



# Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 7  
May 2023

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 Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III



The 'Clarion' offers best wishes and congratulations to His Majesty King Charles and Queen Camilla on the occasion of the Coronation, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

The **Civic Service for the Coronation** will take place in Wrexham on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

This will start at 2.15pm with a short service in St Mary's Cathedral, followed by a Procession to St Giles' Parish Church for the continuation of the Civic Service at 3.00pm and its completion.

## CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

As His Majesty King Charles III is crowned this weekend in Westminster Abbey, supported by Queen Camilla, Bishop Peter will celebrate a **Mass of Thanksgiving** for the King and Queen at 10.30am in the Cathedral on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>.

On behalf of the Diocese, Bishop Peter extends our best wishes and prayers to His Majesty King Charles III. *Prayer cards for this occasion are available in all of our churches.*

### Did you know?

-The oil used to anoint King Charles III has been consecrated in Jerusalem. Olive oils from the Mount of Olives, not far from His Majesty's grandmother Princess Alice's crypt, were mixed as part of making the chrism oil.

-Steeped in history and tradition, the St. Edward's Crown, made in 1661, is placed on the head of The King during the Coronation service. It weighs 4 pounds and 12 ounces, or about 2.2kg, (*two bags of sugar!*) and is made of solid gold.

-The Anointing takes place behind a screen newly designed and made by the Royal School of Needlework (*detail below*). This is the sacred moment, and echoes the religious anointings in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders

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## BISHOP'S COLUMN

Three weeks ago I joined nearly one hundred and fifty other delegates from the Churches of seventy-one countries of the world at the Plenary Assembly of the Catholic Biblical Federation (CBF). The Assembly theme was **'Proclaiming the Word - Gift of life for a fragile world'** (Rom.8:22-23). The meeting was a mixture of reflection upon the place of the Biblical Apostolate in the life of our church and matters of administration of this umbrella body working for the bishops' conferences and other associated organisations in the field of the Biblical Apostolate.

Prompted by Chapter VI 'Sacred Scripture in the Life of the Church' of the Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum* of the Second Vatican Council (1965), and re-enforced by the Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini* (2010) of Pope Benedict XVI, we read:

*"... the Synod called for a particular pastoral commitment to emphasising the centrality of the word of God in the Church's life, and recommended a greater "biblical apostolate", not alongside other forms of pastoral work, but as a means of letting the Bible inspire all pastoral work".*

This does not mean adding a meeting here or there in parishes or dioceses, but rather of examining the ordinary activities of Christian communities, in parishes, associations and movements, to see if they are truly concerned with fostering a personal encounter with Christ, who gives himself to us in his word. Since *"ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ"* - making the Bible the inspiration of every ordinary and extraordinary pastoral outreach will lead to a greater awareness of the person of Christ, *'who reveals the Father and is the fullness of divine revelation'* (73) - the Church has worked to place the Bible at the centre and as the foundation of her pastoral life.

In this country, the God Who Speaks project [godwhospeaks.uk](http://godwhospeaks.uk) has been part of the national response of the Bishops to that invitation.

One of the things I found particularly impressive was the number of lay people, women and men who were not only involved in their country's biblical apostolate, nationally and at a diocesan level, but also who were the directors and lecturers in dioceses, universities and

seminaries in biblical studies and biblical theology. This can only have resulted in their being sufficiently interested in the bible and their faith to work through the various levels of personal development and professional formation to the point that they were qualified for such appointments.

This becomes more significant and admirable when they are in counties where the Church is actively persecuted and or where women do not enjoy the same (equality) rights and social acceptance as men. Here in the UK, by contrast, where we have near total equality, and freedom of religious expression and practice, it can be difficult to muster enough people to run a parish bible study group, or to attend a formation course of any kind, or to encourage young people to read biblical studies at university.

Part of the reason why the Church flourishes in those countries must be because of increasingly bible- and faith-literate and spiritually-formed laity.

