



Issue no 11
October 2023

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



Bishop's Column

As I write on this autumn equinox day, I find it a stark reminder that the end of the calendar year is not far away; nearer still, the end of the Church's year.

This is the time John Keats describes in his poem Autumn, written two hundred years ago as the '*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness*'. For mists and mellow fruitfulness there is a dependency on water; from rain, the oceans and rivers, aquifers, and any other source you care to name. What is important in each case is the right balance of the ground, ocean and atmospheric temperature which naturally control atmospheric humidity. There always have been freak meteorological events, but largely the climate has followed the pattern of the seasons around the globe north and south, east and west. But this is no longer the case if the events of recent years are anything to go by.

Some of these events affecting our water supplies are beyond our immediate control, but many are not. We, in this country, are blessed with a generally plentiful supply of clean, potable water - and what do we do with it? Wash our cars!! The water then runs off into drains and gullies into the rivers, along with detergents and other chemicals, to add to the pollution that the water companies have not treated, or are not able to treat, before releasing our inevitable waste water into the seas. This then joins the vast quantity of unseen pollution absorbed by fish and marine life that we then harvest and eat. How much plastic is manufactured for us to buy bottled water? We can be sure it is not all recycled and does itself become a pollutant on land or at sea.

Farmers extract water from rivers and lakes for essential crop irrigation; well they do when the water is there to be drawn. However, unable to predict accurately future weather patterns, they sow their crops based on past knowledge that at the right time

there will be water to swell the crops, and then, also at the right time there will be no rain in order to harvest their crops. This, of course, affects us all as the yields of produce will influence the price we have to pay not only for fresh food now, but for the processed foodstuffs at a later date.

This year alone we have seen how water can devastate people's lives; how it has been used and weaponised in the bombing of the dam in Ukraine; how corruption and neglect can have the same consequences in Libya as lives and livelihoods were snatched away when the dams collapsed due to torrential rain. We are increasingly aware of the severity of hurricanes in the Americas and Asia and the subsequent devastation caused.

Pope Francis' message for this year's Season of Creation clearly details where the responsibility for floods and drought lies. 'Consumerist greed, fuelled by selfish hearts, is disrupting the planet's water cycle. Alarming water shortages increasingly affect both small rural communities and large metropolises. Moreover, predatory industries are depleting and polluting our freshwater sources through extreme practices ... "Sister Water", in the words of Saint Francis of Assisi, is pillaged and turned into "a commodity, subject to the laws of the market" ' (*Laudato Si'*, 30).

The season of Creation closes on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi to whom I give the last word from his Canticle of the Creatures

***"Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
and clouds and storms, and all the weather,
through which You give Your creatures sustenance.
Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Water;
she is very useful, and humble, and precious,
and pure."***

With every good wish and continued prayer, + Peter

Advent Retreat 1st – 3rd December

The Advent Retreat, traditionally led by the Bishop of Wrexham will again this year be at the House of Prayer St. Augustine's Priory, Old Colwyn. See www.houseofprayer.org.uk for more details.

Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwxm.org.uk

Welcome to the Diocese



Father Robert Ehileme, priest of the Sons of Mary, Mother of Mercy (SMMM) has joined us in the Diocese of Wrexham. Father Robert is on a sabbatical here and has been appointed by Bishop Peter as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Tywyn and Machynlleth for the duration.

Father Robert is of a Nigerian Missionary Congregation and has been granted sabbatical period by his Superior. He has kindly agreed to come to the parish of Tywyn and Machynlleth on a temporary basis. He is an experienced pastoral priest who has previously worked in London.

We wish him well and pray that he will be happy in his ministry here.

A CHRISTIAN MEANING TO HALLOWEEN

The Truth about the Celebration that All Children Enjoy
The great tradition of the Feast of All Saints goes back many centuries. The celebration of the commemoration of the dead the following day came sometime later. The two Christian celebrations were fused into one and transformed into a single celebration -- Halloween -- where anything goes and essentially forgetting its origins.

