



Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 9
July 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



Bishop's Column

This weekend – *the first in July*, a group of around sixty lay faithful together with deacons, priests and bishops from across the dioceses of England and Wales gather in Liverpool for a conference to explore how those involved in evangelisation and catechesis at diocesan level can best work together to accompany people on their faith journey.

Through their talking, sharing and praying, it is hoped that they can encourage all individuals in their diocesan families to develop new strategies to accompany each other as the People of God to grow in faith, from their first hearing the invitation of the Lord to become disciples, to their most profound meeting of Him in the sacramental life of the Church. By sharing good practices that are already part of diocesan catechetical life, and seeking to hear afresh how the Lord is speaking to his Church the conference participants will strive to fulfil their own and the 'church's duty of being the messenger of the Good News of Jesus Christ - the Good News proclaimed through two fundamental commands: "Put on the new self" and "Be reconciled to God."'

(Pope Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi 8th December 1975)

"For the Church, evangelising means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new. But there is no new humanity if there are not first of all new persons renewed by Baptism and by lives lived according to the Gospel"

(Evangelii Nuntiandi, n.18)

Pope Gregory XVI in 1840 was the first pope in modern times to address the issue of evangelisation in the life of the Church, in his encyclical letter *Probe Nostis 'On the Propagation of the Faith'*. It was a time of discovery, world expansion and missionary activity. New religious orders of men and women with a pastoral apostolate were being founded, but the Church was beset by all manner of attack at home and abroad.

Pope Gregory does not hold back in his language to identify and list *'the misfortunes that now afflict the Catholic Church'*, with many of which we are still familiar to-day.

Over a hundred years passed before the popes were to write again, specifically under that tag of 'evangelisation'. And now the tone is completely different. Since 1965 and the Second Vatican Council there have been six significant events, documents or writings/speeches of the popes in which evangelisation is the subject, or about which it is a significant issue. The most recent are from Pope Francis *Evangelii Gaudium 'The Joy of the Gospel'* (2013) and *Amoris Laetitia 'On Love in the Family'* (2016).

So, what is 'evangelisation'? The briefest description must begin with the words of Jesus: *'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'* Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV-CE) Evangelisation is characterised by an encounter with the living Jesus; formation in discipleship; and mission in the world.

"Being Christian is not the result of an ethical or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction".

(Deus Caritas Est, Benedict XVI)

Jesus promised to be with his disciples till the end of time and that presence is often mediated through others. It is that art of accompaniment of fellow disciples, and others to whom the encounter with Jesus is a seed, yet to break forth and grow, that the participants of this conference are aiming to understand better in their own lives and that of the Church. We pray for them and that their commitment will bear fruit in the lives of us all.

With every good wish and continued prayer, + Peter

Contents:

Bishop's Column	p. 1
Saints for Europe	p. 2
Cafod Plant sale	p. 2
St Beuno's Outreach	p. 3
Year of Matthew	p. 4
Cyfeillion	p. 4
The wider community	p. 5
Spotlight. St Ignatius	p. 6
Around the Diocese	p. 7
The Back Page	p. 8

Next Issue: September

The 'Wreccsam Clarion' takes a break for the month of August, and returns for the 2nd/3rd September. Deadline for contributions 26th/27th August (Bank Holiday weekend). Plan your contribution, NOW!!

'The Clarion' is in its NINTH edition: Taking over from "The Link", it is published on-line, and via Parish e-mail lists. By now, you will recognise certain 'regular' features, eg. Spotlight, Around the Diocese, and News from the Wider Community. Charities, and groups have space to inform us of their work. **Have you contributed?** Why not tell the Diocese about your parish, your group, your school. We can publish photos, and you do not have to be a published author to get your message across. And PS... let the editor know what you think/like -or don't like. It can be lonely here, not knowing!!!

