



Wreccsam Clarion



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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



Ordinary Time takes the liturgical colour GREEN. From Pentecost to Christ the King we become used to green. In the northern hemisphere it represents growth in Summer. Here, it is shared with the golden harvest, celebrated until St Michael's Feast.

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Prayer for the People of Gaza

O God of all, of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, and Ishmael:
Our hearts are broken in pieces at the suffering and murder
of your people. Our voices cry for peace and for justice.

Comfort those who grieve; Console and heal the injured,
Be close to those in fear; Restrain with your mighty hand
those who perpetrate violence.

Send us your wisdom in all that we say and do,
That our voice may always seek justice, peace and security
for all.

Amen.

(Rev Peter Colwell, Dep Gen Sec, Churches Together CTBI)

In September we celebrate several Feasts of Saints and Doctors of the Church, among them, St Gregory the Great, St John Chrysostom, St Robert Bellarmine, St Hildegard of Bingen, and St Jerome. Also, the SVP celebrates Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and St Vincent de Paul. In Wales, we remember St Deiniol. Seafarers celebrate Stella Maris, the Star of the Sea.

Make sure that you have picked your BLACKBERRIES before 29th September. The Feast of St Michael, St Gabriel, and St Raphael represents the end of harvest, after which the devil is reputed to 'spit' (or worse) on the fruit!

Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwxm.org.uk

The 200th anniversary of the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1829 occurs in four short years. The Act was the culmination of a series of Acts which sought to end discrimination and civil disabilities against Catholics. Henceforth, Catholics were granted a significant number of rights which they had been denied since a variety of Penal Laws were passed against them in the 16th and 17th centuries in Britain and Ireland. It is believed and is certainly part of the Catholic story in Bangor that the Irish lawyer and orator Daniel O'Connor, a significant character in the whole movement for emancipation arguing for Ireland and the Irish Catholic community, regularly attended Mass in the church in the High Street on his journeying between London and Dublin.

Subsequently, on the 29th September 1850, Pope Pius IX promulgated the Bull '*Universalis Ecclesia*' which restored the Catholic Hierarchy in England. Therefore, at the end of this month we celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the Restoration of the hierarchy in England (*and Wales*) which had ceased in the reign of Elizabeth, after the death of the last Catholic bishop of the reign of Mary. In fact, this was Bishop Thomas Goldwell (1501 – 3rd April 1585) sometime Bishop of St. Asaph (Llanelwy) who died in exile in Rome.

With the Restoration of the hierarchy, Westminster became the Metropolitan See and its occupant was Cardinal Nicholas Wiseman, the lawful successor of the Catholic Archbishops of Canterbury. What is now the Diocese of Wrexham was part of the Diocese of Shrewsbury until 1898 when the Diocese of Menevia was erected with the church of Our Lady of Dolours (Sorrows) in Wrexham becoming the Pro-cathedral; various restructurings of the dioceses have taken place since then. * There are other significant moments to be remembered and celebrated this year which connect Wales with the wider world.

This year is the centenary of the Churches' Peace Appeal to America of 1925: "An appeal from leaders of religious bodies in Wales to the Federal Churches of Christ in America", signed by leaders of Christian churches in Wales. This memorial declaration called for the support of churches across America in advocating for the League of Nations - to avert the danger of future world wars.

Also, 2025 celebrates the 60th anniversary of the gift of the 'Wales Window' to the 16th Street Baptist chapel in Birmingham, Alabama which had been bombed two years

earlier on the 15th September by the Ku Klux Klan, and killing four black girls attending Sunday school. So appalled was he by the attack, that the Welsh stained glass artist John Petts launched an appeal through the Western Mail to design, manufacture, and install, a memorial window in the rebuilt chapel. The £500 needed was to be raised by public subscription of half a crown (12½p, now) per person from the people of Wales. In fact, £900 was donated. **

The third significant anniversary is that of the Dolen Cymru Wales-Lesotho Link which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Dolen Cymru was launched following a few years of discussion by a small group of medical doctors, clerics and politicians asking the question, "What can Wales contribute to a troubled world in the 1980s?" It was felt the answer lay in the idea of Wales finding a twin in the developing world and that it be organised at the grass-roots level and would result in betterment for both parties. After some two years' work and research the committee decided that Lesotho was the best suited country with which to create a twinning arrangement and they who were invited. In 1985 the Lesotho-Cymru Link was created.***

Common to these anniversaries is that at their heart is the desire to bring to people near and far a greater peace, dignity and care than that which previously existed, to the mutual betterment of giver and recipient and beyond. This is a vision that must not be lost in our own times; of the past, for that is what has made us who and what we are; and of the future for that is the inheritance we leave for generations to come. Anniversaries provide us with a moment to reflect, take stock, and move forward with renewed concern and enthusiasm as well as to celebrate achievements made. The celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross that we will observe in a fortnight's time in the Sunday Eucharist is exactly that memorial. May we live in our lives and the life of the Church that which we profess with our lips and celebrate in our hearts.

In the hope that you are refreshed after the summer, may you take that blessing with you into the autumn and bring life, joy, and peace, to those you meet.

With the assurance of my continued prayer,

† Peter.

