



Issue no 36
November 2025

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



A preponderance of purple! Purple has paradoxical significance – it is the colour of mourning, and November is the month of the Holy Souls; but also, it is the colour of 'kingship', which we recall on the Feast of Christ the King.

Contents of this month's 'Clarion'



Page 2

Bishop Peter's Column

Helping the Poor

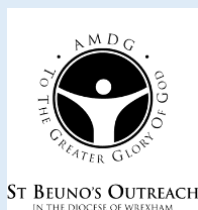
On the shoulders of Giants



Page 6

Spotlight

St Richard Gwyn,
Mass and Walk



Page 3

St Beuno's Outreach

St Carlo Acutis



Page 7

Bishop's Engagements

Safeguarding
Neurodivergents survey



Page 4

Gospel Year of Luke

Christ the King



Page 8

Advent Family Day

Book by 17th November



Page 4

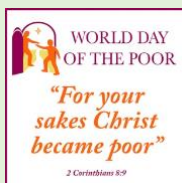
Aid to the Church in Need



Page 8

Advent Retreats

Loreto Spirituality Centre



Page 5

The Wide Community

World Day for the Poor
Dilexi Te



Page 9

Humour, Lunacy, and a Quiz!

Reflecting on purple for kingship, one may recall that at the Coronation of King Charles III, just two years ago, he was dressed in a simple purple 'shirt', which he was still wearing for his appearance on the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

The Gospels indicate that the soldiers who mocked Jesus dressed him in a purple robe, which he was still wearing when he also appeared on the balcony of Pontius Pilate...

Kingship is service – "I came to serve, not to be served".

Picture credit excerpt from <https://coronation.gov.uk/>



Purple was used in cave paintings of 25,000 BC. Purple textiles from around 1500BC have been found. Victorious Romans wore purple togas. The dye of Tyrian Purple came from snail mucus. Cardinals wore purple until 1464. Pope Paul II changed to scarlet, as the dye from Byzantium was not available. A poorer quality was assigned to Bishops and Archbishops!

Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwsm.org.uk

In the opening paragraphs of Pope Leo's first formal teaching document, the Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi te* 'On Love for the Poor', which he signed on the 4th October he writes, "*I share the desire of my beloved predecessor that all Christians come to appreciate the close connection between Christ's love and his summons to care for the poor. I, too, consider it essential to insist on this path to holiness, for 'in this call to recognise him in the poor and the suffering, we see revealed the very heart of Christ, his deepest feelings and choices, which every saint seeks to imitate.'*" (*Dilexi te* N.3)

Sometimes we identify the 'unseen poor' and then feel helpless to be able to do anything for them as we might help the hungry, naked, homeless, sick or others in our midst to whom we are able to reach out in a very direct and charitable way. Sometimes we can reach out across the world, especially to those affected by famine, drought, earthquake, or some other natural disaster, and help by way of donation or financial gift to CAFOD, another NGO or agency, enabling others to provide the help directly. But what if we are unable to do either, not having the physical ability or resources, or want to go the extra mile and do more?

In this Jubilee Year we are reminded of the words of the prophet Isaiah, quoted by Jesus at the beginning of his ministry, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. ... He has sent ...me to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (*Luke 4:18,19*), that is, to proclaim 'jubilee'.

Now, as the disciples of Jesus we are to proclaim the Jubilee and, for the unseen, that can be done through our lobbying, inspiring or petitioning others, who can help to do what needs to be done. You will read in this month's CLARION of three issues, or campaigns, to which you can help some of the poorest, not least because they have little or no voice of their own.

On Tuesday 21st October, **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN-UK)** launched an advocacy campaign in Parliament. This, their first

global campaign, will involve ACN offices and benefactors around the world—all 350,000 of them to whom you can add your voice by signing the petition. The campaign is based on the importance of Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The objective is to call upon governments and international governmental organisations to redouble efforts to implement Article 18, recognising it as the cornerstone of religious freedom. Please see the article below.

