



Issue no 46
September 2026

Wreccsam Clarion

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



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



Green, the colour of Ordinary Time, and the Season of Creation. Blue recalls that September is the month of the
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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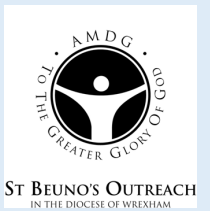
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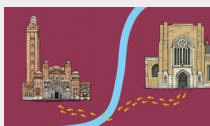


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Flame
HCPT

As promised, a Bumper edition for September
Fourteen pages packed with information. Note that the colour photographs and advertisements have been brought
TOGETHER on pages 13 and 14, the last pages. For those who wish to print in HARD COPY, you can omit pages 13, 14, and 15 on
and just print pages 1-12 in 'Greyscale' to preserve your coloured ink.

All your usual items are here...Bishop's Column, St Beuno's, The God Who Speaks, and news around the
Diocese, and form the Wider Community, Opportunities for volunteering
Items for Reflection 'Who Am I', and suggestions for action, (Environment and SVP)
Remember that YOU are invited to contribute. write to clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk. Deadline 27th September.

Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwxm.org.uk

By the time you read this bumper edition of CLARION my updated pastoral plan *'Into the Future IV'* will be available to read, reflect upon and discuss among yourselves and in parishes. It has been a long time coming and now, presenting it to you I do so with a tight timetable for consideration and response. It is as follows:

- Promulgation and publication of the document
- 1st – 18th September - Parish meetings to take place - dates may have already been set.
- By 2nd October - Vicariate meetings taken place
- 16th October - Deanery/Vicariate Reports to be submitted
- 26th October - Presbyteral Council
- 27th October - Clergy Conference

You may well already have done some background reading as suggested in the July/August edition of CLARION of the documents *'The pastoral conversion of the Parish community in the service of the evangelising mission of the Church'* and Pope Francis' document *'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission'*. Thank you if you have: it will be a great help in the coming consultation.

The monks of Our Lady of Bethlehem Abbey, Portglenone, Co. Antrim, NI have produced a series of retreat talks which may be helpful in focusing personal or group reflection, the one entitled 'My Role in Mission and Evangelisation'

<https://bethlehemcistercianfamily.com/2020/08/01/sunday-2nd-august-retreat-sunday-my-role-in-mission-and-evangelisation> is particularly suitable for our current reflection on the future of the Diocese.

Another element to the consultation information will be through a Pastoral Letter on the single subject of the Diocesan finances in the light of the Levy Assessment that has been calculated for payment by parishes in the current financial year. As you will read in *Into the Future IV* the very viability of some parishes and / or Diocesan work in the coming years is a serious concern and can potentially only be addressed by the sale of property assets if only to reduce expenses and to facilitate subsidising some parishes in order to keep them open. Among the purely practical questions that have to be asked 'Am I willing to travel up to ten miles to go to Mass weekly?' And 'What are the consequences if I am not?' Hard questions with potentially painful answers and certainly ones that will call for greater sacrifice. The overall Diocesan financial position will be reported to the priests and a member of each Parish Finance Committee (PFC) at a meeting in late October.

It is the hope of Fr Nicholas, the parishioners of the Cathedral Parish and us all that the essential works on the Cathedral will begin shortly. They amount to approximately £1.7m, most of which is coming from grant making funds. For the duration of the works the Cathedral will be closed

and local liturgical adjustments will be made; it will also mean that some Diocesan events will be celebrated in other churches of the Diocese. These will be announced on an occasion-by-occasion basis.

The first of those will be the coming to the Diocese of the Fatima Pilgrimage of Hope and the pilgrim statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Further details are below. It is not to be forgotten that the first church outside of Portugal taking the dedication to Our Lady of Fatima is our little church in Bala in 1948.

It was in the previous year, 1947, that one of the more substantial buildings on the decommissioned RAF Penrhos airfield site was converted into a Church for the Polish airmen and their families unable to return to Poland. The site was to become Penrhos Polish Home. Times have changed with fewer Polish residents in what was a Polish village on the Llŷn Peninsula.

Some two years ago the site was taken over by Clwyd Alyn Housing Association and is in the process of major redevelopment, but with no the need for a church the size of Our Lady of Czestochowa and St. Cynfil. Therefore, across the feasts of St. Maximillian Kolbe and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a final Mass was celebrated and the picture of the Black Madonna icon was transferred to St. Joseph's Church, Pwllheli. A bittersweet occasion when the past and the need for the Home was remembered especially in the sacrifices made by so many that necessitated it in the first place.

Thanksgiving was made for the joyful occasions and celebrations held there, some with the local people, others when Scout troops camped on the site, the marriages and baptisms of the next generations. 15th August 2026 was the end of a chapter of the Penrhos site, not the end of the story. In the development a new chapel will be created and of course the Polish connection lives on in new families coming to and are being part of our multi-national, multicultural church that we have been in Great Britain for decades.

Now we must look to the future, not just being a church that welcomes those at our door, but disciples who go out to proclaim the Gospel and are missionary to our ourselves, our families and the communities in which we live. Be assured of my prayers during the autumn and especially throughout the forthcoming consultation that will take the Church of Wrexham into the future. Decisions will have to be made, some will be difficult and painful, but we are the ones for whom Christ Jesus has given his life, saved us and remains with us.

With all good wishes and the assurance of my continued prayer for you all,

† *Peter.*

Teenager to mother: "Wanting to make the world a better place to live in", and "cleaning up my room" are two totally different concepts!

There are things no man can answer. Most of them are known to five year-olds.

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.



St Catherine's Chapel, Abbotsbury, Dorset. Photo © Graham Hunt/Alamy

If you can, you may like to take your prayer outside, or position yourself by a window where you can look out on whatever part of God's creation surrounds you.

Or if it is night time, you might spend some time pondering the wonder of the moon and stars if they are visible, or picturing them in your mind's eye.

Some of these questions may be helpful.

How do you want to respond to a loving God who has created you within this immense universe?

How does it feel to think of yourself as 'little less than a god', and to have power over the works of God's hands ... to have everything under your feet?

How does your faith affect your values and choices in trying to care for God's creation, especially in this time of climate change? Are there changes you might need to make?

As you consider the thoughts and feelings arising in you as you pray, what do you want to say to God, or to Jesus? Speak as one friend to another.

Draw your prayer to a close with gratitude for everything that surrounds us: ***Glorify be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.***

Praying with the St Beuno's Outreach Team

You can download our weekly *prayer resources for the Sunday Scripture readings* (the Prego and Prego Plus) at <https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/>, or email us at stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com to have them sent directly to your inbox every Friday morning.

During September we celebrate the Season of Creation (Creationtide),

when we pray for God's creation and reflect on how we can help protect our environment.

