



Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 43
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The newsletter of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham –
serving the parishes of North and Mid Wales

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



Our banner this month represents the blue which has represented Mary since the 12th Century. May is the month of Mary. Yellow continues the theme of Easter joy through the weeks of Easter, and Ascension, until the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Feasts of the Holy Spirit are celebrated with red vestments.

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May 27th Feast of St Augustine of Canterbury

The Apostle of the English

A Roman and Prior of St Andrew's Monastery, Augustine possibly came to Britain as the result of a memory of Pope Gregory on seeing young English boys being sold as slaves in the Roman Forum. **"Non Anglii, sed Angeli"** (*Not Angles, but Angels*). In a four-day pilgrimage to Rome, the newly enthroned Archbishop of Canterbury, Dame Sarah Mullally had an audience with Pope Leo. Praying together, Pope Leo said: "we must not allow these continuing challenges to prevent us from using every possible opportunity to proclaim Christ to the world together". In the month when members of this Diocese were included in the Royal Maundy in St Asaph Cathedral, let us pray for Pope Leo and Dame Sarah in their vocation. As Pope Leo recalled the words of Pope Francis, 'It would be a scandal if, due to our divisions, we did not fulfil our common vocation to make Christ known.'

Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwxm.org.uk

It can be easy to forget the direct effects that events hundreds or thousands of miles away can have on our lives; forty years ago a reactor exploded at the Soviet-run Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, located some 90 kilometres north of Kyiv in Ukraine, killing 31 people immediately and another 15,000 from radiation poisoning over the next several years.

Because of the wind direction and the nature of nuclear clouds the rain that fell over parts of Snowdonia in the following days and weeks was itself radioactive and for a considerable time farmers were not allowed to sell their sheep and lambs because they had grazed on grass that had been polluted as a consequence.

Pope Leo expressed his hopes that discernment and responsible decision-making may be carried out regarding nuclear energy: *"I hope that at all levels of decision-making, discernment and responsibility may always prevail, so that every use of atomic energy may be at the service of life and peace,"* He *"entrusted to God's mercy the victims and all those who still suffer its consequences."* However his words went beyond the use of nuclear power when he warned about the use of increasingly powerful technologies.

From the first days of his pontificate Pope Leo has spoken about, and spoken out against, the unbridled use of AI, - an ever increasingly powerful technology that few understand and one that can leave the woman and man in the street more and more vulnerable as governments and world powers compete to be superior in all things AI, with as little regulation of the industry as possible.

Nuclear research was driven in the first instance by the military and not by a desire to produce non-polluting energy: similarly, now, AI is being driven, not by the desire to improve the lot of the poorest in society, but by the desire to militarise the technology and the potential to knock-out the opponent's ability to respond to any kind of attack - or even to defend itself.

We must ask ourselves, *'Do the advances in AI technology uphold the dignity of each and every human being, let alone advance it?'*

There is speculation that, this month, Pope Leo will sign and promulgate his first encyclical, which would coincide with the first anniversary (8th May) of his pontificate and the 135th anniversary of the publication of *Rerum Novarum* (15th May 1891) the encyclical of Pope Leo XIII on Capital and Labour which opens with the following paragraph: *'That the spirit of revolutionary change, which has long been disturbing the nations of the world, should have passed beyond the sphere of politics*

and made its influence felt in the cognate sphere of practical economics is not surprising. The elements of the conflict now raging are unmistakable, in the vast expansion of industrial pursuits and the marvellous discoveries of science; in the changed relations between masters and workmen; in the enormous fortunes of some few individuals, and the utter poverty of the masses; the increased self-reliance and closer mutual combination of the working classes; as also, finally, in the prevailing moral degeneracy. The momentous gravity of the state of things now obtaining fills every mind with painful apprehension; wise men are discussing it; practical men are proposing schemes; popular meetings, legislatures, and rulers of nations are all busied with it - actually there is no question which has taken deeper hold on the public mind.'

The (speculated) document of Pope Leo XIV, widely reported to carry the working title *Magnifica Humanitas* (*"Magnificent Humanity"*), is expected to address the ethical challenges posed by artificial intelligence and the profound consequences it may have for human work, social relations and the dignity of the person.

Already this year he has expressed growing concern about artificial intelligence, warning that it could alter human civilisation, invade intimacy, and diminish our ability to understand meaning. He warns particularly about overly "affectionate" chatbots that can generate emotional dependence. Artificial intelligence is to serve the human person rather than replace or diminish human dignity.

To those who believed in him, Jesus said, *"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free".* (Jn 8:32) - the reminder to us that Jesus embodied divine truth and has come to bear witness to the truth. Acceptance of him liberates us from the slavery of sin, ignorance and deception.

