



# Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 1  
December 2022

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

## Welcome! .....

.....to the new format newsletter of the  
Diocese of Wrexham.

As Bishop Peter writes in his 'Column', the 'lockdown' in March 2020, caused by the coronavirus pandemic brought about the closure of our churches and chapels, and the total curtailment of all religious activities. Sadly, there was no possibility of being able to distribute "The Link" the Diocesan Newsletter which was close to celebrating 20 years of publication!

However, Bishop Peter, and the Editorial 'Team', recognised the need for, and value of, a means of communication with news and views across the Diocese. Indeed, a number of parishioners did write in to ask if, and when, "The Link" would be published again.

### The 'Digital effect of Covid....

After six months of 'lockdowns', some parishes were able to 're-open' by broadcasting Mass on-line, through Zoom or Facebook or other media platforms. Even though a congregation was not present, at least one could attend Mass 'virtually'. This development of 'on-line' services brought about an increase in parishes setting up a list of email addresses, for parish news and bulletins.

Thus, an **on-line version** of a Diocesan Newsletter has become highly desirable. "**The Wreccsam Clarion**" is the result.

Distribution will be via each parish's e-mail list, and it *may* be possible that some copies will be available in parishes as before. Please check with your Parish Priest and ask on behalf of those who are not able to access the 'on-line' version.

**To obtain your copy** of "The Clarion", make sure your Parish Priest has your email address registered, or, to be added to the individual mailing list, contact:

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

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## Why – "The Clarion"?

A 'clarion' is a mediaeval instrument, usually in the form of a trumpet. However, its origin goes further back to a ram's horn. From a narrow 'mouthpiece' it always broadens to allow for sound to be transmitted great distances.

In pre-Christian times, pastoral farmers used it to call in the animals. In warfare, it was the means of giving a signal to troops, often referred to as a 'wake-up' call.

Thus, it became closely associated with the word 'call'. As Christians, a 'call' signifies a 'vocation' and the 'call' of Christ. The Apostles were 'called'. We are all 'called'.

'Clarion' is derived from Latin 'clarus' meaning clear, so the word gives us 'clear', 'clarify', 'declare'.

The 'Clarion Call' is designed to arouse us to declare our faith in God through Jesus Christ.

The Diocese has a responsibility to declare, and clarify that call, through the Gospels.

A close look at the coat of arms of Bishop Peter will show that there are clarions in two of the quarters. Each one is now filled with flowers and offers peace within a cornucopia.

The origin continues to this day - that of the Bishop's responsibility to 'declare' the Good News.

### Principles:

By naming this newsletter "The Clarion" the aim and principles are set out clearly:

**To inform, clarify, and notify, the readership:**

and:

**to declare the Gospel within the Diocese, and beyond.**

### The Benefits of 'DIGITAL'

- 1 The print can be enlarged – either by you, to read 'on-line', or by us, because we are not restricted to 4 pages.
2. Indeed, we are not restricted to 4 pages – the number of pages can vary according to content.
3. We can print in colour -YOU can choose to print colour or Black and white/greyscale.
4. PHOTOS – we can illustrate with photos – YOU are invited to submit photos of events.
5. Web links -no longer will you have to copy long and intricate web addresses. Just click on the blue underlined link, and you *should* go directly to the website

Visit the Diocesan website: [rcdwxm.org.uk](http://rcdwxm.org.uk)

With this first edition of *Wreccsam Clarion* we begin a new era of communication within the Diocese. This must begin with an expression of gratitude to all who contributed, circulated and read The LINK in the past. Its demise was sealed by the COVID pandemic when we were advised, then required to have no papers, leaflets or other items available in our churches. Then, the churches themselves were closed.