The feast of All Saints, which the Church of Rome already observed, was transferred by Pope Gregory III (731-741) to November 1. Pope Gregory IV (827-844) extended this feast to the whole Church.

Although the custom of remembering and praying for the dead is as old as the Church, (it also existed in many pre-Christian cultures), the liturgical commemoration of the dead dates back to November 2, 998. The custom was instituted by Saint Odilo, Benedictine monk and fifth Abbot of Cluny, in southern France. Rome adopted the practice in the 14th century and was eventually extended to the whole Church.

The name Halloween is no more than the popular deformation of the expression All Hallows' Eve: Vigil of All Saints, used in Ireland. This very ancient celebration reached the United States through the Irish immigrants who took root there, undergoing a radical transformation only to return to Europe in its North American form. Old Europe donned a pumpkin and dedicated itself to enlivening a children's celebration, half way between carnival and the request for gifts by children.

In many countries, the Day of All Saints and the following All Souls Day, indistinctly, as in Spain, are Days in which families visit cemeteries and remember their loved ones. Sweets are made which relatives give to one another; stuffed marzipan called "saints' bones," for example. Children are given sweets and from a very young age become familiar in a natural way with the idea that earthly life is not eternal, but the next life is. (...)

In Mexico, although the commemoration of the dead seems to be of pre-Hispanic origin, today it coincides with the feast of All Saints and All Souls Day. All Souls Day is more popular in Mexico. While some take flowers to cemeteries, others spend the Day remembering their deceased loved ones, erecting altars at dawn, some of which are real works of art. The simplest way in most homes is to put a cloth on a table and photographs of the deceased, adorned with flowers and mementos.

What Halloween certainly is **NOT** is a Satanist celebration, although some want to make it such.

[Translation by ZENIT of an original article by Nieves San Martin. MADRID, OCT. 31, 2012]

Grandparents' Day at Noddfa



Working,



Praying,



Eating,



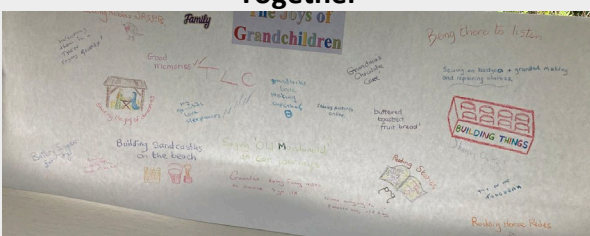
Creating,



Sharing,



Together





ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH
IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

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

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

October is a traditional time to think about the healing ministry, and on 18 October we celebrate the feast of St Luke, often called the 'beloved physician'. Luke's Gospel contains several accounts of Jesus healing people, including the story of the woman with the flow of blood, which inspired this month's image.

Now there was a woman suffering from a haemorrhage for twelve years, whom no one had been able to cure. She came up behind Jesus and touched the fringe of his cloak; and the haemorrhage stopped at that instant. Jesus said, 'Who touched me?' When they all denied that they had, Peter and his companions said, 'Master, it is the crowds round you, pushing'. But Jesus said, 'Somebody touched me. I felt that power had gone out from me.' Seeing herself discovered, the woman came forward trembling, and falling at his feet explained in front of all the people why she had touched him and how she had been cured at that very moment. 'My daughter,' he said 'your faith has restored you to health; go in peace.' (Luke 8: 43-48)

This Biblical scene lends itself very well to **imaginative contemplation**, one of the hallmarks of Ignatian Spirituality. St Ignatius believed that God can speak to us just as clearly in our imagination as through our thoughts. In imaginative prayer we trust that the Holy Spirit will let us see what God wants to show us. Spend some time pondering the text and the image. Then try to imagine yourself in the scene – perhaps as the woman, a disciple, an onlooker within the crowd ... or simply as yourself. You can change 'character' at any time.



© Daniel Cariola, 'Encounter', 1998

The Chilean artist Daniela Cariola painted this large mural for the Encounter Chapel in the new [Duc in Altum centre at Magdala by the Sea of Galilee](#), dedicating it 'to Jesus's encounter with all of us'. Pilgrims come here to pray for healing, and the chapel itself is modelled on the recently excavated first-century synagogue at Magdala (the likely home of Mary Magdalene).