One of the seven priorities the delegates adopted at the close of the meeting was to develop 'the centrality of the Bible in various aspects of pastoral and Church life to animate pastoral life biblically.' This is to begin with the faithful acknowledging and grasping 'the responsibility and co-responsibility for creation as having biblical roots.' (*CBF Priorities and Action Plan 2023-29. N.2*)

When one speaks with people from around the world whose countries are so recently strafed by war, whose churches are constantly under threat by political or religious extremists or whose land itself is in danger of being flooded out of existence by rising ocean levels, and when one witnesses their faith in the power of, and hope in, the Word of God one is humbled to return again to listen and reflect upon the Gospel, not once, but over and over again.

At the end of this month, when we celebrate Pentecost and the birth of the Church through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the greatest present we can give one another is to resolve to help the reconstruction of the Church in our land through the reading of the Bible.

With every good wish and continued prayer,  
+ Peter

A man owned hundreds of sheep. His servants took them out for feeding, and each evening as they returned, two or three sheep were missing. The man asked his servants to search for them, but they were afraid of the wild beasts and would not go. The man loved his sheep and wanted to save them. "If I go myself, the sheep will not recognise me, as they have not seen me before. They would recognise my servants, but they will not go. So I must become like a sheep." He went out, and found that some had gone astray, and some had been wounded. They followed him readily, thinking that he was a sheep like themselves. He brought them in, sat with them, and fed them. When he had saved all the sheep and brought them home, then he took off his sheep skin. He was not sheep, but man. He became a sheep in order to save those lost sheep. So, God is not human. He became human in order to save humans. (*Sadhu Sindar Singh*)

**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.



Mosaic before the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary,  
Rosary Square, Lourdes (Photo credit: Tim Oun, Unsplash)

The month of May is traditionally devoted to Mary, the Mother of our Lord and our Mother. Mary is the 'Queen of the May', and many parishes have special services in her honour, praying the Rosary or crowning Mary.

*"How beautiful it would be if we too could be  
a bit like our Mother!  
With a heart open to God's word,  
with a silent heart,  
with a heart that knows how to receive God's  
word."*

(Pope Francis, General Audience, 2020)

This month's Scripture verses come from Mary's *Magnificat*, which she sings to her kinswoman Elizabeth:

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
and my spirit exults in God my saviour,  
because he has looked upon his lowly  
handmaid.**

**Yes, from this day forward  
all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Almighty has done great things for  
me.**

**Holy is his name.**

**He has pulled down the mighty from their  
thrones and exalted the lowly.**

**The hungry he has filled with good things,  
and the rich sent empty away. (Luke 1: 46-  
49)**

You may like to ponder:

*What 'great things has the Almighty done for  
me'?*

*What people or events were his instruments?  
What practical steps can I take to help the  
poor and the hungry?*

*At the end of my prayer, what do I want to say  
to Jesus ... or to Mary?*

Speak as one friend to another.

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

**THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION - MAY**

That Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelisation each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

**THE CYCLE OF PRAYER**

During Eastertide we are asked to pray for these intentions:

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

## Gospel Year of Matthew



### The Ascension (The Great Commission)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to 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."  
(Matt.28:16-20. ESV-CE)

May Christ grant this day to be a happy one for all Christians who love him.

Christ Jesus, Son of God, joining your divine nature to ours;  
As eternal God you visited the earth, as new man you seek the skies.

Angels and clouds attend you as you return to the Father.  
And no wonder, since, while you were still a child, a star and angels served you.

To-day, Lord, you have given to those who dwell on earth a new and sweet thing:  
the hope of heaven.  
You are raised up, not as an apparition but as man, above the starry regions, Lord of Kings.

What great gladness filled your apostles, as you let them watch your ascension!

How joyfully the nine-fold angel hosts run to meet you in the heaven,  
As you bear on your shoulders the one flock, that had long been scattered by wolves!

Graciously guard that flock, O Christ, Good Shepherd.

*Notker (c 840-912),*

*A monk of St. Gall in what is now Switzerland.  
Here he makes a poetic link between the heavenly portents which attended Christ's entry into the world and those that were there when he left it.*

This Month's Latin Riddle –

In navibus cur Caesar laudandus erat?  
*Quia idem fuit Romanus qui praeclarissime remigabat.*

## 57<sup>th</sup> WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS - SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MAY

"Speak with the heart: Veritatem facientes in caritate" - 'Doing the truth in charity' (Eph 4:15) is the theme for World Day of Social Communications 2023.