For some time previously the increasing costs of paper and postage were becoming exorbitant and now remain so, even as we come out of the pandemic. For those, and other reasons, the decision was made to create a 'digital' newsletter for the Diocese. It can be downloaded and printed off, to distribute to those of the Diocese who are unable to be online. As you will see, being digital provides so many other opportunities in the presentation of news and articles from around the Diocese. I am delighted that Mark Philpot is prepared to return as editor of *Wreccsam Clarion*, I know he will maintain the tone and all will be clear, but not too loud!

In the three years since the last and final edition of the LINK, more has happened than I am able to recount - and probably to remember! The events of this year alone could fill many pages, or perhaps I should now say kilobytes (KB).

What must *not* go unmentioned over that period, is to think of those who have died of, or as a consequence of, COVID. Equally, we think of their relatives and friends who grieve their loss, and so often were denied the opportunity and freedom to say 'goodbye' before or after death. We continue to hold them in our prayers and offer what support we can. To those, too, who have served selflessly and at some risk to themselves throughout the time of the pandemic, we cannot adequately express our thanks, but we promise to do the best we can and seek to reassure them of our ongoing support and prayer.

Moving quickly to this year, we give thanks for the appointment of the new Metropolitan Archbishop of Cardiff and Bishop of Menevia, Mark O'Toole, who was translated from Plymouth Diocese and installed in late June. He replaces Archbishop George Stack who has retired. We extend to them both our best wishes and prayers.

Only too fresh in our memories, the events of the summer are certainly not to be forgotten: the political and governmental turmoil; the sadness at the death of Queen Elizabeth II; the continuing war in Ukraine; the financial and economic upheaval experienced by us all, but especially the less well-off over the cost of energy and the rise in prices of food and domestic goods. In all this, the words of the twenty-third Psalm come to mind, 'Even though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.' (23:4 RSV-CE)

A particular moment of comfort was the visit of the relics of St. Bernadette of Lourdes. For twenty four hours there was a great expression of faith and manifestation of hope as people from across the Diocese came to the Cathedral and to the Shrine of St. Winefride in humble veneration and prayer. The contrasts and comparisons of these two teenage

saints being valued in the recognition that it is God who grants to us all the blessings of our nature and the graces to be fulfilled as the disciples he calls us to be.

Earlier a moment of hope was demonstrated by King Charles III in the first days after the death of Queen Elizabeth when he spoke to Faith Leaders at Buckingham Palace. He said "... *The beliefs that flourish in, and contribute to, our richly diverse society differ. They, and our society, can only thrive through a clear collective commitment to those vital principles of freedom of conscience, generosity of spirit and care for others which are, to me, the essence of our nationhood. I am determined, as King, to preserve and promote those principles across all communities, and for all beliefs, with all my heart.*

*"This conviction was the foundation of everything my beloved mother did for our country, over her years as our Queen. It has been the foundation of my own work as Prince of Wales. It will continue to be the foundation of all my work as King."* (16<sup>th</sup> September 2022) We pray for the King; that his words will be fulfilled and that the death of Queen Elizabeth II may not also be the end of an era, when the values of service, commitment, dignity and loyalty, for which she is remembered, die with her.

With one foot in the past and the other in the future we consider the Synod 2021-2024. I am grateful to all who participated in the Diocesan consultation that resulted in the National Synthesis. Now we enter the Continental phase and another round of discussion as outlined (see below).

However, with both feet firmly in the future we look towards the Holy Year in 2025 which marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council, a seminal moment in the life of the Church and the depths and significance of which we are yet to explore fully, and put into effect. When looking to the future, we cannot but think of the environment, climate change and all related issues. As I write, COP27- Egypt is still in session with governments trying to agree on outcomes of yet another summit on the future of the world and the inheritance we are to hand on to future generations. I am sure I will have more to say on this in future editions of the CLARION. In the meantime you might like to look at the document *The Call of Creation-2022* from the Social Justice Department of the Bishops' Conference:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/the-call-of-creation/> that was refreshed and published anew on 4<sup>th</sup> October this year.

