be wisely used in the handing on of the precious gift of faith in the work of the Diocese of Wrexham. Mass is celebrated during the month of November for the repose of the souls of and in thanksgiving for all testators to the Diocese.

PLANNING AHEAD

In the Christian hope that death means **Life is changed, not ended**, there is a logic to thinking ahead to that moment. Help and guidance are available for ensuring that one's own funeral is as one would wish it.

The Bishops' Conference Liturgy Office has 'Catholic Funeral. A Guide' at

www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/OCF/FuneralsGuide.pdf

The Liturgy office also recommends "Into Your Hands" a publication of the Bishops' Conference, which contains all that is needed for planning a funeral. Available through Decani Music (decanimusic.co.uk) for £4.75.

You can choose your readings, and your hymns, and it is not unknown for the eulogy to have been autobiographically prepared. Also, delivering the eulogy at the beginning allows a mixed congregation from all aspects of a varied life to know better the deceased, it also eases the emotional pain for relatives as they prepare for the final commendation.

Let us pray for the happy repose of the souls of all those who have gone before us, especially parents and loved ones

'Laudate Deum' 'On The Climate Crisis

On 4th October, the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi the Holy Father gave to all people of good will the Apostolic Exhortation *Laudate Deum* 'On the Climate Crisis'.

This important document reaffirms the Catholic Church's commitment to the care of creation. The document, which has 73 paragraphs and is divided into six sections, addresses a wide range of issues related to the climate crisis, from its causes and consequences to the actions needed to address it.

One of the most striking aspects of *Laudate Deum* is its emphasis on the spiritual dimension of caring for creation. Pope Francis states that "the climate crisis is a call to conversion" and that "we need a change of mentality and heart". In this sense, the document invites all believers to rediscover the beauty and goodness of creation and to recognise their responsibility in caring for it.

Laudate Deum also offers a series of concrete proposals to address the climate crisis. Pope Francis calls on governments to adopt policies which promote the transition to a sustainable economy, on businesses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and on individuals to change their consumption habits.

The Apostolic Exhortation can be found on the Vatican website:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html and is available in print from CTS books price £4.95

"C'est La Confiance 'On Confidence in the Merciful Love of God'"

On 15th October, the Memorial of Saint Teresa of Avila, Pope Francis gave to the Church and the World the Apostolic Exhortation "*C'est La Confiance 'On Confidence in the Merciful Love of God'"* for the 150th Anniversary of the birth (02/01/1873) of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face.

This most recent of Apostolic Exhortations on Trust in God's Merciful Love, is a document that invites Christians to live trust in God as a fundamental attitude of Christian life. Pope Francis emphasises that trust in God is the basis of our faith and enables us to experience God's merciful love in our daily lives.

The document is divided into three parts. In the first part, Pope Francis reflects on God's merciful love and reminds us that God is a loving Father, always ready to listen to us and forgive us.

In the second part, Pope Francis invites us to live trust in God in our daily lives. This means trusting God in moments of joy and in moments of difficulty.

In the third part, Pope Francis invites us to share our trust in God with others. This means being witnesses of God's love with our words and actions.

The apostolic exhortation is a message of hope and encouragement for Christians. It reminds us that God loves and forgives us, and that we can trust him in all aspects of our lives.

The Apostolic Exhortation can be found on the Vatican website:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231015-santateresa-delbambinogesue.html and available in print in the coming days from CTS books <https://www.ctsbooks.org>

**St Teresa of Avila is a Doctor of the Church: St Thérèse of Lisieux is known as "The Little Flower"*

#REDWEDNESDAY – 22ND NOVEMBER

On the 22nd November and throughout the Autumn please join ACN's #TeamRed taking action to help countless Christians in Africa suffering targeted violence for their loyalty to Christ. Learn the facts below & find out how you can pledge help. Stand with ACN on #RedWednesday

LOOK AT THESE FACTS...

- 62 out of 196** Violations of religious freedom occur in 62 out of 196 countries
 - 30** In 30 countries since 2018, people have been killed as a result of religious persecution
 - 23 out of 54** Religious Freedom is violated in 23 out of 54 African countries
 - 67%** 67% of people in the world live in countries where grave religious persecution occurs
- Break the Silence on the persecution of Christians worldwide – especially those in Africa! What would you risk for your faith?