The theme, which connects with that of 2022 – "Listen with the ear of the heart" is intended to form part of the path that will lead the entire Church to the celebration of the Synod in October 2023.

As explained in a statement, 'Speaking with the heart' means giving "a reason for your hope" and by doing so, gently, "using the gift of communication as a bridge and not as a wall."

It is an invitation to "go against the grain" at a time when debates are characterised by polarisation and heat which exacerbate tempers – even in ecclesial life.

### Speaking the truth with a style of mercy

The theme further invites everyone not to "fear to state the - at times uncomfortable truth - that finds its foundation in the Gospel."

This proclamation, however, must not be separated from "a style of mercy, of sincere participation in the joys and sufferings of people of our time," as shown in the dialogue between the mysterious wayfarer and the disciples of Emmaus in the Bible.

### Non-hostile communication

In the dramatic context of conflicts in different regions of the globe, the theme affirms the importance of non-hostile communication.

Thus, it promotes, "a communication open to dialogue with the other, that fosters "integral disarmament", that strives to dismantle the "psychosis of war" that lurks in our hearts," as Saint John XXIII prophetically exhorted sixty years ago in the encyclical *Pacem in Terris*.

In this regard, everyone, and in particular, those who work in the field of communications, is called upon to exercise their profession "as a mission for building a more just, more fraternal, and more human, future."

The message can be read in full on the Vatican website: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/documents/20230124-messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html>

A mandatory (Retiring) Collection is to be taken on this Sunday for the work of the Catholic Communications Network (CCN), the Department of the Bishops' Conference which serves the Church in England and Wales through all branches and aspects of the media.

Ex aenigmatorum Liber Latinorum:-  
Why would Julius Caesar be good in a boat?  
*Because he was a noble Ro(w)man!*

### Overflow Conference July 2023

#### Catholic Charismatic Renewal

The CHARIS National Service of Communion (CNSC) has released tickets and information about its 'big national conference', OVERFLOW, on 1 July 2023- and you are invited.

OVERFLOW is the first national gathering organised by CHARIS England and Wales. CHARIS seeks to bring together individuals, communities, prayer groups and movements in CCR, who share in baptism in the Holy Spirit in the Catholic Church and beyond.

OVERFLOW is an invitation to gather in unity just outside Birmingham on Saturday 1 July in the Bethel Convention Centre. There will be streams for school-age participants and a crèche for infants alongside events for adults on the main stage. Parents must stay with children under 5. Doors open from 9.00 am, but the programme runs from 10.30 am - 6.30 pm. The principal speakers will be Deacon Larry Oney and his wife Andi from the USA. Under-18s attend free; there is a £12 charge for each adult, But If cost is a problem, please contact CHARIS to explain your circumstances, and some support will be offered.

Food is not provided as part of the registration cost. Please bring your own food and hot or cold drinks for the day.

Please pray for the day, that all who come will be filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit, and seek to share the joy of the Gospel when they leave. Come, Holy Spirit.

SATURDAY 1 JULY 2023 10.30am-6.30pm

VENUE: Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, Birmingham, B70 7JW

For any enquiries, please contact Steve Halsall at [stehalsall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stehalsall@yahoo.co.uk)

#### Let's Journey Together

The Isaiah Journey group (who prepare resources for the Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse) is promoting a week of guided prayer online. The Day of Prayer this year will be on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023, which is the Tuesday of the 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter. For those who have been abused, it is proposed as a day of prayer in a season of hope and new life.

Join us in this safe space for FREE, one to one confidential sessions of Guided Prayer with your fully trained personal Prayer Guide.

Guidance for participants who wish to be part of this spiritual journey is available at [journeytogetherij@gmail.com](mailto:journeytogetherij@gmail.com)

### SOCIETY OF SAINT GREGORY – SUMMER SCHOOL

#### 'Joyful Proclamation of the Gospel'

Wednesday 26th July – Saturday 29th July 2023

Liverpool Hope University

In his recent Apostolic letter, *Desiderio Desideravi*, Pope Francis calls for the Liturgical Formation of the People of God. Heeding this call, through talks, workshop and liturgies, the Society of Saint Gregory Summer School 2023 considers the vision of Vatican II, its relevance today, and how we can help to root it more firmly in our communities. There will also be opportunities for informal discussions so that we can learn from each other. For further details and booking:

<https://www.ssg.org.uk/summer-school-2023/>

The Society of Saint Gregory is a Registered Charity No. 1103280

### APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Bendía arrived in Great Britain on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April and was welcomed by Bishop Richard Moth on behalf of the Bishops' Conference with Mgr Ervin Leyngel (chargé d'affaires a.i.) at the airport.