The first day of September was established as the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation* by Pope Francis in 2015, inspired by the landmark encyclical of the same year, *Laudato Si'*, which calls on 'every person living on this planet' to care for our shared earth. The season itself runs all through September to the Feast of St Francis of Assisi (4 October), the patron saint of ecology, animals and the poor.

Following the extreme weather so many have experienced this summer, this is a particularly good time to think about our human impact upon the natural world and the ways we can help care for this beautiful, fragile planet.

Take a moment to become quiet and still before God, and then ponder the photograph, perhaps recalling other images of drought from across Wales and the rest of the UK during the summer months. Bring before the Lord all local farmers struggling to grow crops, and people all over the world who are adversely affected by climate change.

You may then like to ponder these words of the Psalmist:

When I see the heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and the stars which you arranged, what are we that you should keep us in mind, mere mortals that you care for us?

Yet you have made us little less than gods; and crowned us with glory and honour. You gave us power over the works of your hands, and put all things under our feet.

All of them, sheep and cattle, yes even the savage beasts, birds of the air, and fish that make their way through the waters. (Psalm 8: 2, 4-5)

Forthcoming events at St Beuno's

Weeks of Guided Prayer on Zoom with St Beuno's Outreach (Sunday 4th to Saturday 24th October)

There are still one or two spaces left on our popular one-to-one Weeks of Guided Prayer over Zoom.

You can either follow the one-week version from Sunday 4th to Saturday 10th October (where you meet with a trained guide every day for a week),

Or a three-week version from Sunday 4th to Saturday 24th October (twice-weekly meetings over three weeks). Please email us at

stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com to find out more and to book your place.

Day of Prayer at St Beuno's on Saturday 24th October

Our next Day of Prayer for Lay Ministers at St Beuno's will be held on Saturday 24th October. More details of how to register in the next edition, or visit the website.

Teacher: "Tell me, Johnny, Who made you?"
Johnny: "God made part of me."
Teacher: "What do you mean?"
Johnny: "Well God made me little. I've grown up the rest of it, myself"



Gospel Year of Matthew

Call of Matthew

As Jesus passed on from Capernaum, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he rose and followed him.

And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, Behold many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples.

And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'

But when he heard it, he said,

'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.'

'Go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice."

'For I came not to call the righteous but sinners.'

Matthew 9:9-13 ESV-CE

Reflection Prayer:

'Follow me' (Matt.9:9, 4:19) *The cost of discipleship*

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy for which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Such grace is *costly* because it calls us to follow, and it is *grace* because it calls us to follow *Jesus Christ*.

It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1904-1945) The Cost of Discipleship (1962 English Trans.)

GOD WHO SPEAKS

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>

Additional monthly resources for individuals, parishes and schools are available from the Bishops of England and Wales on their Biblical Apostolate website where there is also the amazing interactive Mosaic Experience 'Little bits of God.'



The Word of God is proclaimed not only in the oral and aural form but in art and music too. An exhibition of illustrations of all 73 Books of the Bible will take place in London, next spring. Note: the closing date for entries has now passed

The Human Condition

Sunday School was all about God's omnipotence. The teacher asked: "Is there anything God can't do?"

Silence reigned. Then one lad raised his hand. The teacher was disappointed, fearing the point had been missed.

"Well," she asked, resignedly, "Just what is it God can't do?"

The Boy replied, 'He can't please everyone'

Commentary:

9:9 'the tax booth': Jesus is not put off by religious and cultural conventions - to the religious, tax collectors were considered sinners and Gentiles - and he invites Matthew to break with his livelihood and 'follow' him. Matthew's realisation of his situation heightens the call, the gift, the response to be a disciple.

9:13 'I desire mercy': Using the message of Hosea (6:6) Jesus challenges the Pharisees. Hosea had described the people as sick and wounded by sin (5:13): because of their rejection of the Jerusalem Temple and their preference for idolatrous sacrifices, they were sick unto death itself.

This was especially tragic as the Lord God had appointed Israel to be a physician to the nations and yet they had contracted the very illness (idolatry) that they were supposed to eradicate. Jesus uses the imagery of Hosea to make comparison with the times past and now; his critical opponents, the Pharisees rejecting the greater for the less, i.e. the Messiah, for sacrificial and purity regulations of the Mosaic Law.

By eating with sinners and tax-collectors whom the Pharisees considered unclean and untouchable, Jesus claims to fulfil Israel's original vocation by reaching out to the sick with divine mercy.

'not to call the righteous': Jesus came not to perpetuate the Old Covenant but to inaugurate the New Covenant of forgiveness (Jer.31:31-34). His frequent engagement with sinners was central to this healing work (9:12).

It is in this greater sense of forgiveness and reconciliation of the relationship between God and his creation that the title 'Divine Physician' given to Jesus takes on its fullest meaning.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:

From September to the Feast of Christ the King, we are asked to pray for these intentions:

The Spread of the Gospel;

Students and Teachers;

The Harvest;

the Fruits of Human Work and the Reverent Use of Creation;

Justice and Peace in the World;

All Victims of War;

Young People;

Prisoners and Their Families.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – September

For the care of water.

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Little Johnny was told to finish his plate of porridge. He said he didn't want to. His mother said "You must finish it. If you don't God will be very angry". She went into the kitchen to wash up. Johnny stared at the food without eating. Suddenly, there was a heavy roll of thunder and torrential rain. Johnny gulped down the porridge, muttering "All that fuss for a small plate of porridge".

VERY REVD DR MANON CERIDWEN JAMES

On 17 Jun 2026, Manon James, at that time Dean of Bangor was elected as the 82nd Bishop of Bangor. The election took place at Holy Trinity Church, Llandudno by the Electoral College of the Church in Wales and confirmed by the bishops in sacred synod. Following consecration as bishop she will be installed in the Cathedral Church of St. Deiniol, Bangor, on Saturday 19th September.

We extend to her our congratulations, best wishes and prayers as she begins her new pastoral ministry in North Wales.

ADOREMUS 2026

The 2026 National Eucharistic Congress on Saturday 10th October is the Bishops' invitation to renew our devotion to the Eucharistic Lord.

There are two main strands to the *Adoremus* National Eucharistic Congress in 2026.

In London, there will be a representative gathering of the Church with bishops, priests, and people.

Elsewhere, no less important is how *Adoremus* is marked in our parishes throughout England and Wales. Local Masses, processions of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hours will unite these local events with the national gathering. Footage from the London event will be made available to enable remote participation.

Now is the time for your parish to be thinking about your participation and initial arrangements about an Holy Hour at least on that day. Resources are available.

The programme for the London Day which includes a Blessed Sacrament Procession from Southwark Cathedral to Westminster Cathedral can be seen: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/adoremus-2026/>

HOME MISSION SUNDAY - 20th SEPTEMBER

Those with long memories will be familiar with *Home Mission Sunday*. It is the name given to the day we ask our parishes to pray for the work of evangelisation and support this vital work. A few years ago, this day was re-named *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday* after Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation 'The Joy of the Gospel'. Now, in 2026, we revert to using the original name.