“Towards a Full Presence”

...is the title of a recent ‘Reflection on Engagement with Social Media’ from the Dicastery for Communication. The pages of the Document are the ‘*result of a reflection involving experts, teachers, young professionals and leaders, lay persons, clergy, and religious. The aim is to address some of the main questions involving how Christians should engage social media. They are not meant to be precise “guidelines” for pastoral ministry in this area. The hope, instead, is to promote a common reflection about our digital experiences, encouraging both individuals and communities to take a creative and constructive approach that can foster a culture of neighbourliness.*

The challenge of fostering peaceful, meaningful, and caring relationships on social media prompts a discussion in academic and professional circles, as well as in ecclesial ones. What kind of humanity is reflected in our presence in digital environments? How much of our digital relationships is the fruit of deep and truthful communication, and how much is merely shaped by unquestioned opinions and passionate reactions? How much of our faith finds living and refreshing digital expressions? And who is my “neighbour” on social media?’ (TFP.5)

Inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan, the document offers an opportunity to begin a shared reflection on how to promote a culture of being “loving neighbours” also in the digital world. There is identification of several pitfalls to avoid as we travel the “digital highways”, but always to remember we are to be a “neighbour” in the social media environment. To listen in encounters in a way that results in real relationships and strengthened communities. Christians bring to social media a distinctive “style,” one of sharing that has its origin in Christ and springs from his communion of love. The presence of Christians in social media is also to bear the mark of witness: we are not there to sell a product or proselytise, but rather to bear witness to our own encounters with the Lord and in so doing offer a glimpse of the communion that is rooted in the Holy Trinity, our true “promised land.”

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/dpc/documents/20230528_dpc-verso-piena-presenza_en.html 29th May 2023

The document is also available in print form as a booklet (Do966) from the Catholic Truth Society: www.ctsbooks.org

Appointment of new Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle

Congratulations to **Bishop Stephen Wright**, currently Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, on his appointment as the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle. We assure him of our prayers as he moves from the Midlands to the North-East.

Jubilee and Holy Year 2025

The Holy Father pronounced 2025 as a Jubilee Year named *Pilgrims of Hope*, with 2023 a preparatory year concentrating on the Four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council and 2024 being a preparatory year concentrating on prayer. The Department of Evangelisation and Discipleship at the Bishops’ Conference is taking a leading role in communicating information from the Dicastery of Evangelisation and co-ordinating activities and materials for dissemination to the dioceses on the Jubilee Year.

A travelling salesman went around selling plaster statues of the saints. One day he was barged into by a sailor, who knocked St Anthony out of his collection, and broke off the arm with Infant Jesus on it. In great distress “I can never sell him now”, he cried. “Sell him? Of course you can”, said the sailor. “Stick a patch on one of his eyes and sell him as Lord Nelson”

Saints for Europe

During the summer we celebrate the feast days of three Patron Saints of Europe. Europe has six Patron Saints, three men and three women.

Three of them lived in the first millennium -

11th July: **Benedict** of Nursia from Italy (480-547). Often called the father of western monastic life with the giving of his Rule;

14th February: the Greek brothers **Cyril** (c.827-869) and **Methodius** (c.826-885). Missionaries who brought the Scriptures and the Bible to the peoples Eastern Europe in their own language and script.

The other three in the second millennium:-

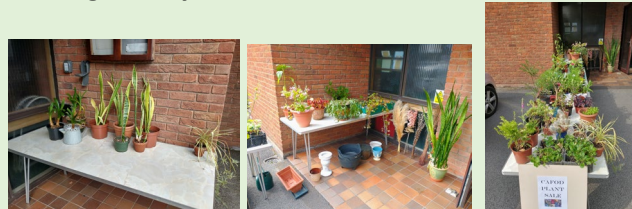
23rd July: **Bridget of Sweden** (1303-1373). A married woman and mother who became a nun, cared for the poor and the sick, denounced the excesses of the aristocracy and did not hesitate to tell popes what to do;

29th April: **Catherine of Siena** (1347-1380). Entering public life she worked hard for the reform of the Church, especially the clergy and the administration of the Papal States, bringing peace and harmony between cities;

9th August: Edith Stein, Teresa Benedicta of the Cross the German Saint of Jewish origin (1891-1942) A witness to the failure to recognise individual freedom and uniqueness.

These saints represent different European epochs, territories and cultures but they continue to speak to us of a united Europe in diversity.

Making Money from Plants For CAFOD



On the same weekend, as stalwart parishioner Joyce Elcock received a Romero Cross, (see next page) a **Plant Sale** organised by John and Tina Harradine was held, at St David’s in Mold. This gave the opportunity for parishioners to pass on plants both established and newly grown as a CAFOD fundraiser but also as a sustainable activity promoting and encouraging plants, trees and ‘re-wilding’.