You may like to listen to the conversations around you ... between Jesus and the disciples ... with the woman ... within the crowd.

Take time to allow all your senses to come into play. What can you see ... hear ... smell ... feel? What is the mood of the crowd? How does the sick woman look as she approaches Jesus?

Notice Jesus's response as he senses someone touching him. Don't worry if you can't see his face; just try to sense his presence, his closeness.

Now let Jesus turn to you. Perhaps you reach out to touch him yourself, or he extends a hand to you. Perhaps you want to seek healing from him for yourself or for someone else ...? Speak naturally to him, as one friend to another ... or if you prefer, simply remain together with him in reverent silence.

When you are ready, close your prayer with your own words of thanks.

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

Sunday 8th October: Week of Guided Prayer with St Beuno's Outreach.

Option of meeting with a guide each day over one week, or twice a week over three weeks.

Sunday 10th December, 7pm: Advent Journey by Zoom with St Beuno's Outreach

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION - October

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

Justification by Faith or Good Works?

Two priests were rushing for a train. Fearing they were late, one pulled out a watch, which had stopped. "How annoying! I had such faith in that watch".

"In a case like this", said the other "good works would have served us better"!



The Holy Guardian Angels

At that time the disciples came to Jesus saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said,

"Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believes in me to sin it would be better for him to have a millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven."

(Matt.18:1-5,10 ESV-CE)

"Rejoice for ever, you holy order of angels, before the smiling face of God. Through all eternity you feed on his honey-sweet praise:

we join with your prayers and entrust to God the uncertainties of our life.

For though he reigns in highest heaven, he looks with kindness upon the lowest places of earth."

(NOTKER (c.840-912) a monk of Gall (now Switzerland). Here he meditates with simplicity on the two-fold ministry of angels: adoring God and supporting humankind.)

Charismatic Renewal Weekend 13th to 15th October 2023

Take time out to praise God, listen to His Word and share your faith at the Loreto Retreat Centre, Llandudno.

Organised by "SHREX" a joint initiative of the Wrexham and Shrewsbury service teams. For further information contact Steve Halsall by email stehalsall@yahoo.co.uk

Booking info -- Rita Wilkinson - (07803 281 971)

– email: ritawilkinson18@gmail.com

COST: £164.00 - includes accommodation, all meals, teas & coffee.

Please email Rita with any special dietary needs.

Payment: £30 deposit secures your booking, which is returnable should the retreat not be able to go ahead

Bank Transfers to:

Co-operative Bank, Ac Title SCCR/DST

Account No 65485026 Sort Code 08-92-99,

Ref: 'Your Name' please

The Season of Creation

SEASON OF CREATION – 1 SEPTEMBER-4 OCTOBER 2023 "Let Justice and Peace Flow"

On the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, 4th October, this month-long international ecumenical time of prayer and reflection will end, but our concern, prayer and action for the environment and the health of creation must not.

Further information, resources and ideas to observe the Season can be found [Season of Creation - Catholic Bishops' Conference](https://www.cbcew.org.uk) ([cbcew.org.uk](https://www.cbcew.org.uk))

Effects of "Laudato Si'" - Conversions to conservation and ecology: part 2

Anne studied to understand ecology and the environment, and worked to help reduce poverty. She realised for the first time that poverty, life expectancy and environmental breakdown were the result of the climate and environmental crises, and that supporting overseas aid was tackling the symptoms, not the causes, and that the situation would not improve unless and until the climate and environmental crises were tackled.

She looked to her home life; she reduced dairy consumption, cut out meat, insulated her house and reduced dependence on car transport. She has taken the message to her parish and beyond. "We can't allow this degradation of our environment and loss of life to continue".

