



Issue no 40
February 2026

Wrecsam Clarion

The newsletter of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham – serving the parishes of North and Mid Wales



To make clearly known
To declare
To clarify
To call to prayer



If "music be the food of love", then is red the 'colour' of love? February 14th figures in everyone's mind as St Valentine's Day. Therefore we celebrate here that colour of a romantic love -and with the foreshadowing of the purple of Lent, which will lead us to the manifestation of true love -that of God for His children, shown by Jesus in his death for us

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The Back Page!

*Humour, Lunacy,
and a Pause for thought
From the 'Ordo'*

St Valentine's Day – a disappearing saint?

From 'valens', worthy, strong, powerful -Valentine was probably a 3rd century Roman martyred and buried on the Via Flaminia. There are at least eleven other Saints Valentine, so there is mystery here. This Valentine has been venerated since the 8th century. He may have cured a judge's daughter of blindness, and ministered to persecuted Christians.

In 1955, Pope Pius removed him (*cf St George*) from the Calendar. He is patron saint of marriage, love and affianced couples, as well as beekeepers, and is associated with roses.



What to look for in this issue:

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Dates for the next few issues, with publication dates.

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Find out about the new Archbishop (from January issue)

Page 9. Humour and Reflections

Relax with a smile and tongue in cheek. (from January issue)

Almost overnight grass verges and lawns have been transformed by banks of white flowers as one of the harbingers of spring appears in gardens and wild spaces, roadsides, parks and embankments. Even as I look from my window, I see these pretty white flowers bursting through the green grasslands. Now established, it is only the harshest of weather for days on end that will do them harm, and appropriately even through snow their resilience and resoluteness leave a white carpet to be seen as the weather warms and the snow melts away.

It is William Wordsworth who wrote of the 'host of golden daffodils' in his poem, '*I wandered lonely as a cloud*', but it is the delicate white snowdrops which inspired Alfred Lord Tennyson to write '*The Snowdrop*':

Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maid!
Ever as of old time,
Solitary firstling,
Coming in the cold time,
Prophet of the gay time,
Prophet of the May time,
Prophet of the roses,
Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maid!

Wordsworth images solitude, peace and happiness; Tennyson, hope, new birth and purity. It is those images that connect these 'little white lilies' or Eirlys in Welsh with Mary and the feast of the Presentation of the Lord or as it used to be celebrated, the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (2nd February). A long-lost name in British culture was 'Mary's Tapers', emblematic of the white, candle-shaped flowers representing the Virgin Mary and the light of Christ.

Recalling the words of Simeon to Mary at the Presentation of Jesus, '... and a sword will pierce through your own soul also...' (Luke 2:35) we are taken through the sorrowful moments in the life of Mary as recounted in the 'Dolours or Sorrows of Mary' and so to the title of

THE CLARION. – Editor's Notes

Deadlines: Following the Christmas and New Year breaks, this February issue appears on the second Sunday. To maintain a 4-week pattern, the March issue will also appear for 8th March. Deadline:

Sunday 1st March, issued 5th March for 7/8th March weekend

Sunday 29th March issued 2nd April for Easter, 4/5th April

Sunday 26th April issued 30th April for 2/3rd May weekend

Sunday 24th May issued 28th May for 30/31st May weekend

Sunday 21st June issued 25th June for 27/28th June (Jul/Aug issue)

An apology: Due to unforeseen circumstances, the January 2026 issue, (no 39) has not reached you by the usual means of dissemination by email or diocesan website. Therefore, some items (eg Spotlight) have been re-issued since they remain relevant and appropriate

our Cathedral Church in Wrexham, - thus the reason for snowdrops in the lower cornucopia of my coat of arms – they are an heraldic analogue of the dedication, Our Lady of Sorrows (Feast day 15th September).

In this simple little flower, we have reminders of the quality our faith demands of us especially in challenging times and times of change. We are to show resilience to the cold of criticism and difficulty; we are to have purity of mind and of purpose; we are to be prepared for the pain of love for the Church; we are to show to the world of which we are part the hope that is in our hearts for fresh life and the New Day. I am mindful of encouraging words from the document of the Second Vatican Council, '*Lumen Gentium* – Dogmatic Constitution on the Church':

'Therefore, all the disciples of Christ, persevering in prayer and praising God, should present themselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. Everywhere on earth they must bear witness to Christ and give an answer to those who seek an account of that hope of eternal life which is in them.'