As we prepare for the celebration of Pentecost let us ponder upon the words of Jesus, *"When the Spirit of truth comes he will guide you into all truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."* (Jn 16:13)

Please be assured of my prayers in the coming weeks, especially while we are in Lourdes in the middle of the month.

† Peter.

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.



May is the month traditionally dedicated to Mary, mother of Our Lord and our mother. As we give grateful thanks for Mary's committed 'Yes' to God, we remember that she can be a model for our own prayer life. The best loved prayer to Mary is the 'Hail Mary', which is at the heart of the Rosary, and many people use Rosary beads to support their time of prayer.

***Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.***

Over the centuries, different 'mysteries' of the Rosary have developed, each one leading us to ponder specific events in the lives of Jesus and Mary as described in the Gospels, and to reflect on the lessons they hold for our own lives today. (There is plenty of material on the Rosary online if you want to find out more.)

This month we invite you to pray the rosary with us as we reflect on the **Glorious Mystery of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.**

As usual, come to a quiet place, perhaps holding your rosary beads, and make a slow sign of the cross. Begin by saying the Our Father slowly and prayerfully, and then three Hail Marys followed by a 'Glory be'. Before you start on the first decade of 'Hail Marys', read this passage from Acts through at least twice. It tells of the coming of the Spirit:

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. (Acts 2: 1-6)

Spend some time trying to visualise this scene in as much detail as possible: the fearful, bereft disciples, the whistling of the wind, the tongues of fire. With this picture in your mind's eye, start saying the first ten Hail Marys, letting the familiarity of the words keep your mind away from distractions.

Then pause awhile and read the text again, perhaps this time focusing on another aspect of the event. You may like to imagine the disciples filled with the Spirit ... the changes in their attitude ... the way they found their own voice.

Maybe this resonates with you? Perhaps something similar has happened to you or to someone you know, leading them from fear to courage?

As you ponder this at the back of your mind, say the next decade of Hail Marys.

Continue this pattern of prayer for the next three decades, focusing on different aspects of the text that may speak to you.

You may like to conclude the Rosary with your own words of thanks for this time spent with Mary and her son Jesus.

If you find saying the Rosary a daunting, lonely experience, here are a few tips that may help you

- 1 **Start** with one decade and build up to praying the full Rosary.
- 2 **Find** a quiet place and light a candle, perhaps focusing on an image or a crucifix.
- 3 **Use** Rosary beads that are meaningful to you or look for a new Rosary.
- 4 **Say** the Rosary over the phone or on Zoom with a long-distance friend.

- 5 **Say** the Rosary on a walk or on your way to work.
- 6 **Offer** up each decade for a special intention or for a person that you love.
- 7 **Pick** one of your favourite saints and begin by asking them to pray the Rosary with you.
- 8 **Don't** feel that you need to start all over again if you lose focus.

Other resources Go to www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com for more resources, including the weekly Prego and Prego Plus leaflets.



Gospel Year of Matthew

JESUS COMMISSIONS THE DISCIPLES

‘Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”’

Matthew 28:16-20 *ESV-CE*

Reflection Prayer:

Recent popes have urged Catholics to rededicate themselves to spreading the Gospel and committing themselves anew to the evangelisation of the world:

“We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelising all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church ... Evangelising is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelise.” (St. Pope Paul VI *Evangelium Nuntiandi*, 14)

‘God our Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit help us to bear witness to your truth with the purest charity always respecting those who do not believe; and to your love with shining truth and full of patience for those who do not love you.

Then we will be witnesses of your Son Jesus in whom love and truth dwell together.’

Lucien Deiss *Biblical Prayers*.

GOD WHO SPEAKS

Additional monthly resources for individuals, parishes and schools are available from the Bishops of England and Wales on the Biblical Apostolate website <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/> . There is also the amazing interactive Mosaic Experience ‘*Little bits of God.*’

INTERNATIONAL MASS

Bishop Peter invites all who have come to Wales to make a home, to study or earn a living, to share their culture and our common faith in the celebration of this Mass on Saturday 2nd May in St. Mary’s Cathedral at 12 noon following the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker (1st May). Those attending are invited to wear National costumes as part of the celebration.

Refreshments in the Cathedral Hall after the Mass..

Commentary:

‘All authority ...’ (28:18) Although Matthew has no account as such of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, the way that the events on the mountain are described and are expressed echo the royal power given to the Son of Man described in the prophecy of Daniel (7:13-14).