This is more than enough from me for our first edition, but hopefully it is a small contribution in bringing communication within the Diocese up to date and perhaps opening a few conversations in parishes.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued prayer for and support of your priests and me, too, in what have been and continue to be, difficult and challenging times for families, parishes and the Church. Please be assured of my prayer for you all and for our Diocese.

With every good wish and blessings,

+Peter

*The Ordination of John Goggin to the  
Permanent Diaconate  
June 25<sup>th</sup> 2022 in the Cathedral, Wrexham*



The Laying -on  
of hands

“Through Him,  
With Him, In Him”

Called  
to serve

**A**fter his years of study, John Goggin was ordained Deacon in the Cathedral. He has been appointed to serve in Mold Parish, having grown up and lived in the Buckley and Mold parishes. “Continuity” was in everyone’s mind, for it was to the Mold Parish that Bishop Peter was appointed when he was ordained Deacon! Now it was *his* privilege to ordain a Deacon for Mold, and to continue the service of Deacon Fred Roberts, and Deacon David Joy (now retired).

Deacon John’s professional life and career has taken him into Airbus, in Flintshire, constructors of some of the most successful passenger aircraft.

Beyond the working day, John has given years of commitment to the Air Cadets, rising to the rank of Wing Commander.

Married to Sharon and with two sons, Padraig and Ciaran, John has worked tirelessly raising funds for CAFOD and the SVP, among others, and has been a regular participant in fun events, such as the Santa Dash!!

Parishes across the Diocese will get to know John as one of the roles he has taken on is as the Diocesan co-ordinator for Missio.

Because of Covid, much of John’s training was delayed, so it was with a very special pleasure that the parish of Mold was able to celebrate with him, at the Cathedral, and then for his ‘First Mass’ in Mold on 26<sup>th</sup> June. Significantly, he was also celebrating his father’s birthday, so bringing communion to ‘Dad’ as a newly ordained deacon was especially poignant.

**Desiderio desideravi**

On the feast of Ss. Peter and Paul (29<sup>th</sup> June), the Holy Father gave the Church the Apostolic Letter *Desiderio desideravi* (‘I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer...’ (Lk.22.15)) on the liturgical formation of the People of God. Pope Francis begins this beautiful and relatively short reflection on the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Sacred Liturgy by reminding us of the Most Holy Trinity’s love for us and desire for us.

The key points of the document are

- I. The Liturgy: the “today” of salvation history. The Last Supper is unique and unrepeatable; the Holy Mass is outside of space and time and presents once more the saving realities in the “to-day” of salvation history.
- II. The Liturgy is the guaranteed place for the encounter with the Risen Lord. The Resurrection is a reality and Christ comes to us in the Mass.
- III. The Church: Sacrament of the Body of Christ.
- IV. The Liturgy: antidote for the poison of spiritual worldliness. The liturgical celebration purifies us, proclaiming the gratuity of the gift of salvation received in faith. The sacred liturgy is what God does primarily, not what we do.
- V. Rediscovering daily the beauty of the truth of the Christian celebration and that that ‘beauty, just like truth, always engenders wonder, and when these are referred to the mystery of God, they lead to adoration.’ (DD. 25)
- VI. The need for a serious and vital liturgical formation.
- VII. *Ars celebrandi* The ‘art of celebrating’ comes from the priest and the people moving in and through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- VIII. Final exhortation: ‘Let us abandon our polemics to listen together to what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Let us safeguard our communion. Let us continue to be astonished at the beauty of the Liturgy’ (DD.65)

*Desiderio desideravi* is available in print from the Catholic Truth Society ([www.cts.books.org](http://www.cts.books.org)) or online [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/20220629-lettera-ap-desiderio-desideravi.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/20220629-lettera-ap-desiderio-desideravi.html)

**Anniversaries and Jubilees**

During the past two years the following notable anniversaries and jubilees across the Diocese have been celebrated albeit in some cases in limited ways because of the COVID pandemic:

2020	August.	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Religious Profession Sister Eileen OCD 18 couples celebrated their wedding anniversaries of ‘significant-years’.
2021	September.	60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Holy Cross Church, Llangollen 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diaconal Ordination Deacon David Joy
	November.	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diaconal Ordination, Deacon Iain Cameron Again, 18 couples celebrated their wedding anniversaries of ‘significant-years’.
2022	June	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priestly ordination – Canon Bernard Morgan
	July	60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Anne’s Church, Wrexham
	September	150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. David’s Catholic Primary School, Mold
	October	110 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ysgol Santes Helen, Caernarfon 21 couples celebrated their wedding anniversaries of ‘significant-years’.