N.10

and:

'... just as the Mother of Jesus, glorified in body and soul in heaven, is the image and beginning of the Church as it is to be perfected in the world to come, so too does she shine forth on earth, until the day of the Lord shall come, as a sign of sure hope and solace to the people of God during its sojourn on earth.' N.68.

It is perhaps because the smallness and vulnerability each snow drop possesses, but the beauty and effect they demonstrate together that they can be a powerful image for us of the Church in North Wales.

I pray with, and for, you, that this Lent will be a time of peace, hope, and blessing inspired by the beauty of nature and the teaching of the Church.

† Peter.

Reflections on Forgiveness

To err is human, to forgive divine (Alexander Pope)

It is easier for the generous to forgive, than for the offender to ask for forgiveness (J. Thomson)

Forgiveness is man's deepest need and highest achievement (Horace Bushnell)

Know all and you will pardon all (Greek proverb)

They who forgive most shall be most forgiven (English proverb)

He who cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which he must himself pass (George Herbert)

Only one petition in the Lord's prayer has a condition attached to it – it is the petition for forgiveness

(William Temple)

The noblest vengeance is to forgive (English proverb)



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH
IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

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.

Though Christmastide is now well and truly over, we still carry with us the miracle of Jesus who comes among us as Emmanuel – literally meaning ‘God-with-us’. This month we pray with some well-known words attributed to the Spanish saint Teresa of Avila (1515–82), who entered a Carmelite convent when she was eighteen, and is now remembered as a mystic, a reformer, and a writer. St Teresa’s prayer helps us to ponder how God lives and connects with people directly through us – his body here on earth.



Window in the Convento de Sta Teresa, Avila, Spain (Wikimedia Creative Commons)

More from St Beuno's Outreach

A Date for your diary: Day of Prayer for Lent, Saturday 14 March 2026, 10 am to 4 pm. More details to follow soon. Contact us at stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com, and download our resources, including the weekly Prego, at <https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/>.

OPPOSED ASSISTED SUICIDE IN WALES

Members of the Senedd, will decide whether Wales should consent to legalise assisted suicide. This would mean that doctors could be asked to assist a patient in ending their life. If enacted, this could put the most vulnerable at risk of coercion. The conscientious objection clause for doctors is inadequate. Parliament rejected an amendment whereby care homes and hospices could opt out of facilitating assisted suicide and many care homes and hospices will want no involvement. Experience from other countries shows that if introduced, the safeguards soon loosen and the elderly, disabled, or feel they are a burden feel subtle pressure to choose death. Write to your member of Senedd: [Oppose Assisted Suicide in Wales - Catholic Bishops' Conference](https://www.catholicbishopsconference.org.uk/oppose-assisted-suicide-in-wales-catholic-bishops-conference) The bill is to be debated on 24th February

Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the
world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Read St Teresa's text several times, pausing often to ponder.

If you find it hard to pray with these words, ask the Lord to help you wait with patience, simply trusting that 'God-is-with-you'.

You may like to spend some time going through each part of the body mentioned, and then ask yourself:

In my everyday activities, in what ways do I use my hands ... my feet ... my eyes ... my whole body ... to reflect God's love and presence?

How do people around me know that God is with me? Is it connected to what I do ... what I say ... where I go ... or where I look?

Ponder a few moments.

Perhaps you can remember a time when you consciously let God's presence shine through you in the way you chose to act. Give thanks in gratitude for that.

Or if nothing comes to mind, simply ask for the grace to reflect more deeply that 'Christ has no body now on earth but yours'. Spend a few moments speaking with the Lord about this, as one friend would to another.

You may like to read St Teresa's words again, now making them personal to you: Christ has no body on earth but *mine* ... *mine* are the hands ... *mine* are the feet ... *mine* are the eyes ...

Notice what happens.

Finally, end your prayer with your own words of praise and thanksgiving to the God who is always with you.



AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

ARTICLE 18 Petition HAVE YOU SIGNED?

Religious freedom: a human right, not a privilege.

As Christians and other religious minorities face growing violence, kidnappings, and discrimination, we must work harder than ever to defend their rights and ensure they're fully protected under Article 18.