Sean was attracted to nature by the Bristol Natural History Unit. He noticed the scarcity of wildlife in the Nature Reserves the Unit had in their programmes. Then he noticed the alarming drop in insect numbers and species. His experience of an ecological conversion is that it never stops. It is always continuing and evolving. To keep his spirits up he occasionally visits areas in Scotland where wild bird and mammal species that are generally disappearing can still be seen and heard., He takes the Encyclical's message to his parish.

Menchu's eco conversion came slowly. She had always loved plants. When she was very young she lived in the Sahara Desert, so she knew from an early age how precious water is. She learned about botany and ecosystems at university, but it was when she started studying German that she learned about eco-friendly things - home-composting, recycling etc. When she lived in Spain, she felt the climate and environment problems at first hand; water scarcity, droughts and fires. It was in England that her 'war' against plastics started. So, her ecological conversion has been slow but sure, the result of following the gentle promptings of the Holy Spirit - "the Holy Spirit has led me softly here". As with Sean, her conversion is still continuing.

Peter's ecological conversion started when the OU Course he took in 2009, 'Innovation: Designing for the Environment', opened his "heart and conscience for our abused ecology". When in the same year typhoon *Ondoy* devastated the north of the Philippines, Peter's home country, climate change became very real to him. Further typhoons swept over the country, firmly nailing his personal commitment to tackling the environmental crises. He was involved in fundraising projects, but realised that the cause of the problems needed tackling.



Many parishes choose to support the work of Pact (The Prison Advice & Care trust) with a collection which is very much appreciated and valued. Leaflets and envelopes for individual contributions are available, as is further information: www.prisonadvice.org.uk

A message from Cardinal Vincent Nichols

'As President of Pact, I invite you to join with me in supporting Prisoners' Sunday on 8th October 2023. Pact is the national Catholic charity providing support to prisoners and their families. It is good to know that Pact is there for people of all faiths and none, supporting prisoners and their families on our behalf and with our help. I encourage you to play your part in this work of the Gospel for the common good of all.'

A Case Study of "Visiting Mum":

"Visiting Mum" is a Pact project which helps mums in prison to stay in touch with their children. Annie*, a mother from the Wrexham diocese, is in prison. Annie's son Nathan* is in the care of his grandparents while his mum serves her sentence. Annie told Pact staff that her parents have some health issues and don't drive. It would be difficult for them to take Nathan to see his mum in the prison 60 miles away. There are no women's prisons in Wales.

Pact staff contacted Nathan's grandparents and put them in touch with a Visiting Mum volunteer. The volunteer got to know everyone and set up a date when she would help Nathan make the journey to visit his mum for the first time. The volunteer helped them both to prepare – prison visits can be hard for everyone. Annie and Nathan were looking forward to meeting and spending time together but then Annie was put on a list to be transferred to another prison. We were able to advocate for Annie and Nathan, explaining that this visit had taken much time and effort to organise and Annie and Nathan were really looking forward to seeing each other at last. The prison staff listened and took Annie off the transfer list. She was able to spend time with her son on that first visit and on future visits with the help of the Pact staff and volunteers, and the good relationships we build with families and with other professionals.

**names changed to protect identities.*

Get in touch if you would like someone to speak briefly about Pact's work at Mass on Prisoners' Sunday where you are: parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk

Our Faith in Action team supports Catholic people and parishes to encounter the voices of people in our communities with lived experience of the criminal justice system, to reflect on Catholic Social Teaching, and to put faith into action. We offer our JustPeople workshops, Diocesan events, and a network of Pact Parish Reps [Events | Prison Advice and Care Trust](#)

PREVIEWING THE SYNOD –

An Historic Moment in the Life of the Catholic Church.

Two years after Pope Francis invited Catholics to walk together on a synodal path, offering every member of the Church the right to make their views known, we stand on the threshold of the first of two big meetings in Rome on the theme *'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission'*.

There has been intense speculation as to what will happen when the Synod of Bishops gathers for almost all of October – historically, for the first time, with non-Bishop voting members.

For the full Preview please go to: [Previewing the Synod - A historic moment in the life of the Catholic Church - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://www.cbcew.org.uk) where you will find additional information and links.