While you are at your computer or desk, you can help some of the other poor of our own country, the unborn poor whose lives are threatened again by the potential change in legislation. The Antoniazzi clause ('Up to Birth Clause (191)') would make it more likely that healthy babies are aborted at home for any reason, up to birth. And you can help those poor and suffering adults who are nearing the end of their life and may be minded or urged to bring that about if the Terminally Ill (Adults) Bill is made law. They need care and compassion, not to be assisted towards suicide. In the following pages are the links for further information and assistance on how to be of service to them.

Particularly in November, the Month of the Holy Souls, we are mindful of 'the other poor', the Faithful Departed, especially those who have no one to pray for them, as they await their resurrection through the purification of purgatory.

In St. John's Gospel in the 'high priestly' prayer of Jesus at the beginning of his Passion we are taught of his suffering for us (*Jn.17:6-19*) and given every reason why, even if we are unable to act for the poor in any other way, we can pray for them. (*Jn.17:20-26*) Our prayer now for the living and the dead is evidence that we are 'Pilgrims of Hope' in this Jubilee Year and have good news to live by and to proclaim.

With every good wish and the assurance of my prayers,

† Peter.

Talking to God – A notice in a French church

It is possible that on entering this church you may hear the call of God. On the other hand, it is not likely that He will contact you by phone. Thank you for turning off your phone.

If you would like to talk to God, come in, choose a quiet place and talk to Him.

If, however, you would like to see Him, send Him a text while driving.



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

An extensive range of articles and resources are available on the Bishops' Conference website:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025/>

A reminder that there are three designated pilgrimage sites in the Diocese for Jubilee Indulgences:

St Winefride's Well, Holywell;

St Mary's Cathedral, Wrexham; and also the

Church of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, Dolgellau.

Standing on the shoulders of Giants

Isaac Newton (1675) said "*If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants*". Thus, our enlightenment is not that our brain capacity is greater than generations past, it is because we have a greater body of knowledge on which to draw. If you walked everywhere, would you have the ability to invent the wheel? Or fire? Or bricks? (Think of the Pantheon in Rome, built almost 2000 years ago, and still the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome).

However, fascinatingly, in 1159 John of Salisbury wrote that the phrase originated with Bernard De Chartres in about 1115. It may have its origin in Greek mythology when the blind giant Orion carried his servant Cedalion on his shoulders to act as his eyes. The concept is also Christian. The four stained glass windows in the south transept of Chartres Cathedral depict the great OT prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel as gigantic figures carrying the 'normal sized' NT evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John on their shoulders: although smaller, the Evangelists could therefore see more than the prophets -- the Messiah -- about whom the prophets spoke.

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.



Carlo Acutis
(3 May 1991 – 11 October 2006)

During November, the month when we celebrate All Saints, you may like to spend some time reflecting on the men and women the Church has canonised as Saints.

Here we focus particularly on the first millennial saint:

Carlo Acutis,
who was canonised as a saint
on 7 September 2025

Carlo was born in London and raised in Milan. Very early on he became interested in computers and video games, teaching himself programming and web design. He was also active in parish life, where he helped with digital and social media projects and assisted the poor. He later created his own website focusing on Eucharistic miracles and apparitions of the Virgin Mary. He suffered from leukaemia and died at the age of fifteen.

Because of his involvement with digital technology, he is sometimes called the 'Patron Saint of the Internet', or 'God's Influencer'.

As you reflect on the life and influence of St Carlo, you may also want to spend some time reading and pondering the accompanying text attributed to Pope Francis. (*World Youth Day 2013*)

Before closing your prayer, thank the Lord for the insights he has given you today.

As a Pilgrim of Hope in this Jubilee Year, you may also like to read and ponder this phrase:

We cannot become Saints with a frown.

We must have joyful hearts that remain open to hope.