On *Home Mission Sunday* the bishops of England and Wales ask the faithful across our countries to look for ways in which we can all do our part in sharing the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus Christ. Resources, prayers and more can be found in our special section.

[Home Mission Sunday - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

As we embark upon some weeks of concentrated reflection on the mission of each of our parishes and of the Diocese as part of the Pastoral Plan, 'Into the Future IV' this Day of Prayer has a particular relevance and importance.

There is a mandatory Retiring or Second Collection to-day to support the Bishops of England and Wales in the national work of evangelisation.

Unfamiliar with the practice of a cheese board circulating to all at the table, a visiting prelate looked at the whole cheese placed before him as the principal guest to be the first to take. "No, no", he said, "it is too much. Just give me half".

UN WORLD TOURISM DAY



Sunday 27th September

World Tourism Day celebrates the many ways tourism connects cultures and enriches lives.

This year, it also asks what kind of future we want for tourism. The theme, "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism," reflects one of the defining transformations of our time.

"Technology must serve humanity. Tourism workers, local communities and emerging destinations must help shape what comes next. This requires investing in digital skills, widening access to technology, and ensuring innovation benefits the people and places that make tourism possible."

Let us build a digital future for tourism that is open, inclusive and human – and harness these new tools to drive sustainable development for all." António Guterres UN Secretary-General.

These words are very much in accord with those of Pope Leo XIV in his recent encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas* concerned with the dignity of the human person in the time of artificial intelligence.

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html>

ASSISTED DYING

The Private Members' Bill the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill* reintroduced to the House of Commons, will have its Second Reading on **Friday, 11 September 2026**.

Archbishop Richard Moth, President of the Bishops' Conference, explains our strong opposition to this legislation, and renews the call for Catholics and people of goodwill to unite in prayer and compassionate action:

"The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill which aims to legalise assisted suicide has returned to the House of Commons, and Members of Parliament will vote on its Second Reading on 11 September. This bill is wrong in principle. It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives."

"The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate."

"I urge you to write to your Members of Parliament to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading."

You can **contact your MP now** as a matter of urgency. Once again, please speak up and voice your opposition. The charity *Right to Life UK* has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little time to enter your postcode, make sure the text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to stop this flawed Bill progressing through parliament.

Use this link: <https://righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote> or by using the postcards in parishes. These have a message to MPs from the disability network Not Dead Yet UK.

www.notdeadyetuk.org

Archbishop John Sherrington urges Catholics to continue to pray for their MP as they approach the Second Reading.

Icons, Relics and Memorials in the Diocese

Our Lady of Guadalupe 12th September: Queen of the Franciscan Family 10th-17th October: Immaculate Heart of Mary, 24th October

Icon of the Queen of the Franciscan Family

Regina Familiae Franciscanae

Pope Leo proclaimed this year as a Jubilee year of St Francis of Assisi. During the year, the icon is on tour in Europe, and will come to North Wales in October.

Fr Matthew Bond has agreed to host the icon in **Holywell** from **10th-17th October**. Thereafter it will go to the Franciscan Friary in Chester.

The icon of the Blessed Mother holding the infant Jesus was created in 2018 in Lithuania, and the relics were inserted shortly afterwards. This enabled the icon to be transported safely for worldwide public veneration.

Mary, mother of the child Jesus hears the prayers of supplicants and directs them with her hand to the child. He, in turn is pointing upwards to heaven, which is also the focus of his gaze. The close bond between mother and son is exemplified in the conjunction of the faces.

The icon also features three 'medallions' of St Francis himself in the middle; on his right, his sister St Clare of Assisi, foundress of the Second Order/the Poor Clares; and on his left, St Elizabeth of Hungary, the patroness of the Third Order Secular Franciscans.

St Francis of Assisi has a wide following and veneration in both the Catholic and Anglican churches. The Order of Friars Minor (OFM Cap) are recognisable by their brown habit, the 'cap' from Capucin, meaning 'hooded'.

The link <https://ofm.org> will bring up the Italian site, and by clicking on the IT at the top, a drop down menu has 'EN' for the English version.

With the Anglican Society of St Francis (SSF), the friars are the 'First Order'. St Clare founded the order of women, known as the Poor Clares, or the 'CSF' in the Anglican church, the Second Order and lay people, influenced by St Francis and St Clare, are the Third Order, or Secular Franciscans.

St Francis of Assisi at Bangor Cathedral

Transitus Service *(from earthly to eternal life)*

To mark 800 years since **St Francis of Assisi**, Bangor Cathedral will hold a weekend of events. A quiet day on **October 3rd**, led by Br John SSF will culminate in a unique Transitus Service at 5pm in the Cathedral.

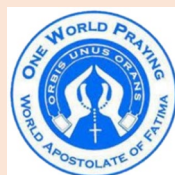
With stories from his life, there will be TWO premières of choral works by Anglesey composers, Gareth Glyn (*Mab a'n Rhodded*) and Ellen Davies (*Nunc Dimittis*), sung by the Kana Choir, and accompanied by Dr Anastasia Zaponidou (*cello*). The service will be livestreamed on: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWTENaNGnVYa5M7cx3sRr1A> Tickets to attend the Service are available on Eventbrite at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/francis-800-north-wales-2026-tickets-1990995298534?aff=oddtcreator>

The Society of St Francis is an order of Anglican monks (SSF) and sisters (CSF). The TSSF is the Third Order, of lay people, both Anglican and Catholic who seek to serve in imitation of St Francis. Information of the form of a Transitus service may be found at: [Spirit of Francis](#)

Pope Leo's proclamation of the Jubilee year is at: <https://ofm.org/en/pope-leo-xiv-proclaims-franciscan-jubilee-year-for-the.html>

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA



On Saturday 24th October the Centenary Pilgrim Virgin Statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will come to the **Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, Buckley** as part of the visit to the northern Dioceses of England and Wales over the last seventeen months.

Please note the re-arrangement because of the impending major works to be carried out in the Cathedral

The Programme:

The purpose of the Pilgrim Virgin Programme is to encourage local people to respond to Our Lady of Fatima's requests to offer prayer and reparation for the conversion of sinners as a condition for peace and spiritual health of our countries. It also promotes the First Saturday's devotion and daily recitation of the Rosary. If this is done effectively, many souls will respond and be willing to help spread the message to others across the Diocese.

The Day will run from 10.00 to 16.00 and include Mass, an Holy Hour and Benediction, as well as praying the Rosary and a film and talk.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe might almost be called an example of obstinacy and dedication. Juan Diego had the vision four times, but was unable to convince the Archbishop. When his uncle Juan Bernadino was ill he sought a priest to hear his uncle's confession, but was waylaid again by the Virgin. A miraculous cure of Juan Bernadino, both witnessing the fifth apparition, and her instruction to him to collect flowers (Castile Roses on December 13th from a normally barren hilltop) led to much public veneration, confirmed by a second miraculous cure when a native, wounded with an arrow through his neck, recovered immediately the arrow was withdrawn, in front of the Virgin's image.