Almost two-thirds of the world lives in 62 countries where persecution, oppression, and discrimination are perpetrated by their own government or extremist groups, according to ACN *Religious Freedom in the World*. Urge the UN and UK to uphold Article 18 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Read the full petition [here](https://www.acnuk.org/article-18-petition).

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme for the 34th World Day of the Sick, which will be celebrated on February 11, 2026: ***"The compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing another's pain"***.

The theme of the World Day of the Sick, focusing on the Gospel figure of the Samaritan who shows love by caring for the suffering man who fell into the hands of thieves, highlights this aspect of love of neighbour: love needs concrete gestures of closeness, through which we enter into the suffering of others, those who are ill, especially those who at the same time experience poverty, isolation, and loneliness.

The World Day of the Sick, established by St. John Paul II in 1992, is a privileged moment of prayer, spiritual closeness, and reflection for the entire Church and for civil society, who are all called to recognise the face of Christ in our sick and vulnerable brothers and sisters.

With the solemn celebration at the Shrine of *Nuestra Señora de la Paz*, in the diocese of Chiclayo, Peru, the Universal Church looks to Latin America and its rich tradition of solidarity. Like the Good Samaritan who bent down to help the injured man along the road, the Christian community is also called to stop and help those who suffer and be evangelical witnesses of closeness and service to the sick and most vulnerable.

Pope Leo's Message can be read [Pope Leo XIV's message](#)
[Pastoral resources](#) – prayers, liturgy, pastoral resources have also been produced to enable a full celebration of the Day.

The Senedd Cymru honours Wales's Catholic community

The Catholic community's charitable and cultural contribution to Wales was celebrated in the Senedd Cymru on Wednesday, 28 January 2026.

A full report and Archbishop Mark O'Toole's address are available: [The Senedd Cymru honours Wales's Catholic community - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

This was only the second such event in the Senedd's twenty-five-year history and as we and the Senedd Members prepare for elections in May of this year a reminder to us of the Church's voice that is to be heard in Wales and of our need to keep Members and the political issues before them in our prayers.

THE CATHOLIC UNION

The weekly briefing from Catholic Union of Great Britain helps to keep up to date with the interface between religious life and faith, public life and politics. The Bishop recommends this source of news and items currently in the public forum and about which we need be informed and prepared to act: info@catholicunion.org.uk



MOSAIC OF POPE LEO XIV San Paolo Fuori le Mura

A little below the cornice around the walls of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls are medallion images in mosaic of the popes. One of Pope Leo XIV has now been created. The full story and pictures can be seen: <https://exaudi.org/es/el-mosaico-del-papa-leon-xiv-ya-esta-listo-para-la-basilica-de-san-pablo-extramuros/> (NB This is a Spanish site)

You can see all previous popes on the home page of Vatican website: <https://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>

ENVIRONMENT OPPORTUNITY

You are warmly invited to a special **Eco Church Celebration**, organised by the Church in Wales, to gather together churches interested in Eco Church and environmental matters for an inspirational day.

On the day, you will have the opportunity to:

- Join fellow Eco Church advocates and celebrate your shared commitment
- Hear from inspiring speakers offering fresh insight and challenge
- Explore church-based thematic case studies that showcase real impact
- Take part in interactive discussions that spark ideas and collaboration
- Look ahead together to future aspirations for climate and nature action
- Share your own Eco Church experiences over a delicious lunch
- Contribute directly to shaping the next chapter of environmental action across the Church in Wales

Events Details

Please select the location and date most convenient for you and register your attendance via Eventbrite:

St Asaph Cathedral, LL17 0RD

Thursday, 19 February 2026 10.30am – 3pm

<https://ciw1.eventbrite.co.uk>

Llandaff Cathedral, CF5 2LA

Tuesday, 24 February 2026 10.30am – 3pm

<https://ciw2.eventbrite.co.uk>

When booking, please indicate how many tickets you would like - each Eco Church is guaranteed two tickets. Exact ticket allocations will be made at a later date.

Reasonable travel expenses may be claimed from the Representative Body by Eco Church volunteers attending the event.

If you have any questions about the Eco Church Celebration Day, please contact

juliaedwards@cinw.org.uk

NB. Booking is only through Eventbrite

Are the 'Living Stones' still alive?

The Christians of the Middle East

An in-person and online event from 7pm - 9pm on Thursday, 19 February 2026 examining the challenges facing the Christians of the Middle East in these turbulent times.