*We apologise for any anniversaries that have been overlooked or not recorded.*

## Gospel Year of Matthew

As we embark upon the 'Year of Matthew' for the Gospel readings through the liturgical year, here is a thumb-nail description of that work.

It is the tradition that Matthew, the apostle, is the author of this Gospel, but this is by no means certain. The Gospel does read like the work of a man who is saying, "I was there" or "I saw and heard this for myself".

The Gospel was written by a Christian Jew for Christian Jews probably between AD 85 and 90. This would have been at a time when the divisions between Jews and Christians was hardening. The destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in AD 70 would have been pivotal. Matthew's purpose it to encourage his Jewish Christian readers to hold firm. Jesus is the Messiah who has come; to the Gentile Christian readers, God's law and promises are wide enough to include all nations. To both groups he is saying 'stand fast in the faith'.

Matthew's gospel uniquely contains the description of the coming of the Magi (2:1ff), the giving of the keys to Peter (16:19ff) as well as other events and teaching that Matthew sees as being fulfilment of what was foretold of the Messiah in the Hebrew Scriptures. The teaching of Jesus is systematically arranged into five discourses and contains the largest collection of Jesus' sayings, most significantly, the Sermon on the Mount (5:1-7:28). Matthew presents Jesus as the great teacher giving instruction for the new Israel as he focuses on the 'kingdom of God' or the 'kingdom of heaven.' Matthew seeks to show Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promises to the Jews and through them to the nations - Jesus' final instruction being 'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ...' (28:19-20).

The Gospel is contained within the verse, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means God with us)' (1:23) at the beginning and ' "... and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age"' (28:20) at the end.

### Sundays Year A – Weekdays Year 1

Throughout the coming months we will hear much of St. Matthew's Gospel in the liturgy (Lectionary: 55.5% on Sunday Cycle Year A -and a further 30% in the Weekdays Cycle 1). There is still more to discover from the twenty-eight chapters comprising 1071 verses. Why not give it a go and read the whole of St. Matthew's Gospel at home, alone or with your family, or with fellow parishioners through the year? Reading the Gospel in that continuous way enables you to make connections and gain understanding that cannot be made with even the most attentive listening at Mass.



In the tetramorph of the evangelists, Matthew is depicted as the winged man (top Left) among the four creatures that are described in Revelation 4.6-8. Matthew is often accompanied by an angel. Since the fourth century A.D., these were commonly used in Bible illumination, church mosaics and stained-glass windows as symbols and are now part of the Christian tradition.

## The Season of Advent

### Advent

'Beloved, now is the acceptable time spoken of by the Spirit, the day of salvation, peace and reconciliation: the great season of Advent. This is the time eagerly awaited by the patriarchs and prophets, the time that holy Simeon rejoiced at last to see. This is the season that the Church has always celebrated with special solemnity. We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love He has shown us in this mystery. In His infinite love for us, though we were sinners, He sent His only Son to free us from the tyranny of Satan, to summon us to heaven, to welcome us into its innermost recesses, to show us truth itself, to train us in right conduct, to plant within us the seeds of virtue, to enrich us with the treasures of His grace, and to make us children of God and heirs of eternal life.'