The meaning is that Jesus, as a man, is now invested with God’s authority over heaven and earth. He never ceased to be omnipotent in his divinity, of course, but now he expressed his lordship over the universe through his risen humanity. That authority is now conferred upon the disciples as witnesses to the resurrection to preach the gospel and make disciples. ‘Go therefore ...’ (28:19) Christ’s commission to evangelise and catechise the world fulfils God’s covenant oath to Abraham that ‘all nations’ would be blessed. This mission of the Church has three elements:

i. Evangelising ‘all nations’ involves more than winning individuals - it entails the conversion of entire cultures – all of life is to be brought under the lordship of Jesus in keeping with the gospel.

ii. The administration of the sacraments is essential to the Church’s mission and our response. Baptism is the first step in the lifelong process of sanctification and participation in the life of the Church.

iii. For the handing on of all that Christ taught the assistance of the Holy Spirit is necessary for the gospel to be proclaimed infallibly.

‘I am with you always ...’ (28:20) These parting words of Jesus take us back to the beginning of the gospel and the prophetic name for the Messiah used by Isaiah, ‘Emmanuel ... God with us’ (1:23; Isaiah 7:14). The risen Christ’s continued presence in the Church is both ecclesial (18:20) and Eucharistic (26:26)

POPE’S PRAYER INTENTION - May

That everyone might have food.

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers be committed to avoid wasting food, to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:

During Eastertide we are asked to pray for:

- New Members of the Church;
- Human Work;
- Vocations;
- Survivors of Abuse;
- The Right use of the Media;
- The Church.

2026 SENEDD ELECTION – 7TH MAY

To help explain the new electoral system, who can vote, and how to make an informed choice, Caritas Cardiff-Menevia has produced a guide –

[The Senedd Election 2026: Every Vote Counts](#)

CAFOD is also producing resources on the election. Important issues to consider are on a briefing sheet

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2026/04/The-Catholic-Bishops-Conference-of-England-and-Wales-Senedd-Election-2026-Rirekisho-A3-2.pdf>

You may be interested in the recent (22nd April) YouGov polling research: [Second YouGov MRP of the 2026 Senedd elections shows a tight race between Reform UK and Plaid Cymru](#)

A short summary briefing on the Welsh election manifestos, along with the full manifesto for each of the main parties. This has been compiled by the Bishops' Conference Secretariat from information made available at the time. Other parties also have candidates and election manifestos.

Below are the links to the English language versions of the Manifestos of the Welsh parties, in alphabetical order:

Conservative Party:

https://www.conservatives.wales/sites/www.conservatives.wales/files/2026-03/Welsh%20Conservatives%20Manifesto%202026%20EN_0.pdf

Green Party:

<https://wales.greenparty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/51/2026/04/Senedd-Manifesto-2026-EN2.pdf?x30553>

Labour Party:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GCaLGFEXczefvGD1deXRsqsovYQ33V72/view?usp=drive_link

Liberal Democrat Party:

<https://www.libdems.wales › manifesto-2026>

Plaid Cymru Party:

https://assets.nationbuilder.com/plaid2016/pages/41843/attachments/original/1775140240/For_Wales_-_2026_Manifesto.pdf?1775140240

Reform Party:

<https://manifesto-cymru.cavendishconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/welsh-manifesto-english-2.pdf>

NB- Various organisations offer comparisons of the Manifestos. These are not listed here, since organisations may have a particular 'stance' vis-à-vis specific issues.

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

"Preserving human voices and faces" is the theme chosen by Pope Leo for the 60th World Day of Social Communication, to be celebrated on 17 May 2026, the Sunday before Pentecost.

In a communiqué announcing the theme, the Dicastery for Communication – responsible for the World Day – states that *"In today's communication ecosystems, technology influences interactions more than ever before - from algorithms curating news feeds to AI authoring entire texts and conversations."*

Acknowledging that advances in technology offer *"possibilities that were unimaginable just a few years ago,"* the Dicastery warns that such tools *"cannot replace the uniquely human capacities for empathy, ethics, and moral responsibility."*

Public communication, it says, *"requires human judgment, not just data patterns."* Therefore, *"the challenge is to ensure that humanity remains the guiding agent. The future of communication must be one where machines serve as tools that connect and facilitate human lives, rather than erode the human voice."*

Concerns for the risks associated with AI

The announcement warns of the real risks associated with modern technology: *"AI can generate engaging but misleading, manipulative, and harmful information; replicate biases and stereotypes from its training data; and amplify disinformation through simulation of human voices and faces. It can also invade people's privacy and intimacy without their consent."*

The Dicastery cautions, *"overreliance on AI weakens critical thinking and creative skills, while monopolized control of these systems raises concerns about centralization of power and inequality."*

The statement confirms that these concerns highlight the urgency of introducing "Media Literacy" or even "Media and Artificial Intelligence Literacy (MAIL)" into formal systems of education.