In a single weekend **at least £500** was raised, and the final total is likely to be over £700.

CAFOD is actively supported across the Diocese with local coordination often relying on individuals or a few volunteers. Perhaps you could consider offering a little ‘help’ locally to organise and/or coordinate one or two of your parish events to help share the workload?

Does your parish have an active CAFOD, SVP, UCM, LoM, KSC group? Then why not contribute a short article to tell the Diocese all about it? In this way, ideas are spread around, and not only parishes, but the charities and the people who need support will benefit.

Next Issue (September): Celebrating 190 years of the SVP

A Senior Birthday Prayer: God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to meet the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference!



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.

In the month when we celebrate the Feast of St Ignatius Loyola (31 July), you may like to try the form of prayer known as the **Examen**. Ignatius recommended that we pray this at least once a day.

The Examen is about looking back on our day (as the mirror in the photo reminds us), which we do together with the Lord. It is a good prayer for busy people, and only takes 10 minutes or so. It can be done at any time, though most people like to do it at the end of the day.

Take a moment to reflect on this verse from Jeremiah as you begin:

**When you call to me, and come to plead with me,
I will listen to you.**

**When you seek me, you will find me,
when you seek me with all your heart.**

Jeremiah 29: 13

You may also like to pray these well-known words attributed to St Ignatius:

Prayer for Generosity

Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will.
Amen.

You can download the weekly Prego at

<https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/>

Contact us at stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com

Presentation of a Romero Cross, in Mold



At 11 am mass on Sunday, 25 June at St David's, Mold, a Romero Cross was presented to the Parish CAFOD coordinator **Mrs Joyce Elcock**. This was in recognition and acknowledgment for the unstinting, dedicated, voluntary commitment Joyce has given to supporting CAFOD over a significant number of years, starting way back in 1978!!

Joyce, along with her husband, John, have tirelessly championed many fundraising campaigns, Family Fast Days and the regular monthly collections for CAFOD. Well done Joyce, and John, and a heartfelt 'THANK YOU'.



The Prayer of the Examen itself now has five main steps.

1. Become still

Take time to remember that you are in God's presence. Ask that this time of prayer (and indeed all of your life) might be directed solely to the Lord's service and praise.

2. Ask for the gifts of Light and Wisdom

Ask God for *light*, to see clearly the day you are about to look back on, and *wisdom*, to understand what comes to mind, and see where God has been present.

3. Recall your Day in Gratitude and Sorrow

Let your mind drift back over the moods and feelings of the day. You may experience both thanksgiving and sorrow: share whatever arises with the Lord, trusting in his great love.

4. Look forward to tomorrow

Ask God to be with you in every detail of the coming day. If there is something you particularly want (perhaps to be more trusting, or more patient with someone you find difficult), ask the Lord to help you, especially tomorrow.

5. Ending your Prayer

As you consider the thoughts and feelings arising within you, what do you want to say to God? Speak slowly to the One who loves you as you are, as one friend speaks to another.

**World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation –
1st September**

Inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: "Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream" (5:24), "Let Justice and Peace Flow" is the theme of this year's ecumenical Season of Creation which begins on 1st September and concludes on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi 4th October.

Pope Francis' message for this Day can be read at: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2023/documents/20230513-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>

Bishop Maurice Taylor RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bishop Maurice Taylor, Bishop Emeritus of Galloway, who has died at the age of 97 years, a priest for 73 years and bishop for 42 years. He was the oldest Catholic bishop in the UK. May the Lord have mercy on him and welcome this good and faithful servant into the peace of His Kingdom.

Gospel Year of Matthew



The Transfiguration of the Lord

... Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his

clothes became white as light. And behold there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ... a bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice from the cloud said,

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”

When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified.

But Jesus came and touched them saying, “Rise, and have no fear.”

(Matt.17:1-3, 5b-7. ESV-CE)

Prayer to the Transfigured Christ.

With Peter, James and John, lead us up on a high mountain where we will be able to gaze upon you, O transfigured Christ!

With Moses and Elias, your servants, welcome us into your glory
And speak to us about your Father.

With the apostles, as you wake us from our dreams allow us to raise our eyes to you and see you alone, Jesus.

O Only Son, full of grace and truth, allow us one day to hear the voice of your Father saying to us from heaven, “You too are my beloved sons to whom I have given all my love.”