For details see: [Are the 'Living Stones' still alive? The Christians of the Middle East - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

Marriage Week 7th -14th February

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia* "On Love in the Family". It is an opportunity to reflect on the central role of marriage and family life in the Church and wider society.

Resources at: [Marriage Week - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

A suitable topic for inclusion in the Prayers of the Faithful (Bidding Prayers) at Mass.

In the Spotlight

Bishop Richard Moth

Archbishop Elect of Westminster

Just before Christmas the Holy Father appointed Bishop Richard Moth, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton as successor to Cardinal Vincent Nichols as Archbishop of Westminster on his retirement.

The Archbishop Elect will be installed at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 14th February.



Biography

Richard Moth was born in Chingola N. Rhodesia (now Zambia) on 8th July 1958. His father an accountant, and his mother enjoyed amateur dramatics.

The family returned to the UK in 1960, and settled in Kent, where Richard went to school. His interest in the priesthood began as an altar server, and at 18 he entered St John's Seminary in Wonersh (near Guildford).

In 1982, he was ordained for the Archdiocese of Southwark, and served at St Bede's, Clapham Park in London.

From 1985-87 he studied Canon Law at St Paul University, Ottawa. Returning to England he served at St Saviour and St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist, Lewisham. At this time he was appointed Territorial Army Chaplain, and he also served on the Marriage Tribunal.

For nine years from 1992-2001 he was Private Secretary to Archbishop Michael Bowen, Vocations Director, and Ecclesiastical MC to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

In 2001 he was appointed Vicar General and Chancellor of the Southwark Diocese.

In 2009, Pope Benedict appointed him as Bishop of the Armed Forces.

Pope Francis appointed him as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton in 2015.

A few days before Christmas, 2025, Pope Leo appointed him as successor to Cardinal Nichols in the Archdiocese of Westminster.

As the premier appointment for England and Wales, the position of Archbishop of Westminster is regarded as the leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Although not obligatory, it is usual for a Cardinal's hat to be granted in time to come.

Cardinal Nichols himself had been asked to remain in post after the retirement age of 75 and therefore took part in the Conclave which elected Pope Leo, and before he reached his 80th birthday.

Areas of interest of the Archbishop-elect

A Bishop always has many areas of interest, but 'past actions indicate the potential for future performance'. In this sphere, Bishop Richard Moth demonstrates his concerns. During the pandemic in 2020 he called for those too easily forgotten to be considered. Therefore as the Bishop for Prison Ministry he welcomed the release of pregnant women and new mothers from prison, and called for the release of the older, unwell and vulnerable.

He is keenly involved with the **Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT)** whose CEO said, "On Christmas Day Bishop Richard is always in prison somewhere, celebrating Mass". "At a recent Advent service, he spent a lot of time talking to two women. One had a son in prison -struggling with mental health issues, which was why he ended up in prison. The other had been in prison herself and had to learn the challenge of living again after release, and how to be a mother again. The Bishop was focused on them, rather than the celebrities and VIPs in the room".

As **Chair of Governors of St Mary's University**, Twickenham, he always has interest in the students who may be the first to attend University, or who come from deprived backgrounds. He has been the bishop responsible for mental health issues, the Cinderella service of health provision. "He stands for commitment to social justice"

Just before the announcement of his appointment, he stated, in response to 'the tensions that are growing in society and the desire by some groups to sow seeds of division in our communities'; "The Holy Family had to travel to Egypt as refugees. We should empathise with all who come to this country for their safety", and on the day of his appointment he said the Church "must persevere in talking about the dignity of the human person, and insist that everyone has value, wherever they come from".

Those who know him describe him as a self-contained, private person, who enjoys being a bishop, and cannot imagine life other than as a priest. Clear-thinking and articulate, he addresses questions briskly. Some say he is a great listener, and his chairing is a masterclass. Viewed as a diplomat, intelligent and sophisticated in his understanding. Above all, he is described as "calm, warm, drily humorous and deeply caring taking every step to bring people with him and not needing the approval of those around him".

Interesting times ahead, as Dame Sarah Mullally takes the role of Archbishop of Canterbury, both leading the Christians of our countries.