For further historical information please look to the following:

* The Victorian web: <https://victorianweb.org> › [Hierarchy Reestablished](#)

Catholic Stand: <https://catholicstand.com/the-return-of-the-catholic-hierarchy-in-britain/>

New Advent: <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/16037d.htm>

** The Wales Window of Alabama <https://www.library.wales/discover-learn/digital-exhibitions/pictures/the-wales-window-in-birmingham-alabama>

BBC Radio Sounds <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b00z5zxv>

*** Dolen Cymru Lesotho-Wales Link <https://www.dolencymru.org/>

Parish of Bangor and Caernarfon.

The parish is pleased to welcome **Rev. Fr. Dr. Saviour Menachery, CMI** as Administrator of the Parish. We wish him well in his ministry.

Thanks are due to Fr Bob Rainbow, and Fr Gary Mantle for their support of the parish over recent months.

Island Mission on Anglesey

Fr Leo Philomin OMI, Assistant Moderator at the Anglesey Mission has left the Diocese on 31st August. **Fr Lylie Fernando OMI** takes his place.

We wish them both well in their ministry, and trust that Fr Lylie enjoys the 'island life'.



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

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

This month we celebrate the **Season of Creation**, which runs from 1st September (*World Day of Prayer for Creation*) to 4th October (*the Feast of St Francis of Assisi*).

It is a time when Christians across the world pray for the whole of creation, and especially for the protection of this fragile and beautiful planet.

Reverence and love for God's gift of creation are at the heart of Ignatian spirituality, which encourages us to seek God in all things.

As St Ignatius wrote:
"All the things in this world are created because of God's love, and they become a context of gifts, presented to us so that we can know God more easily and make a return of love more readily."

Spend a little time with these words, the image above, and Scripture passage (right).

God said,

'See, I have given you every plant-yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.

And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

(Genesis 1: 29-31)

You may then like to ponder:

How do you respond to all that the Lord has given us?

Are you overwhelmed, grateful, indifferent ...?

All around us are examples of the interdependence of humanity, plants and animals. In what way does this interdependence affect the way you live?

Might you sometimes be more attentive towards your own surroundings?

Turning to the Lord, and conscious that he is always with us, speak to him as one friend to another.

To conclude your prayer, you may like to express your gratitude:

"Thank you for the world you have made for us, Lord. Indeed, it is very good!"

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

Contact us at stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com

THE CANONISATION OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

As consequence of the death of Pope Francis earlier this year the canonisation of London born Blessed Carlo Acutis was postponed from April; it is now to take place alongside that of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati on September 7th.

The canonisation of the two young saints – Pier Giorgio from the early twentieth century, and Carlo Acutis the first millennial saint were to have taken place at high points in this Jubilee Year: Pier Giorgio at the end of the Jubilee of Youth in August and Carlo Acutis on the the Jubilee of Teenagers in April.

More information, articles and resources, about Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati are available on the Bishops' Conference website :-

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/carlo-acutis-and-pier-giorgio-frassati-to-be-canonised-together/>

ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN – DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

On 31st July it was announced in Rome that Cardinal John Henry Newman who was canonised (declared a saint) in October 2019 by Pope Francis is now to be granted the title Doctor of the Universal Church by Pope Leo XIV. Saint John Henry Newman, the most recently canonised saint from England and Wales, will be the 38th Doctor of the Church and only the second from England after Saint Bede the Venerable (d. 735) for the historic and abiding impact of his teaching on the universal Church. Saint Bede was accorded the title in 1899 by Pope Leo XIII

For more information, articles and resources about John Henry Newman go to the Bishops' Conference website :-

[Read more.](#)

(Editor's Note – A regular contributor offers this link to a Facebook page with information about St John Henry Newman

<https://www.facebook.com/100044560623850/posts/pfbid0X5h5N87DRVFhM28QKyUMF9SufRoqB7CG8gg3YoGSnfQRGkWtr5JUcx5dkSLJXSJrl/?d=n>

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – September

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

For our relationship with all creation.



Gospel Year of Luke

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

'Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, they crucified him, and the criminal, one on the right and on the left. ... It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. The Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said, "Certainly this man was innocent!" And all the multitude who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts.

Luke 23:32-33, 44-48 ESV-CE

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER: During Ordinary Time (Autumn), from September to Christ the King, we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Students and Teachers;	The Spread of the Gospel;
The Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent use of Creation;	The Harvest;
Justice and Peace in the World;	All Victims of War;
Young People;	Prisoners and their Families.

Commentary:

23:33 'The Skull': a translation of the Aramaic 'Golgotha' (*cf. Mk 15:22*) the place the Romans used for crucifixion the form of execution reserved for insurrectionists and other base criminals. Nailed to wooden beams, the victims died excruciating deaths through gradual blood loss and asphyxiation. Ironically, what appeared to be Jesus' utter defeat became the sign of his victory and the instrument of salvation for the world. (*cf. 1Cor 2:2; 1Pet.2:24*)

23:47 ... 'innocent' or 'righteous', the centurion also professes that Jesus was God's Son. (*cf. Mt.27:54; Mk 15:39*)

Reflection:

St. John Henry Newman reflects on how the victory and exaltation lie in Jesus intentionally and completely giving himself on the cross.