The Dicastery concludes that *"as Catholics, we can and should give our contribution, so that people – especially youth – acquire the capacity of critical thinking and grow in the freedom of the spirit."*

A Pope attentive to these issues

Pope Leo has repeatedly emphasised the importance for the Church of confronting the challenges posed by artificial intelligence and the development of new technologies. In his meeting with the cardinals just days after his election on 8th May 2025, the Pope explained that his choice of papal name was inspired by Leo XIII, who, *"in his historic Encyclical [Rerum Novarum](#), addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution."*

"In our own day," he continued, *"the Church offers to everyone the treasury of her social teaching in response to another industrial revolution and to developments in the field of artificial intelligence that pose new challenges for the defence of human dignity, justice and labour."*

Later, in a message to participants in the Second Annual Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Business Governance, Pope Leo emphasised *"the benefits or risks of AI must be evaluated precisely according to this superior ethical criterion" of "safeguarding the inviolable dignity of each human person and respecting the cultural and spiritual riches and diversity of the world's peoples."*

[Full text of the statement from the Dicastery for Communication](#)
Christopher Wells and Isabella de Carvalho. Vatican News September 2025



WE BELIEVE
Festival of Catholic Life
24th -27th July
St Mary's College,
Oscott, Birmingham

From Friday to Monday, the WeBelieve Festival brings the Church together in England and Wales. It is an unmissable opportunity to discover the traditions and charisms that flow through the Church, to experience the joy of community, and to encounter personally the Lord Jesus, our salvation.

Join us from 24–27 July 2026, amidst the history and beauty of St Mary's College, Oscott for a feast of the True, the Good and the Beautiful.

Book your tickets at webelievefestival.com

The Royal Maundy



The Henry Grâce à Dieu (Great Harry) launched in 1515 is now the emblem of the Royal Almonry. At that time Cardinal Wolsey held the office of Lord High Almoner to King Henry VIII

(Anonymous painting public domain)



King Charles Honours People of North Wales

154 Ladies and Gentlemen received the Royal Maundy at St Asaph Cathedral on 2nd April 2026.

One recipient, Sheila Johnson, Rhyl parish, reflects on the day.

A Personal Note

Like all the recipients I would imagine, I couldn't quite grasp why I had received a letter from Buckingham Palace. It came as a real shock to know that I had been nominated to be a recipient at the Maundy Service in St Asaph Cathedral. My service to the sick as a Chaplain in Glan Clwyd Hospital, and my parish commitments to the sick and the housebound are something that I love doing, but more importantly feel called to do, and, God willing, hope to be able to do as a ministry for some time to come.

The service itself was very beautiful, a solemn event against a backdrop of Welsh music composed for the occasion, featuring the Processional Cross of Wales, containing a fragment believed to be from the cross of Jesus.

Especially, I would like to thank all who made it possible for me to be part of this historic occasion, and as my son wrote on a card to me, 'An award from the Pope, now the King, and all because of what you do for the King of Kings'.

(Editor's note: The Processional Cross of Wales was a gift from the King to the Christians of Wales. Pope Francis presented the Cross as a gift to the King and it headed the procession at the King's Coronation in 2023.

154 people, 77 ladies and 77 gentlemen for the age of the monarch received the Royal Maundy. Four members of the Diocese were among the recipients. They are warmly invited to write their experience for the 'Clarion'.)

The Maundy Service

So, what is the Maundy Service and how did it originate?

The first recorded Royal Maundy service was held at Knaresborough in Yorkshire in 1210 when King John donated garments, food, and other gifts to the poor.

The ceremony has ancient roots, drawing its name from the Latin word 'Mandatum' meaning commandment, and the opening words are 'Jesus said "I give you a new commandment – love one another as I have loved you"' In earlier times the ceremony was observed wherever the Sovereign was in residence. The late queen, Queen Elizabeth II began the tradition of holding the Royal Maundy service in a different Cathedral each year, which allowed her to visit different locations throughout the entire UK.

This year the ceremony was held in St Asaph Cathedral, the United Kingdom's smallest ancient cathedral with a history dating back to a 6th century monastery founded by St Kentigern on the river Elwy. The Cathedral is famous as the place where the William Morgan Bible, the first full Welsh translation of the Bible, was produced in 1588.

This is only the second time that the service has been held in Wales in its 800-year history; the last time being in 1982 in St David's, Pembrokeshire. Thus, it is the first time in North Wales



His Majesty King Charles greets Sheila Johnson



Sheila with former Parish Priest Fr Charles Ramsay with Yeomen of the Guard outside the Cathedral.