Picking up on Pope Francis' words in October 2022, "Without prayer there will be no synod...", Cardinal Grech, the General Secretary to the Synod, wrote to the bishops of the world on 12th September inviting them to promote the prayer of "listening, adoration, intercession and thanksgiving through which the whole ecclesial community can be present in the power of the Spirit at the Synod Assembly as an event that concerns all the baptised." On the 4th October the Holy Father will open the First Session of the Synod.



Life-Changing Pilgrimage Holidays

hcpt

Every Easter around 1,000 disabled and disadvantaged children enjoy a fun and safe week in Lourdes staying in a hotel with their volunteer helpers. These pilgrimages have been interrupted due to Covid19. Group 155 hopes to resume its pilgrimages next year.

We are planning on resuming our pilgrimage Easter 2024. We desperately want to take the group next year but **we urgently need new helpers**. Our helpers come from all walks of life.

Our group usually takes 8-10 children with their own helper.

Could you give a week to join in with our group on a holiday pilgrimage and give a child a once in a lifetime experience? Please contact Group Leader Anne-Marie Roberts 07548283791 or email group155@hcpt.org.uk

Did You Know....?

Originally, a 'City' was a town with a Cathedral. Now it is by Royal Charter, Letters of Patent, or 'Time Immemorial'. That means there are cities **without** a Cathedral. However, Pope Francis has turned the system on its head! Since Douglas, on the Isle of Man, has now been designated a City, the Pope has designated the Catholic Parish Church as a Cathedral!!!

The abject poverty experienced by those in the mid-19th century unfortunate enough to be trapped within its clutches is almost too much for us to comprehend today. It had a dramatic impact in a vast range of ways: unemployment, hunger, social deprivation, lack of education, oppression, persecution and perhaps most devastatingly, health and hygiene.

It was such conditions that faced members of the newly formed Society of St Vincent de Paul as they worked to fulfil their Vincentian mission of seeking out those in need of help and offering practical assistance and support. Given this context the SVP was to find it itself invaluable as it became more and more involved in the community. One of its first challenges was to help the sick.

Epidemics left many widows and orphans

Epidemics of cholera swept the country in the 1830s and 1840s, spread through poor sewerage and contaminated drinking water. Of the 71,000 reported cases, 13,000 died. It was not until the 1860s that the epidemics ceased, by which time 80,000 had died of cholera. The total was probably much higher, as the poorest in the city slums were unlikely to appear in official statistics, neither seeking help nor able to afford proper burial. The 1832 Cholera outbreak in Sheffield was particularly devastating, claiming 402 lives. More lives were lost in subsequent outbreaks over the next few decades.

Cholera was the worst but not the only killer. "Endemic fever" was a term frequently used for diseases spread by the filthy conditions in which the poor lived and worked. In 1838 in England and Wales, the deaths of men under 45 from such causes resulted in 43,000 widows and 112,000 orphans seeking Poor Law relief. The prevailing view, stated in the reports of the Poor Law Commissioners, was that "the elderly should have provided for themselves through thrift in their earlier years," and that, as far as the children were concerned, "someone should have provided in advance for them".

Concern for the victims of epidemics

It was despite the seemingly callous view of the authorities towards the poor that the SVP felt moved to

take action. True to its mission to seek out those in need and provide practical assistance, the St Vincent de Paul Society soon got involved in providing funding for nurses and for the purchase of medicines – and coffins. Infant mortality was high, and ultimately death a constant threat to the poor because of the conditions they lived in and the apparent belief of those in charge that the poor had only themselves to blame!

No Welfare State

Such were the conditions which existed generally at the time the SVP was founded in England and Wales. The poor lived in extreme poverty, with no welfare state such as we have today. The Poor Law provided relief to some, and the workhouse for others, but neither was welcomed by the poor, in general. There were of course degrees of poverty, and Irish immigrants largely Catholics, were amongst the poorest of all.