'He took a body in order that he might suffer ... and when his hour was come, that hour of Satan and of darkness (*Lk 22:53*) ... he offered himself wholly ... as the whole of his body, stretched out upon the cross, so the whole of his soul, his whole advertence, his whole consciousness, a mind awake, a sense acute, a living cooperation, a present, absolute intention, not a virtual permission, not a heartless submission, this did he present to his tormentors. His passion was an action; he lived most energetically, while he lay languishing, fainting, and dying. Nor did he die, except by an act of the will; for he bowed his head, in command as well as in resignation, and said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." He gave the word, he surrendered his soul, he did not lose it.'

'Mental Sufferings of Our Lord in his Passion' in Discourses Addressed to Mixed Congregations.

Your summer holiday..... Did you find 'Paradise'?

Open your computer and look for Timbuktu or the Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan. Google Maps will show you where they are on the map. You can drop down on to the main streets as if you had been teleported down from Captain Kirk's Starship Enterprise.

Suddenly you can almost touch the dust. You have probably used Google Maps find an address in Holywell or even an air-bnb in Barcelona -or you want to see all of the Great Barrier Reef. Distance seems to evaporate.

Google won't take you to Paradise, but it will give you lots of gorgeous photos of palm-fringed islands and infinite swimming pools and beautiful people with perfect bodies. It turns out that there are thousands of 'paradises'. You can rent a well-appointed thatched hut in one; live there for a week or two with other beautiful people just like you and in greater luxury than any Mughal prince ever enjoyed. It will cost more than you can afford, but it would be an escape, perhaps the escape, we would all like to make.

Adverts paint pictures of holidays where all your worries disappear. We see ourselves driving carefree through vibrant cities, into idyllic Tuscan landscapes or along straight desert roads that point to a limitless eternity. All you need is that new car with its dazzling array of life-softening gadgets. Even the most ordinary things are painted with the colours of paradise. Today in our crowded cities we survive on the spiritual food the advertisers feed us. It is the drug

Why not try the SatNav --Or Google?

that drives the economies of the modern world. They are the shepherds of modern capitalism driving (us) sheep to pastures of consumption. We need better shepherds. We need the Good Shepherd: the One who leads us beside the still waters, who 'restores my soul and who leads me in the paths of righteousness', the One who keeps His promises. (*Psalms 23*) The modern world has shown us the most terrible results of the search for worldly paradises— the Nazi horror and the Soviet horror. There are many others. We might not unfairly see them as attempts to escape from the world we find ourselves living in, to escape from our sense of homelessness and insecurity in the world. The Americans have huge National Parks like Yosemite where you can stay for a 'holiday' – a 'holy-day'! – to see what we call 'Nature' free from the effects of our technological ravages. Their establishment is an unacknowledged confession of guilt at what we have done to the world.

We think that we are masters of the world and that everything we see around us is just something to exploit, to turn into useful objects, into cars and planes to escape our own distress. The modern world lacks any transcendent vision. The Good Shepherd seems to have left the world He created. The ruin is not just the natural world but most of all, ourselves. We must look for Him again.

(Contribution from a parishioner)

DISABILITY AWARENESS

We increasingly see the sign in public places:

‘NOT ALL DISABILITIES ARE VISIBLE, PLEASE BE AWARE’

The disability charity ‘Through the Roof’ (Registered Charity No. 1087788) is promoting an awareness day on Sunday 28th September and invites us to share a new resource in Welsh and English

Ymunwch ag eglwysi ledled y DU i nodi Dydd Sul Ymwybyddiaeth Anabledd – amser i ddathlu delwedd Duw ym mhob person! – a lawrlwythwch y pecyn adnoddau newydd gan yr elusen anabledd, Through the Roof www.throughtheroof.org Mae adnodd rhad ac am ddim eleni, ‘Made in God’s Image’, yn cynnwys Emily Owen, awdur arobryn a ddaeth yn fyddar yn 21 oed ac sydd bellach yn byw gydag anableddau lluosog. Yn ei fideo a’i hadnodd, mae hi’n rhannu sut mae Duw yn edrych ar y galon (1 Samuel 16), nid gallu allanol.

Join churches across the UK in marking Disability Awareness Sunday – a time to celebrate God’s image in every person! – and [download the new resource pack](#) from the charity (www.throughtheroof.org).

This year’s free resource, ‘Made in God’s Image’, features Emily Owen, an award-winning author who became deaf at 21 and now lives with multiple disabilities. In her video and resource, she shares how God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16), not outward ability.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION 2025

The Holy Father has chosen as the theme of World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation this year:

“Seeds of Peace and Hope”.

The Season of Creation is an ecumenical initiative which is gaining significance and takes place from 1 September to 4 October. The theme for the 2025 edition, a Jubilee year and the tenth anniversary of the publication of the Encyclical *Laudato si’*, is “peace with creation”; *Isaiah 32:14-18* has been chosen as the Biblical reference text for this initiative. As emphasised in the Magisterium of Pope Francis and his recent predecessors, there is a close link between peace and care for creation (*cf. Messages for the 1990 and 2010 World Day of Peace*). Similarly, the connection between war and violence on the one hand, and degradation of the common home and waste of resources (destruction and armaments) on the other, is very close.