*From a Pastoral Letter of St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop 1538-1584*

### 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.

### "Seeing is Believing"

On the welcome notice board at a church in Felbrigg, Cumbria, is a notice "Trespassers will be forgiven"

## News from the wider Community

### Synod 2023-2024

At his Angelus message on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October, the Holy Father spoke the following:

*On 10 October last year, the first phase opened of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission". Since then, the first phase of the Synod is being carried out in the local Churches through listening and discernment. The fruits of the synodal process under way are many, but so that they might come to full maturity, it is necessary not to be in a rush. Therefore, in order to have a more relaxed period of discernment, I have established that this Synodal Assembly will take place in two sessions. The first from 4 to 29 October 2023, and the second in October of 2024. I trust that this decision will promote the understanding of synodality as a constitutive dimension of the Church, and help everyone to live it as the journey of brothers and sisters who proclaim the joy of the Gospel.*



At the end of October the papers for the 'Continental Phase' of the synodal process were presented as The Working Document for the Continental Stage of the Synodal journey launched by Pope Francis in 2021. The text, is the outcome of the national syntheses of consultations with the People of God which took place in the first phase of the synodal path. It will provide a "frame of reference" and serve as the basis for the work of the second stage. The Document and associated papers can be found on the website of the Bishops' Conference <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/synodal-church/> and that of the Vatican Synod Secretariat <https://www.synod.va/en.html>

The opportunity for discussion on the Working Document is more limited than that to create the National Synthesis but will be notified on the Diocesan website.

### IICSA Final report

The final report of the **Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse** was published recently. The link to the final report on the IICSA website is here:

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/final-report>

The Catholic Council, which was created to respond to the IICSA will now consider the report and complete its work. We are indebted to Baroness Nuala O'Loan who has led the Council over the past 7 years for her commitment.

### SVP Awareness

**The Saint Vincent de Paul Society**  
**Would you like to help reach out to people in need in your community?**

For nearly two centuries the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) has been seeking and finding those in need and responding in love. Today, the SVP in England and Wales represents almost 10,000 members across around 1,000 groups.

#### Join the movement

SVP arranges a number of free online taster sessions, including: 'care leavers', 'end of life companionship', 'social justice', 'holiday camps', and 'support for refugees and migrants'. Get involved and turn concern into action! To discover more: [www.svp.org.uk/discover](http://www.svp.org.uk/discover) or email your interest to [discover@svp.org.uk](mailto:discover@svp.org.uk) If you are aware of a need, please contact us at [request@svp.org.uk](mailto:request@svp.org.uk)

### Vatican announces theme for 57<sup>th</sup> World Day of Social Communications

"Speak with the heart: Veritatem facientes in caritate" (Doing the truth in charity) is the theme for World Day of Social Communications 2023, the Holy See Press Office announced recently.

The theme, which connects with that of 2022 – "Listen with the ear of the heart" is intended to form part of the path that will lead the entire Church to the celebration of the Synod in October 2023.

### World Youth Day Lisbon August 2023

Pope Francis to meet with young people from across the world in Lisbon next year - register your interest to be among them.

We hope a group from the Diocese of Wrexham will travel from July 31 to August 7 to join in this wonderful event. Over the course of a week you are invited to participate in meetings of prayer, sharing and leisure.



If you and your friends from your parish or school who will be aged between 18 and 35 by August 2023 and would like to go to Lisbon, you are invited to register your interest by emailing Catherine McCormack at [catherine.mccormack@strichardgwyn.flintshire.sch.uk](mailto:catherine.mccormack@strichardgwyn.flintshire.sch.uk) to discover more and receive further details: [www.lisboa2023.org](http://www.lisboa2023.org)

### Prayer Intentions

During Advent and Christmastide the Bishops of Wales and England ask you to pray for these intentions:

Migrants (especially on Migrants' Day – 3<sup>rd</sup> December);

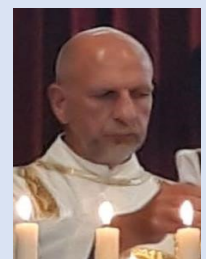
Refugees;

Expectant Mothers (especially on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent).