Ten approved images, which have touched the original image of the virgin in Mexico City, have travelled to support public veneration.

On Friday 11th, the image will be at St David's Church, Mold, and on Saturday 12th a day of devotion is planned.

At the time of going to press, full details of the day, which will include a talk and the Rosary, are still being finalised.

For details, please contact the Knights of St Columba (not the parish). An email address for KSC is on the last page of this issue of Clarion, mission@ksc.org.uk

The image: A pregnant woman, eyes downcast, hands clasped in prayer, clothed in a pink tunic robe covered by a blue mantle with a black sash, emblazoned with eight-point stars; eclipsing a blazing sun while standing atop a darkened crescent moon; a cherub carries her train. (See picture in spotlight)

Around and About in the Diocese

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

SEPTEMBER

10 6.30pm	Youth Commission	
11 12Noon	Fr Anthony Jones Diamond Jubilee	<i>Llandudno</i>
12 11.00	Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Diamond Jubilee	<i>Dolgellau</i>
15 7.00pm	Our Lady of Sorrows	<i>Cathedral</i>
22 1.30pm	Wrexham Diocese Trustees	<i>Bishop's House</i>

OCTOBER

02 6.00pm	Canon Francis Doyle Silver Jubilee.	<i>Buckley</i>
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Tree Planting In Abergele/Towyn

Abergele and Towyn are served by two Catholic churches : **St Teresa of Lisieux** (Abergele) and **Christ The King** (Towyn). Fr John Bosco Bukomba (AJ) is Parish Priest of the combined parish Although St Theresa's has limited garden space, Christ the King has a large grassed area which is prone to becoming water logged.

As willow trees grow vigorously and drink a lot of water it was our intention to plant a willow tree to help with this soggy area. Willow trees apart from being very thirsty, are structurally pretty, provide cooling shade and vital habitats for wildlife. An added benefit is they require minimal extra effort to care for them.

Unfortunately the tree has disappeared. It was left outside to harden up, ready to plant, but a few weeks later it was no longer there. We have had to have a quick re-think and will now plant fruit trees as soon as appropriate.

The theme for this year's Season of Creation is "Living Water". The season begins 1st of September and ends 4th of October. It seems appropriate, therefore, that at the start of October, we re-look at planting our willow tree in our watery field in recognition and celebration of the theme for this Season. For more information and additional resources on the Season of Creation 2026 please go to : <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Gerard Robinson

Do you have the possibility of following the example of Abergele/Towyn, and planting trees or plants in your parish grounds?

EDUCATION SUNDAY

Education Sunday, 13th September is one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in England and Wales, established 178 years ago in 1848. As the new academic year starts it provides an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to all involved in making the schools places of enlightenment, as well as to look forward in anticipation of the year ahead, and to face realistically the challenges that the provision of Catholic Education faces with declining rolls, the difficulties in recruiting Catholic teachers and finding Foundation Governors especially from parishes which benefit from a Catholic school.

The theme is drawn from its Gospel reading of Matthew 18:21-35: "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven." The CES has provided a range of resources: [Education Sunday - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

Please Note: September 13th There is a mandatory Retiring or Second Collection to-day for the Catholic Education Service which is an agency of the Bishops' of England and Wales.

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

SEPTEMBER

Tue 1 st	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation	<i>Marking the beginning of the Season of Creation.</i>
Sun 13 th	Education Sunday	
Tue 15 th	Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows	<i>Patronal Feast of Wrexham Cathedral</i>
Sun 20 th	Home Mission Sunday	
Tue 22 nd	Meeting of the Diocesan Trustees	
Sun 27 th	Harvest Sunday	<i>Thanksgiving for Harvest and the Fruits of Human Labour</i>
	<i>World Tourism Day</i>	
	<i>112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees</i>	

OCTOBER

Fri 2 nd	Silver Jubilee Mass	Canon Francis Doyle	<i>Our Lady of the Rosary, Buckley</i>
11 th -17 th	Prisons Week		
Sun 11 th	Prisoners' Sunday		
Tue 13 th	Meeting- Cathedral Canons & Chapter Mass		
Wed 14 th	Diocesan Day for Grandparents - Holywell		
Sun 18 th	World Mission Day		<i>St. Richard Gwyn Pilgrimage, Wrexham</i>
Thu 22 nd	11.00am St.Winefride's Well and Shrine		Open Forum Meeting
Fri 23 rd	Health Carers' ('Medical') Mass		
	NOVEMBER		
Sun 1st	Solemnity of All Saints		
Mon 2 nd	'All Souls'		<i>Commemoration of all the Faithful departed.</i>

JUBILEES

On Saturday 5th September the **Filipino Community** celebrates the **Silver Jubilee** of its presence in Wrexham.
On Friday 11th September **Father Antony Jones** celebrates his **Diamond Jubilee** of Priesthood.
On Saturday 12th September the parishioners of **Dolgellau** celebrate the **Diamond Jubilee** of their church, Our Lady of Seven Sorrows.
On 19th September **Sister Elonna Ugochukwu, DDL** celebrates her **Silver Jubilee** of Religious Life.
On Friday 2nd October **Canon Francis Doyle** celebrates his re-scheduled **Silver Jubilee** and of **Buckley Church**

YEAR 6 LEAVERS' MASS

On Thursday 11th June, St. Mary's Cathedral rang with the voices of nearly three hundred children from the Catholic Primary Schools of the Diocese for Year 6 Leavers' Mass. This annual celebration is a high point in the summer term's calendar for the schools, the Cathedral, Bishop and priests of the constituent parishes. The theme of the Liturgy was 'Love one another...' words of Jesus taken from St. John's gospel.

Joyfully the children gave thanks for their fellow pupils and friends, their teachers and all who had helped and travelled with them in the years in primary school. As part of the celebration Bishop Peter was presented with giant postcards, one from each of the schools and signed with messages from the pupils preparing to leave for the new school year in high schools across the diocese. (See photo in 'Spotlight')

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in Dolgellau



The Church of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, Dolgellau



Fr Scalpell

The Church of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows was opened on September 13th 1966 so the parish will celebrate this momentous occasion on Saturday September 12th. Bishop Peter will celebrate Mass at 11.00 am, followed by a buffet lunch.

Father Francis Scalpell came to Dolgellau in 1939. He was the first Catholic priest in the area since the Reformation. Originally from Malta, he was ordained in Rome in 1921, and in 1926 he was one of three priests who went to Mossley Hill in Liverpool to start the parish of St Anthony of Padua. Then, after a year in Haverfordwest he arrived in Dolgellau in 1939.