Pledge your action : Pray the Rosary: **Think of your own special action, or take an idea from page 1...**

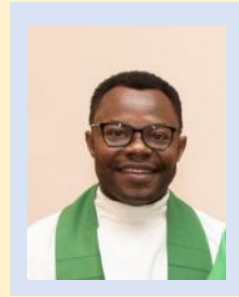
For more information and resources for you, your parish or school, to give your support or make a donation go Aid to the Church in Need website: <https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/redwednesday/#>

Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical Foundation of the Catholic Church. Registered Charity No.1097984



Benemerenti Presentation at Llandudno Junction

Parish of Conwy,
Llandudno Junction,
Llanfairfechan,
and Llanrwst



Parish Priest
Fr Ebuka, msp

Benemerenti Award for Thomas (Arthur) Hopkinson

We read in 1 Corinthians 11:1: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." This is a bold and daring declaration from St. Paul. But this is also a declaration of an honest person. Paul knows that he has followed Christ faithfully and unreservedly. Hence, he asks the Corinthian community to imitate him as he has imitated Christ. Paul is thus a model for all Christians, who are called to imitate Christ in virtue of their Baptism and Confirmation. Like St. Paul, the life of every Christian should be rooted and grounded in Christ.

In recognition of his imitation of Christ tireless efforts, significant impact and outstanding contributions to the Catholic Parish of Conwy, Llandudno Junction, Llanfairfechan and Llanrwst, and particularly to St Mary of the Angels community, the Holy Father Pope Francis has awarded the Benemerenti Award to Thomas (Arthur) Hopkinson.

The event commenced with a Holy Mass by Bishop Peter Brignall, who eloquently expressed the importance of recognizing individuals like Mr. Hopkinson, whose selfless actions embody the core values of compassion, dedication and altruism upheld by the Church. Bishop Peter emphasised the significance of active dedication to the service of God and humanity and commended Arthur for his outstanding contributions.

Presenting the award on behalf of the Holy Father, Bishop Peter recounted specific instances of Mr. Hopkinson's selfless initiatives, referring to his support and dedication to the maintenance of the church, and commitment as the parish sacristan, reader, and Eucharistic Minister. The Bishop praised Arthur's ability to inspire others and highlighted the positive changes he has brought to the parish community.

The presentation of the Benemerenti Medal and certificate to Arthur was met with resounding applause and admiration from Mgr Michael Quinlan, Arthur's long-time friend, Fr Ebuka the parish priest and the parishioners. The event served as an inspiration to everyone present, reminding them of the importance of selfless service and the profound impact it can have on society. The cutting of the Benemerenti award cake and light refreshment concluded the joyful ceremony.

The Benemerenti Medal, which translates to "well-deserving," is a distinguished honour awarded by the Catholic Church to individuals who have displayed exceptional dedication, selflessness, and generosity in their service to the Church and society. It is a testament to the recipient's unwavering commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others.



First
awarded.....

The current version of the Benemerenti medal was designed by [Pope Paul VI](#). The medal is a gold [Greek Cross](#) depicting [Christ](#) with his hand raised in [blessing](#). On the left arm of the cross is the tiara and crossed keys symbol of the papacy. On the right arm is the coat of arms of the current Pope. The medal is suspended from a yellow and white ribbon, the colours of the Papacy.

by Pope Pius VI
(1775-1779)



Around and About in the Diocese

URSULINES OF THE ROMAN UNION

We extend our best wishes and prayers to the Sister of the English Province of the Roman Union of the Ursuline Congregation (OSU) who celebrated their **Centenary** on the 13th October last.

It was in November 1535 that Angela Merici and 28 companions pledged themselves to a life of perpetual consecration under the patronage of St. Ursula and her virgin companions forming the 'Company of St. Ursula'.

By 1612 a number of these communities, which by that time had spread across France, chose to become convents with cloisters and vows. Although the Ursulines first came to England in 1851, it is only since 1923 that several English communities joined the Roman Union which was founded in 1900 at the request of Pope Leo XIII.

After the Second Vatican Council there was a move back to smaller communities immersed in the service

of the local church especially in areas experiencing poverty and deprivation. It was with the ending of steel production and the consequent knock-on effects in Shotton that the Sisters came to Deeside and remained in ministry here for thirty-five years.

