



Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 42
April 2026 Easter

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



The gold of Easter in the shining whiteness of the resurrection. The colours of the spring flowers and lilies.
Wishing all our readers, a blessed and joyful Easter

Contents of this month's 'Clarion'



Page 2

Bishop's Column

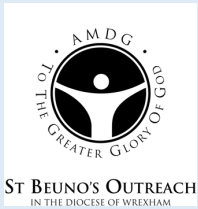
The tragedy of war in Jerusalem



Page 7

Round and About in the Diocese

Bishop's Engagements
Events and Invitations



Page 3

St Beuno's Outreach

Noli mi tangere
Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene



Page 7

In the Diocese

International Mass
Safeguarding Report
St Winefride's Well



Page 4

Gospel Year of Matthew

The Resurrection
The First Day of the Week
Cycle of Prayer



Page 8

Environmental Issues

Invitation to a Webinar
Senedd Election



Page 5

News from the Wider Community

Lenten Alms:
The John Bradburne Memorial Society
Society of St Peter the Apostle



Page 9

Society of St Vincent de Paul
Mini-Vinnies
Our Lady's, Bangor
140 years and new premises



Page 6

Easter

Why this date?



Page 10

A Gallimaufry

The Royal Maundy
Quiz
Out of the Ordo-inary

Getting the right message;

Claude Chappe invented semaphore in 1792. To make it visible over long distances Semaphore Towers were built, and Napoleon transmitted messages over 500 miles in two hours rather than a horse in five days. These towers were often on Cathedral towers. After the Battle of Waterloo, Winchester Cathedral was used to give the message which read "Wellington defeated..." The populace was in deep despair as fog and cloud obscured the signal.

Suddenly the fog lifted, and the rest of the message could be seen... "Wellington defeated... the enemy". Sorrow turned into joy, and defeat became victory in but a moment.

What to look out for:

Page 8 an invitation to a webinar on the environment with Bp John Arnold, and how to make sure you have a vote for the Senedd.

In the joy of the Resurrection, let us remember all those suffering in conflicts. Innocent victims in a time of war.

Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwxm.org.uk

As I write this column, it is a month to the day since the current war with Iran began when the United States and Israel launched surprise airstrikes on multiple sites and cities across Iran, killing Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and other Iranian officials. Iran responded with missile and drone strikes against Israel, US bases and allied countries in the Middle East.

As we know the conflict has escalated since then, extending the attacks. Increasingly, innocent women, children and men of the region have become the victims of the extremists on all sides even their own. Earlier last week Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, announced that the traditional Palm Sunday procession, which goes from the Mount of Olives up to Jerusalem, had been cancelled and will be replaced by a moment of prayer for the city at a location yet to be determined.

In his [statement](#), the Cardinal explained that the Chrism Mass of Holy Thursday, usually held in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, has been postponed to a later date, as soon as the situation allows and possibly within the Easter season. He wrote:

“Due to the war, this year we were unable to experience the traditional Lenten journey in Jerusalem, with the solemn celebrations at the Holy Sepulchre and in the Holy Places of the Passion,”

“Though we were able to pray and prepare personally, we felt the loss of the community journey towards Easter. The harshness of this time of war, which affects us all, today bears the added burden of not being able to celebrate Easter together and with dignity.”

“This is a wound that adds to the many others inflicted by the conflict. But we must not allow ourselves to be discouraged. Though we may not gather as we would like, let us not give up prayer.”

While this conflict holds the news headlines, we are not to forget the other war zones in the world:

- the war in Ukraine now in its fifth year;
- the equally long running the Sudan civil war;
- the Myanmar civil war;
- the Somali civil war.

These are among the 46 armed conflicts involving 76 countries currently raging; eight of those conflicts are

classified as ‘major wars’ with estimated fatalities numbering from around 11,000 up to 29,000 in each.

‘The number and intensity of ‘wars in the world’ have been on a sharp incline since 2020. This trend marks a departure from the relative decline in major conflicts seen in the post-Cold War era. Factors include rising geopolitical competition, the proliferation of non-state armed groups, climate change exacerbating resource scarcity, and the erosion of international conflict resolution mechanisms. The current global environment is more conducive to conflict than at any time since World War II.’