At first, there was no place of worship for the local Catholics, so Mass was said in an old stable, with holes in the walls and the roof. Fr. Scalpell himself stayed in the attic of a nearby barn, which also had holes in the roof. 'I had a fine view of the stars'. Years later, the old stable was repaired, renovated and enlarged by joining it to a building that was previously a fish and chip shop. Fr. Scalpell dragged many of the stones from the river, himself.

He spoke many languages including Italian, and during the Second World War, he persuaded Italian prisoners of war to help with the panelling and the wooden floor. Three sanctuary lamps came from a Maltese Church which had been bombed in the war.

But the Church was still an old stable and by the middle of the last century the number of Catholics in this part of Wales was rising. Fr Scalpell had a dream of a much larger building. So he embarked on a determined fundraising campaign, writing thousands of letters to people far and wide. His congregation was few in number and not wealthy. The average Sunday collection was about 7 shillings (now 35p), and Fr Scalpell needed a five figure sum. But he was undeterred.

Then, out of the blue, his prayers were answered. After Mass one day a stranger asked how much money was still needed. Two days later he had a letter from a solicitor offering the whole amount on two conditions, firstly that the donor would remain anonymous and that the Church would be a fine building in harmony with its surroundings.

Work began in 1963, and lasted four years at a total cost of £67,000. The architect was **Maurice Pritchard**, and the builders and craftsmen, **John Evans and Sons**, were all local men. The Church is built in Norman style from local stone. The west door is a replica of Cormack's chapel on the Rock of Cashell in Ireland.

The crucifix above it is the work of **Benigno Castiglione**, a sculptor from Milan, whose work can also be seen in Milan Cathedral and in St Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Father Scalpell died in 1970, and since then there have been eighteen priests in Dogellau. Many of these will be joining our celebrations on 12th September.

Today, there is a vibrant parish community, joined by many holidaymakers at this time of year. They are always made very welcome at Mass and over coffee and cake afterwards.

September 12th is a day of rejoicing for our congregation, our diocese and for the people of Dolgellau as a whole.

Everyone is very welcome to join us in giving thanks for this beautiful church and for Fr Francis Scalpell whose vision and energy created it.

It would be very helpful if you could let Fr. Michael know if you are able to come so that we can cater accordingly. Email: priestdolgellau@rcdwxm.org.uk

Summer in the Garden- Ladybirds

Did you know that ladybirds are actually named after Our Blessed Lady.

The 7 spots on a ladybird's back were to remind us of the seven sorrows and seven joys of Our Lady.

Photo: Francisco Welter-Schultes, Hanover Germany copyright free



Coccinella-septempunctata (Translated as the seven-spot beetle) is the most common of the 25 species of ladybird in the UK. A voracious predator of aphids - a gardener's friend!

Summer Family Day – Sunday, 12 July

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Llandudno

Our Summer Family Day was a wonderful celebration of faith, fellowship and family life. We were delighted to welcome many families and parishioners who enjoyed a joyful day together.

The craft activities inspired by the Gospel of the day, reflected the parable of the sower and the different types of soil. Families made small houses with watercress seeds to grow at home as a reminder to nurture their family life in faith. Children created birds of the air which ate the seeds at the edge of the path cheerful corn-head characters to represent the seed sown on good soil that flourishes and bears fruit. They made beautiful Thank-you cards to take back to school for their teachers along with colourful butterflies. Decorating and eating bird and flower shaped biscuits was a particular favourite activity of the children.



As the weather was kind to us, everyone enjoyed spending time outdoors, taking part in a variety of games and activities. Families also contributed to a wonderful piece of artwork created on the wall at Stella Maris.

The day was made even more special by the generosity of the parish volunteers, who warmly welcomed everyone and provided delicious refreshments throughout the afternoon. Their hospitality and dedication helped create a joyful and relaxed atmosphere for all.

The day concluded with Mass in which Bp Peter referred to the crafts the children had created, and encouraging everyone to let God's word take root in their hearts. Children and families also played an active part in the liturgy by preparing the readings and bidding prayers, while our musician enriched the celebration with uplifting music.



It was a truly wonderful day of faith, creativity and friendship. We are deeply grateful to the organisers, volunteers and all who gave so generously of their time, and to the parish for making us feel so welcome.

NATIONAL PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS RESULTS

We extend our congratulations to our young people who have achieved their hopes and succeeded in their GCSE and A-Level exams and wish them well as they move to a new stage in their education or move into the world of work.

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.

This is an excellent way to ensure that you may find support, friendship, and guidance in the early days as you settle in.

SEASON OF CREATION



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

The Season of Creation is a global ecumenical celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home, starting each year on 1 September and finishing on the feast of St Francis, 4 October.

The Biblical text for this year is drawn from Ezekiel 47: 1- 12, which portrays God's life-giving water flowing from the temple of God. The river grows deeper and deeper restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems. The vision invites human responsibility: recognising ecological damage, embracing interconnectedness. We are called to immerse ourselves in the water, and actively safeguard and work for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together.

<https://laudatosimovement.org/news/season-of-creation-2026>

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, was celebrated on 1 September, is the official start of the Season of Creation, a time of sustained prayer and action which lasts a month and four days. During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events in order to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

For more information: [Season of Creation - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#) which includes Pope Leo XIV's Message for the 2026 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, on the theme "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (Is 2:4). [Message of the Holy Father on the occasion of the 11th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation \[1 September 2026\] \(15 August 2026\)](#)

Saints of the Month

9th : **Bl Frederic Ozanam** (1813-53) Founder of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Regarded as the origin of much of the Church's social policy

11th; **St Deiniol, (Daniel)** 1st Bishop of Bangor, possibly consecrated by St Dyfrig, or St David. Died perhaps 584.

16th; **St Cornelius & St Cyprian.** A Roman, elected Pope to succeed Fabian; Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage. Named in the Roman Canon. Both dies around 250-60.

17th; **Hildegard of Bingen.** Born 1098. Abbess. Famous now for her music compositions, mystic, writer, and medical writer and practitioner. Benedict XVI named her a Doctor of the Church.

21st; **St Matthew** -Evangelist.

23rd **St Pius of Petrelcina** -much better known as **Padre Pio.** A Capuchin Friar, born 1887, died 1968

24th **World Maritime Day.** Appropriate to celebrate Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stella Maris

26th **Sts Cosmas and Damian** Twin brothers, born in Arabia. Both practised medicine. Beheaded, miracles happened after their death; patrons of physicians, after St Luke.

28th **St Wenceslaus.** Ruler of Bohemia in 922. He was murdered by his brother. Patron of Bohemia.



NEW SCHOOL - BANGOR

On Monday 6th July the new school building for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes, Our Lady's School, Bangor was formally handed over by the contractors to Gwynedd County

Council and the Diocese of Wrexham. During the summer holidays this state of the art primary school building has been prepared for the children beginning the new school year this month. The Diocese is grateful to Gwynedd County Council and Welsh Government for providing the 85% funding for this new site and building which replaces the old school and provides a great range of new facilities and opportunities to the children and their families in Bangor and its environs for Catholic Education

On Sunday morning 20th September the parish Mass in the Church of Our Lady and St. James will be a special celebration of inauguration of the new school which in the Diocesan eyes has been nearly fifty years in coming.