Photographs of all 154 recipients can be found on the St Asaph Cathedral site, at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/maundy/>

The Diocese played its part in other ways - Paul Booth who founded the Wrexham Diocesan Choir as Director of Music for the Diocese is now the Director of Music at St Asaph Cathedral.

Music was also arranged by Paul Mealor

See also YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUdKlYQsMs>

Around and About in the Diocese

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

May

02	12Noon	International Mass	Cathedral
	6.00pm	Confirmation	Llanfairfechan
05		National Day of Prayer for Victims of Abuse	
	12 Noon & 3pm	Prayer Services	St Winefride's Shrine
12-16		Diocesan Pilgrimage	Lourdes
17	1.30pm	Welsh National Pilgrimage	Cardigan
23	12Noon	Mystagogy Mass	Cathedral
24	3.00pm	Confirmation	Cathedral
26	5.30pm	Confirmation	Bangor
28	6.00pm	Confirmation	St Anne's, Wrexham
29	11.00am	Confirmation	Dolgellau
	6.00pm	Confirmation	Holyhead

June

01-05		Clergy Retreat	St Beuno's
11	11.00am	Year 6 Leaver's Mass	Cathedral

The Wrexham Diocese Eco-Network

The recently formed Eco-Network is a group of interested people from different parishes across the diocese who want to work together to take actions that will make a positive difference to our planet.

Pope Francis stated that working to protect our planet is not an optional extra but a moral duty. Pope Leo has called for greater action on climate change saying there is "no room for indifference or resignation".

Our Mission is

- to assist parishes across the diocese to raise awareness of prayers, issues and actions that will make a positive difference to our common home.

Our vision is:

- for all parishes in the diocese to continue to take actions to benefit the planet and those that live on it
- for parishes to explore using the Eco-Church structure as this offers a clear framework and simplifies working ecumenically in the local community
- to support our diocese to become a beacon of hope showing that through prayer and practical actions the church is a powerful force for environmental change and social justice at a local and global level.

Our strategy is:

- to network across the diocese, meet regularly and encourage others to join the network
- to share ideas, resources and highlight links to national organisations like Eco-Church, Laudato Si etc
- for us to engage with our local community groups, environmental organizations and other churches e.g. through Cytun
- to spread awareness and enthusiasm through improved communications using Clarion, website, bulletins, priest postal systems and linking with diocesan decision makers and councils.
- to take time to reflect, pray and review

If you would like to join the network please contact the Environmental Leads: environmentallead@rcdwxm.org.uk

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

MAY

Tue 5 th	Day of Prayer for the Survivors of Sexual Abuse
12 th -16 th	Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes
Thu 14 th	The Ascension of the Lord
Sun 17 th	World Communications Day Our Lady of the Taper Pilgrimage, Cardigan
Sat 23 rd	<i>Mystagogy Mass</i> – celebrating the life of the new members of the Church
Sun 24 th	Pentecost
Sun 31 st	Trinity Sunday

JUNE

Sun 7 th	Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ - <i>Corpus Christi</i>
Fri 12 th	Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Fri 26 th	'Legal Mass' for all involved in the creation, application and enforcement of law and justice in the country.
Sun 28 th	Feast of Ss Peter & Paul (<i>Transferred</i>) Pilgrimage to the National Shrine & Well of St. Winefride, Holywell



The SVP In Holywell

SVP Conference at Holywell has for many years hosted the Mass held to celebrate the opening of the season at the National Shrine of St. Winefride, on Pentecost Sunday. We invite all the SVP conferences, and indeed everyone else, to join us, on 24th May.

Fr. Matthew Bond (PP of Saint Winefride's) will celebrate the Mass. Afterwards, there will be an opportunity to venerate the relic of St. Winefride, and then there will be the blessing of the water. All this is followed by afternoon tea, to which all are invited. If you wish to attend please let Pam know of the numbers planning to come, for catering purposes, on 07546467108.

Mass starts at 2.30pm. We look forward to seeing you. Pamela Hunt. (*President of Holywell SVP*)

BISHOP'S FUND

Historically on the weekend of the Spring (Whit) Bank Holiday at the end of May -this year 24th, a retiring collection was taken for the Bishop's Fund. Those expenses are now consolidated in the annual Levies. You can assist your parish payment of the Levies by contributing this day to a Bishop's Fund collection. The annual cost to the Diocese (i.e. the parishes) of having a bishop is in the order of £25,000 to £35,000 depending on what other income is received. Bishop Peter thanks you for your generous support of him and his predecessors in the past.

ST WINEFRIDE'S WELL AND SHRINE.