The Message urges prayer for the creation of the conditions for peace, a lasting and jointly built peace that inspires hope. The metaphor of the seed indicates the need for long-term commitment. Good practices and seeds of peace and hope from different continents are illustrated in the message.

[Message of the Holy Father for the tenth World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation](#)

Action on ‘Laudato Si’

Laudato Si Animators UK works towards a care for creation, and for the sanctity of all God’s creatures, human and animal. Recently their letter to Pope Leo has been released. In support of “Catholic Action for Animals”, the letter encourages a vegan lifestyle.

The group is happy to hear from anyone who wishes to embrace these issues.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (UK) – NIGERIA

From time to time, the news reports attacks in Nigeria on villages, schools and churches by militant groups, but the occasional report and the reality are very different. The incidents we hear about are likely only to be the tip of the iceberg; much of the reality is not reported. In recent months *‘there has been a sudden escalation of violence in parts of northern Nigeria and the Middle Belt, which has left the Christian community vulnerable and in great turmoil. The targeting and killing of Christians there is increasingly being termed as a genocide in the making,’* writes Caroline Hull, National Director of ACN-UK. At the time of her writing in July, news had just come through of the tragic and heartless massacre of more than 200 Christians in Benue State, which has left the Church community in calamity. Of this atrocity in Yelewata market square, near Makurdi, a priest from the Diocese of Makurdi said, *‘This is by far the worst atrocity we have seen. There has been nothing close.’* Speaking at the Angelus, Pope Leo said he was praying for those ‘brutally killed’ in a ‘terrible massacre’, most of them internally displaced people ‘sheltered by the local Catholic mission.’

From the comfort and safety of our homes and churches the least we can do is to respond to Bishop Wilfred Anagbe’s plea *‘to pray for our suffering brothers and sisters in Nigeria.’*

For more information about the situation in Nigeria and what you can do to be of spiritual and material help please look at: www.acnuk.org/nigeria25

Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical Foundation of the Catholic Church and a registered charity (1097984)

*And perhaps a thought for ourselves.....*The early Christian writer Tertullian said: *“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.”* And that is clear to see in Nigeria, where the Church is thriving in spite of untold misery. When we see the immense courage and conviction of the faithful drawing many others to Christ we must ask ourselves also, how much of myself am I prepared to give, what sacrifices am I prepared to make for the survival and growth of the Church in this Diocese?

LAUDATO SI

On Wednesday 3rd September, an [online event](#) was held to mark the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis’ groundbreaking encyclical on care for our common home. Organised by Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales in partnership with CAFOD, this event aimed to reflect on the impact that *Laudato Si’* has had on the work of organisations for which the speakers work. The webinar examined the spiritual and practical challenges that lie ahead, and the unique role faith communities can play in shaping a just and sustainable future. A recording was planned to be available.

Bp Peter recommends that to keep up to date with current affairs and information on news and items in the public forum, you can access the weekly briefing of the Catholic Union at <https://catholicunion.org.uk>



St Beuno's Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH
IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

In the Spotlight



Have you noticed that the *Clarion* has a regular feature called 'Praying with St Beuno's Outreach'? Find out more here ...

St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre

near St Asaph is famous for welcoming thousands of retreatants from all over the world each year.

But did you know that it's also home to St Beuno's Outreach, working at the service of the local Church and funded by Wrexham diocese? The Outreach welcomes people of all backgrounds, experience, and ages and is fully ecumenical.

Led by Fr Damian Jackson SJ and a team of 25 trained Prayer Guides, the Outreach has existed in the diocese for nearly 30 years. It runs 15 local 'Prego' groups, which seek to help people pray and ponder on the Sunday Mass readings.

The groups typically meet once a fortnight (face to face and/or online), and thanks to the flexibility of Zoom, some groups now have members from as far afield as California, the UAE, Canada and South Africa. Each group nevertheless maintains its core connection with a local parish or area, and a new online Prego group has just started in West Wales.

The Prego groups welcome anyone searching for a safe, supportive space to pray and share their faith with others. People often comment on the gentle, welcoming atmosphere, and the care people show one another. As one attendee wrote recently; "Prego is a beautiful place of shelter and love away from my anxieties and recent heartache".

Why 'Prego'?

'Prego' (Italian) is literally 'I pray', but it can also mean 'you're welcome' or 'thank you' – and prayer, welcome and gratitude to God are all at the heart of the Outreach.

Alongside the Prego groups there is also the weekly 'Prego leaflet', with reflections to help pray the Sunday readings, and the 'Prego Plus', with background material on the Scripture texts. Both are available [online](#) and used not only in the groups but also in different pastoral situations all over the world. People find the leaflets a "rich spiritual treasure ... praying the Scripture with others in advance in our group not only deepens our understanding of it ... but also stirs up new things and the desire to be outward-looking and apostolic".

How do you find out more?

Everyone is most welcome to 'come and see' – whether just to try out a Prego group, or to attend one of the regular Outreach Days of Prayer. As one person recently said of these events, "whatever state you arrive in, you leave feeling lighter and more hopeful."