Then our lives will be transfigured in eternity.

Lucien Deiss CSSp. (1921-2007)

SYNOD 2021 – 2024



The Working Document (Instrumentum laboris literally ‘Instrument of Labour’) which will be the basis for the work of the participants in the General Assembly of the Synod on Synodality was published at the end of June.

The full suite of papers and documents for England and Wales relating to the Synod can be found at: 'Instrumentum laboris' calls for welcoming Church that embraces diversity - Catholic Bishops' Conference (cbcew.org.uk) and the Instrumentum Laboris alone at: synod-instrumentum-laboris.pdf (cbcew.org.uk)

How legends are born: 15th July St Swithun.

For canonisation, St Swithun would have to be moved, so upsetting his wish to stay outdoors where people could walk on his humble bones. On 15th July, 983, the day of his ‘translation’ it rained, and continued for 40 days, thus preventing the monks from over-riding his wishes. Thus the legend that if it rains on St Swithun’s day, it will rain for 40 days. (And if it is fine on that day, it will remain so for 40 days!)

Love seeketh not itself to please,
nor for itself have any care,
but for another gives its ease,
and builds a heaven in hell’s despair
William Blake

Love is a glass which shatters if
you hold it too tightly -or too
loosely. *(Russian proverb)*

The reason why God’s servants love creatures so much is that they see how much Christ loves them, and it is one of the properties of love to love what is loved by the person we love (St Catherine of Siena)

Husband, returning from a walk –“I’ve joined the Ramblers”. Wife, without glancing up, “Is that walking or talking?”

Cyfeillion Cymru (Friends of Wales) –

The Lamp Society with the Welsh Travelling Mission.

This month there are several references to the growth of the Catholic faith in North Wales, with the Jesuits arriving ‘in mission’. Indeed, the latest imprint by Christopher Magner illustrates the commitment, support and dedication of both lay and clergy to extend the reach of the Church.

Bishop John Petit said “I cannot put a priest out in the wilds, so to speak, and tell him to live on air”. Thus the text by Chris Magner records the support of parishes across England, and Ireland, through Cyfeillion and the Society. He has plundered news reports, especially ‘The Tablet’ and ‘The Catholic Herald’ for details of the priests and the congregations. The bibliography indicates a large amount of research which then fills more than 100 pages of closely typed text. On every page there is a gem -a comment or recollection which indicates just how much dedication was given to sustain small parishes, and to serve isolated communities. “After Mass, the priest took his congregation home, to Nebo and picked up the next ones

for his next Mass at Penygroes”

“Two thousand years ago, he chose a stable: today it is the living room of a little whitewashed cottage by the roadside at Groeslon”

If it is a fact that some of the parishes of North Wales have developed because of migration from across the Dee and the Mersey, encouraged over the last 50 years by the fast A55 to Holyhead, then this text enables the incomers to learn much of what it was like, not that long ago. Names of lay and clergy, recognisable in the third millennium, figure prominently in the stories of much travel, hardship and parish/community building.

As an imprint, the text is photocopied, specifically for you: some photos are ‘basic’. However, they illustrate their message. Copies are obtainable at £16 (post free and no profit made), from the author, Christopher Magner.

chrismagner45@yahoo.co.uk.

Or request postal address via the Editor.

VINCENTIAN DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE
PANTASAPH, UK

RETREAT SCHEDULE (JULY-DECEMBER) 2023

Vincentian Divine Retreat Centre, Franciscan Friary, Monastery Road, Pantasaph, Holywell, North Wales, CH8 8PE

Email: pantasaph@divineuk.org

Phone +44 07417 494277

JULY		AUGUST	
01	First Saturday Devotion 10.00 am to 2.30 pm	05	First Saturday Devotion 10.00 am to 2.30 pm
7-9	Family Healing Retreat - English	11-13	Family Healing Retreat - English
		25-27	Family Healing Retreat - Konkani
SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER	
02	First Saturday Devotion 10.00 am to 2.30 pm	07	First Saturday Devotion 10.00 am to 2.30 pm
08-10	Inner Healing Retreat English	13-15	Inner Healing Retreat English
23	Padre Pio Day		
NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
04	First Saturday Devotion 10.00 am to 2.30 pm	02	First Saturday Devotion 10.00 am to 2.30 pm
10-12	Family Healing Retreat -English	8-10	Inner Healing Retreat - English

Residential retreats start on Friday morning at 9.00am and end on Sunday evening at 4.00 pm.