The poorest of the poor – Irish Immigrants

Many Irish poor had travelled across the sea to escape the desperate conditions the potato famine had caused. Having arrived at ports such as Liverpool, many walked across the Pennines arriving in Sheffield looking for work in the burgeoning steel industry. Many ended up in an area known as 'The Crofts' which quickly developed as a slum area with each house a shelter for several families. The Census of 1851 indicated the Irish making up 3.3% of the population, mainly centred in this part of Sheffield. True to their mission and keen to put their faith into action, the SVP became actively involved in a series of initiatives and projects to help alleviate the distress and suffering of the poor.



What they did will be explained in further 'chapters'.

Sometimes we have to remind ourselves.....

EVERY child has RIGHTS, too

THE RIGHT -


- To affection, love and understanding
- To adequate nutrition and medical care
- To free education
- To full opportunity for play and recreation
- To a name and nationality
- To special care, if handicapped

THE RIGHT -

- To be among the first to receive relief in times of disaster
- To learn to be a useful member of society, and to develop individual abilities
- To be brought up in a spirit of peace and universal brotherhood
- To enjoy these rights, regardless of race, colour, sex, religion, national, or social origin

Source: Based on The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights of the Child 1959.

For the full Convention (54 Articles), go to www.unicef.org.uk

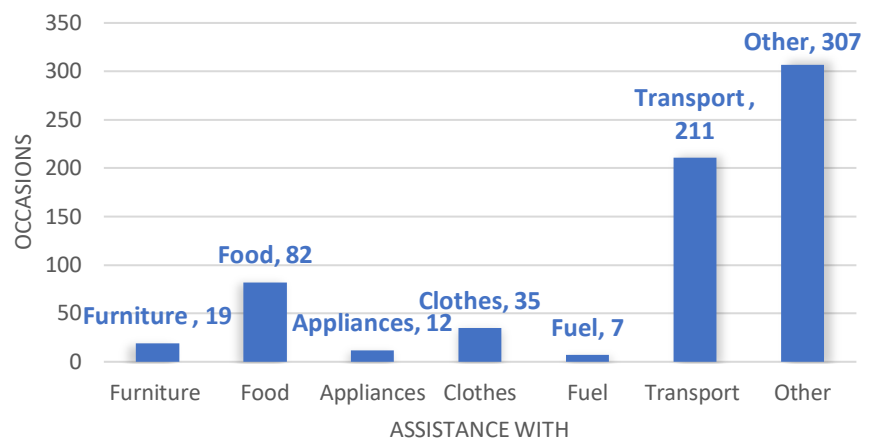


SVP WREXHAM CENTRAL COUNCIL 'What we do in the 21st Century'



**St Vincent
de Paul Society**
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Practical Assistance Given



Members time given :

- 2,585** hours visiting those in need
- 962** hours providing practical assistance
- 1,053** hours at Conference meetings
- 1,038** hours on Soup Runs and Food Banks.

Following on from last month's article in the Clarion which outlined the history of the SVP since its inception in Paris in 1833 and the first conference in the UK in 1844, this article tells of what we do today in the Wrexham Diocese. The information provided is compiled from data supplied by SVP Conferences in Wrexham Central Council for the period April 2022 to March 2023 and is extracted from our Annual Report.

SVP Conferences aspire to be genuine communities of faith and love, prayer and action, spiritual growth, and friendship. Prayer and spiritual reflection are essential to the Vincentian ideal. At Conference meetings, Members come together for worship and spiritual formation.

During the period there were **9** active SVP Conferences providing befriending and practical support to those in need in the Diocese of Wrexham. We supported 278 individuals and families and made 3734 visits to people in their own homes, residential care and hospitals. We also provide support to travellers, refugees and the homeless. Members from Mold, Llay & Rossett and Wrexham conferences attend weekly masses in HMP Berwyn, followed by coffee and conversation with the men afterwards



As an example of other work carried out, members from our conference based in Mold help out on a weekly basis with all aspects of the local food bank which includes collecting and distributing food to and from St. David's Parish Hall. They also help with other activities locally which have included teaching English to female Afghan refugees and befriending Asylum Seekers in partnership with City of Sanctuary.