Readers of the "Clarion" will recall that in June 2023 Bishop Peter inaugurated St. Winefride's Shine and Well as a place of prayer and healing for the victims of sexual abuse, harassment, and violence. Drawing on the story of Winefride, who was a teenage victim of sexual harassment and violence, and who found healing and new life in the actions of her uncle, the priest Beuno.

The Shrine is offered as a place of healing, hope and peace for all those whose lives are blighted by the outrage of sexual attack of any kind. It is intended as a place to seek forgiveness through repentance by the perpetrators of abuse.

Tuesday 5th May

A candle will be lit on behalf of all victims of abuse, harassment or sexual violence and remain burning for the next seven days as a sign that the light of Christ will burn out all evil in the world and bring the radiant glory of God's love to all who come before him seeking in hope the new life and Easter peace that is Christ's gift to the world.

The Shrine is open

The Shrine is open throughout the day (9.00 am to 5.00 pm) and there will be short services at 12noon and again at 3 o'clock to pray with and for those whose lives have been affected in any way by sexual abuse.

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@joewalstours.co.uk

Living Theology Summer School

10–13 July 2026

Understanding your everyday Beliefs
at Loreto Centre, Llandudno

Booking now open

www.loretocentre.org.uk

info@loretocentre.org.uk

01492 878031



THE JESUIT INSTITUTE

The Jesuit Institute has a host of retreats and online events in the coming months. Details may be found on the website Jesuit Institute where a full schedule is listed.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE VICTIMS OF ABUSE

In 2016, the Pope announced the Church worldwide would hold a day of prayer for survivors of clerical abuse. He wrote to lay Catholics urging them to be close to abuse victims, to pray, and to fast in reparation for the atrocious treatment which survivors had endured.

The Pope wrote: *"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it' (1 Cor 12:26). These words of Saint Paul forcefully echo in my heart as I acknowledge once more the suffering endured by many minors due to sexual abuse... perpetrated by a significant number of clerics and consecrated persons.*

"Looking back to the past, no effort to beg pardon and to seek to repair the harm done will ever be sufficient. Looking ahead to the future, no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening... The pain of the victims and their families is also our pain."

Tuesday 5th May

In England and Wales this day is observed on Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter, which is 5th May in 2026. Resources produced by the Bishops Conference Secretariat are available at –

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/national-day-of-prayer-for-survivors-of-abuse-2026/>

This year's focus is on the theme of 'Domestic Abuse.'

MYSTAGOGY MASS

It is reported that throughout the world, and replicated in the Wrexham Diocese, a record number of people was baptised or received into full communion with the Church at the Triduum, or at Easter. Generally, these were celebrated in their own parish community.

The Mystagogy Mass is an occasion to recognise these members as part of the Diocese and they are invited with their sponsors and family to celebrate at Mass on Saturday 23rd May, the vigil of Pentecost at 12 noon in the Cathedral.

This represents a moment of reflection and thanksgiving by these new Catholics and all our parishes for the gifts in faith they have received and the gift that they are to the Church of Wrexham.

ROYAL MAUNDY SERVICE (See also, Page 6, Spotlight)

The Bishop writes that he is pleased to offer congratulations and thanks to the recipients from Rhyl, Pwllheli, Machynlleth and the Cathedral (Wrexham) parishes who on Maundy Thursday received from King Charles III the Maundy Purses in recognition of their generous and humble service of the Church in this Diocese over many years. Photographs of the Service and event in all its pageantry, dignity and splendour can be seen on several websites, search Maundy Service 2026.

The pure in heart...

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God’ (Matt 5.8). This is one of the nine sayings of Jesus about what it is to be ‘blessed,’ what it is to be drawn closer to God. We know them as ‘the beatitudes.’ Most of us probably remember a time when we were taken by surprise and pierced through the heart by one of these short sayings. For a moment we are emptied of everything else – the holidays and new cars, the achievements of our children, the pressures of life and the warnings of doctors - these things pale into insignificance in the white light of these words. Light that is like no other light.

These are words that uncover in the depths of our hearts something that we have always wanted to hear. Even natural men who know nothing of Christ are struck to the core sometimes when the ordinary things that fill our lives lose their power over us and leave us feeling that we are seeing the world, as it truly is, for the first time. Christians have an advantage because we have the scriptures and sacraments to show us the doors of revelation. If just one

door opens for us the whole world is changed.

To be ‘blessed’ is to be among those to whom God has extended His grace. The prayer the priest says quietly to himself when he mixes the wine and water expresses best our common desire for this grace: "By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity".