MISSIONARY CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELISING SISTERS OF MARY

At a wonderfully vibrant celebration on Tuesday 11th August sisters of the British and European regions of the Congregation celebrated their Golden Jubilee of foundation with Mass in St. Joseph's Church, Denbigh. Among those celebrating with them were their 'religious brothers' the priests of the Apostles of Jesus. Both Congregations together with a further three have the same founders, Bishop Sixtus Mazzoldi and Father John Marengoni. The congregation was founded in Moroto, Uganda, on 6th March 1975 with just five young volunteers and today has 500 sisters working in ten countries across four continents.

You can learn more about the Congregation from their website <https://mcesmm.org/index.html>

On 15th August last year, the Evangelising Sisters of Mary solemnly launched their Golden Jubilee, marking 50 years of missionary service. The celebration, attended by clergy, religious, and lay faithful, honoured the congregation's impact in evangelisation, education, healthcare, and social development. Centred on gratitude, renewal, and mission, the event reflected on their humble beginnings and renewed commitment to proclaiming the Gospel.

You can further assist their mission and work in this diocese and across the world by making a Jubilee gift to them. Donations can be sent to the Sisters in Ruthin: MCEM Sisters, Our Lady Help of Christians, 115 Mwrog Street, Ruthin, Denbs. LL15 1LE Charity number: 1147818

More Saints of the Month

29th **St Michael, St Gabriel St Raphael.** Archangels. St Michael Revelations 12:7-12 St Michael defeats Satan in the form of a dragon. Gave his name to **Michaelmas Day** (also used as a term in legal and academic usage. Regarded as the end of summer, the legend is that after this date blackberries are no longer to be picked, because the devil has spat on them (or worse!!))

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA AND ST. CYNFIL, PENRHOS

On 14th August -the Feast of S. Maximillian Kolbe and the eve of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary- Bishop Peter presided at a Mass celebrated by Fr. Artur Steimach, SChr. (Polish Catholic Centre, Crewe) together with Fr. Francis Arinze, MSP, Parish priest of Pwllheli, in thanksgiving for the life, work and place of the Church of Our Lady of Czestochowa and St. Cynfil on the site of what was the Polish Housing Society Home and village at Penrhos, Pwllheli.

The village was established after World War II as part of the settlement the British Government made to the people of Poland in gratitude for her men and women who had served in the Polish Regiment and Squadron as allies against Nazism and who then could no longer return home because of the advent of communism and the influence of the USSR.

The building began life as a RAF training room before being transformed by members of the Polish Resettlement Corps into a chapel which was formally consecrated in 1986 with the dedication of Our Lady of Czestochowa and St. Cynfil.

With a resident priest on-site from the beginning, the church maintained daily services and celebrated feasts and cultural events close to the residents' hearts, providing a vital sanctuary for all who passed through Penrhos, where shared faith served as a profound source of strength during times of historical hardship.

Times changed: the number of Polish residents declined; the closure of the Home by the Polish Housing Society; its being taken over by Clwyd Alyn Housing Association; the departure of the last resident priest and the Polish Missionary Sisters of Christ the King all have brought a significant chapter of the Home's history to a close.

The need for a large church no longer remains. In its place a smaller chapel will be created preserving not only the spirit of faith in the development but also a place recording this important era of Polish-British and Catholic history within the new housing village.

The Parish of St. Joseph's, Pwllheli, remains an important part of that history and from the Polish church at Penrhos the picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa was transferred the following day and received on behalf of the Parish and Diocese by Bishop Peter at the end of the Sunday Mass. It now hangs by the statue of Our Lady in St. Joseph's Church and serves as a constant reminder of the steadfast care, and guidance given by God through the protection the Blessed Virgin Mary especially to the people of Poland for whom she has a pre-eminent place.

30th **St Jerome;** revised the Latin version of the Gospels. Translated the OT from Hebrew, known as the Vulgate, and the basic text for the Church until Mid-20th century. Venerated as a Doctor of the Church.
1st October; **St Thérèse of Lisieux,** 'The Little Flower'.

Who am I?

'Wer bin Ich?' Who am I? This is the title of a poem composed by the German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer shortly before he was hanged. He was hanged for his part in the attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler. Hitler ordered the conspirators to be hanged, with piano wire.

We all ask ourselves this question. We ask ourselves *Who, what, am I?* We ask ourselves this question when we don't know what to do or where our lives are going or perhaps like Bonhoeffer when our existence itself is in question. We are a puzzle to ourselves and we have no clear or simple answer. We don't find it in the middle of a Christmas cracker!

Inside the temple to Apollo at Delphi, composed by an unknown Greek, was the command, 'Know yourself!' It stood there because there was and is no simple answer beyond the instruction on the opposite wall, 'Nothing too much'. It admits the problem but doesn't give much by way of an answer. Just 'look out!' 'be careful', 'Don't overdo it!'. 'It' is the problem.

There are some wonderful words in one of the psalms: 'What is man that You are mindful of him? Or the Son of Man that you visit him?' (Psalm 8) They take us into deeper territory. For they point not simply to the misery and incompleteness of human lives but in the same blink of an eye they highlight that there is someone who remembers us and who makes himself known to us. For the Hebrews this was the God who had created the world including – as in the story, Adam and Eve – ourselves. We may have lost the joy of His companionship through our own most grievous fault, but He was always there, and remembered us, even when we had forgotten Him. The father in Jesus' parable of the wandering son is an emblem of His patient and unfailing love.

Our lives are a web of relationships. Some are more fundamental for our lives than others, as for example our relationship with our mothers whose love and care is crucial to the child even while the child herself knows nothing of the mother's care and love.

Try making a list of the relationships in your life and try to assess however roughly how significant each has been for them and for you. You will find, I think, that there is a tension in all our relationships as much or more for good as for bad. Our lives are very much in disorder, for most of us, no doubt there are exceptions, but the more we examine our lives the more we will come to see that that no one is without some dominant principle in his life and that this principle shapes our relationships with others. As Plutarch (46 to 140 AD) wrote in his *Dialogue on Love*, 'no one is without a ruling principle in his life and no one can find completeness in himself'. (οὐδείς δ' ἀναρκτος οὐδ' αὐτοτελής).

For us, as Christians, the ruling relationship in our lives is our relationship with God and our relationship to God as shown and exemplified in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. One place where we see this most clearly is in the opening words of the prayer he taught his disciples. When we say 'Our father who is in heaven' we are not relating some stray commonplace fact about God's home address. Nor are we calling Him 'Dad'! Jesus condenses Isaiah's words (Isa. 57:15):

For this is what the high and exalted One says— he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

These words are a summons and a challenge to our lives. They speak of God's majesty and exalted status in relation to us who are – or should be if we are truly praying– contrite and lowly. We are the poor in spirit whom we hear about so often in the Gospel and the Psalms. The overriding aim of our lives is to restore this relationship, to find our

The work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) - across the Wrexham diocese

We currently have a few active SVP conferences in the Wrexham Diocese in which much good work quietly continues in many parishes and beyond.