Groups and individuals are welcome for private retreats with prior booking



Sea Sunday – 9th July
previously
(The Apostleship of the Sea)

Towards the end of last month Stella Maris published its latest report 'Life at Sea Report 2022 'Kindness amid Conflict': <https://www.stellamaris.org.uk/life-at-sea-report-2022-kindness-amid-conflict/>

Stella Maris said that in the coming year, funds will be needed to:

- Continue providing financial support to out-of-work Ukrainian seafarers and their families facing economic hardship, and;
- Grow the mental health counselling service it established in 2022, to provide relief for the increasing numbers of men, women and children suffering trauma and poor mental health because of the war.

The Centenary Emergency Fund also needs support to provide crisis help to seafarers of all nationalities and backgrounds, around the world, in cases of abandonment, hospitalisation, death at sea and piracy.

You will have your opportunity to support the continuation of their work for seafarers by making a donation to the Sea Sunday mandatory collection.

Stella Maris Registered Charity No.1069833

For further information <https://www.stellamaris.org.uk/>



St Winefride's Well
Greenfield St
Holywell
Flintshire
CH8 7PN



Events Programme 2023

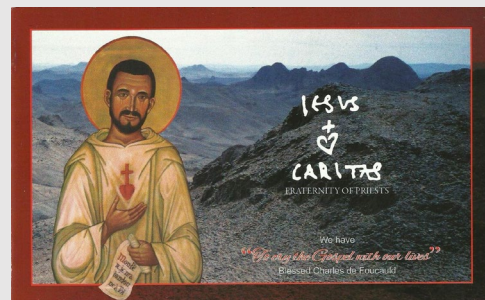
Polish Pilgrimage	Sunday 9 th July	9.00am	Service in Polish
Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary	Tuesday 15 th August	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Rosary Holy Mass at St. Winefride's Church, followed by Prayer for the Sick
End of Well Pilgrimage Season	Sunday 24 th September	5.00pm	Holy Mass in Thanksgiving for the Pilgrimage Season, followed by Veneration of St. Winefride's Relic
Orthodox Pilgrimage	Saturday 7 th October	10.00am	Service held in St. Winefride's Chapel, followed by procession to St. Winefride's Well
Liturgical Feast of St. Winefride	Friday 3 rd November	10.00am	Holy Mass with the sung litany of St. Winefride and Veneration of St. Winefride's Relic at St. Winefride's Church

Events are held at St. Winefride's Well unless otherwise stated
All Visitors are welcome to participate in the special events shown above

St. Winefride's Well is open to visitors daily throughout the year (except Christmas Day & Boxing Day)

April to September: 9.00am to 5.00pm October to March: 10.00am to 4.00pm
No entry 30 minutes prior to closing

For details of times for Holy Mass, Veneration of the Relic and the Rite of Bathing, visit the website <http://www.stwinefrideswell.org.uk> or the Diocese of Wrexham website <http://www.wrexham.orn.uk>



Jesus Caritas
Fraternity of
Priests

is a world-wide association of clergy taking inspiration from St. Charles de Foucauld, who shared the life of the poorest of the poor in the Sahara and left behind a wonderful portfolio of writings. Each month it offers a day of fraternity and the prayer of adoration, with a bi-annual national magazine. The Wrexham fraternity invites any clergy attracted, to contact the Wrexham 'Responsible' for Jesus Caritas, Fr. Bob Rainbow, on 01766 514515 ra-r@hotmail.co.uk (or any other member) who can provide a free booklet and further information. National website:

jesuscaritaspriests.org.uk

A Prayer of Intercession for Seafarers: Sunday July 9th

Let us ask God to protect all seafarers and fishers who work hard on the perilous sea to bring us so many of the goods we rely on in our daily lives. May they always feel the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father.....

Peter's Pence - An Ancient Custom still Alive To-day

For more information, visit: www.obolodisanpietro.va
As is the custom on the Sunday following the feast of SS. Peter and Paul this mandatory collection is taken up.

July

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION

August

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.