Global Conflict Map 2026

In St. John’s Gospel we read, *“On the evening of the first day of the week ... Jesus came and stood among them [his disciples] and said to them ‘Peace be with you.’”* (Jn.20:19) Never in the history of mankind has the need for those words to be heard far and wide and brought to become reality - not only through our prayers but by the reconciliation and forgiveness demonstrated in our lives and among those with whom we live.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin in an interview prior to Pope Leo’s visit to Monaco said, *“The Holy Father, strongly reiterates that the prerequisite for peace among peoples lies in unity with God and with ourselves. Only a reconciled person is capable of entering into a dynamic of peace and becoming an agent of reconciliation in daily life”*

We are to be that people, those persons, for as Cardinal Pizzaballa said, *“Easter, which we celebrate in the name of Christ’s passion, death, and resurrection, reminds us that no darkness, not even that of war, can have the last word. The empty tomb is the seal of the victory of life over hatred, of mercy over sin. Let us allow this certainty to illuminate our steps and sustain our hope.”*

That is our faith, that is our hope: for that peace may our prayer be made.

I wish you and all whom you love a joyous, peaceful and blessed Easter,

† Peter.

It is told that Rossini, the composer made such beautiful music that the King of France gave him a beautiful watch. Proud of this watch, because it was a royal gift, he took great care of it. Years later he showed it to a friend who said “lend it to me for a moment, for you do not know its real value”. Taking the watch he touched a spring, and the watch opened to reveal a painting of Rossini himself. The composer never knew it was there. Sometimes it takes someone else to show us the gift we are to others!

Showing her husband a speckled egg, the wife remarked “The Easter bunny must have laid this one”. “Perhaps she did”, he replied absently. “I always thought the Easter bunny was a ‘he’ “, she said. “Look”, the husband replied, laying down his newspaper, “It’s hard enough for a rabbit to lay eggs, without it being male, too”

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.



Fra Bartolomeo, *Noli me tangere* (c. 1506) Wikimedia Commons

'Rejoice!'

This month we pray for the grace to know the gladness and joy of the Risen Lord in this Easter season. The picture, '*Noli me tangere*' (Latin for 'Do not touch me' or 'Do not cling to me'), is the work of the Italian Renaissance painter Fra Bartolomeo (1472–1517), and hangs in the Louvre Museum, Paris. It shows Mary Magdalene, who, on recognising Jesus in the man she thought was the gardener, attempts to hold on to him. Jesus gently asks her to let him go, and to tell the other disciples that she has seen him.

Fra Bartolomeo took inspiration from the Gospel of St John (20: 14–18)

Mary said: **'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.'** Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, **'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?'** Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, **'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.'** Jesus said to her, **'Mary.'** She turned and said to him in Aramaic **'Rabboni!'** (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, **'Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'** Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, **'I have seen the Lord'** – and that he had said these things to her.

Read the text prayerfully more than once as you ponder the painting.

Take a moment to become still before the Lord, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.

You may now like to use your imagination to listen to Mary addressing the man she thinks is the gardener.

What do you notice about her voice?

Perhaps you wonder why she does not at first recognise Jesus, whom she knew so well.

How is he different now?

Then you hear Jesus's voice calling 'Mary!' The surroundings may be different, but the quality of his voice remains the same.

Pause here awhileto ponder.

Perhaps something similar has happened in your own life, when you recognised someone only when they spoke to you.

Spend some time reliving that scene. Speak with the Lord about what happened and how you felt.

As you *read the text again*, you may like to focus on Jesus's command: 'Do not cling to me'.

Perhaps you can imagine yourself as Mary hearing those words.

What move do you make towards Jesus?

How do you feel when he speaks to you?

Perhaps rejected, bewildered, understanding ...?

How easy is it to let go of someone or something you treasure? ...

Maybe something like a child leaving home, a close friend going away, or the need to move to a new area?

Bring to mind any such instance in your life.

Who or what helped you come to terms with it? If you can, express your gratitude for the support you received.

Returning to the scene, what do you hear in Mary's voice as she tells the disciples that she has seen the Lord?

Perhaps excitement, joy, amazement ...?

Speak to Jesus of this as one friend to another.

In time, slowly bring your prayer to a close, thanking God for being with you.

A Date for your Diary

St Beuno's Outreach is running a Week of Guided Prayer over Zoom from Sunday 12 April 2026. You can either do this over one week (meeting with your Prayer Guide each Day, ending on Saturday 18 April) or over three weeks (twice-weekly meetings with your Guide, ending on Saturday 2 May). All are most welcome and we can generally be flexible over times.

Please contact us at stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com for more details.

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



Gospel Year of Matthew

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

“Now after the Sabbath, towards the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel of the Lord said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

Matthew 28:1-10 ESV-CE

Reflection Prayer: This is the day of our greatest joy, because we have been saved through love (*Ephesians 1:4-5*).

How glorious was Christ’s triumph over all the powers of darkness!