Pope Francis, November 2024

**We need saints without cassocks, without veils –
We need saints with jeans and tennis shoes.
We need saints that go to the movies, that listen to music, that hang out with their friends.
We need saints that put God in first place ahead of succeeding in any career.
We need saints that look for time to pray each day and who know how to be in love with purity, chastity and all good things.
We need saints – saints for the 21st century with a spirituality appropriate to our new time.
We need saints that have a commitment to helping the poor and to make the needed social change.
We need saints to live in the world, to sanctify the world and to not be afraid of living in the world by their presence in it.
We need saints that drink Coca-Cola, that eat hot dogs, that surf the internet and that listen to their iPods.
We need saints that love the Eucharist, that are not afraid or embarrassed to eat a pizza or drink a beer with their friends.
We need saints who love the movies, dance, sports, theatre.
We need saints that are open, sociable, normal, happy companions.
We need saints who are in this world and who know how to enjoy the best in this world without being callous or mundane.
We need saints.**

As you read this text slowly, perhaps several times, what is your reaction?

Which phrase particularly strikes you?

Do you say: 'If only it could be true!' ... or 'that's not likely to happen ...' or could you say, 'that's just like xxx in my community'?

You might perhaps try to answer the following questions:

- When I think of a saint, what sort of image comes to my mind?
- How important are the Saints in my life?
- How far do I turn to them in my prayer?

More from St Beuno's Outreach

'Come and See' day at St Beuno's for lay ministers in the diocese

Since our 'Come and See' day in September was heavily oversubscribed, we'll be running it again (using the same material) on **Saturday 15 November at St Beuno's, from 10.30 to 4pm**. Please do join us if you can and share the message with anyone else you think might be interested. All are most welcome! Register your place through stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com or ring us on 07919 986062 (Sally) or 07590 679595 (Andrew).

Weeks of Guided Prayer on Zoom with St Beuno's Outreach (9 to 29 November)

Once again, we're running our popular one-to-one 'Weeks of Guided Prayer by Zoom'. You can follow either the one-week version from Sunday 9th to Saturday 15th November (where you meet with a trained guide every day for a week), or a three-week version from Sunday 9th to Saturday 29th November (twice-weekly meetings over three weeks).

Please email us at stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com to find out more and to book your place.

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



Gospel Year of Luke

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

The rulers scoffed at Jesus, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

Luke 23:35-38 ESV-CE

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:

During Ordinary Time (Autum), i.e. from September to Christ the King, we are asked to pray for these intentions: The Spread of the Gospel; Students and Teachers; the Harvest; the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – November

For the prevention of suicide.

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

Commentary:

23:35 Jesus is taunted by three sets of characters: among those who scoffed at him were the rulers, but the soldiers also mocked him and even one of the criminals hanging there, railed at him (v.39).

23:38 *an inscription* According to Roman practice, criminals displayed a sign inscribed with the charges brought against them. Jesus' placard was written in three languages (cf. John 19:20)

Reflection Prayer:

*Christus Vincit Christus Vincit!
Christus Regnat! Christus imperat!*

Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ commands.
O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise ye Him, all ye people.

Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ commands.
For His mercy is confirmed upon us: and the truth of the Lord remaineth forever.

Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ commands.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ commands.
As in the beginning, is now and always and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ commands.

*Anonymous 8th/9th century Gregorian hymn
also called the laudes regiae,
Christus Vincit is the hymn par excellence
to acclaim Christ as the King of Kings.*

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACNUK)

#Red Wednesday – 19th November the annual day of prayer for the persecuted Church, will take place in the UK and across the world of Wednesday, 19th November. Sponsored by Aid to the Church in need (ACN), #Red Wednesday 2025 will focus on children and families suffering discrimination, oppression or persecution for their faith.

To find out how you, your parish and your school can take part, visit the #Red Wednesday Toolkit page on the ACN website: [Fundraisers](#)

Christmas cards Again this year, we would like to offer you a 25% discount on (not for sale) trading products including our beautiful Christmas Cards as a thank you for your help and support throughout 2025. You can access this by calling to place your order on 0345 241 6068 or e-mailing Scott and Kerry at shop@acnuk.org for a website discount code.

ARTICLE 18 Petition

Religious freedom: a human right, not a privilege.

As Christians and other religious minorities face growing violence, kidnappings, and discrimination, we must work harder than ever to defend their rights and ensure they're fully protected under Article 18.