St Ignatius Loyola

Founder of the Society of Jesus

The Jesuits



The feast of St Ignatius Loyola (1491–1556)

31 July



(Jusepe de Ribera, St Ignatius (c.1622, the year of his canonisation), Rooms of St Ignatius, Rome)

The young Ignatius

Ignatius was born in Loyola in the Basque part of Spain. In his youth he was a worldly courtier and soldier who loved women and finery and dreamed of heroic feats on the battlefield. But in 1521 his life changed drastically when his leg was shattered by a cannon ball. During his long convalescence in the family castle, he read books on the life of Jesus and the saints, and his dreams moved to serving Christ. He was struck by the new feelings stirring in his heart, seeing God as a God of unconditional love who profoundly affects the way we act. He also felt called to a close personal relationship with Jesus.

The foundation of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits)

After his recovery, Ignatius made an 11-month 'retreat' in Manresa, recording his spiritual experiences in a notebook. A period of travel and searching followed, but in 1528 he gathered a small band of companions around him in Paris, and in 1537, after careful discernment, most of these 'friends in the Lord' were ordained priest. In 1540 they received papal approval as the Institute of the Society of Jesus and Ignatius was elected General Superior. (His rooms in Rome can still be visited). The Society grew rapidly, taking on the new work of founding schools and spreading the Gospel throughout the world.

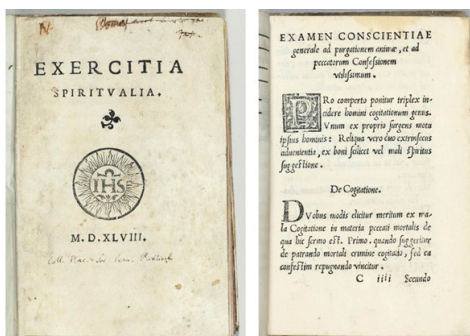
Often described as 'contemplatives in action', the Jesuits continue to be at the service of the Church, dedicating themselves *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*: to the 'greater glory of God' (AMDG). Today they work for global peace and justice (including through the Jesuit Refugee Service), and their mission extends to care for the environment, education and spirituality.

The Spiritual Exercises

The Exercises, a collection of meditations, prayers, and contemplative practices to help people deepen their relationship with God, were to become the greatest legacy of St Ignatius. They focus on finding God in all things and are remarkably modern in their understanding of human psychology. Today they are made by people of all denominations. Ignatius encourages us to reflect on our daily experience, to draw our thoughts and feelings into prayer, and to encounter Jesus as a living person, not least through Scripture.

St Ignatius and Ignatian Spirituality in North Wales

The Jesuits have been important in what has become the Wrexham diocese since 1581, when they arrived here on mission. Holywell, Rhyl and Denbigh were all at one time Jesuit parishes, and St Beuno's was founded in 1848 as a college for Jesuits to study theology. It is now a retreat house and spirituality centre that attracts people from all over the world. It is also home to [St Beuno's Outreach](#) (click the link to see more) who contribute a monthly column to *The Clarion* – and all thanks to St Ignatius Loyola!



First printed edition of the Spiritual Exercises (1548, the year they received papal approval)

Editor's Note:

Jesuit support and influence in the Diocese is a long and powerful tradition. Apart from the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-89) who wrote "The Wreck of the Deutschland" while at St Beuno's, Fr Daniel O'Connell, Director of the Vatican Observatory, astronomer and seismologist, studied at St Beuno's: the tradition has continued even today with Fr Rory Geoghegan whose sculptures adorn many of our churches, - and we also pay tribute to the current 'leadership'.

For 17 years, from 1881-97, the French Jesuit Province came to North Wales, at St David's College, in Mold. It was formerly the prison!! Ruthin, and Buckley were among the congregations they served at that time.

Around and About in the Diocese

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

JULY

- Sunday 2nd Celebration of the feast of St. Thomas, Apostle. Syro Malabar Mass in the Cathedral
- Friday 7th July International Eisteddfod, Mass 5. pm in Holy Cross Church, Llangollen
- Sunday 9th Sea Sunday
- Tuesday 11th Cathedral Chapter Canons Meeting and 12noon Mass.
- Sunday 23rd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

AUGUST

- Sunday 6th The Transfiguration of the Lord
- Thursday 10th Offeren yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. 6pm Church of St. Joseph, Pwllheli
- Tuesday 15th Solemnity Assumption of the BVM. *Holyday of Obligation*

SEPTEMBER

- Friday 1st World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
- Sunday 10th Education Day
- Friday 15th Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows – Patronal Feast of the Cathedral

Marriage & Family Life

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly – 23rd July

Pope Francis chose as this year's theme "His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1:50), which he recalled, takes us back to the joyful meeting between the young Mary and her elderly relative Elizabeth (Lk 1:39-56). The Holy Spirit had descended upon Elizabeth, and had earlier, descended upon Mary, prompting her to respond with the *Magnificat*, in which she proclaimed that the Lord's mercy is from generation to generation.