Everyone should rejoice on this holy day, because as St. Maximus of Turin pointed out:

‘No one should separate himself from the general rejoicing because he or she has sins on his conscience; no one should refuse to take part in the public worship because of the burden of his misdeeds. However great a sinner he or she may be, on this day he should not despair of pardon, for the privileges granted on this day are great. If a thief was thought worthy of paradise, why should not a Christian be thought worthy of forgiveness?’

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:

During Eastertide we are asked to pray for these intentions:

New Members of the Church;

Human Work;

Vocations;

Survivors of Abuse;

the Right use of the Media;

the Church.

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 you will find an amazing interactive Mosaic Experience ‘*Little bits of God.*’

It takes two sides to make a lasting peace, but it only takes one to make the first step
Edward M Kennedy

Commentary:

There are divergent traditions in the gospel accounts of the Resurrection appearances; Galilean (north) and Judaeon (south).

St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians (1Cor15) adds his own record. The accounts do not easily fit together, but this is surely evidence of their genuineness. There is no attempt to produce an artificial conformity.

‘... *the first day of the week*’: Sunday, the day following the Jewish Sabbath.

To commemorate Christ’s Resurrection, the early Christians called it the ‘Lord’s day’ (Rev.1:10) and designated it a day for sacred assembly, Eucharistic worship, and prayer (*Acts 20:7*. See also the *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 2174*).

It was around a hundred and twenty years before the celebration of Easter as an anniversary feast became the practice of the early Church; until then every Sunday was the ‘Lord’s Day’ - the ‘Day of Resurrection’ - and observed and celebrated as such.

This is reflected in the European Romance languages where the name for Sunday is:

Domingo (Spanish/Portuguese),

Dimanche (French),

Domenica (Italian).

St. Augustine has this to add:

‘Be glad wherever you are to-day, because no matter how long we are on earth God, Christ and the Holy Spirit are with us. So do not be anxious not ever lose hope?’

Indeed, this is the day the Lord has made.

A day to sing out our praise.

A day to fall on our knees in thanksgiving.

A day to rejoice with great happiness of mind, body and spirit. (*Psalms 1117*)

Rejoice and be glad! *Rejoice!*

(P.166) “Called into Light”.

Meditations with Bp. Richard Challoner for the Christian Year.

Stafford Whiteaker. ©2024 Gracewing, Herefordshire.

POPE’S PRAYER INTENTION - April

For priests in crisis. Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

Offering Prayer

Good Father, I know you are with me. Here I am on this new day. Place my heart once more next to the Heart of your Son Jesus, who is giving himself for me and who comes to me in the Eucharist. May your Holy Spirit make me his friend and apostle, available for his mission of compassion.

I place in your hands my joys and hopes, my works and sufferings, everything that I am and have, in communion with my brothers and sisters of this Worldwide Prayer Network. With Mary, I offer you my day for the mission of the Church and for the prayer intentions of the Pope and the Bishops for this month. Amen.

**LENTEN ALMS ; JBMS and MISSIO (SPA)
THE SOCIETY OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE**

Last month CLARION focused on John Bradburne and the **John Bradburne Memorial Society (JBMS)** which supports the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe.

This month a little more is offered about the **Society of St. Peter the Apostle (SPA)**.

The Pontifical Missions – ‘The Society of St Peter the Apostle’ – funds the formation of seminarians, novices, and religious in mission territories. The Church in England and Wales supports this Pontifical Mission Society through *Missio*.

The SPA was founded in 1889 by [Jeanne Bigard](#), a visionary young woman who saw the importance of investing in tomorrow’s leaders. Today, *Missio* continues this vital work in 157 countries, through the generosity and prayers of its loyal supporters.

Missio supports the training of over 25,000 future Priests and 11,000 Religious Sisters each year by providing young Churches in developing countries with funding to train their own future Church leaders.

Today, these Priests and Sisters are building the vibrant Catholic Church of tomorrow, ensuring the gift of faith is passed on to future generations worldwide.

How SPA helps -

In missionary dioceses in Africa and Asia, it costs at least £700 a year to train a student for the priesthood. Even though their families and parish communities try to support them, and the seminaries do their best to grow their own food, it’s a struggle to cover the full costs of seminary training.

Missio believes no vocation should be turned away through lack of funds. That’s why the Holy Father asks us to channel help from our supporters in England and Wales to help build the future of our Church.

With your help – the seminarian sponsorship programme, *Missio* can support the next generation of leaders for our global Church.