Archbishop Miguel Maury Bendía, Titular Archbishop of *Italica* and until now, Apostolic Nuncio in Romania and Moldova replaces Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, who was named Prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches on 21 November 2022.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols the President of the Conference has invited His Excellency to come to Mass on the Solemnity of the Ascension, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May, at 5.30pm at Westminster Cathedral as a formal welcome to his new office.

Please keep His Excellency the Archbishop in your prayers as he begins his new apostolate in Great Britain.

### Catholic Listeners - Telephone Helpline Service

*Catholic Listeners* is a confidential telephone helpline service set up for those returning Catholics who want to return to the faith and need a safe space to be heard. A Diocese of Westminster initiative, the helpline is staffed by a team of volunteers who are welcoming, friendly, empathetic and non-judgemental. The helpline is also based on the 'Landings' ethos of compassionate listening.

Operating three days a week from 4pm -7pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, calls are free to the helpline on 0800 448 0704 or by email at [Catholiclisteners@gmail.com](mailto:Catholiclisteners@gmail.com)

(Contributed by Fr Dominic Robinson SJ of Farm Street, the Jesuit parish in London.)



## A look at Four Charities:

**Stella Maris**  
*(formerly*  
*The Apostleship of the Sea)*  
**CAFOD**  
**HCPT**  
*(Handicapped Children's*  
*Pilgrimage Trust)*  
**Laudato Si**

# In the Spotlight



Wrexham CAFOD Campaigners,  
John, Maria and Colette in Westminster

### Stella Maris -Apostleship of the Sea

A sailing pilgrimage around the UK which began on Saturday 29th April will be visiting many holy sites and tracking ancient coastal pilgrimage routes along the way.

Russ Fairman, who is a passionate supporter of Catholic charity Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea), has embarked on the 70-day long sailing pilgrimage.

You can join this historic event at **Our Lady of the Taper, Cardigan on June 24<sup>th</sup>** for Mass at 10.30, and afterwards on the beach to hear from Russ, and the Port Chaplain, Fr Paul Osunyanmi, and local volunteer Captain Glyn Garland.

At the reception, there will be drinks and food. **An e-ticket is available** by booking through Eventbrite:

[www.eventbrite.com/cc/celebration-of-seafarers-and-fishers-1992329](http://www.eventbrite.com/cc/celebration-of-seafarers-and-fishers-1992329)

Russ leaves Ardglass on 19<sup>th</sup> June, and stops at Holyhead, Port Dinllaen, Fishguard, St David's, Milford Haven In celebrating the charity's 100 years of service to seafarers and fishers, he is raising awareness of the work of the charity, which exists to provide spiritual and practical support to seafarers, fishers and their families.

This 2,136 nautical miles journey will stop at 50 ports and holy sites along the way, including the Shrines of Our Lady of Walsingham and Our Lady of the Taper Cardigan, and the holy island of Lindisfarne (with its historical connections to St Cuthbert and St Aidan).

Russ said: "Through this endeavour, we can hopefully raise further the profile of Stella Maris and the wonderful work it does in helping the People of the Sea."



### Our Common Home needs you!

Will you join us in caring for it?  
Become a Laudato Si' Animator!  
Start by learning alongside our experts and become a leader in your community. Register at <http://laudatosianimators.org>  
Our planet will thank you!



A Mass to celebrate the centenary of the birth of the Founder of HCPT, the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust.

Saturday 3rd June 2023 2.00 - 3.15pm Westminster Cathedral  
Celebrant: Archbishop of Cardiff, Mark O'Toole

It was in 1956 Brother Michael Strode founded HCPT which since then has taken thousands of children and disabled and disadvantaged adults to Lourdes.