This is the one thing that we hope for, but as the beatitudes show there are many routes to this destination. The poor in spirit, those who mourn, the humble, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, those who show mercy and those who bring about peace – people in any of these very different conditions may hope to become partakers in Christ’s divinity. There are many doors into the Kingdom.

Life of course is never simple. What we experience is often a tumble of things that are hard to fasten in a few words. One of the sayings is

particularly helpful here, the saying that talks about purity of the heart. Matthew’s word for ‘pure’ is ‘katharos’. The related verb means to cleanse, wash, purge or prune, as with vines, actions that Jesus would have known well in his native Nazareth. We should keep these senses in mind when we think of someone who is pure in heart. St Paul tells us that the aim of Christian education is ‘love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience and sincere faith.’ (1 Tim 1.5) We meet the same idea in the Psalms: Only those with ‘clean hands and a pure heart may stand in the Lord’s holy place’.

Purity of heart is an utter receptiveness to Christ and to God. For us, Jesus as a man is the pattern of this openness. As Psalm 36 puts it: ‘In Your light we see light.’ This is the *telos*, the fulfilment of our created lives.

Contribution from a reader

St Philip Neri Feast May 26th 1515-1595

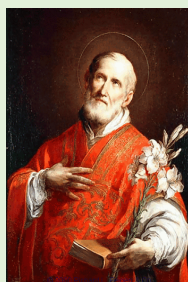
Born in Florence, as a child he was known as “Philip the Good” for his good behaviour and humour. Renouncing business, he went to Rome, and lived with, and for, the poor at a time when there was little interest in living a Christian life. By talking to people, he gathered groups to help in hospitals, carry out good works, and find their faith. He was ordained a priest in 1551. He is known as the “Second Apostle of Rome” after Peter.

Philip Neri and Henry IV of France, King of Navarre

Although studiously non-political, he persuaded Pope Clement VIII to revoke the excommunication of Henry IV of France. Philip Neri saw that Henry might relapse and rekindle the civil war in France between Protestants and Catholics. Famously Henry said “*Paris vaut une Messe*” (*Paris is worth a Mass*). Henry’s Edict of Nantes, ended the French Wars of Religion. (Louis XIV later repealed this freedom in the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685

Congregations of the Oratory “Oratorians”

Spaces for his discussions, works, and prayer became known as “oratories”. He set up the Congregation, secular priests and brothers living together not under a vow, but as a bond of charity. St John Newman experienced an Oratory in Rome, and set up the Oratory in Birmingham. Today, the Oratorians have parishes in London (Brompton Oratory), Oxford, York, Manchester, as in Cardiff, Bournemouth, and Edinburgh.



Sebastiano Conca 1750

Well-known Oratory schools are at Woodcote, near Reading (Birmingham Oratory), and the London Oratory School in Fulham.

Marriage and Family Life Commission invites you to a FREE

Eastertide Family Day

Sunday 10th May 2026

Location: Bridgettine Convent, St. Winefride's Guest House,
20 New Road, Holywell, CH8 7LS

Time 12:30 - 16:30

Please, bring a picnic lunch.
Refreshments provided.

Everyone is welcome

Eastertide crafts and activities for all ages.

Followed by Stations of the Resurrection on the way to
and in St. Winefride's Well known as Lourdes of Wales.

Children's Mass at the start of our walk.

Hot dogs provided afterwards.



Limited spaces available. Booking is essential via QR Code

or by Contacting Wioletta Trebska

Marriage and Family Life Worker

mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk or 07542 268728



THE BACK PAGE

A 'gallimaufry of serendipity'

Saints and Memorials from the 'Ordo'

May 5th St Asaph (d c596) Pupil and servant of Kentigern (Mungo in Scotland) who settled in Llanelwy and founded a monastery. Asaph succeeded him as Bishop, hence the See and city of St Asaph.

May 12th St Pancras (289-304) (Greek 'Pankratos' means 'all-powerful'). Born in Phrygia, orphaned and taken to Rome by his uncle St Dionysius, he was martyred aged 14 by the Diocletian persecution. He is the patron saint of children, truthfulness, and those seeking employment. The London station is named after the area of the church of St Pancras.

May 13th Our Lady of Fatima. Known also as **Our Lady of the Rosary**, Fatima is one of the largest Marian shrines. The apparition to three children, Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto, is well-known. Sr Lucia became a disclaled Carmelite and died in 2005. Her cousins died in the flu epidemic after the 1st World War.

May 18th St John I Pope and Martyr, d 526. Born in Siena, sent by King Theodoric to negotiate better treatment for the Arians, he returned to be arrested by the king. Imprisoned at Ravenna, he died of ill treatment.

Pope Leo XIV was inaugurated on this day, 2025.