For further information <https://www.johnbradburne.com/> Reg. Charity No. 1046483 and

Missio <https://missio.org.uk/churchoftomorrow/> Reg. Charity No. 1056651

Lenten Alms, ‘Gifts for the poor, especially those collected during Lent as the fruit of penance, may be presented in the offertory procession at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday while the people sing ‘*Ubi caritas est vera*’. (*Paschale Solemnitatis*, N.52)

(For a moving rendition of this chant, see the YouTu.be video, link below

<https://youtu.be/chUc5rY0aeU?si=k1GvvcUOIG0hf0p>

or the well known version of the Taizé chant “Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est’.

Don’t look for flaws as you go through life;
It is easy enough to find them.

It is wise to be kind, and sometimes blind,
And to look for the virtues behind them. (Anon)

Kindness is the golden chain by which society is bound
together (Goethe)

HOLY HOUR FOR THE DIGNITY OF LIFE

On **Sunday, 19 April at 4:30 pm** (UK time), the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales at their Plenary Meeting in Rome will hold a Holy Hour to pray for the promotion of a culture of life in our lands.

They invite the parishes and Catholic communities of our two nations to unite by holding a Holy Hour on the same day.

This is to present a unified, prayerful front to offer this petition to Our Lord for the dignity of life from conception to natural end and to pray that assisted suicide will not become law.

In a Lenten statement, the Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Reverend John Sherrington, reaffirmed the Church’s principled objection to the **Terminally Ill (Adults) End of Life Bill**, and urged Catholics to pray for parliamentarians debating the Private Members’ Bill in the House of Lords. Archbishop Sherrington, the Lead Bishop for Life Issues for the Bishops’ Conference, asked for a special prayerful focus on those who are suffering near the end of their lives and those who care for them. [Read more.](#)

Clause 208 of the Crime and Policing Bill

Recently the House of Lords voted to keep clause 208 in the Crime and Policing Bill. The clause decriminalises abortion up to birth in some circumstances.

Archbishop Sherrington expressed his distress at the decision and has warned that “this move is likely to lead to more late-term abortions putting pregnant women and their babies at risk. Many women could likely also face even greater risks of isolation, coercion, and pressure.” [Read more.](#)

The Archbishop of Southwark, the Most Reverend John Wilson, has described the legislation as “frightening” and that it not only ignores the unborn child, but also raises “serious concerns for the safety of women”. [Read more.](#)

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE VICTIMS OF ABUSE May 5th

In 2016, Pope Francis 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.”

The Pope announced a worldwide day of prayer.

In England and Wales this day is observed on Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter, this year Tuesday 5th May. Resources produced by the Bishops Conference Secretariate will be available after Easter.

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

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

St. Winefride’s Shrine in Holywell is a centre of prayer.
(See **page 8, Round and About in the Diocese** for details)



The Date of Easter

The Language of Easter

The Symbol of Easter

The Food of Easter

In the Spotlight

All About Easter

What you know, what you didn't know
and
What you have forgotten

(Facts, myths and legends gleaned from a variety of sources and collated for 'Clarion'. With thanks to those unknown, and unknowing persons who have contributed to this article)

The date of Easter!

"The first Sunday after the first Full Moon after the Spring Equinox"

We all know that 'fact'... but how accurate is it?

The first Christians believed the Resurrection to have been on the third day after the Jewish Passover. That is Nisan 16 in the Jewish calendar... but the modern calendar moves around. This year, 2026, Easter coincides with Pesach, the Jewish Passover, from Wednesday 1st April to Thursday 9th. The date reflects Nisan 15-22

In 2027, Pesach will be April 21st-29th, but Easter will be 28th March.

In 2028 the Passover is 10th-18th April, and Easter is 16th April.

The Hebrew calendar has only 354 days, so dates will move around... but Easter will always be in the spring. So, in one sense Easter does not have a link with Passover, but linguistically the connection is strong. We talk of 'Paschal time', the French use 'Pâques' (*the circumflex indicates a missing 's'*), the Spanish 'Pascua', and the Italians 'Pasqua'. Most European languages maintain the 'pasch' sound.

'Easter' in English, and 'Ostern' in German is thought to originate from 'Eostre' – whom Bede described as an Old English goddess. These are 'outliers' among languages.

Back to the date.... We know that the equinox is March 20th? Actually, NO! It can vary one day either side (when day and night are 12 hours). Also the full moon can vary, usually 14 days into a lunar month!

So the early Church 'made up' its calendar, and decreed that the equinox is March 21st, and the full moon is 14 days of the lunar month..... **All theoretically!**

Now that the date is settled, by the modern calendar, the most probable date for the Crucifixion is April 3rd AD 30. So this year *may indeed* coincide with the actual days and dates!