Find us at stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com or contact us at stbeunosoutreach@stbeunos.com. We'd love to hear from you!

What happens in a Prego meeting?



(Centrepiece for a Prego group)

After the opening welcome, the prayer guides will lead a time of stillness, often helped by gentle music and a visual focus. One or more of the Sunday readings is then prayed slowly with the leaflet, generally using Lectio Divina or silent imaginative prayer, perhaps with related visual images or poetry. There is always an invitation to share on this experience of prayer straight afterwards, generally in small groups. Intercessions for various intentions follow, where people "can feel the support of the group as we share concerns and commit them to God".



(Some of the Outreach Prayer Guides celebrating with family members and Fr Damian Jackson SJ, top right)



'Feeding the 5,000' a sculpture by Fr Rory Geoghegan SJ for St David's, Mold. A Collection of Fr Rory's works can be seen at St Beuno's in the House and grounds. A typical source of reflection and contemplation

Please note that the Day of Prayer, Reflection and Sharing for all Laity involved in the life of the Church on Saturday 13th September 2025 at St Beuno's is now fully booked. We hope to arrange another day on the same theme very soon. Please contact us at stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com

Around and About in the Diocese

Events and Invitations

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

SEPTEMBER

- Mon 1st World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
1st Sept.- 4th Oct. Season of Creation
Sun 7th Diocesan Grandparents Day
Sun 14th Education Day
Mon 15th Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows –
Titular Feast of the Cathedral, Wrexham
Sun 21st *Evangelii Gaudium* Day of prayer for the spread of
the Gospel in mission and life in our Country
27th/28th Harvest Thanksgiving Weekend

OCTOBER

Month of praying the Rosary

- Fri 3rd Harvest Fast Day
Sun 12th Prisoners' Sunday Week of Prayer for Prisoners &
their Families begins
Tue 14th Annual Diocesan Financial Reporting
Sun 19th Pilgrimage to St. Mary's Cathedral for the
commemoration of St. Richard Gwyn, Martyr
Fri 24th Mass for Healthcare workers following the feast of St.
Luke (18th Oct.)
Sun 26th British Summer Time ends.

NOVEMBER

- Sun 2nd Solemnity of All Saints (Transferred)
Mon 3rd Commemoration of all the Faithful departed.
Sun 9th Remembrance Sunday
Sun 16th World Day of the Poor
Wed 19th ACN's #Red Wednesday
Sun 30th Advent Sunday (1st Sunday of Advent).

PETER'S PENCE 2024

Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia the Apostolic Nuncio acknowledged on behalf of the Holy See your contribution of £3,515.54 in June 2024 to Peter's Pence. He wrote to Bishop Peter, "We are grateful for the faithfulness of your parishes in supporting the Holy father in his mission, please thank them for the joy it brings. With prayerful best wishes."

The Secretariat for the Economy summary, of the Peter's Pence donations and the CIC 1271 donations for Great Britain for the year 2024 can be seen:

ARCHBISHOP MARK O'TOOLE

On the feast of Ss.Peter and Paul Archbishop Mark received the Pallium for the second time. The first was in 2022 when he was appointed Metropolitan Archbishop of Cardiff, but now with the creation of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia he received another together with the recently appointed Archbishop of Liverpool, John Sherrington along with forty-six other metropolitan archbishops from around the world. Although his second pallium, it was a first received directly from the Pope as Pope Leo XIV has restored the ancient practice of conferring the pallium in person.

For pictures and a brief description of the occasion go to [Archbishops Sherrington and O'Toole receive the Pallium from Pope Leo XIV - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

A longer history and explanation of the pallium can be found at <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11427a.htm>

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

September

- 07 10.30-4.30 Grandparents' Day Loreto
13 12Noon Makhēl Mass Cathedral
14 09.00am Patronal Feast Day Mass Dolgellau
(Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross)
15 09.00am Our Lady of Sorrows Cathedral
21. 11.30am Feast Day Convention Mass of St Padre
Pio and St Vincent de Paul Pantasaph
23 Wrexham Diocese Trustees Bp's House

October

- 01 11.00am Sr. Kathryn Mary's Final Vows
Carmel, Dolgellau
05 10.00am 125th Jubilee of St Joseph's Church
Colwyn Bay
09 11.00am Open Forum St Winefride's Shrine &
Well, Holywell
11 11.00am Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre
of Jerusalem Feast Day Celebration Mold

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

At the request of those in the west of the Diocese Bishop Peter has added the Church of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, Dolgellau to St. Mary's Cathedral and St.Winefride's, Holywell as a Pilgrimage site for the attaining of the Jubilee Indulgence.

NATIONAL PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS RESULTS

We extend our congratulations to our young people who have achieved their hopes and succeeded in their GCSE and /or A-Level exams and wish them well as they move to a new stage in their education. Those going up to university or into tertiary education can find their college's chaplaincy provisions and fellow Catholics at www.catholicsatuniversity.org.uk in the town or city to which they are going.

[The Catholic Student Network](#) can also offer support, training and connections for university students.

St Mary's Cathedral Pastoral Parish Council warmly invites you to its Multicultural Makhēl Mass on Saturday 13th September at Noon in St Mary's Cathedral, Regent Street, Wrexham.