May 20th St Bernadino of Siena 1380-1444 Orphaned aged 7; aged 20, he ran the hospital during a plague; ordained as a Franciscan. By eloquence and fiery sermons, drew crowds in a preaching mission. He refused three bishoprics. Died at Aquila, and was canonised in 1450

May 21st St Christopher Magallanes 1869-1927 Cristóbal Magallanes Jara a Mexican priest, founded schools, carpentry shops, and even planned a dam. Accused falsely of inciting rebellion he was executed without trial "I die innocent and ask God that my blood may serve to unite my Mexican brethren". 19 others were executed in this rebellion. Canonised by Pope John Paul II in 2000.

May 22nd St Rita of Cascia. 1381-1457. Margherita Lotti (means 'pearl') was forced to marry at around 12 yrs. Her gentle nature changed her violent husband-after his murder, her sons wanted revenge -she prayed for their death to avoid losing their soul. They died of dysentery the following year. She joined the Augustinian convent, and is patron of impossible causes, abuse victims, widows and the sick. On her deathbed she requested a rose from her garden in January. Miraculously, a single rose was blooming and was brought to her. Often depicted with a rose.

May 26th St Philip Neri (*see separate entry on page 9*)

May 27th St Augustine of Canterbury d 604. Sent to England by Pope Gregory the Great, Augustine converted King Ethelbert. Built a monastery in Canterbury. Known as 'The Apostle of the English'.

May 29th St Paul VI. 1897-1978 Giovanni Montini, elected Pope after Pope John XXIII, he continued the Second Vatican Council. During his papacy he promoted many reforms, and papal visits to six continents.

Jun 1st St Justin Martyr c100-c165 Apologist and Philosopher Martyred by beheading

Jun 2nd Sts Marcellinus (priest) and **Peter** (exorcist). d 304. Beheaded by Diocletian, in prison they made many converts. Constantine built a church in their honour.

Jun 3rd St Charles Lwanga & Companions. Martyrs. 1860-1886 Martyred by King Mwanga in Uganda, the companions consisted both Catholic and Anglicans, and revered as saints by both communions.

Jun 5th St Boniface 680-754, born in Crediton, Devon, ordained in 715, sent by Pope Gregory to Germany. He destroyed the pagan 'Oak of Thor' proving it had no power to harm him. The "Apostle to the Germans", he was attacked and killed by pagans. Patron saint of Devon.

The Road to Heaven

'Mummy', asked a little girl, 'do men ever go to heaven?' 'Yes, of course. Why do you ask?' responded her mother. 'Because I've never seen angels with whiskers'. 'Well', replied the mother, 'some men do go to heaven, but they only get there by a close shave!'

The author of Peter Pan, J.M. Barrie said, 'Heaven for climate, and hell for company'.

A well-known gambler and ne'er-do-well appeared at the gates of heaven demanding entry. St Peter's ledger showed heavy debit entries, but the man said the books were badly kept, for he knew he had given twopence to a beggar. St Peter searched and eventually found it was so. Could this outweigh the debit entries? The man claimed that his patron saint was a friend. The saint was called and looked at the ledger. "What are we to do with this countryman of yours?" asked St Peter. 'You see how it is'. "Indeed, I do", replied the saint, exchanging a glance with St Peter. 'Give him back his twopence'.

A teacher asked a class of small boys; 'Hands up those who want to go to heaven'. All the boys, except one raised their hand. 'Don't you want to go to heaven?' she asked. 'Nah', replied the lad, 'not if that lot are going'.

The two men had not met for years. 'How is your wife?' one asked. 'She's in heaven', replied the friend. 'Oh, I am sorry', said the first, then realising it was not the thing to say about heaven, he fumbled, 'I mean, I'm glad'. That was even worse. Finally he came out with, 'I mean, I'm surprised'.

A little girl came home from Sunday School. "Mummy, we were told today that God puts people on earth to do good things so that they can get ready for heaven". 'That's right', said the mother. 'Then why don't we see anybody getting ready?' asked the child.

Help your brother's boat across and your own will reach the shore
(Hindu proverb)

One day at the entrance to heaven, St. Peter saw a group of punks obviously from a street gang, walk up to the Pearly Gates. This being a first, St. Peter ran to God and said, "God, there are some evil, thieving punks at the Pearly Gates. What do I do?". God replied, "Just do what you normally do with that type. Re-direct them down to hell." St. Peter went back to carry out the order and all of a sudden he comes running back yelling "God, God, they're gone, they're gone!" "Who, the punks?" "No, the Pearly Gates."

God's love for us is not greater in heaven than it is now
(St Thomas Aquinas)

It is the heart which experiences God and not the reason
(Blaise Pascal)

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