That same Spirit, the Pope observes in the Message, "blesses and accompanies every fruitful encounter between different generations: between grandparents and grandchildren, between young and old."

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonni/documents/20230531-messaggio-nnonni-anziani.html>

The Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Commission will be holding the annual Grandparents' Day event on Sunday 17th September at Noddfa Spirituality Centre, Penmaenmawr.

DO NOT READ THIS – until you have read the BACK PAGE

Quiz answers: 1. d) 90% 2. b) 1.5 million 3. c) 115 (and we thought piracy was 16th Century!) 4. b) more than six months -and not all ships have internet to phone home. 5. NO, not Galileo! Hans Lipperhey, a Dutchman sought a patent in 1608. In 1609, Galileo wanted the Council of Venice to adopt it 'to see ships from afar'.
Semaphore: "Alleluia" and "God is love"

UK Tour of Holy Relics

The Knights of St Columba are touring the Relics of St. Columba, St. Andrew and St. Margaret of Scotland throughout the UK.

The Relics will be in the Diocese of Wrexham from 15th to 17th September as follows:

- 15th pm Wrexham Cathedral
16th am St. David's, Mold
16th pm Our Lady of the Assumption, Rhyl
17th am St. Joseph's, Colwyn Bay
17th pm Our Lady Star of the Sea, Llandudno.

Full details will be published in the Parish Newsletters prior to the event.

Jubilee Congratulations

Congratulations to **Canon Terry Carr** VG who has recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of his priestly Ordination. Ad multos annos!

Monsignor Alex Rebello

We understand that Monsignor Alex Rebello who has recently retired and returned to his diocese in India was admitted to hospital recently to undergo a procedure. Please pray for his full and speedy recovery.

Have Your Say!

The Marriage and Family Life Commission has a short survey in order to plan its activities. Parents and Carers of 0-25 year olds are asked to complete this short, anonymous survey. It can be accessed via <https://forms.gle/Ug7ikfSNYQf4XLBa7> or from the Facebook Page at 'Marriage and Family Life, Diocese of Wrexham' at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087071533098>.

Please submit your response by 31st July 2023.

For any questions about the survey, or if you would like to give further feedback, please contact Jeanie Larkin at mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk, or telephone 07542 268728.

Confirmandi

Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently been confirmed, or are about to be so. May the Sacrament bring them special blessings now and into the future, especially the confirmandi of Mold, Flint and Denbigh

First Holy Communion

Around the Feast of Corpus Christi, The Most Holy Body and Blood, many young people in our parishes receive their First Holy Communion. Please remember them in your prayers, that this gift may strengthen them throughout their life. We hope and pray that there are too many of them to be mentioned here by name, but all remembered in prayer!

Wreccam Clarion is published by the Diocese of Wrexham, Bishop's House, Sontley Road, Wrexham, LL13 7EW
Telephone 01978 262 726 Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Bishop or the Diocese.
For further information and contributions please contact the Editor, Mark J. Philpot at clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk

The newsletter is distributed through parish email lists.

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



THE BACK PAGE

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

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS			
July			
2	3.00pm	St. Thomas Celebration	Cathedral
6		Christ The Word School	Rhyl
7	5.00pm	International Eisteddfod Mass	Llangollen
11	12noon	Chapter Mass	Cathedral
12	2.30pm	Signing of Statement of Intent	St Winefride's Shrine & Well
14	11.00am	SRG school INSET Mass	Buckley
7	6.30pm	Confirmation	Flint
22	11.00am	Golden Jubilee of Sr. Celine	Holy Family Convent, Wrexham
25	10.30am	Presbyteral Council Meeting	Bishop's House
26-27		SSG Summer School	Liverpool
27-03/08		Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes	
August			
10	6.00pm	National Eisteddfod Mass	Pwllheli
15	12noon	Assumption of BVM	Cathedral
September			
1	11.00am	SVP Recommissioning Ceremony	Pantasaph
7	6.30pm	Confirmation	Denbigh
15	7.00pm	Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows	Cathedral
17		Grandparents' Day	Noddfa
20		Board of Trustees' Meeting	Bishop's House

July and August -UK 'Holiday Months'

Since 'The Clarion' also takes its holiday in August, and seaside holidays are often popular, **THE BACK PAGE** this month recognises the work of Stella Maris, the 'Apostleship of the Sea' (see page 6 for more details).