Prayers and hymns will be in different languages to represent the different nationalities and cultures we are blessed to have here in Wrexham. We have called it Makhēl - a Hebrew word meaning gathering or assembly.

After Mass we hope you will join us for a celebration buffet and a variety of entertainments from our various communities in Wrexham Memorial Hall, Bodhyfryd, Wrexham LL12 7AG.

We hope it will be a really joyful occasion celebrating Mass and sharing together wonderful food from different cultures: a way of embracing our diversity and unity and continuing to build and strengthen our Church community. It would be helpful if you could let us know if you hope to attend, thank you.

secretarywrexhamcathedral@rcdwxm.org.uk;
carol.bayliss@uwclub.net

Harvest Family Fast Day 2025

CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal:

Life-Saving Water in a Changing Climate

In Southern Ethiopia, the climate crisis is threatening lives. Once, rains fell reliably, fields were green, and water was close by. Now, the seasons are unpredictable, and long droughts are forcing women like Waré to walk for hours each day — even while pregnant — just to find water for drinking, washing, and livestock.

“It was very traumatising,” Waré says. “When I was pregnant, I had to go fetch water in the mountains. Sometimes I felt so weak I could fall down, so I worried about my child.”

Yet, Waré refused to give up. Guided by her own faith and uniting with her neighbours, she took action. With support from CAFOD and local water expert Abbiott, they built an underground water tank to collect and store every precious drop of rain. Now, over 300 families have safe, clean water just a few steps from their homes.

This is the Gospel in action: love made real through compassion, courage, and community. As Catholics, we are called to be stewards of creation and stand alongside our sisters and brothers affected by climate change. Your prayers and generosity make this transformation possible.

But many more communities still walk miles for water.

This Harvest, parishes across Wrexham diocese will be holding an appeal for the CAFOD Family Fast day which is Friday 3rd October. Please give what you can so more families can access clean water, stay healthy, because a better world needs all of us.

Donate today at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030.



Photo Credit: James Cave/ SCIAF

“over 300 families have safe, clean water a few steps from their homes.”



Credit: Louise Norton

“a better world needs all of us”

Retreats and Opportunities to Volunteer -

A column of advertisements

Retreats at the Loreto Centre, Llandudno with the IBVM

LORETO SPIRITUALITY CENTRE, LLANDUDNO
Retreats, Autumn 2025

Preached Retreat: Mystics through the Ages
12-19 August
Fr Brendan Conterford SJ

Where is God in all this? A Creative Retreat
Weekend Retreat: 5-7 September
Barbara Martin and Ewa Bem IBVM

Dreaming in the Sand: Sandplay, Dreams and Wellbeing Retreat
Thursday-Sunday 25-28 September
Anne Harrison

Grant me the Serenity: Renewal for those on the 12 Step Programme
Weekend Retreat: 3-5 October
Anne Harrison

Life to the Full: Praying with the Gospel of John
Weekend Retreat: 17-19 October
Josette Zammit-Mangion IBVM

Space to Grieve: A weekend for those who have recently been bereaved.
Weekend Retreat: 14-16 November
Ewa Bem IBVM

Advent Choices: a reflective weekend
Weekend Retreat: 28-30 November
Josette Zammit-Mangion IBVM and Ewa Bem IBVM

Advent Triduum: Prepare the Way of the Lord
Monday - Friday 8-12 December
Gemma Simmonds CJ

INDIVIDUALLY GUIDED RETREATS
2-11 August: 8 Day IGR
15-24 September: 8 Day IGR
6-10 October: Midweek IGR
4-13 November: 8-8 Day IGR
13-18 December: 5-5 Day IGR

LORETO DAYS OF PRAYER
Will take place on the following Saturdays:
20 September 18 October 8 November 6 December

For more information about any of our events
please see our website: www.loretocentre.org.uk

Email address: loretocentre@yahoo.co.uk
Phone number: 01492 878031
Registered Charity: 20007



SPACE TO GRIEVE



LORETO SPIRITUALITY CENTRE
Llandudno

14-16 November 2025

Ewa Bem IBVM and Jane Critten

A time of prayer and mutual support for those who are grieving the loss of a Loved One.

For More Information:
www.loretocentre.org.uk loretocentre@yahoo.co.uk 01492 878031



'LIFE TO THE FULL'

(John 10:10)

Praying with the Gospel of John

Loreto Spirituality Centre
Llandudno

17 - 19 October 2025

Josette Zammit-Mangion IBVM

www.loretocentre.org.uk
info@loretocentre.org.uk
01492 878031

Can you help the hcpt?

JOIN US

EASTER 2026

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Life Changing Pilgrimage Holidays

hcpt

Volunteer helpers support children on pilgrimage to Lourdes at Easter

Find out more about HCPT's Wrexham group at an information evening:

10th September 2025
@ 7pm
St Anne's Parish Centre
Prince Charles Road, LL13 8TH

HCPT

Can you be a 'friend'?

WREXHAM 155

Life Changing Pilgrimage Holidays

hcpt

If you are able to help as a volunteer helper in Lourdes, or able to help with vital fundraising efforts throughout the year, please let us know.