Many former pupils of St Richard Gwyn will remember Sr Jayne Horswill as Head of Modern Languages. The last two Ursulines in Shotton and Wrexham were Sister Vianney Connolly and Sister Gwyn Richards whom we remember with great fondness for their inspirational work on Deeside and at the Justice and Peace Centre in collaboration with the La Sainte Union Sisters (LSU) in Wrexham.

In celebration of the centenary the sisters have produced a book 'Roots and Shoots' Ursulines of the Roman Union England, available by e-mail from ursulinebook.ursuline@gmail.com

Events and Invitations

November

- Tuesday 7th Feast of the Dedication of the
Cathedral Church of Our Lady of Sorrows (1857)
Sunday 12th Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 19th World Day for the Poor
Wednesday 22nd #RedWednesday
www.acnuk.org/redwednesday
Sunday 26th Solemnity of Christ the King
(last Sunday of the Church's Year)
Youth Day

December

- Sunday 3rd First Sunday of Advent
Advent Family Day
Saturday 30th Guild of St. Stephen, Altar Servers'
Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral

For further information of these events and celebrations please look for the details in your church, on the Diocesan website www.rcdwxm.org.uk or ask your priests.

SYNOD UPDATE

The Synod for a Synodal Church

A Summery Report has been issued on the recent Synod, calling for greater participation of the laity in the Church. The summery can be accessed here: Report: <https://www.scribd.com/document/680731750/Synod-on-Synodality-Summary-Report> and the Letter of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to the People of God: <http://www.synod.va/en/news/letter-of-the-xvi-ordinary-general-assembly-of-the-synod-of-bishops-to-the-people-of-god.html>

Could YOU Volunteer?

LIFE wishes to create a voluntary organiser position allocated to each diocese.

If you want more information about Life, their services or are interested in knowing more about this volunteer post please go to <https://lifecharity.org.uk>

LIFE is a UK pregnancy support charity creating a world where no one faces pregnancy or pregnancy loss alone.

The aims of the charity are to seek a more life affirming society, interacting with all people – both women with an unplanned pregnancy or experiencing pregnancy loss – to create a safe and compassionate community for all of them. The wish is to create better conversations around saving lives and getting the abortion rate down; wanting to address people's fears of parenthood or adoption by presenting them with a hopeful story that they can fully embrace.

Last year Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, President of the Pontifical Academy for Life said that society has an increased responsibility to "protect the rights of women, their desire for motherhood, and to promote the conditions to allow for that." Catholics in particular, he said, must work "to overcome the sometimes very serious inequalities and injustices, that favour the choice for abortion," and help create the conditions for women who want to have a child to carry their pregnancies to term.

Christ the King Catholic Church Rossett

Final Celebration of Mass October 28th 2023

A sad, but memorable, day

In the 1930's, and during the Second World War, there was an army camp in Marford, at which Mass was celebrated until the closure in 1958. As a result, a Mass centre was established in Rossett for the local community, firstly in a private house, then in a converted barn, finally in a converted shop, until in 1969 the present church of Christ the King was constructed.

Under the auspices and jurisdiction of the parish of St Francis of Assisi, Llay, the church was used regularly as a Mass centre, until Covid struck in 2020. Sadly this meant that, combined with a falling attendance, the church has not been used and the decision taken to close it, in 2023.

Past and present parishioners turned out in force for this sad occasion, but all reflecting on the happy memories of the church as it played its part in the lives of many in the Rossett area community.

Joining Bishop Peter to concelebrate the final Mass were the Parish Priest, Canon Bernard Lordan, Canon Francis Doyle, and, as a very welcome guest from St Werburgh's in Chester, Fr Paul Shaw.

Canon Adrian Wilcock, and Fr Francis Gerrard joined the congregation.

Serving the community for many years, and serving for this final Mass were Don Downing (Altar Server), and Oonagh Thompson (organist).

The loyal congregation, already part of the parish of St Francis of Assisi in Llay, will continue to be served in the 'mother church'. Happily, the church was able to celebrate its 'half century' before the devastating effects of Covid forced the closure.