Some 5.4 billion people — almost two-thirds of humanity — live in 62 countries where persecution, oppression, and discrimination are perpetrated by their own government or extremist groups, according to our *Religious Freedom in the World Report*.

Will you join us in our worldwide call for fresh action by the United Nations as well as the UK Government and urge them to uphold Article 18 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Read the full petition [here](#).



ROYAL VISIT TO THE VATICAN

During Their Majesties' State Visit, The King and Queen joined Pope Leo XIV in celebrating the 2025 Jubilee Year. The visit celebrates the ecumenical work by the Church of England and the Catholic Church, reflecting the Jubilee year's theme of walking together as 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Accounts, photographs and video footage of the state visit can be seen:

[Royal Visit Archives - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

WORLD DAY FOR THE POOR – 16th November

As part of the Church's preparation to mark the Ninth World Day of the Poor, Pope Leo XIV has issued a message centred on the theme: "You are my hope", in which he expresses his hope that this Jubilee Year may encourage the development of policies aimed at combatting forms of poverty both old and new.

Pope Francis instituted the World Day of the Poor in 2017 to encourage the Church to address poverty actively in its various forms. It is time for Christians and all men and women of goodwill to reflect and take action, encouraging people to connect with those experiencing poverty and work towards ending cycles of poverty.

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/poor/documents/20250613-messaggio-giornata-poveri.html>

WORLD DAY FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) since 1914. It is always an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers.

In this Jubilee year the day was celebrated on 4th/5th October but in these countries it is observed on the 3rd December each year

The theme of Pope Leo XIV's message for the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees is: ***Migrants, missionaries of hope***. In this message, the Holy Father emphasises the important witness that Catholic migrants and refugees can offer in a world affected by conflict and inequality in hoping and searching for a better and more peaceful future. In his message Pope Leo highlights how migrants and refugees in a special way can become witnesses of hope and tenacity amidst adversity and calls for a future of peace and respect for human dignity.

For the full text of the Holy Father's message: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wdmr25-pope-leo-xiv/>

Smile Awhile

Little Joey is in his Bible class "There's something I can't figure out". "What's that, Joey?" asks the teacher.

"Well", says Joey, "According to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea?" "Correct" replies the teacher.

"And the Children of Israel beat the Philistines?" "Yes".

"And the Children of Israel built the Temple?"... "And the Children of Israel fought the Egyptians...an' the Romans... an' so the Children of Israel was always doing something important, right?"

"That's right, Joey", says the teacher, "So what is your question, Joey?"

"Well, what I want to know is this What were all the grown-ups doing?"

"Good Friends are like stars....you don't always see them, but you know they are there"

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. Nelson Mandela

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION "DILEXI TE"

Just a year ago Pope Francis promulgated his fourth Encyclical, '*Dilexit Nos*' in which he retraced the tradition and relevance of thought on

"the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ" calling for a renewal of authentic devotion to avoid forgetting the tenderness of faith, the joy of serving, and the fervour of mission.

"'He loved us', Saint Paul says of Christ (cf. *Rom 8:37*), in order to make us realise that nothing can ever "separate us" from that love (*Rom 8:39*)". In this way, Pope Francis began his Encyclical.

The Encyclical is dedicated to the human and divine love of the Heart of Jesus Christ: "His open heart has gone before us and waits for us, unconditionally, asking only to offer us His love and friendship."

(Find the Encyclical here [Encyclical – Dilexit nos](#))

Taking up Pope Francis' desire 'that all Christians come to appreciate the close connection between Christ's love and his summons to care for the poor', Pope Leo issued his first Apostolic Exhortation, '*Dilexi te*' "I have loved you" (*Rev 3:9*) on 9th October 2025. It is a call to Christ's disciples 'to recognise him in the poor and suffering.'

'Faith cannot be separated from love for the poor', Pope Leo writes in this Apostolic Exhortation, in which he sees the love of Christ incarnated in love for the poor, caring for the sick, opposing slavery, defending women who experience exclusion and violence, making education available to all, accompanying migrants, charitable giving, working for equality, and more.