For further information:  
[www.brothermichaelstrode.org](http://www.brothermichaelstrode.org)

### CAFOD campaigners attend 'The Big One'

CAFOD campaigners from Wrexham diocese were outside Westminster last weekend campaigning for the Government to stop granting new licences for fossil fuel projects. These projects make the climate crisis even worse for our sisters and brothers on the frontline of the climate emergency. We told them we have no faith in fossil fuels.

Christine Allen, CAFOD's Director said, "Pope Francis has called on every one of us to take collective responsibility to care for our common home. The Pope has said that that means leaving behind the fossil fuels which are destroying our common home."

"We cannot continue to allow a situation where fossil fuel companies reap record-breaking profits while people in communities, which have contributed least to the climate crisis, pay the price."

To get involved in CAFOD in your parish, please contact Colette Byrne on 07779 804 242

[cbyrne@cafod.org.uk](mailto:cbyrne@cafod.org.uk)

God wants spiritual fruits -not religious nuts! (*anon*)  
Oh, God, thou knowest how busy I must be this day. If I forget thee, do not thou forget me. (*Sir Jacob Asterley, before the battle of Edgehill*)



## Without access to seeds, agriculture is not possible

### Cafod Campaign

*"...what peasants, fisherman and farmers conserve in memory handed down through the generations and which is now derided and forgotten by a model of production that is entirely to the advantage of a limited group and a tiny portion of the world population. Let us remember that it is a model which, despite all its science, allows around eight hundred million people to continue to go hungry..."*

*Pope Francis*

For generations, small-scale farmers have freely shared a wide variety of seeds to produce the food that feeds a significant proportion of the world's population. However, laws are being introduced across the world which limit what they can do with their own seed varieties.

As a result of these laws, small-scale farmers are facing increasing pressure to buy seeds from the limited selection produced by big corporations. But this is not good for people or the planet.

CAFOD is inviting parishes across the country to stand in solidarity with small-scale farmers to ensure that they have free access to their own varieties of seeds.

Salina, a seed saver from Bangladesh says ***"...The companies do not give good seeds. They put descriptions on their seed packets that are not true. It is very impractical information. And the main thing is, the seeds sold by the companies do not belong to the farmers. Farmers can grow the crops, but they cannot keep the seeds in their own hands. This is a very bad thing..."***

Salina has written a letter to the World Bank - an institution with a lot of influence in food policies - calling for the protection of the rights of small-scale farmers like herself to use their own varieties of seeds. This summer, your parish has an opportunity to support Salina by adding your names to her letter. Find more about how your parish can support Salina at [cafod.org.uk/food](http://cafod.org.uk/food)

Our faith-filled actions are also like seeds, bearing fruits of change in our world.

For the text of Pope Francis' message on World Food Day 2016, go to:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2016/10/14/161014a.html>

### The Great "I AM"

In Exodus 3-14, God revealed Himself to Moses as **"I am who I am"**. Moses had sought God's name in order to convince the Hebrews that their God would genuinely lead them out of slavery. The 'God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob' would not be enough (Egyptian deities each had several names). To convince the Hebrews, Moses needed God's 'real' name. To trust in "I am who I am" would be a matter of faith.

That faith was justified, when the Israelites came to the Promised Land. Therefore, for Jews and for Jesus, the term "I AM" had great significance.

The Gospel of John records SEVEN occasions when Jesus used "I AM" to describe himself, as indeed God had to Moses. *(Linguistic scholars can connect these seven uses of 'I am' referring back to God's statement in Exodus. Note that grammatically, it is in a different form from 'am I a Jew?' used by Pilate)*

- I am the [Bread of Life](#) (John 6:35)
- I am the [Light of the World](#) (John 8:12)
- I am the Door (John 10:9)
- I am the [Good Shepherd](#) (John 10:11,14)
- I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
- I am the Way and the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)
- I am [the Vine](#) (John 15:1,5)

The relevance of **"The Bread of Life"** is that it follows the feeding of the five thousand. Linking to Exodus, Jesus points out that it was not Moses, but the Father who gave the 'bread from heaven' (manna). Now Jesus himself is the bread of the New Covenant, and he is also sent by God.