However, there have been many calls to make Easter a more widely agreed date. The League of Nations proposed a specific date in 1926. In 1928 Stanley Baldwin's government in the UK passed the Easter Act declaring the second Saturday in April as the Easter weekend. It was never enforced!

Even the Council of Nicaea did not succeed, because the Eastern Orthodox churches use the Julian Calendar, not the Gregorian of 14th September 1752 (causing many to bemoan 'the loss of eleven days'), so Easter coincides only occasionally.

Even Britain had its problems: evangelisation came from the west and the south. In Northumbria in the 7th Century, King Oswlu followed the Irish tradition, and his Kentish wife the Roman. So, some were still fasting while others were feasting -almost leading to civil war! The Synod of Whitby settled the matter.... with the Roman date.

Why eggs? Of course, symbols of fertility and rebirth! A blessing of eggs is included in the Roman Ritual of 1610, and there may be a theology of the Trinity (shell, yoke and albumen), as well as the 'empty tomb' of Jesus. Ancient traditions of early Christians in Mesopotamia have decorated eggs, and because eggs were forbidden in Lent.

And Chocolate? A food stuff from the cacao tree has been known in Ecuador for 5,300 years. Brought to Europe in the 16th Century it was firstly a drink and then solidified during the 19th.

Frys made the first chocolate eggs in 1873, and Cadbury made milk chocolate in 1897. At first in the 18th Century chocolate was considered aristocratic and Catholic, coming from southern Europe, and developed by monks.

For all these reasons, enjoy the feast of Easter, the spring lamb and the chocolate eggs.

After the privations of Lent, such pleasures are allowed.... But always remembering our responsibility to 'Love one another', to care for the environment, and to continue to be generous to those who are less fortunate, and are suffering hunger.



A Happy and Blessed Easter

Around and About in the Diocese
Bishop's Engagements and Diocesan News

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

April

01	7.00pm	Chrim Mass	Cathedral
02	7.30pm	Lord's Supper & Watching	Cathedral
03.	3.00pm	Passion of the Lord	Cathedral
04.	8.30pm	Easter Vigil	Cathedral
05		Easter Sunday	
11	12.Noon	Deacons' Renewal Mass	Cathedral
17-24		Bishops' Spring Plenary	Palazzola (Rome)
30	7.00pm	Confirmation	Denbigh

May

02	12.Noon	International Mass	Cathedral
02	6.00pm	Confirmation	Llanfairfechan

RITE OF ELECTION

As reported in 'Clarion', a record number of thirty-eight Catechumens attended the Rite of Election in the Cathedral on the First Sunday of Lent. A small number was unable to attend. They will be Baptised or Received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church at Easter or during the Triduum celebrations. We welcome them all and look forward to celebrating with them in their parishes in the coming weeks and also on the Vigil of Pentecost (23rd May) when they are invited to celebrate with Bishop Peter the *Mystagogy Mass* 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 in the diocese.

St Winefride's Well

In June 2023, Clarion reported that Bishop Peter had inaugurated St. Winefride's Shine and Well as a place of prayer and healing for the victims of sexual harassment, abuse and violence.

This re-dedication drew 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. Also as a place to seek forgiveness through repentance by the perpetrators of abuse.

The Shrine is Open:

The Shrine is open throughout the day and during the season 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

Chickens and Dickens

1 D	2 D	3 D	4 Ch	5 Ch	6 Ch	7 Ch	8 Ch
9 Ch	10 D	11 D	12 D	13 D	14 Ch	15 D	

The Answers

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

APRIL

Thur 2 nd	The Sacred Paschal Triduum begins. The Mass of the Lord's Supper
Fri 3 rd	Good Friday
Sun 5 th	Easter Sunday. The Resurrection of the Lord
Sun 26 th	World Day of Prayer for Vocations (Good Shepherd Sunday)

MAY

Fri 1 st	St. Joseph the Worker
Sat 2 nd	International Mass for Workers from Overseas.
Tue 5 th	Day of Prayer for the Survivors of Sexual Abuse
12 th -16 th	Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes
Thur 14 th	The Ascension of the Lord
Sun 17 th	World Communications Day Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Taper, Cardigan
Sat 23 rd	<i>Mystagogy Mass</i> – celebrating new members of the Church
Sun 24 th	Pentecost

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 12noon following the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker (1st May). If those attending are able to wear their national costumes the atmosphere will be rendered most delightful.

Refreshments in the Cathedral Hall after.