## St. David's, Mold



**Fr Pius Mathew CMI**  
Parish Priest



**Rev John Goggin**  
Deacon

### 150 years of St David's School

In September, Bishop Peter joined the whole school and parishioners to celebrate the anniversary of the school, founded in 1871. A complete programme of events is planned to mark this special year.

Pictured below is the altar frontal which was designed and made for the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

St David's own saying "Be Joyful, Keep the Faith, and Do the Little Things Well" features below the school badge, and a series of symbols related to the liturgy and practice of the faith.

Designed, and co-ordinated by Mrs Carole Philpot, and Mrs Jean Watson, the frontal contains the needlework of every pupil in the school. Even the earliest Reception pupils were involved in threading tiny beads which form the letters.

The symbols, sewn by each pupil, are related to the liturgical colours, purple, green, red, on a white background.



Two of the Jonah Jones windows beside the altar

### A Unique Experience in Glass

Visit St David's to see the glasswork of two of the greatest exponents of their art. The only place in the world where this is possible!

Jonah Jones, a native of Sunderland who worked widely in Wales, created 12 glass panels which were the windows in the chapel in Morfa Nefyn. As this church was closed, the windows were removed, and with grants and donations, they are now being placed in Mold. A Jonah Jones window is also in the Law Courts, Mold. Other churches in the Diocese also have his work.

What makes this experience UNIQUE is that the church also includes 'dalles de verre' created by Dom Charles Norris, of Buckfast Abbey. He is viewed as the foremost exponent of the technique of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Dalles de verre is glass formed in a 'slab' of glass which is then carefully shaped and chipped to create patterns and prisms of light which can never be repeated.

It is hoped that soon the parish will have a 'guide' to help visitors. At the same time, it is possible to see the Blessed Sacrament Chapel sculpture by Fr Rory Geoghegan SJ of St Beunos, as well as the central silk panel used in the Millennium Diocesan Mass at Llangollen (2000) and made and painted by the Poor Clare's of Ty Mam Duw, at the time they were in Hawarden.

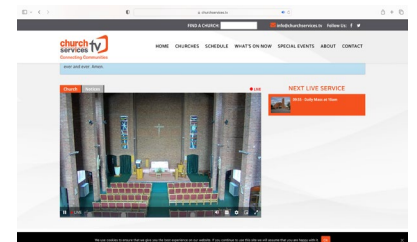
Visitors are welcome to view these treasures. Daily Mass is at 10 am

### Worldwide Broadcast

After 'lockdown', knowing that a number of parishioners could not attend Mass, 'Zoom' was used to transmit the Mass, and also to chat to housebound parishioners, in a 'virtual' coffee morning after Mass. The next stage was to use churchservices.tv to 'livestream' Mass throughout the world.

St David's is the first church in Wales (and has been joined by St Mary's Holyhead) to transmit ALL the services.

Enter churchservices.tv in the search line, and then Mold, and you will be directed to the live webcam, 24 hours a day. A team of 'operators' ensures that you can follow the action of the Mass with close-up of the action, Readers, and Celebrant.



Videos of previous services are still available



Examples of Dom Charles Norris' dalles de verre windows in the 'Lady Chapel'

## Around and About in the Diocese

### Appointments

#### Marriage & Family Life Commission- Margaret Hinton

Upon the retirement of Margaret Hinton as the Marriage and Family Life Coordinator, the Commission was pleased to recommend to Bishop Peter the appointment of **Jeanie Larkin** to the post.

We are grateful to Margaret for her dedication and commitment in the seventeen years she was in the post and carried out such sterling work for marriage and family within the Diocese.

We are pleased to welcome Jeanie to the role, and offer best wishes as she begins her work, and becomes well known in the Diocese.

#### The Cathedral Chapter

Following the resignation of **Canon Simon Treloar** as Cathedral Dean and his departure a year ago from the Diocese, Bishop Peter was pleased to appoint **Fr. Adrian Wilcock** as a Chapter Canon of St. Mary's Cathedral earlier in the year. We offer Canon Adrian Wilcock our best wishes and congratulations and keep both in our prayers.