(Read the document here [Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi te](#))

A suite of pastoral resources to accompany further study of the document is on the Vatican website:

https://www.humandevlopment.va/en/news/2025/dilexi_te_esortazione_apostolica_di_papa_leone_xiv_sull_amore_verso_i_poveri.html

The Synoptic Gospels.....

"MATTHEW, MARK, AND LUKE, SEE ME AFTER CLASS."



YOUR BOOK REPORTS ARE SURPRISINGLY SIMILAR."

The fascinating debate around the order of the Gospels continues amongst scholars. Many believe that Matthew and Luke had copies of Mark available to them as they wrote, plus an unknown source 'Q' (from German 'Quelle', which means 'source'). Look at the relationship by reading Mark, then Matthew, then Luke to see the similarities and the differences. That challenges the usual order of Matthew, Mark, Luke!



**St Richard Gwyn
Feast**

Mass

Pilgrimage Walk

**In the
Spotlight**



Icon of St Richard Gwyn in St Mary's Cathedral



Bishop Peter celebrated Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in honour of St Richard Gwyn, one of the great martyrs of Wales and a patron saint of our diocese.

St Richard Gwyn was a Welsh schoolteacher and family man who remained steadfast in his Catholic faith during the turbulent years of the Reformation. For his refusal to renounce his faith and acknowledge the religious changes imposed by the Crown, he was imprisoned and ultimately martyred in Wrexham in 1584. His courage and witness continue to inspire the faithful of our diocese today.

St Richard Gwyn's relic is kept at St Mary's Cathedral, Wrexham - a tangible reminder of his faithfulness and sacrifice.

Students from St Richard Gwyn High School, parishioners from St Richard Gwyn Parish (Chirk, Ruabon, and Llangollen), and members of the Parish of Wrexham Maelor, joined with parishioners from across the diocese and beyond, to honour his memory and celebrate his enduring example of faith, hope, and perseverance. The celebration reflected the deep affection and pride that the Diocese of Wrexham holds for its local saint and martyr.



On the Feast of St Richard Gwyn, eight pilgrims from the Parish of Wrexham Maelor and St Mary's Cathedral, Wrexham, set out from the Parish of St Richard Gwyn in Ruabon, walking six miles to St Mary's Cathedral. Their journey concluded joyfully with the celebration of Mass in honour of St Richard Gwyn.

The pilgrimage was undertaken in a spirit of prayer and thanksgiving, tracing a path that connected two parishes united by the faith and witness of St Richard Gwyn. Along the way, the pilgrims reflected on his courage, steadfast faith, and commitment to truth, drawing inspiration from his example of perseverance in the face of adversity.

Among those who took part were representatives of Wrexham's HCPT Group 155, walking as pilgrims of hope in this Jubilee Year. Their participation highlighted both the spiritual and charitable dimensions of the journey - uniting prayer with action and faith with service.

The walk was not only a physical challenge but also a sign of unity across our diocesan family, bringing together parishioners from different communities in shared devotion and fellowship.

To support the continuing work of HCPT - helping children and adults with disabilities enjoy life-changing pilgrimage experiences to Lourdes — the group has created a fundraising page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/emily-tattum-5>

Please consider donating to this very worthy cause - your generosity will help bring hope, healing, and joy to others.



Life-Changing Pilgrimage Holidays

hcpt

Around and About in the Diocese

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

November

01	12Noon	Expired Foundation Masses	Cathedral
02	10.30am	All Saints (transferred)	Cathedral
03	9.00am	All Souls (transferred)	Cathedral
06		Overseas Clergy Meeting	Welshpool
07	12Noon	Dedication of the Cathedral	Cathedral
09	11.00am	Remembrance Sunday Service	Wrexham
09-13		Bishops' Conference Autumn Plenary	Leeds
20	11.00am	Mass for Deceased Clergy	Cathedral
21	6.00pm	Confirmations	Connah's Quay
26		Cytûn EGM	
30	11.00am	Advent Family Day	Buckley
	3.00pm	Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite	Cathedral

December

03		Cytûn Trustees' Meeting	
04	6.30pm	Youth Commission Meeting.	Colwyn Bay

SAFEGUARDING

At the request of the Bishop, the following Safeguarding Message was read out in parishes across the Diocese on Saturday/Sunday 11th/12th October:

"The Catholic Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Every person has a right to be safe and respected within our community in a non-judgemental way.