(Read more at CBCEW, and in 'The Tablet')

Around and About in the Diocese

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

February		
02	Final Profession of Sr Elizabeth John, OCD	Carmel, Dolgellau
04 6.30pm	Mass at University Chaplaincy	Bangor
05 11.45am	Mass	Loreto Convent
06 6.00pm	Confirmations	Flint
07 12Noon	Marriage Mass	Cathedral
09 11.00am	Consecrated Life Celebration	Colwyn Bay
10 12Noon	Chapter Mass	Cathedral
14 12Noon	Installation of Archbishop Richard Moth	Westminster Cathedral
18 12Noon	Ash Wednesday	Cathedral
22 3.00pm	Rite of Election	Cathedral
March		
02 9.00am	St David's Day Mass	Cathedral
06	Commission Lunch	tbc

Mass and the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated in St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 14th February at 12noon.

Light refreshments will be available in the Cathedral Hall after the Mass.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026

12th– 16th May - 4 Nights Full Board

For further information and booking please contact:

Joe Walsh Tours 0808 1890468 (Freephone)

info@joewalshtours.co.uk

FLAME 2027

The date for the next FLAME event has been published: Saturday 6th March 2027, at OVO Arena Wembley, High Schools and young people please make a note of the date.

As in the past there will be support from the Diocese for young people attending this festival event. Under 18's will need parental consent. Further information will available in due course.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

Usually observed on 2nd February, The Presentation, the Consecrated Religious of the Diocese were unable to gather so it will take place on Monday 9th February.

All are invited to celebrate with and pray for them that day. Mass will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Colwyn Bay at 11.00am. There are more than twenty different religious congregations and consecrated virgins who serve and support the diocese. This is an occasion for us to unite as the Church of Wrexham.

RITE OF ELECTION & MYSTAGOGIA MASS

To welcome, and pray for, those who choose to unite in the Catholic Church, the Rite of Election takes place on the 1st Sunday of Lent, 22nd February at 3pm in the Cathedral, with a celebration of Evening Prayer. This marks the final preparation before reception at the Easter Vigil.

The **Mystagogia Mass**, the Mass for new Christians will take place on Saturday 23rd May. All who are preparing for reception, families and sponsors are invited to these occasions to share their faith with members of the Diocese.

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

FEBRUARY

Sat 7 th	Celebration of Marriage	Cathedral
Sun 8 th	St. Josephine Bakhita Day for the Victims of Trafficking & Modern Slavery and Those Working to Combat it.	
Mon 9 th	11.00am Celebration of Religious Life in the Diocese	Colwyn Bay
Wed 11 th	Our Lady of Lourdes World Day for the Sick	
Sat 14 th	Feast of Ss. Cyril and Methodius (Patrons of Europe) Mass & Anointing of the Sick.	Cathedral
Sun 15 th	Day of Prayer for the Unemployed	
Wed 18 th	Ash Wednesday. <i>A day of penance by fasting and abstinence from meat.</i>	
Sun 22 nd	First Sunday of Lent. 3.00pm Rite of Election	Cathedral
Fri 27 th	CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day	
MARCH		
Mon 2 nd	Solemnity of St. David (<i>Transferred</i>) - Patron of Wales, Patron of Wrexham Diocese	
Fri 6 th	Women's World Day of Prayer	
Thur 19 th	Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Bl. Virgin Mary	
Wed 25 th	Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	
Sun 29 th	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord British Summer Time Begins	

HCPT Group 155

HCPT (The Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust) is a charity which brings children and adults with disabilities or special needs on pilgrimage to Lourdes each year. Founded on the values of friendship, dignity, and service, HCPT pilgrimages are rooted in joy, generosity, and faith.

This year, HCPT Group 155 from Wrexham will be travelling with four children, sharing in a very special celebration as HCPT marks its 70th anniversary. As always, the pilgrimage is about the whole team coming together in love, pilgrims and helpers alike, creating a community where everyone is welcomed, valued, and supported.

If you would like to support Group 155 on its journey, please donate via the JustGiving page https://www.justgiving.com/page/emily-tattum-5?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

All support and prayers are greatly appreciated.

If you would like any more information about our group and our trip to Lourdes please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your continued support

Youth events Save these dates

June 6th St David's Church, Mold
November 21st St. Joseph's Colwyn Bay

These events start at 10.30, Mass at 1.30 pm and finish at 3pm .

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING POSITIVE TO DO THIS LENT?