**CSSA SAFEGUARDING INSPECTION REPORT –
MARCH 2026**

Last autumn for two weeks the Diocese was subject to its first 'new style' safeguarding inspection. The report was published last month. Those two weeks were the culmination of many preparatory weeks of surveys and documentation. Many readers will have known of the inspection, being involved either by completion of survey forms or by interview. Most of the senior Diocesan personnel were interviewed and there was an examination of documentary material. The outcome on the 8 Standards overall was 'Exceeding Expectations' (5/7); individually seven of the eight standards achieved that 'Exceeding Expectations' (5/7); one 'Meeting Expectations' (4/7). This is all thanks to everyone concerned, lay and clergy alike, the faithful in the pew, through the Parish Reps (PSRs), the clergy, Diocesan Support Services, Curia, and Safeguarding Officers all of whom recognised and demonstrated that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone. There is the acknowledgement too that there is still work to be done and further improvements to be made on the recommendations offered.

The full report can be seen on the CSSA website: <https://catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/audits-and-reports/inspection-reports-of-dioceses/>

See also [Safeguarding Statement - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

Our Common Home: Engaging Politicians

A Webinar - Monday 13 April 6:30pm

With Bishop John Arnold, organised by the "Diocesan Environmental Leads' Network & Friends". With the Senedd and local elections fast approaching, in May, now is an important time to let politicians know your views on climate and justice.

Following a meeting with the Catholic Diocesan Environment Leads of England and Wales, an alliance of organisations has come together to offer parishioners guidance on key environmental issues and to help them engage local politicians in dialogue about defending our common home and safeguarding the dignity of all our brothers and sisters.

To attend the Webinar, you can register for the ONLINE meeting at: <https://tinyurl.com/delpolitics>

The link to join will be sent later. (NB You do not need any special 'app' – you will join via your internet browser) *(Do not be afraid to join a webinar – it is only an online 'seminar' – let this be your first one! - Ed)*

Notes from the Environmental Leads of the diocese

We've had an exciting time since the last edition - we had our second Environmental Network meeting!

Interested people from churches across the diocese attended, and new volunteers are always welcome!

-One topic was the forthcoming Senedd Elections and the importance of us all finding out the aims of each party on environmental and social justice issues

-Eco-church was raised as a pathway of getting started in a parish or building on actions already taken <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>

We also discussed with Dcn David Tarbrook, (the Diocesan Director of Communications) about having an Environmental page on the diocesan website. The idea is that we can post our Environmental Network minutes, highlight forthcoming events, current campaigns, suggestions of resources (in a non overwhelming way!) and any actions that parishes have taken to inspire us all! This is work in progress!

We join everyone in praying for peace. Bishop Arnold – the lead Bishop for the Environment for England and Wales - wrote about the war in the Middle East, outlining not only about the dreadful loss of life but also the devastating effects on the Environment.

Coming soon is World Day for the Environment -22nd April – a good day for us to have some bidding prayers in our Mass.

Please get in touch if you have thoughts or share ideas about your parish activities: email environmentallead@rcdwxm.org.uk

Alison and Rebekah

Does God interfere?

The elderly vicar was the world's worst golfer. One day, on a long straight hole, he connected completely and drove a towering shot to the green. The ball rolled down, as if drawn by a magnet, and continued - over the apron, across the green, and hitting the pin, fell into the hole. As his companions ran to him in awe, he raised his eyes towards heaven. "Lord", he begged, "I'd rather do it myself".

2026 SENEDD ELECTION

Significant Dates:

27th March - Senedd concluded the current session.
8th April - Senedd dissolved.
20th April - Last date to register to vote*
21st April - Last date to register for a postal vote

You cannot vote online.

7th May - Polling Day

* If you are voting for the first time, i.e. aged 16 or over on the 7th May the important thing is to register by 20th April. You will vote in person or you may apply for a postal vote. You may find the Senedd election website useful for information: <https://senedd.wales/senedd-election-2026/voting-and-senedd-elections/voting-for-the-first-time-in-a-senedd-election/>

The Catholic community in Wales contributes greatly to the nation's proud heritage of religious, cultural and ethnic diversity as also in England and throughout the world. In Wales the Diocese of Wrexham and the Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia. serve a Catholic population of around 265,00 in 142 parishes making Catholicism one of the biggest faiths in Wales. The Bishops will soon release a guide outlining some of the work of the Church here as well as the Catholic community's main policy requests ahead of the Election.

This Senedd election brings significant changes. The Senedd will increase to 96 Members instead of 60. There is a new voting system and eligible voters aged 16+ will have **ONE** vote, choosing a political party or independent candidate. Wales will be divided into 16 constituencies and each constituency will elect 6 Members.