Join our 'Friends of HCPT Wrexham Group 155' WhatsApp group scan this code:



for updates on HCPT Wrexham 155, for all those who help us through prayer and vital fundraising and for group helpers past and present.

Alternatively, pass on your contact details to one of our group:
Emily 07751 202741 or Clare 07756 850245

Becoming One

The IBVM/Loreto sisters and the CJ (Congregation of Jesus) Sisters, both founded by Mary Ward, have voted, and will probably unite into one congregation. You can find full details in the Loreto Spirituality Centre Newsletter for Summer/Autumn. If agreed the date for unity is November. Please pray for the Sisters.



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

An extensive range of articles and resources are available on the Bishops' Conference website:
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025/>

The anxieties of Martha

We heard Luke's account of the Mary and Martha story in July. It is one of the stories and parables that we have heard so often that we hardly hear them at all; we tune out and relax into a warm bath of familiarity. The usual consensus is that Martha has a real complaint and that Mary is being forgetful and self-indulgent, sitting at the feet of this strange, compelling guest, listening to his word.

We sympathise with Martha, just as we sympathise with the labourers in the vineyard who have worked all day in the hot sun only to discover that the people the landlord hired an hour before sunset are getting the same money as them. "It's just not fair", we cry, but perhaps - the story suggests - we are too concerned with what we want: justice for me, for us, not for them. It is the beginning of trouble.

Martha does not make her complaint directly to Mary herself, to the extent of dragging her out of the room by her hair perhaps. No, nothing like that. Instead, she complains to Jesus; 'Why does He allow Mary to get out of her obligation to help provide for the needs of our guests?' She seems to imply that Jesus is undermining the proper order of things, just like the owner of the vineyard. First things first.

Jesus' reply is quite telling: 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but only one thing is really needed. Mary has chosen the better part ...' (Luke 10: 42) The word for worry – *merimnaō* – occurs in other places in Luke's gospel, most directly at 12:32 where we hear this command, "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear." God feeds the ravens and covers the meadows with wild flowers.

Worry can easily take control of our life, shaking it the way a dog shakes a slipper. It is giving in to those thoughts that break into our mind uninvited – envy, anger, resentment, indecision, and the rest of the demonic tribe. We think we are in control of our lives, but instead we are taken prisoner: the world's demons win!

In the noise and urgency of our immediate and always pressing tasks, we lose any sense of coherence. We are at the mercy of whatever comes next into our unhappy heart. We become the unhappy focus of our lives. Like the labourers in the vineyard we feel that we have been short-changed, convinced that we are unacknowledged, disregarded.

Mary chooses the better part. She sits at the Lord's feet, listening to his word. This is the Word that reveals the true pattern of life, the path of life that we should follow. Something in her, something in all of us, longs to hear the Word that makes sense of things. Martha recognises Jesus as the person to provide the answer she wants, but in the confusion of her heart she cannot hear Him. As Wordsworth said, *'The world is too much with us. Getting and spending we lay waste our powers...'*

Christ in you, the hope of glory

Paul's letter to the Colossians (1:24-28) contains a very memorable phrase. 'That Word of God', Paul says, 'has been hidden for ages' but 'the riches of the glory of this mystery' are now known and available to everyone, gentile or Jew. This mystery is that Christ is in us, the commanding image of our lives, and this gives our lives a special kind of hope: **'Christ in you, the hope of glory'**.

It is a stunning recapitulation of the gospel, but one that resists understanding. What is this 'glory' that gives us hope and that is itself our life's hearth, that is to say 'Christ in us'? For Paul it was the revelation in the blinding light that threw him to the ground on the road to Damascus. For Abraham it was the three unearthly visitors at the oaks at Mamre before whom he prostrated himself begging them to stay and not simply pass by. Moses saw the bush on Sinai break into fire and knew that this was a sign of his being on holy ground. Isaiah's visionary experience in the temple was the basis for his horror of any kind of national or personal life that did not pay attention to God. 'Glory' is our perception of the majesty, holiness and righteousness of God. Our response is always humility and a desire to live our lives in His presence.

For Christians all this was unified and enlarged by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the one anointed by God. We read the Jewish teachings, the Torah, the prophets, and the writings, as foreshadowing the life of Christ. The difficulty is with the word 'glory'. We say it all the time in church, but it is not at all clear what it means; but it is clear that Paul is putting this at the centre of the New Testament. Paul tells the Christians in Corinth 'It is the same God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts, to give us the knowledge of the glory of God upon the face of Christ.' Our poor lives will be sustained and transformed by our hope in this encounter.

Everything in our lives as Christians is a turning towards him, our prayers, our breaking of the bread in the Eucharist and our recognition of our neighbour as the presence of the image of the Lord. It is this that Mary recognised, not consciously perhaps, but as a recognition of what we truly are: she was brought closer to God and forgot the demands of hospitality. In one sense Martha was right to protest about Mary. What is hospitality but the outward expression of a love and regard for the stranger who is also our neighbour?

When we meet someone we often sense a certain presence that attracts us but which also somehow keeps us at a distance. Our responses to each other are an intimation of the mystery of our lives This is a big part of what Paul means: **Christ in us, the hope of glory.**

Lessons in humility

"The one who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted" (Mt23:12, Lk14:11)

Pride changed angels into devils; humility makes people into angels.