As a parish, we take this responsibility seriously. We follow national safeguarding guidelines, ensure all volunteers are properly vetted and trained, and maintain clear procedures for reporting concerns.

Our parish is open and is inclusive to all who come to pray within.

Together, let us continue to build a community of care, trust, and safety for all in an open honest, tolerant and receptive manner.

If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult, or if you wish to speak with someone about a safeguarding issue, please contact our **Parish Safeguarding Representative** or the **Diocesan Safeguarding Office**."

Keeping Abreast of Political Issues:

Bishop Peter writes: 'Signing up for the Catholic Union weekly briefing will help to keep you up to date with ethical and moral issues before the MPs and the Lords to whom we should be expressing the Church's and our position so that they know the depth of opinion on those matters upon which they will vote. Currently before the Lords there are the issues of the **Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill** and also the **'Up to Birth Clause (191)'** in the Crime and Policing Bill that seeks fundamentally to change our laws on abortion. By writing to Peers, you can have an influential effect'.

For further details on both please look at:

[How to write to Peers in the House of Lords - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

And

[Write to Peers to stop abortion up to birth - Easy tool - No To Abortion Up To Birth campaign](#)

+Peter



LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

NOVEMBER

Sun 2 nd	Solemnity of All Saints (Transferred)
Mon 3 rd	Commemoration of the Faithful departed.
Sun 9 th	Remembrance Sunday
Sun 16 th	9 th World Day of the Poor
Wed 19 th	Red Wednesday – ACN awareness raising for those persecuted for their faith
Thu 20 th	11.00am Mass for the Deceased Clergy of the Diocese St. Mary's Cathedral
Sun 23 rd	Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.
	Youth Sunday
Sun 30 th	Advent Sunday

DECEMBER

Wed 3 rd	Day of Prayer for Migrants and refugees
Sun 14 th	3 rd Sunday of Advent (<i>Gaudete Sunday</i>)
Thu 25 th	Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Sat 27 th	Guild of St. Stephen Annual Mass for Altar Servers following the Feast of St. Stephen
Sun 28 th	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
	Formal Closing of the Holy Year – 10.30 am. St. Mary's Cathedral

JANUARY 2026

Thur 1 st	Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of
----------------------	--------------------------------------

NEURODIVERSITY AND THE CATHOLIC FAITH

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, through its Biblical Apostolate, and Birmingham Newman University is conducting research into Neurodiversity and our faith. If you're an adult neurodivergent Catholic or a caregiver of a neurodivergent Catholic, we want to hear from you. Your experiences will help us to become more aware of and responsive to your needs.

Please complete our short survey: [The God Who Speaks](#)

LEGACY

The month of November as we pray especially for the Faithful Departed and think of the Last Things is an appropriate time too to consider afresh what gift we might leave to the world on our departure from it. These are not morbid thoughts but a realistic and practical consideration of what is inevitable sooner or later. Responsibilities to dependants must first be honoured and fulfilled, but beyond that everything is in your gift. A leaflet explaining how you are best able to make this ultimate gift to the Church is available in your parishes, from Bishop's House or on the Diocese of Wrexham website. <https://www.rcdwxm.org.uk/legacies> Your generosity would not be known until after your death or it can remain anonymous, but please be assured your gift will be wisely used in the handing on of the precious gift of faith in the work of the Diocese of Wrexham. Mass is celebrated during the month of November for the repose of the souls of, and in thanksgiving for, all testators to the Diocese.

Marriage and Family Life Commission

Marriage and Family Life Commission invite you to a FREE

Advent Family Day

Sunday 30th November 2025

**Location: Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church,
Jubilee Road, CH7 2BF, Buckley**



Arrive from 11:00 a.m.

Please, bring a picnic lunch.
Refreshments provided.