"The Light of the World" is followed by the curing of the blind man: he was in darkness, and darkness is evil, so Jesus gives him light but note that the man must go to the Pool of Siloam, so it is only when he is obedient that he is cured! **"The Door/Gate"** and the **"Good Shepherd"** – Jn 10.3 refers to the 'gate-keeper' who lets the good shepherd in, so as the 'gate', Jesus is the way to the Father. Jesus is our way, he is the gate, the means of access, and he pleads on our behalf with the 'gate-keeper'. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus is 'on our side' and 'with us', so he lay down his life. As the 'gate', Jesus is central to our salvation.

**"The Resurrection and the Life"** – some scholars say that *'and the Life'* is not necessary. Again, Jesus uses the formula "I AM" as used in Exodus: Jesus is God incarnate, for it is he who has just raised Lazarus from the dead, through God's power in him.

**"The Way, the Truth, and the Life"** – this is the simplest statement. It is through Jesus that we come to God Himself, and God is Truth and Life. Philip asks to see the Father – in this he asks the same question as we do today! Jesus replies that to know him is to know the Father, since he is obedient to the Father. Today we know Jesus through the Gospels, so we DO know Jesus, and this is the firm foundation of our faith.

**"The Vine"** -vines and vineyards were commonly used as symbolic language. As the vine, Jesus is the source of life, and we are the branches: if we remain close to Jesus bearing fruit, the Father as the vinedresser, will not judge us harshly. Thus Jesus is our way to salvation.

## Around and About in the Diocese

### LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

#### MAY

- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> National Day of Prayer for the  
Victims and Survivors of Sexual Abuse  
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/prayer-for-survivors-of-abuse/>
- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> National Pilgrimage to Our Lady of  
the Taper, Cardigan  
International Day of Prayer for  
Eastern Christians. *cf item below*
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord
- Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> World Communications Day
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Mass for New Catholics –  
'Mystagogia' Mass
- Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Pentecost Sunday

#### JUNE

- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Solemnity of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.  
Day of prayer for the Sanctification of Priests
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Day for Life
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Diocesan Board of Trustees
- 30<sup>th</sup> June -2<sup>nd</sup> July Evangelisation Conference, Liverpool.  
*The Art of Accompaniment*  
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/the-art-of-accompaniment/>

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR EASTERN CHRISTIANS

The Bishops of England and Wales support the international Day of Prayer for the Churches of the East promoted in this country by *Fellowship and Aid to the Churches of the East*. This organisation, whose parent group was founded in 1856, gives practical support to the Christian groups in the Middle East, the Horn of Africa, and India, promoting peace and harmony, ecumenical endeavour and lending significant help to rebuild communities and their infrastructure, especially through education and healthcare. The Bishops resolve to pray for this work, especially on the designated International Day of Prayer for 2023 (14 May), and to encourage the Catholic community in England and Wales to do the same.

### MYSTAGOGIA MASS

Bishop Peter invites all new Catholics to celebrate Mass with him on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May (the day of vigil of the Solemnity of Pentecost) at 12 noon in the Cathedral. To this Mass last year's neophytes (new-Catholics) also would be especially welcome to celebrate their anniversary of coming to the Faith. For further details please speak with your Parish Priest.

### VOCATIONIST FATHERS

At the end of April we bade farewell to the Vocationist Fathers (Society of Divine Vocations, SDV) as they took their leave of the Diocese after fifteen years ministry in Holywell Parish, Hawarden Parish and school chaplaincy at St Richard Gwyn in Flint. We are most grateful to them all, but most recently to Fathers Justin and Rionelle and assure them of our continued prayers in their ministry wheresoever it may be in England or across the world.

### APPOINTMENTS

The vacancies created by departure of the Vocationists have been filled by **Fr. Matthew Bond** being appointed as Priest in Charge of Holywell Parish, and **Fr Abraham Vargis, CMI** being appointed to Hawarden Parish in addition to being Parish Priest of Saltney.