All of the above activities embrace our aims of 'Seeking and Finding' those who are forgotten, and 'Turning Concern into Action', extending the hand of friendship to those in need.

Our 'Conferences' (SVP groups) welcome your support, financially, or more importantly, your time and practical help!

Around and About in the Diocese

PRISONERS' SUNDAY– 8TH OCTOBER

“This day ... with me ... paradise” Luke 23:43

This day marking the beginning of Prisons Week is an important opportunity for us all to direct our thoughts and prayers to the needs of prisoners and their families, and those who work to support our brothers and sisters affected by the criminal justice system.

DIOCESAN FINANCE REPORTING

On Tuesday 17th October the Diocesan Finance Secretariat will make the annual report to the Clergy of the Diocese together with one member of the Parish Finance Committees (PFC). On completion and the external audit of the Diocesan Accounts for the Year 2022-23 a summary will be published in CLARION, the full accounts will be found on the Charity Commission website.

HEALTH-CARERS MASS – FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER

If you are a clinician, auxiliary or ancillary worker, hospital manager or trust board member, chaplaincy volunteer, home carer or in any way are involved in healthcare, Bishop Peter invites you to the celebration of Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral on Friday 20th October at 7.00pm. Following the Mass there will be refreshments in the Cathedral Hall.

SAINT RICHARD GWYN PILGRIMAGE

On Sunday 22th October the Annual Pilgrimage in honour of St. Richard Gwyn will be celebrated at 3.00pm in the Cathedral. Following the Mass there will be blessing with an opportunity for veneration of the relic of St. Richard Gwyn

St. WINEFRIDE'S SHRINE AND WELL, HOLYWELL

On Wednesday 25th October there will be an Open Forum meeting for all who are interested in hearing of the recent and future developments at the Shrine. The meeting to which all are welcome especially anyone who would like to be involved in this ancient shrine and pilgrimage site will be at 11.00am until 2pm at the Stamford Gate Hotel, Holywell. Buffet refreshments will be available.



Events and Invitations

October

- Friday 6th CAFOD Harvest Fast Day
8th -14th Prisons Week
Sunday 8th Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependants.
Tuesday 17th Feast of St. Richard Gwyn
Friday 20th Mass for Health-Carers
(follows the feast of St. Luke)
Sunday 22nd World Mission Day
Pilgrimage to St. Mary's Cathedral for the commemoration of St. Richard Gwyn, Martyr
Sunday 29th 2.00am British Summer Time ends, clocks go back one hour.

November

- Wednesday 1st Solemnity of All Saints.
Thursday 2nd Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)
Friday 3rd Annual Diocesan Mass for Foundation Mass Donors and their Intentions. 12noon Cathedral
Tuesday 7th Feast of the Dedication of the Cathedral Church of Our Lady of Sorrows (1857)
Sunday 12th Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 19th World Day for the Poor
Wednesday 22nd #RedWednesday
www.acnuk.org/redwednesday
Sunday 26th Solemnity of Christ the King
Youth Day (last Sunday of the Church's Year)

Benemerenti Awards

Pope Francis has awarded the Benemerenti Award to **Maureen Harrison** and **Angela Davies** of Abergele Parish for the work that they have undertaken for the church over many years.

Maureen was Sacristan at St. Joseph's Church, Birkdale for twenty years and then followed by over twenty years at St. Theresa's, Abergele. Maureen was both a reader and Eucharistic Minister during this period.