**All are welcome to celebrate family
and the beginning of Advent**



**Craft and activities for all ages –
make an Advent Wreath for your
family and lots more to take home**

**Concludes with Family Advent Service
with Bishop Peter.**

Followed by Hot Dogs and Mince Pies



Booking is essential by Sunday 17th November



Contact Wioletta Trebska
Marriage and Family Life Coordinator
mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk
or 07542 268728



The Humility of Greatness

A small boy was taking weekly piano lessons. His mother decided that to encourage him in his musical hobby she would take him to a concert. The opportunity presented itself when the great Polish pianist and composer, Ignacy Paderewski, was giving a concert in the local auditorium.

The mother bought tickets close to the front. But a couple of minutes before the concert was due to start, she spotted a friend a few rows away and went to speak to her, telling the boy to stay in his seat. However, the boy wandered off and went through a door marked "No Admittance". As the house lights dimmed she rushed back to her seat, and as the curtains were raised she saw her son on the stage sitting at the grand piano. He was playing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star". The audience waited in amazement as Paderewski came up behind him onto the stage.

He whispered in the boy's ear, "Keep playing". As the boy carried on Paderewski started to fill in with his left hand and the piece suddenly came to life. Then he stretched his right hand over the boy's shoulders to the top of the keyboard and began putting in a wonderful series of variations and improvisations that had the audience enthralled. The piece lasted five minutes and was greeted at the end by a standing ovation.

Found in Exam Scripts

Name the four seasons

Salt, pepper, mustard, vinegar.

What are steroids?

Things for keeping the
carpet still on stairs.

How can you delay milk turning sour?

Keep it in the cow.

What is the fibula?

A small lie.

What is a seizure?

A Roman emperor.

What is a turbine?

Something an Arab or Sheikh
wears on his head.

Use the word 'judicious' in a sentence to
show its meaning.

Hands that judicious can feel
soft as your face

What is a terminal illness?

When you are sick at the airport.

What does the word 'benign' mean?

Benign is something you are
after you be eight.

Advent Retreats

Advent Weekend Retreat
28th – 30th November
Advent Choices



Loreto Spirituality Centre
www.loreto.org.uk
01492 878031
info@loreto.org.uk



Advent Triduum

Prepare the Way of the Lord
8th – 12th December
Gemma Simmonds CJ

WARNING - Statues Fight Back!



**After the Bayeux Tapestry, why not bring the
MONT ST MICHEL to the UK?**



Don't say "the camera does not lie!"

FUN QUIZ

The Cinema of the Past – can you recognise the film companies?

1. The Lion roared displaying a Latin motto, 'Ars Gratia Artis'
2. Many searchlights flashed across the screen
3. A shield engraved WB
4. A mountain loomed, encircled by stars
5. The 'Statue of Liberty' held her torch aloft
6. The globe revolved with staccato radio signals
7. Bombardier Billy Wells striking a huge gong
8. An 18th Century lady in a 'cameo' painting
9. A cockerel crowing
10. 'Squared' letters GB in a circle

Bonus question – which two companies were French in origin?

The Unique lunacy of language

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.
If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?

If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

Make no assumptions

Appointed as Anglican Chaplain to the hospital, the minister met his Catholic counterpart and they agreed to support each other. On his first visit to the hospital the minister was pleased to see a comfortable lounge marked "Father's Room". Pleased for his Catholic colleague he wondered where the Anglican clergy should go. "Do we have a special room, as well?" he wondered.

He decided to ask a passing nurse. She looked bewildered, then smiled, and in the end, simply laughed. "Father's Room" was in the maternity ward.

Answers to the 'Fun Quiz'

Did you recognise the film companies by their 'trademark insignia'?

1. MGM, Metro Goldwyn Mayer
2. 20th Century Fox
3. Warner Brothers
4. Paramount
5. Columbia Pictures
6. RKO Radio
7. J. Arthur Rank Organisation
8. Gainsborough films (subsidiary of no 10)
9. Pathe News
10. Gaumont British

Bonus: Pathé and Gaumont (the oldest film company in the world), created by Pathé Frères and Léon Gaumont.