Archbishop Mark O'Toole writes in his foreword to the guide: "Participation in public life is a right and a duty." He reminds us that while no political party will perfectly reflect Catholic teaching, Gospel values can guide us in asking the right questions of those who seek to represent us - questions about the common good, human dignity, and the kind of society we want to build together.

Caritas Cardiff-Menevia has produced a guide – [The Senedd Election 2026: Every Vote Counts](#) – to help explain the new electoral system, who can vote, and how to make an informed choice. **CAFOD** is also producing resources on the election.

The taste of a Missionary

Returning home from the Far East, a missionary had become very fond of the spicy chutney. Wishing to be kind to a fellow passenger, he offered him some. The passenger helped himself liberally, and with tears in his eyes and cheeks flushed, he remarked, "You are a Missionary, aren't you?" "Well, yes", replied the former.

"And you believer in hell fire?"

"Yes, I do", replied the Missionary, "Why do you ask?"

"Because", replied the passenger "You are the first missionary I have met who carried samples around with him"

And there is a story going around among missionaries of the cannibal who complains that since the ecumenical movement gained momentum, all missionaries taste the same.

A thought at election time:

The responsibility of tolerance lies with those who have a wider vision.
(George Eliot)

Promoting the work of the SVP.

Do you have an SVP Conference in your parish?

One of the very active conferences of the diocese recounts its work with developing a social conscience with the children of the school in the 'Mini-Vinnies' conference:

St Vincent de Paul Society in action at St David's Catholic Primary School in Mold

The St Vincent de Paul Conference in Mold over the past few years, has worked to extend its reach across the parish. The society was formed originally to follow the example set by St Vincent to serve those in need, show love and respect to those we encounter and support each other in all that we do.

The number of members in Mold has grown, allowing the work done to be extended, reaching out to the local community and even beyond.

Driven by the example set by St Vincent to offer the hand of friendship to all, the first port of call was to the young. The local Catholic school attached to the parish was the obvious choice.

Some years ago, the group was set up and is now thriving. The 'Mini Vinnies' at St David's Primary School in Mold was the result so that the young can put their faith into action. The children support people in their community, meeting them face to face and trying to help them in any way they can. The prayer said at each meeting stresses sharing their time, gifts and talents with those in the parish and to support each other to build a better world.

In practice, this included collecting food for the local Foodbank and delivering it to the local distribution point. Entertaining elderly members of the parish is an annual event at the St Nicholas' Tea Party held just before Christmas. The enthusiasm and range of talents seen was uplifting with singing, gymnastics, drumming and dancing. The children mingled with those present providing company and raised the spirits of all. The final Christmas carol sent everyone out with their spirits high. Looking further afield, the pupils at the school collected pens and pencils to fill a suitcase to be sent out with a volunteer teacher to pupils in Malawi. This was putting into practice the need to help and support each other as Mini Vinnies to build a better world. The enthusiasm of the pupils in helping others has been truly inspiring. Long may this continue and grow.



Ideas and artist's impressions:

Our Lady's, Bangor

A new building for a school with 140 years of history

As Our Lady's closes the doors on the old building, stories are retold, and memories jogged. Can you add to the history by sharing your memories and photos?

An artist's impression:



Were you in class? Do you know anyone?



Can you identify the teachers? Mixed football in those days?

Why not? !!



School Crossing patrols began after the 1953 School Crossing Patrol Act. So this is late 50's, or 60's. Were you there?

Below is an invitation to all to bid farewell to the 'old building' and celebrate 140 years of the school. The Headteacher, Mrs Aimee Jones would love to welcome you to an exhibition of old photographs, and share memories.

If you have an interesting story, contact Mrs Jones at Aimee.Jones@einharglwyddes.ysgoliangwynedd.cymru

Time to say good bye....

We invite all staff, pupils, parents, friends and governors past and present to say farewell to our current school building before we make the big move to our new school.

On Sunday 24th May 2026

Join us for a special Mass with Bishop Peter at 10am at Our Lady's and St James' Church

At 12:30pm, we welcome everyone to come for a last walk around Our Lady's School and see a display of old photographs and archives and visit the school one last time.




THE BACK PAGE
a 'gallimaufry of serendipity'

ROYAL MAUNDY SERVICE

Every Maundy Thursday, the Monarch distributes special Maundy money in a service which commemorates Jesus washing the feet of the Apostles at the Last Supper.

This year the King was in Wales for only the second time, and for the first time in North Wales at St. Asaph Cathedral as part of its 800 year history. Four members of our Diocese were among the 154 recipients of the Maundy Money.