A great example is the SVP conference at St. David's in Mold with their regular visits to the elderly, monthly film club, work with the local Mini-Vinnies, relationship with the local food bank and involvement with visits and masses at HMP Berwyn.

Within other SVP conferences spanning Llay & Rossett, Wrexham, Holywell, Colwyn Bay, Bangor and Anglesey, members continue to work alongside those who are lonely, isolated or marginalised by society and make a real difference in a small way, day by day, week in week out, across all seasons. Many of the beneficiaries of SVP rely on a weekly or fortnightly visit, a catch up over a 'cuppa' or a trip to the shops when they cannot make it out alone. For some, this is the only social interaction they have on a regular basis. Other individuals and families benefit from occasional one-off help and support when needed, with food and fuel vouchers, transport to appointments, a hospital visit, a gift of furniture or a replacement for broken white goods being just some of the practical assistance given.

Can you share your gifts and talents by joining us ?

We need more members to be able to expand our SVP work more widely across the diocese and would like to hear from you if you feel that you would be able to join the SVP to help out locally -within your own parish or wider community.

An **SVP information session on Zoom** will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 29th September 2026.

Here is the link: Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83350234008?pwd=a6CYnNywrhDsdGnebXT6mq3NAIoUVI.1>

(Click on this link to join. You do not need to download the Zoom app) -or you can email Sue Roberts for the link, at SusanR@svp.org.uk or text to 07715 580251 , or for any general enquiry

A Musical afternoon to remember

An example of SVP activity is when members of St. Mary's conference in Holyhead visited a local care home and provided a few hours of entertainment for the residents. Music was played, songs sung, poems recited with a great deal of fun and laughter, memories shared and friendships made. More visits to other homes are planned during the coming months (*See Photo in 'Spotlight'*)

(*cont*) lives again in Him, with Him and through Him. As Bonhoeffer says in his poem he is not how other people see him - relaxed and confident, in control, Nor is he only what he knows about himself: 'restless and longing and sick, like a bird in a cage.' His closing words reveal the true picture: 'Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine, Whoever I am, thou knowest, O God, I am thine.'

(A Reader's contribution)

Refurbishment of St Mary's Cathedral

St Mary's Cathedral is in urgent need of essential repairs, estimated to cost at least £1.7 million. Parishioners have worked tirelessly over the past three years to raise funds towards the cost of these repairs. To reach the full target, we have been seeking the support of grant funders.

We are delighted to announce that several recent grant applications have been successful, enabling us to begin Phase 1 of the renovation work soon.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded us £250,000, giving the project an enormous boost and strengthening our confidence that we can reach our target. This award will also go towards an exciting oral history heritage project.

We are also grateful for the generous support of The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation and for £100,000 from The Benefact Trust. Our thanks also go to The Charles Lloyd Foundation and to the ongoing generosity and efforts of parishioners and visitors to the cathedral.

Why the cathedral matters

St Mary's stands at the gateway to the city of Wrexham and is situated next to the new Museum of Two Halves, which is also supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Phase 1 of the renovation project includes replacing the floor with Phase 2 involving the installation of a more energy-efficient heating system, helping to make the cathedral safer, more comfortable and sustainable for generations to come.

The cathedral is the spiritual home of the catholic congregation playing an important role in the lives of a large and diverse community. It is a Grade II listed building of architectural interest and significance. In the cathedral is a relic of our local saint, St Richard Gwyn, who was hanged, drawn and quartered at Wrexham Beast Market because he would not renounce his faith.

Sharing our heritage

As part of the project, we will develop new ways to celebrate and share the cathedral's heritage, including:

- creating a heritage display;
- producing a guide to the stained-glass windows;
- recording the histories of parishioners across the generations; and
- displaying historic artefacts in a new exhibition.

We will deliver this work in collaboration with local schools, colleges and the university, helping to make the cathedral an interesting and meaningful place to visit.

Our fundraising efforts will continue, but we would like to extend our grateful appreciation to all donors for their invaluable support. Andrew White, Director for Wales, The National Lottery Heritage Fund said:

"Thanks to National Lottery players, this project will help bring St Mary's cathedral's rich heritage to life for current and future generations. By uncovering stories, creating new displays and working with local schools, colleges and the university, it will inspire more people to connect with the cathedral's past and help shape its future."

Suggestions for the Season of Creation from the Diocesan Environmental Leads:

Actions whether big or small, will make ripples of positive difference!

The **Season of Creation** begins on 1st September – the World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation until October 4th Feast Day of Francis of Assisi. It is celebrated internationally and ecumenically – a time where the church praises God for the beauty of creation but also takes action to protect creation as is our Christian duty. The theme this year is Living Waters.

<https://seasonofcreation.org>

May we be springs of Living Water – by who we are and what we say, we can bring hope and joy into the world.

You can

- Pray outside with nature.
- Be aware of our water use/install water butts
- Buy locally, support local growing initiatives
- Wash clothes less often – clothing releases microplastics
- Close curtains at night to reduce light pollution for insects
- Leave lawns to grow for increased biodiversity,
- Eat less meat; crops for animal feed uses much water
- Reduce plastic, support Eco-shops
- Use refills rather than buy new
- Pick Litter, and support local groups eg Wildlife Trust

<https://www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk>

- Keep informed: watch National Emergency Briefing

<https://www.nebriefing.org>

- Promote compassion for asylum seekers who cross seas to flee from war/poverty/effects of climate change

-Work for better water sources. Only 14% of rivers are in a good ecological state due to farm land run off, industrial/urban run off, and sewage overflows. Look at North Wales River Trust

<https://northwalesrivertrust.org>

and Dŵr Cymru

<https://www.dwrcymruplans.com/environment>

-Sign petitions against sea bed trawling, unsustainable fishing and plastic packaging (*Petitions are an influential way to propel change*).

<https://www.greenpeace.org>

<https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org>

-Use our decision makers: write to a councillor, Senedd Member or MP about an environmental concern or offer them thanks for positive action!

-Buy a Fairtrade item – look out for logo – Fairtrade supports farming that works with nature

-Raise money for Water Aid – a little goes a long way. Water Aid

<https://www.wateraid.org/uk>

Did you know?

£13 (price of a pizza) can fund 118 metres of pipe to deliver water.

£21 installs a toilet in a school block.