Lent is commonly a time when groups of parishioners organise themselves and gather together for faith, or Bible study; an opportunity for their own faith development and formation. There may be others, but here are three commended to you, any of which you may choose to use:

a. **Five-week** Biblical Resource for Parish Group Discussions on 'Dilexi Te – On Love for the Poor', the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Leo XIV promulgated on 4th October 2025
www.godwhospeaks.uk/dilexi-te-parish-bible-resource/

The document itself can be read on

https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20251004-dilexi-te.html

or

b. **Five-week** Lenten Course: *We Dare to Ask* on our baptismal vocation

We are indebted to the Baptism Collaborative and to Mark Nash from the Archdiocese of Southwark for putting it together.

Parishes may be keen to run this course during Lent in addition to any RCIA programme that it is running for the benefit of all parishioners - not just catechumens and candidates.

We Dare To Ask is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions on the theme of our Baptismal Vocation. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. Please consider joining with others this Lent to use *We Dare To Ask*, as we prepare to renew our baptismal promises at Easter.

An A4 printable version is available from the Mission Directorate of the Bishops' Conference.

Kinga.Kosterska@cbcew.org.uk

or

c. **Seven week** unit / set of reflections and discussion points from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland: *Belonging in Christ: Offering a hope-filled vision of peace for all*

Available to download in PDF or Doc.x

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources/lent-2026-reflections/>

Lenten Stations of the Cross on 'Zoom'

The 'Way of the Cross' – The Stations – is celebrated in many parishes during Lent. For some, especially the housebound, elderly and infirm, it is not practicable to get to church.

Ever since the Covid pandemic, St David's Parish in Mold has shared the prayer of the Stations on Zoom, every Wednesday evening from Ash Wednesday until Holy Week at 7pm.

Each week, the Stations are prayed in a different format (from the easily recognised St Alphonsus Liguori to "What a Day!").

YOU are welcome to share these prayers, at home, via Zoom, or you can access the link to a recording to use at any time convenient to yourself (see below)

TECHNICAL DETAILS

NO expertise needed!

LIVE – click on this link on computer, ipad, laptop, or phone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7767387912?pwd=dkovd1RvbTNyMTNFOGIReDRIRmJ6dz09> (you **do not need** Zoom installed)

If you have Zoom already, you can join with

ID 7767 387 912, and the passcode 066559.

RECORDING – request the recording link by sending an email to the Editor at clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk. The recording is usually available from the following day at the latest.

All the above is subject to technical incompetence! (Amateurs)

CAFOD Lent Appeal:

Help families put food on the table

This Lent, as we deepen and enliven our faith, we can reflect on Jesus' call to "love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31) and pray that we can give more help to families facing hunger today due to floods and droughts. Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD says: "Last year I travelled to South Sudan. I would like to tell you about one person our local experts have been working with there, a young mother named Rejoice. Rejoice fled conflict twice to protect her children. Imagine losing everything and starting from scratch, only to be forced to do it all again. Then, after all she'd been through, Rejoice's new home was hit by severe flooding."

"The farmlands were submerged underwater," Rejoice told us. "Everything including livestock was completely destroyed."

With support from our local experts, Rejoice and her community created floating gardens. These are simple beds that rise above floodwaters, so, amazingly, they can grow food even when the land is underwater.



Rejoice in South Sudan can now grow food in gardens that float on water. Photo Credit: Achuoth Deng

Whether there is too much rain, or too little, crops around the world are being destroyed. In Zimbabwe, drought left Shorai and Hamunyare with nothing. They told us how the solar-powered water pump, funded by donations from people like you, allowed their community to grow a thriving, drought-resistant eco-garden. Now they can feed their family year-round and share food with neighbours. Shorai reflected that, "A good neighbour is someone who can help me in periods of need."

By fasting and giving this Lent, you'll be a good neighbour helping families find ways to grow enough food to eat. Donate online at cafod.org.uk or call **0303 303 3030** to help parents put food on the table today.

WHAT TO EXPECT: 18th 25th Feb 4th 11th 18th 25th Mar 1st Apr

JOIN from 6.50 pm – start **7.00pm** it usually ends **7.35**.

On screen, a picture of the altar, and organ music will be playing.

YOU should switch OFF your camera, AND 'MUTE' yourself, and ensure no radio, tv, or dogs can be heard! The speaker(s) will begin at 7pm, promptly.