The story of the parish echoes so many: from a small, but important beginning, the community struggles in often difficult conditions (shops, pubs, barns, wherever Mass could be celebrated), until enough funds were raised to build a church. The dedication and commitment of the 'forebears' continued in the loyalty and love of ensuing generations. That care, concern and love for the community does not disappear, but will continue in the work and service of the Parish church, in Llay.



BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

November

07	12 noon	Dedication of the Cathedral	Cathedral
08	6.30pm	Confirmation	Prestatyn
09	12 noon	Overseas Clergy Meeting	Hawarden
10	7.00pm	Confirmation	Abergele
12	11.00am	Remembrance Sunday Service	Wrexham
18	10.30am	Clergy Safeguarding Training Day	St David's Mold
21	11.00am	Sr Paula OCD – Silver Jubilee	Carmel, Dolgellau
28	11.00am	Mass for Deceased Clergy	Cathedral
29	6.30pm	Mass and Meeting with Students	Bangor Chaplaincy

December

01-03	Advent Retreat	House of Prayer, Old Colwyn
03	Advent Family Day	Flint
07	6.30pm Youth Commission Meeting	Colwyn Bay
08	6.30pm Confirmation	Rhyl
12	1.30pm Board of Trustees Meeting	Bishop's House
24	Midnight The Nativity of the Lord	Cathedral
25	10.00am Christmas Day Mass	Cathedral
26	10.00am Boxing Day Mass	Cathedral
30	12 noon Altar Servers' Mass	Cathedral
31	3.00pm Kerala Christmas Celebration	Cathedral

A Message from Beyond...

Reading of his own death in the newspaper, caused by a confusion of names, a man rang his friend. "Did you see the announcement of my death this morning?" "Yes," replied his friend, "Where are you speaking from?"

Faith and Trust in God

When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away your ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer. *(Corrie ten Boom)*

Children's Corner (and the young at heart)

A 'Saintly' Quiz!

The month of November begins with All Saints and ends with the feast of St Andrew.

- 1 Of which country is St Andrew the patron saint?
- 2 Name the patron saints of England, Wales, Ireland.
- 3 June 29th is the Feast Day of which saints?
- 4 Which saint was Lord Chancellor of England?
- 5 Who are the two patron saints of the Diocese of Wrexham?
- 6 Which 12 (LA) schools in the Diocese are named after a saint?
- 7 Which Evangelist is the patron saint of doctors?
- 8 Who is the patron saint of travellers?
- 9 Who is the patron saint of music?
- 10 Of which 'profession' are St Ignatius, and St Joan of Arc, patrons?
- 11 Who is the patron saint of animals? Of children? Of workers?
- 12 Which saint may help you when you lose something?
- 13 What should we remember when we pray?

*O Lord,
support us all the day long
of this troublous life,
until shadows lengthen,
and evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is
over, and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in thy mercy,
grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at last.
Amen.*

Cardinal Newman

"Well, that's alright, then!"

A footballer at the gates of heaven is met by a figure in white. "Before you enter, is there anything which happened and you need to set your mind at rest?" The footballer replied "Yes. I played for the famous St Mirren Club, and scored a goal which won the cup. But I think it was offside."

"Oh," replied the gatekeeper, "we know all about that up here. It was perfectly right. Banish any doubts!" "Thank you, St Peter," replied the footballer. "But I'm not St Peter," said the gatekeeper. "Then who are you?" asked the footballer. "St Mirren", came the reply.

A golfer arrives in hell to find the most beautiful course. A little horned caddy brings him the finest and most powerful clubs he has seen. He takes some practice swings, and he feels better than he has ever felt. Power surges through his muscles. He is delighted.

"OK, caddy," he says, "Put down the balls". "I am sorry, sir," says the caddy. "That is the hell of it. There are no balls".

Answers to the 'Saintly' Quiz

1. Scotland
2. St George, St David, St Patrick
3. St Peter & St Paul
4. St Thomas More
5. St Richard Gwyn, St Winefride
6. St Mary (4 schools), St Joseph (2), St Winefride, St David, St Anthony, St Richard Gwyn, St Helen, St Anne
7. St Luke
8. St Christopher
9. St Cecilia
10. Soldiers
11. St Francis of Assisi / St Nicholas / St Joseph
12. St Anthony of Padua
13. That we are praying to God - and we are asking the saint to help us in that prayer (intercede for us). We do not pray TO the saint