### MYSTAGOGY – MYSTAGOGIA - MYSTAGOGUE

'The third step of Christian initiation, the celebration of the sacraments, [at Easter] is followed by this final period of post baptismal catechesis or mystagogy. This is a time for the community and the neophytes together to grow in deepening their grasp of the paschal mystery and in making it part of their lives through meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the Eucharist, and doing the works of charity.' 'The neophytes are, as the term 'mystagogy' suggests, introduced into a fuller and more effective understanding of the mysteries through the Gospel message they have learned and above all through their experience of the sacraments they have received.' (*Rite of Christian Initiation* ICEL ©1987. N.234/5)

**Mystagogy** from the Greek, meaning "learning about the mysteries", truly a lifetime endeavour and commitment.

**Neophyte** from the Greek, meaning "new plant"; in our context meaning a new convert, or novice to the Faith.



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**Bishop's Engagements, and a 'gallimaufry of serendipity'**

**BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS**

**May**

7 10.30am King's Coronation Thanksgiving, Cathedral  
2.15pm Civic Service for the King's Coronation, Wrexham  
Service at St Mary's Cathedral,  
Procession to St Giles' Church at 2.30pm,  
Service at St Giles' Church

11 Christ The Word School, Rhyl

13 12noon International Mass Cathedral

14 National Shrine Pilgrimage, Cardigan  
Led by Archbishop Mark O'Toole

23 Northern Bishops' Meeting, Leeds

26 7.00pm Confirmation Buckley

27 12noon Mystagogia Mass Cathedral

**June**

4 11.00am Mass & Window Blessing, Mold

5-9 Clergy Retreat, St Beuno's

20 Meeting of the Board of Trustees

21 10.30am Menevia & Wrexham Infirmid Secular Clergy  
Fund, Caersws

23 7.00pm Legal Mass Cathedral

24 Golden Jubilee of Sr. Pauline Mary, Dolgellau

25 3.00pm National Pilgrimage, Holywell  
Procession at 2.30pm

**Children's Corner**

**Jesus said "I am the Good Shepherd".**

Why did he say that? The answer is that sheep need a leader, and a good shepherd will look after his sheep. A shepherd without love for his sheep will lose them. A Good Shepherd knows the sheep.

**Your task:**

**Find a picture of a sheep, and draw it, or cut out the shape, and put your own name in it. Then do the same for each member of your family. Now you will have a flock of sheep!**

So, what should we know about sheep?

Firstly, **they follow**... watch a sheepdog trial, and see how they all try to keep together... until one panics, and then they all panic and run away!

Secondly, **sheep cannot see**. Their eyesight is poor, and they can see only about 3 metres. That is why an ewe (mother sheep) will call for her lambs.

Then, **they cannot defend themselves** -they have no natural means of defence.

Next, **they cannot feed themselves**. Yes, they eat what is given, but if there is no grass or food, they will not eat, and will wait for it to come.

And, **there are many breeds** of sheep. We may have difficulty telling them apart, but a Good Shepherd knows!

We also think that **they are a bit stupid**.... So many sheep get caught in fences, or along the roadside because they think the grass is better elsewhere.

**Your next task:**

**Think - in how many ways Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and how humans can sometimes be like sheep!**



**Wrexham Football Club  
owners rewarded**



Wrexham AFC co-owners Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney have received the prestigious Freedom of Wrexham award at a ceremony held on Sunday morning, April 10 at Wrexham' Guildhall where Bishop Peter and the Rev Dr Jason Bray, Vicar of St Giles Wrexham, led the prayers.

Councillors voted to confer the freedom of the city on the owners of Wrexham AFC in recognition of the club's long and proud history, and the impact the two owners have had in helping to promote Wrexham across the world since purchasing the football club two years ago.

Accepting the award Rob McElhenney said: "You saw, in the first episode of the documentary the house I grew up in, the neighbourhoods I grew up - and I hope that you saw yourselves".

Ryan Reynolds echoed his gratitude and said: "I am so touched that I get to be a part of this story."

The actor also shared his emotions before the game against Notts County saying: "I haven't slept in a few days in anticipation of today."

**On Freedom**

There are two freedoms – the false, where one is free to do what one likes; the true -where one is free to do what one ought.

*(Charles Kingsley)*

Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes

*(Gandhi)*

True liberty is to do what we ought to do. It is not liberty to do as we like

*(Field Marshal Lord Montgomery)*

God forces no one, for love cannot compel, and God's service, therefore is a thing of perfect freedom

*(Hans Denck)*

"Freedom of speech; freedom of worship; freedom from want; freedom from fear"

*(Franklin D. Roosevelt, January 6<sup>th</sup> 1941)*