IMPORTANT: *Please note that this is a personal ZOOM account, and experimenting with the 'link' at other times than the dates and time above may bring you into a business, social, or family meeting!*

How much water?

Two pastors were discussing forms of baptism. One favoured baptism by total immersion; the other, infant baptism. The latter asked "is one baptised if you enter the water to the chin?" The former replied "No". "Is one considered baptised if immersed up to the nose?" Again the response was "No". "Well, the eyebrows?" brought the same response.

The first pastor continued "You don't seem to understand. Baptism is by total immersion, until the head is covered in water". "And that is my argument", said the latter, "It's only a little water on the top of the head that counts"

The Glory of Baptism

St Louis of France used to sign his documents 'Louis of Poissy', and not "Louis IX, King of France".

Asked why, he responded "I was baptised in Poissy, and I think more of that place than of Rheims where I was crowned King. It is a greater thing to be a child of God than to be the ruler of a kingdom. This title I shall lose at death, but the other will be my passport to eternal glory"

(F.H. Drinkwater)

Father was hearing the children's first confessions. One after one they all confessed to throwing peanuts in the river. Thinking that they were repenting the waste of food, he decided to ask for an explanation later. Then the smallest child came in, and after his litany of faults, the priest asked, "Is there something you have forgotten? What about throwing peanuts in the river?"

"But Father", protested the child, "I am Peanuts".

Selections from the Ordo

Sun 1st Feb 4th Sunday in Ordinary time (green)

Mon 2nd Feb Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (white)

Also known as Candlemas, the feast represents the conclusion of the 40 days of the Christmas season. Instead of the penitential rite, candles can be blessed in the Mass.

Tue 3rd Feb St Blaise (Bishop and Martyr) (red)

A doctor who lived in Turkey he was also Bishop. He cured a child who had a fishbone stuck in his throat. As a result, the blessing of throats takes place on this day.

Thu 5th Feb St Agatha (Virgin and Martyr) (red)

Born in Sicily, she is named in the Roman Canon, Patron Saint of bellfounders, those with breast cancer and rape victims.

Sun 8th Feb 5th Sunday in Ordinary time (year A) (green)

Tue 10th Feb St Scholastica (Virgin) (white)

Sister of St Benedict, she founded the Benedictine nuns. Patron saint of education, Benedictine nuns, and protection against storms

Wed 11th Feb Our Lady of Lourdes (white)

Sat 14th Feb SS Cyril and Methodius (Monk / Bishop) (white)

Patron saints of Europe. Brothers who christianised the Slavs.

Sun 15th Feb 6th Sunday in Ordinary time (year A) (green)

Wed 18th Feb Ash Wednesday (purple) Season of Lent

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Marriage and Married Life

Priest: "Do you take this man for better or for worse?"

Bride: "Don't know about that, but I'll take him as he is"

One of the great similarities between Christianity and marriage is that they both get better as we get older.

(Jean Rees)

"Sir, your daughter has promised to marry me".

"Well don't come to me for sympathy. I knew something like this would happen to you - hanging about the place every evening"

Father: "The man who marries my daughter will get a prize"

Young man: "May I see it please?"

Two elderly ladies coming out of Mass. "Well that was a fine sermon on the beauties of married life".

"It certainly was", said the other, "I just wish I knew as much about the matter as he does"

The happiest wife is not the one who marries the best man, but the one who makes the best of the man she marries

(Joseph Fort Newton)

All marriages are happy. It is the living together afterwards that cause trouble (from a 'Farmer's Almanac')

Proverbs:

Marriage is a covered dish (Swiss)

Marriage is Heaven and Hell (German)

Don't praise marriage on the third day, but after the third year (Russian)

Some 'modern' Beatitudes

Innocence and knowledge make a person blessed (St Ambrose)

Blessed is the one who is too busy to worry in the daytime, and too sleepy to worry at night (Anon)

Blessed is the one expects nothing for they shall never be disappointed (Alexander Pope)

Blessed are the simple, for they shall have much peace (Thomas à Kempis)

Blessed is the one who has the skin of right thickness, who can work happily in spite of enemies and friends (Henry T. Bailey)

Reflect on your present blessings, of which everyone has many; not on your past misfortunes of which every person has some. (Charles Dickens)

The Gospel on 1st February was the Beatitudes