### Marriage & Family Life

#### Facebook Newsfeed Page

The Marriage and Family Life Commission has just launched its NEW Facebook Newsfeed Page and invites all to 'like' and 'follow' to receive instant updates about Diocesan Marriage and Family Life events, and information about the latest faith-filled family resources and activities. For more information, search for 'Marriage and Family Life, Diocese of Wrexham' on Facebook, or follow/copy the link :

<https://www.facebook.com/Marriage-and-Family-Life-Diocese-of-Wrexham-106080675574369>

### WELCOME TO THE DIOCESE

We welcome **Fr Jacob Mattappillil, VC** to Pantasaph and **Fr Rionelle Hinampas, SDV** to Holywell. We wish them well in their ministry and keep them in our prayer. Also, to Professor Edmund Burke, the new Vice-Chancellor of Bangor University

### Congratulations...

...to **Canon Peter Collins** (from Cardiff) who has been appointed Fifth Bishop of East Anglia in succession to Bishop Alan Hopes. Please keep them both in your prayers. Bishop Peter Collins' Episcopal Ordination will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> December in Norwich.

### Events and Invitations

Bishop Peter invites all **Altar Servers** of the Diocese to a Mass of Thanksgiving and Rededication on **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December** at **12 noon in the Cathedral**. At that Mass, Altar Servers nominated by their Parish Priest will be enrolled into the Guild of St. Stephen. Further details will be available from your parish priest.

Bishop Peter extends an open invitation to everyone to a **New Year's Eve Vigil and Prayer** at **5 pm on 31<sup>st</sup> December**. On the last day of 2022 you are invited to St. Mary's Cathedral to a celebration of Evening Prayer of the Church and Eucharistic blessing to commend to God all our work and efforts, sufferings, and joys as well as to give thanks for the graces and blessings received throughout the year. We shall also rededicate our discipleship of Jesus and commitment to the Church in the service and love of God and neighbour for the coming year.

### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land September 2020



A group of pilgrims mainly from Buckley and Mold, eventually set off from Manchester Airport en route for the Holy Land. '*Eventually*', because the pilgrimage was due to take place in 2020, but was postponed, inevitably, because of Covid. The delay lost none of the anticipation however, and perhaps it was even more appreciated as a result. The pictures show Fr Pius, Canon Doyle and Deacon John Goggin celebrating Mass on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

How easy it became to imagine themselves out fishing, then coming to shore to find Jesus preparing food for them to eat! Just one of his appearances after the Resurrection!

The pilgrims followed the routes taken by Jesus himself, as well as Mary and Joseph, and the Apostles to which we have become accustomed by the Gospel narratives. It is in visiting the sacred sites, as well as the sites so important to the Jewish people, that the Gospel becomes a living history of faith and belief.

Bethlehem, Nazareth, as well as Jerusalem were all in the itinerary, and as a result everyone returned spiritually enriched and more aware not only of 2000 years ago, but also the needs of our world today.



**THE BACK PAGE**  
**Bishop's Engagements, and a 'gallimaufry of serendipity'**

**BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS**

**November**

27 Advent Family Day. 12.30pm Colwyn Bay  
30 Mass and Lecture 6.30pm Bangor Chaplaincy

**December**

08 Sr. Eileen's Jubilee (70 years) 11.00am Carmel,  
Dolgellau  
13 Diocesan Board of Trustees' Meeting  
Bishop's House  
14 Episcopal Ordination of Canon Peter Collins  
Norwich  
21 Christmas Mass for the Filipino Community,  
5.00pm Cathedral  
24 The Nativity of the Lord Midnight Cathedral  
25 Christmas Day Mass. 10.30am Cathedral  
26 Mass 10.00am Cathedral  
28 Syro-Malabar Mass 3.00pm Cathedral  
31 Altar Servers' Mass 12 noon Cathedral  
Thanksgiving 2022 & Vigil 2023 5.00pm. Cathedral

**January**

01 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.  
New Year's Day 10.30am. Cathedral  
06 The Epiphany of the Lord 12 noon Cathedral

**Children's Corner**

It is always difficult to balance the preparations for Christmas in the world around, with an appropriate spiritual preparation for children. So, why not get the crib figures ready (or for children to make their own), and week by week enhance the nativity scene?