St Augustine of Hippo

Too much humility is pride

(German Proverb)

The boughs that bear most, hang lowest *(English Proverb)*

Golden deeds kept out of sight are most laudable

(Blaise Pascal)

A French Marquis came from very humble surroundings. In early days he had been a shepherd. In his great mansion, he had a room known as 'The Shepherd's Room'. In it were reproductions of hills and valleys, running streams, rocks and sheepfolds. The staff he carried and his childhood clothes were there. When asked, he replied, "If ever my heart is tempted with haughtiness or pride, I enter that room and remind myself of what I once was"

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

A Short Quiz of Doctors of the Church

St John Henry Newman will be the 38th Doctor of the Church (see page 3). Bp Peter notes that he will be the second Englishman, after the **Venerable Bede**.*

Can you name any others? Here are clues for 14 Doctors:

- a Two Popes, both named 'Great'
- b The other three Great Latin Fathers (nb Vulgate)
- c Four Great Greek Fathers
- d One wrote the Summa Theologica
- e An Archbishop of Canterbury
- f Two Carmelite nuns, same name, different language!
- g A nun, polymath and composer of liturgical music

* (See "The Age of Bede", Penguin Classics, translated by J.F. Webb, and D.H. Farmer. (1965)

(Editor's note: J.F. Webb is of course Canon James Webb RIP (1935-2013), a former Chancellor of the Diocese of Wrexham, and PP in Prestatyn and Mold).

Answers to the 'Doctors of the Church' Quiz with birth date.

- g Hildegard of Bingen (1098)
- f Teresa of Avila (1515), Thérèse of Lisieux (1873)
- e Anselm of Canterbury (1033)
- d St Thomas Aquinas (1225)
- Nazianzus (329), Athanasius (298)
- c John Chrysostom (347), Basil the Great (330), Gregory of
- b Ambrose (397), Augustine of Hippo (354), Jerome (347)
- a Gregory the Great (540), Leo the Great (400)

A Heavenly Marriage

In a tragic road accident, a young couple planning to marry were killed. At the Pearly Gates they asked St Peter if they could marry in heaven. St Peter replied "I shall have to ask". He disappeared and for the years he was missing, the young couple said, "But what if we need to divorce?"

Eventually St Peter returned, looking bedraggled. "Yes", he said, "You can get married". The young couple, said "But we were worried if things don't work out, what about a divorce?"

St Peter, red-faced with anger, slammed his clipboard down. "What's wrong?" asked the frightened couple.

"Oh, come on", shouted St Peter. "It has taken years to find a priest up here. How do you think I will find a lawyer?"

(Out-)Living Forgiveness

The Homily was on forgiveness. The congregation was asked if they had forgiven someone. About 50% raised a hand. After reflecting, the question was asked again, and all but one raised a hand. An elderly lady sat there, steadfastly refusing to raise her hand.

"But surely", she was asked, "You must have had some enemies. Can you not forgive?"

"Look", she said, "I am ninety-five years old, and I can tell you I have outlived the lot of them"

A Lesson in Orthography

(OR..... Beware predictive text!)

The Feast of the 'Exaltation of the Cross' (14th September)
Should we 'exalt' or 'exult'?

EXALT is to raise respect and dignity. EXULT is to rejoice!
We exalt the Cross, by giving it dignity and respect. The cross itself is inanimate and there cannot exult, with delight!

We can exult that the True Cross, was discovered, so we exalt it by conferring dignity and respect upon it.
(AI does not always get it right!)

A group of mothers was chatting about their sons. The first said "My son is a priest. People call him 'Father'. The second said "Mine is a Bishop. People call him 'My Lord'. The third said, "Mine is a Cardinal. People say "Your Eminence".

There was a long pause, and everyone looked at the fourth mother. "Well", she said, "my son is a model, with great muscles and handsome. When he walks in, everyone says "My God""

Modern Confession

Realising it was time to cleanse his soul an elderly man went to confession. He found beer on tap, glasses, and chocolates. When the priest arrived, the man said "Father forgive me, but it is a long time since I've been to confession, but I must admit the confessional is much more inviting, now".

The priest looked at him, "You idiot. You're on my side"

The Ultimate Ambition

A priest was chatting with his friend, a rabbi. The rabbi asked "Could you ever be promoted?" The priest responded "Well I could become a bishop". "And then?" asked the rabbi. "Well possibly a cardinal". "And then?" insisted the rabbi. Pondering carefully, the priest replied, "Well, Pope, actually". The rabbi was still unsatisfied. "And then?" The priest was exasperated, "What else could I become? God Himself?"

The rabbi quietly responded "One of our boys made it"

A place called 'Happiness'

There was a French bishop who kept up a country home which he rarely visited. Asked about it, he replied, "Do you not know, that I must have some place where, though I never go to it, I can always imagine that I might be happier than where I am?"

"When you're down in the mouth, think of Jonah. He came out alright!"
(American Business Motto)

Eve was so jealous of Adam, that when he came home at night, she used to count his ribs!

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