Angela was active in the Church of Christ the King, Towyn for over forty years. She went to the wooden church in Towyn, and then raised money to construct the current church there. She was also involved with the clean up and the rebuilding of the church after the 26th February 1990 floods during which the church was submerged under 4 feet of sea water. Angela has also been a Sacristan, reader and Eucharistic Minister over this period of time as well as helping to organise the bi-annual fayres held in Towyn to raise money for our parish. Congratulations and thanks to you both.
(See photo, left)

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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. You can sign up on the diocesan website to receive each edition.
Or, to register for your copy individually, email your request to communications@rcdwxm.org.uk



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

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

October

5	6.00pm	Thanksgiving Mass	St Anne's	Menai Bridge
8	10.30am	Prisoners' Sunday Mass		Cathedral
9	pm	Presbyteral Council Meeting		Loreto
10-12		Clergy Conference		Loreto
17		St Richard Gwyn Mass		SRG School
17	6.00pm	Clergy Finance Evening,	St David's	Mold
18	6.30pm	Confirmation		Ruabon
20	7.00pm	Health Carers Mass		Cathedral
22	3.00pm	St Richard Gwyn Pilgrimage Mass		Cathedral
25	11am-2pm	St Winefride's Shrine & Well Open Forum		Stamford Gate Hotel, Holywell
27	7.00pm	Mass BeneMerenti Presentations		Abergele

November

1	12 noon	All Saints		Cathedral
2	12 noon	All Souls		Cathedral
3	12 noon	Feast of St. Winefride – Expired Foundation Mass Intentions		Cathedral
7	12 noon	Dedication of the Cathedral		Cathedral
8	6.30pm	Confirmation		Prestatyn
9	12noon	Overseas Clergy Meeting.		Saltney
10	7.00pm	Confirmation		Abergele
12	11.00am	Remembrance Sunday Service		Wrexham
18	10.30am	Clergy & PSR Safeguarding Training		St David's Mold
21		Sr Paula OCD – Silver Jubilee		Carmel, Dolgellau
28	11.00am	Mass for Deceased Clergy		Cathedral
29	6.30pm	Mass and Meeting with Students		Bangor Chaplaincy



Quaestio: Quare apes murmure strepunt?

Responsus: Quia verborum meminisse nequeunt

The 'unbreakable gift'!

A lady was posting a gift of a bible to a relative. The post office clerk examined the heavy parcel and enquired if it contained anything breakable. "Nothing", the lady told him, "except the Ten Commandments".

Once is Not Enough!

A Bishop was confirming a large number of confirmands. He noticed a boy coming for a second, then a third time. "Haven't I confirmed you already?" he whispered. "Yes", said the boy, "but the priest over there keeps wiping it off!"

Words of Wisdom!

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.

Where do YOU sit...?

I divide the world in three classes:
 The few who make things happen,
 The many who watch things happen,
 The overwhelming majority who have no notion of what happens.
 (Nicholas Murray Butler)

An old Cathedral stood on the site of St Paul's in London and perished in the Great Fire of 1666. Christopher Wren, the young architect, built the new one in 35 years, and it is said that the first stone he picked up from the ruins of the old Cathedral bore an inscription "Resurgam" – 'I shall rise again!'

A Reflection on the tragic situation in Ukraine:

Waste of Muscle, waste of Brain,
 Waste of Patience, waste of Pain,
 Waste of Manhood, waste of Health,
 Waste of Beauty, waste of Wealth,
 Waste of Blood, waste of Tears,
 Waste of Youth's most precious years,
 Waste of ways the Saints have trod,
 Waste of Glory, waste of God – War!

Children's Corner

"Our Father..."

You can not pray the Lord's Prayer,
 and even once say 'I'.
 You can not pray the Lord's Prayer,
 and even once say 'My'.
 Nor can you pray the Lord's Prayer,
 And not pray for another;
 For when you ask for daily bread,
 you ask for one another.
 For others are included,
 In each and every plea:
 From the beginning to the end of it,
 It does not once say 'Me'

You Can....

Do all the good you can
 In all the ways you can
 In all the places you can
 At all the times you can
 To all the people you can
 As long as ever you can.

And, You will not....

You will never be sorry
 For doing your level best
 For your faith in humanity
 For being kind to the poor
 For asking for pardon when in error
 For being generous with an enemy
 For sympathising with the oppressed

Your Latin teaser is the old favourite!

"Why do bees hum?" "Because they don't know the words!"

(Reflection by G.A. Studdert-Kennedy)