Contact the Diocesan Environmental Leads:

Ali Mawdsley at environmentallead@rcdwxm.org.uk



Featuring:
**The Last Mass at Our Lady of
Czestochowa, Penrhos**

Year 6 Leavers' Mass 2026

**Our Lady's School, Bangor -
new buildings**

Wrexham Cathedral Appeal

SVP entertains

In the Spotlight

On activities throughout the Diocese during
the summer months

**A gallery of photographs of events, information
and celebrations, throughout the Diocese.
Further information may be found on previous
pages.**



Bp Peter preaching at the Mass in the
Church of Our Lady of Czestochowa and St.
Cynfil , Penrhos



Year 6 Leavers' Mass – June (*see item*)

New Build at Our Lady's, Bangor



The Cathedral (*See refurbishment*)



Procession from the Sanctuary with Fr. Artur
Steimach, SChr. and Fr. Francis Ayogu, MSP



Installation of the picture of Our Lady of
Czestochowa in St. Joseph, Pwllheli, Bp
Peter, Fr. Francis Ayogu, MSP and Michal
Drewenski (General Manager of the Penrhos
Polish Home).



Holyhead SVP entertains in a Care Home



Picture of
Our Lady of
Czestochowa
(The Black
Madonna),
now in St
Josphe's,
Pwllheli

Opportunities to Make a Difference. Volunteers needed for:

1. FLAME



FLAMEMakers
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

JOIN THE **BIGGEST CATHOLIC YOUTH EVENT IN ENGLAND & WALES**

- FULL TRAINING PROVIDED
- WELCOME AND SUPPORT ATTENDEES
- BE PART OF THE FLAME VILLAGE AT SPEC

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BE PART OF THE GROUP THAT WILL HELP SPARKS FLY!

TAKE COURAGE

flame 2027



Flame is a national gathering of young people from across England and Wales, coming together for a day of faith, community and celebration at the OVO Arena Wembley.

Thousands of young people travel from across the England and Wales to be part of this shared experience, filling the arena with energy, music, prayer and powerful moments that stay with them long after the day ends.

Flame is more than just a large event. It's an opportunity for young people to encounter Jesus, grow in their faith and feel part of something bigger than themselves.

At the heart of it all are the Flamemakers.

As a Flamemaker, you are at the heart of the experience. You are the first person people meet when they arrive, the support they rely on throughout the day and a key part of what makes Flame feel organised, safe and welcoming.

Whether working front of house, guiding groups or supporting behind the scenes, every role contributes to something much bigger.

Being a Flamemaker isn't just about volunteering your time, it's about being part of a team that helps create a day that truly matters for thousands of young people!

ABOUT FLAME

2. HCPT



WE NEED YOU!

Bringing young people to Lourdes

HCPT GROUP 155

We're looking for amazing people to join our team and make a real difference!

HELPERS

Join us in Lourdes Easter 2028 and help create life-changing memories for children and young people.

FUNDRAISERS

Love organising events or have a great idea? Help us raise vital funds to support our pilgrimage.

GROUP NURSE

We are looking for a compassionate and experienced nurse to join our team in this very special role.

Whatever your skills or experience, there's a place for you!

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 6.30PM OR EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

ST ANNE'S CHURCH HALL
PRINCE CHARLES ROAD, WREXHAM

If you would like more information please email group155@hcpt.org.uk

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

YOUR FLAME EXPERIENCE

APPLY
Start your journey by completing a short application form. It only takes a few minutes and helps us understand who you are and why you'd like to be a Flamemaker.

ELIGIBILITY & CHECKS
Once you apply, we'll check that you meet the Flamemaker criteria, including age requirements, availability and connection to a CYMFed Member Organisation.

MEET THE TEAM
If your application is successful, you'll be invited to an online session to meet some of the Flame team. This is a chance to hear more about the event, ask questions and get a feel for what being a Flamemaker is all about.

TRAINING DAY
You'll attend a compulsory training day in London alongside other Flamemakers. This is where you'll receive practical guidance, learn about your role and prepare for the day so you feel confident and ready.

RETREAT NIGHT
The day before Flame, we will gather at Wembley for final pre-Flame preparations before heading to SPEC, where we come together as the Flamemaker community. This is a chance to pause, reflect, pray and prepare for the day ahead.

FLAME!
You'll arrive early at the OVO Arena Wembley and join the team welcoming thousands of young people from across England and Wales. From setup through to pack down, you'll play a key role in helping the day run safely and smoothly, creating a welcoming environment at Flame.

WHY BECOME A FLAMEMAKER?

Be part of a team that brings Flame to life.

WHY APPLY?
You won't just be helping run an event, you'll be helping create an experience where thousands of young people can encounter Jesus, feel welcomed and grow in their faith.

Whether you're welcoming groups, guiding people throughout the day or working behind the scenes, every role matters.

This is your opportunity to serve, to grow, and to be part of something that truly impacts others.

AS A FLAMEMAKER, YOU WILL:

- Be part of a passionate and supportive team.
- Play a key role in a national event at the OVO Arena Wembley.
- Help create a welcoming and positive experience for every group.
- Build confidence, teamwork and leadership skills.
- Meet new people from across the country.
- Be part of moments that make a lasting difference.

APPLY NOW!

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Flamemaker for Flame 2027. Before applying, please make sure you meet the following criteria:

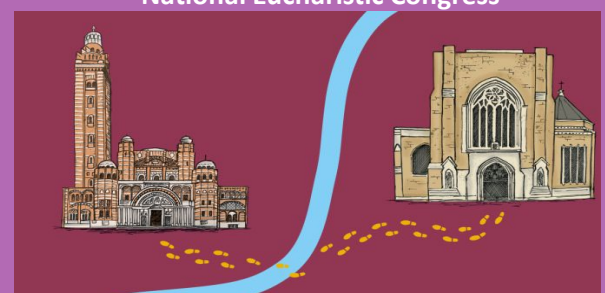
- Your 18th birthday was on or before 31st August 2026
- You are no more than 35 years old on 15th March 2027
- You are known to a CYMFed Member Organisation (i.e. a Diocese in England and Wales, or a Religious Order, Movement or Organisation that is an accredited member of CYMFed). If you are not sure about this, there is more detail as you begin to fill in the form
- You are available for two Zoom meetings between October 2026 and February 2027 (More details to follow)
- You are available for a training day in London between 9th and 16th January 2027 (exact date to be confirmed)
- You are available for the full day of Flame, from 07.00 to 19.00 on 6th March 2027 (and ideally also available from 15.00 on Friday 5th March).

To Apply head to www.cymfed.org.uk/flamemakers/

Application Pack for Young Persons (18-35) to become a Flamemaker at CYMFed Flame 2027.

More info: Roy Hyde-Linaker mission@ksc.org.uk

Adoremus 2026
National Eucharistic Congress



Walk from St George's Southwark to Westminster Cathedral at 3pm Saturday 10th October

Visit the Icons and Relics

Our Lady of Guadalupe



St David's Mold
September 12th

Queen of the Franciscans



St Winefride's Holywell
10-17th October

Our Lady of Fatima



OLR, Buckley
24th October

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