We may use the sea for our pleasure, bathing, travel and cruising, but it is easy to forget that seafaring and fishing are vital industries, highly dangerous, and always perilous. At Christmas 2006, your Editor took part in an 'expedition cruise' to the Antarctic. While a CofE vicar took the Christmas service for passengers, Carole and I were invited to lead the crew's service. Based on a Service of Word and Communion, the experience was unforgettable. The rendering of 'O Holy Night' was incredible – the Sign of Peace memorable as the crew clambered over the chairs to hug each other, and as for the quick thinking of one crew member who caught the candlestick before it fell off the piano in the huge swell of the storm that night.....!!! We left the ship after 21 days. The crew stayed on board – and how long for.....??

A Landlubber's Quiz answers previous page

- How much of what we use is brought by ship?
a. 30% b. 50%. c. 65%. d. 90%
- Worldwide, there are how many seafarers?
a. 500,000 b. 1.5 million c. 3 million. d. 5 million
- Pirates attacked how many ships last year?
a. 32 b. 67 c. 115 d. 224
- How long might a sailor be away from home?
a. Up to six months b. more than six months
- Nelson famously put his telescope to his blind eye and said "I see no signal". But who invented the first telescope?

Codes and Signals

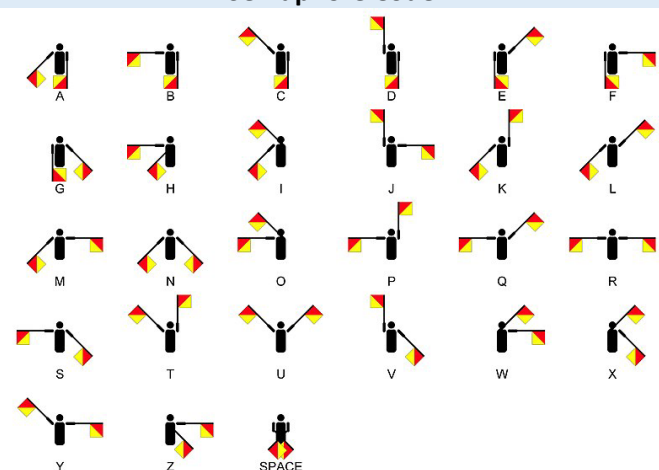
Before satellites, before radio, and even before telegraph, communication was by word of mouth or visual signal. Samuel Morse invented a sound code (famously used from RMS Titanic in 1912 -but not all ships in the vicinity had telegraph), and the international 'call for help' was SOS –'Save Our Souls'. SOS in Morse code is dot,dot,dot,dash,dash,dash,dot,dot,dot

...---... The Radio call is "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday" which originates from French "M'aidez, M'aidez" ('Help me') The "mayday" procedure word was conceived as a distress call in the early 1920s by Frederick Stanley Mockford, officer-in-charge of radio at Croydon Airport, England. He had been asked to think of a word that would indicate distress and would easily be understood by all pilots and ground staff in an emergency. It is said three times, to ensure it is not confused with any other expression.

Earlier though, ships signalled to each other in 'semaphore'. A flag in each hand, 8 positions are created, in a circle, rising first with the right hand, then descending with the left. The next 'circle' is formed with the left hand in the first quadrant, swapping hands in the 12.00 position, and so on. Note that the letters 'J' and 'Z' do not form part of the natural sequence.

Circle 1: A,B,C,D,E,F,G Circle 2: H,I,K,L,M,N
Circle 3: O,P,Q,R,S Circle 4: T,U,Y (and 'cancel')
Circle 5: V Circle 6: W,X Circle 7: Z

Children's (and Adults!) Corner Semaphore Code



Here are two 'holy' messages spelt out in semaphore. Can you decipher them??