77 women and 77 men received two purses. In the white purse was a set of specially minted silver Maundy coins totalling 77 pennies, to match the King's age, and in the Red Purse was a unique £5 coin commemorating 100 years since Queen Elizabeth II's birth, and a 50p coin that celebrates the 50th anniversary of The King's Trust.

The service this year featured specially commissioned music by Welsh composers and musicians, celebrating the return of the Royal Maundy to Wales. In addition, the service used the processional Cross of Wales, a gift from the King to the Christians of Wales. The cross, which, headed the procession at Westminster Abbey for the King's coronation in 2023, contains a fragment of the True Cross, a gift to the King from the late Pope Francis, and believed to be part of the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified.

<https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/news-and-events/the-king-and-queen-will-attend-the-royal-maundy-service-at-st-asaph-cathedral/>
(Clarion will be pleased to receive an account of this special occasion from one of the recipients – You can listen to a Radio Wales programme "All Things Considered -Behind the Royal Maundy Service" on BBC Sounds, with interviews and some of the music-Ed)

Chickens at Easter, and Dickens at Christmas
Easter Eggs v 'A Christmas Carol'

Do you know more about chickens at Easter, or the characters from Dickens at Christmas and beyond?

Try this fun quiz - - answers on page

Which is a chicken and which a character from Dickens?

1. Clemency Newcombe
2. Fascination Fledgeby
3. Canon Crisparkle
4. Bovans Goldline
5. Lohmann Brown
6. Croad Langshan
7. Barbu d"Everberg
8. Lavender Orpington
9. Robusta Maculata
10. Bayham Badger
11. Prince Turveydrop
12. Dolge Orlick
13. Mulberry Hawk
14. Cara Blanca
15. Angelo Bantam

New book to be published...

by Anne Forrest



"There's More to Life than Death"

Parishioner at Eglwys y Bugail Da, Llanrwst Anne Forrest has written a new book to be published on April 25th by Bridge House Publications. A series of short stories, Anne describes them as 'not a religious book, in fact some of the stories have a metaphysical aspect

Out of the Ordo-inary!

The celebrations of Easter take over the Ordo at this time: Easter week is one of high celebration each day 'within the Octave of Easter', culminating in the 2nd Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday), which Pope St John-Paul II designated 'Divine Mercy Sunday'.

April 13th St Martin I, d.646 Pope and Martyr (red). The last Pope to die a martyr, he argued against Monothelism (the idea that Christ was not fully human and fully divine).

April 20th St Beuno Abbot (white) -While much may be myth and legend, he appears to have been a successful preacher, evangelising much of North Wales

April 21st St Anselm 1035-1109 (white) Bishop and Doctor of the Church, Archbishop of Canterbury succeeding Llanfranc. The 'Father of Scholasticism' he argued with William II (Rufus), and Henry II (who had Thomas a Becket killed).

April 23rd St George d.303 Martyr at Lydda, Palestine. Patron of England, Portugal, Germany, Aragon, Genoa and Venice, knights and soldiers. His ensignia, a red cross on a white background, was used by Crusaders.

April 25th St Mark Evangelist (red) d.74. Son of Mary, where the Apostles stayed, cousin of Barnabas. Probably a Levite, was he the young man who ran away naked (Mk 14:51-2) Travelled with Paul, and Peter called him 'my son'. Patron of Venice, where his body is reputed to lie.

April 28th St Peter Chanel (1803-1841) Martyr (red). A priest, killed in Oceania. Schools named after him.

April 29th St Catherine of Siena Virgin and Doctor. 1347-80. Patron of Italy and Europe, she had mystical experiences.

April 30th St Pius V 1504-72 Born at Bosco, Italy, he taught theology, and prior of Dominican houses. He lived a frugal life. Excommunicated Elizabeth I in 1570.

May 1st St Joseph the Worker This feast was inaugurated in 1955 by Pope Pius XII. Patron of the Church, a model for fathers. Patron of workers, and social justice.

May 2nd St Athanasius Bishop and Doctor.(297-373) He opposed Arianism, throughout his life, finally succeeding in overcoming it. Known as the 'champion of orthodoxy', he probably 'inspired' but did not write the Athanasian Creed.

Wrexham Clarion is published by the Diocese of Wrexham, Bishop's House, Sontley Road, Wrexham, LL13 7EW
Telephone 01978 262 726 Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Bishop or the Diocese.

For further information and contributions please contact the Editor, Mark J. Philpot at clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk

The newsletter is distributed through parish email lists.

To register for your copy individually, please email your request to communications@rcdwxm.org.uk