Week One, make the 'stable' itself, and day by day a little of the bedding, hay, straw, soil.

Week Two, introduce some animals. (Your choice, it is only tradition to include a cow and an ass!)

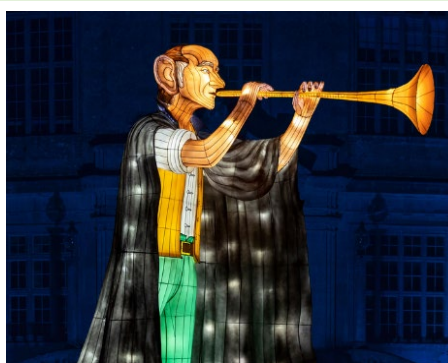
Week Three, the shepherds arrive -after all they would be tending the animals.

Week Four, Mary and Joseph arrive, and the empty manger really was the 'feeding trough'! (Manger=to eat, in French)

Christmas Day, Baby Jesus arrives in the stable, and the lights and stars rejoice!

At a distance, the Magi set off on their journey, to move closer day by day, until...

6<sup>th</sup> January, The Epiphany.



Even the BFG has a 'clarion'. Here he is, at the Longleat Festival of Light (Nov 5<sup>th</sup>-Jan 8<sup>th</sup>) of Roald Dahls' characters (with acknowledgements)

**A Morning Prayer!**

*I want to thank you, Lord,  
For being close to me so far this day.  
With your help, I have not been impatient,  
lost my temper, been grumpy, judgemental,  
or envious of anyone.  
But I will be getting out of bed in a minute and  
I think I will really need your help then.  
Amen*

**Life in the organ loft**

In a small rural community, the new vicar seemed always at odds with his organist. The two never got on. They were always disagreeing, and at loggerheads. Then, one Sunday, the Vicar announced from the pulpit that he had felt a special call from Jesus to move to another parish in the city centre, with much poverty around. "Jesus is calling me", he announced, and ended his homily inviting the congregation to stand for the hymn.

The organist began to play "What a friend we have in Jesus"

**And finally –**

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

**News from Parishes** is the opportunity to tell others about events to which all are invited. Not just a local parish event. Often ideas are created, just by reading of others' experiences. As a Christian community we need to stretch out our hand in welcome and faith, and in search of the Common Good.

**Spotlight:** Would you like YOUR Parish to feature in the 'Spotlight' -and what makes it 'special'?

**Doubts, Queries and Questions?** Are there questions you have which our experts can answer?

**History and Patrimony:** Within the Diocese there is a patrimony of wealth, artistically, and creatively. Do share the details, and add to the archives.

**Introducing the Clergy:** Over the coming months, we hope to be able to 'introduce' some our Clergy, many of whom have travelled from other parts of the world to serve us.

**Understanding Congregations:** The Priestly and Religious Congregations have a special 'charism' about which we can learn much; learn of their charitable work, and their founder.

**News and Celebrations of our schools:** Many of our children are in the hands of our Catholic schools, the teachers, and staff. We welcome contributions from the schools.

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

**Spiritual Reflections and Meditations:** The "Clarion" may well be the place to share your experiences, and reflections.

**Discussion:** Maybe a topic needs to be aired, and shared? Perhaps it needs to come *out into the open!*

**YOUR DEADLINE?**

**ALWAYS, the penultimate Sunday of the month.** That leaves 10 days for preparation of the "Clarion", for publication with parish newsletters ahead of the **FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.**