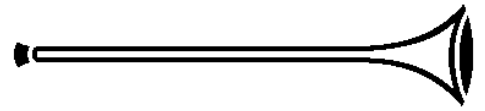




Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 20
June 2024

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



This month's Banner celebrates the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (white and red), as well as the Solemnity of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Martyrs (red)



Bishop Peter's Column
Elections and Democracy
What to look for in a candidate

Page 2

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Holywell.
Sunday June 23rd

Page 7



Legal Mass
June 29th

For all who work in justice, and the Law

Page 7



Summer course

For Pastoral Musicians
Page 7



St Beuno's Outreach
The Feast of the Body and Blood
of Christ -
Corpus Christi

Page 3

ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH
IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



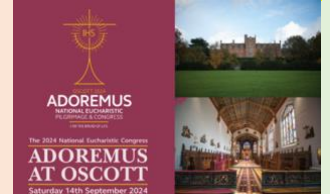
Year of St Mark

Jesus institutes the Eucharist
A Prayer for Corpus Christi

Page 4

Eucharistic Congress
URGENT –

Last Day for bookings.
Programme of events:
Page 8



Corpus Christi

Origins of the Processions

Page 4



Intricately Woven by the Lord

A document on Gender and Identity

Page 8



Do Justice

Catholic Social Action Network

Page 8



Child of War exhibition, London

Art and Essays of war-torn areas
An exhibition of Arabella Dorman

Page 5



Catholic Concern for Animals

Join a database to support the charity.
plus Laudato Si,

The General Election and Environment
Page 8



Day for Life

June 16th The Lord is my Shepherd

Page 5



Called to be Peacemakers

Bishops' Guidance on Arms Control
Page 5



Ladder of Spirituality

Four steps to heaven

Page 9



Spotlight

The New Lectionary

Why? What? When?
How to claim discounts
Page 6



Holy Year	page 2	Vacant roles	page 8
Events	page 7	Engagements	page 9
Peter's Pence	page 7	Teens' Top Tips	page 9
Charismatic prayer	page 7	Humour	page 9

Something to say? Say it!! Contributions must be attributed, but can be published anonymously.
Next Deadline....30th June for July/August issue. 25th August for September issue.

By the time of the next, July, edition of CLARION, billions of people throughout the world will have voted in national elections including ourselves in the United Kingdom, along with Europeans for the EU Parliament, Indians, South Africans, Mexicans and Iranians to name a few. Later in the year there are yet more to vote for their national leader -president, or prime minister; or for the national assembly.

This year has been referred to as the biggest election year in history. But we know the voices and opinions of the people are not always freely expressed and heard, and that the democratic process is for some a shame, a parody. In reality, open and honest elections do not exist for these and other reasons: opposition parties have been made illegal; votes are rigged; voters terrorised. Is not that all the more reason for us to use the freedom we have to vote even when the decisions to be made are challenging and in the knowledge that party manifestos consist of a bundle of policies and we can only vote in the hope and with the aspiration that we make the best choice in the circumstances?

Of course, all this begins with the candidates who are chosen. It is too late now to make much of a difference in that regard, even if we are among those able to have a part in that process. Selection of candidates and the submission of their names has to be by 7th June.

In a recent article on *Political Vocation*, bishop emeritus Cardinal Arizmendi in Mexico reflected on 'social commitment and the search for the common good in politics'. He writes in the context of Mexico's

forthcoming elections: *"In these times of electoral campaigns, we must discern who aspires to a public position, ... due to a vocation for service, or for other motivations: those who now get very close to the people, seeking their vote or who have always done so, even without holding political office: those who have demonstrated in their lives the willingness to do something for the community or who are only now showing interest in solving local or national problems: those who have vital experience of having helped people, knowing their reality closely and doing something for them, or those who work from a desk, far from the people who suffer the most."*

Gospel values inform how we look at the world as Christians. a way that puts the common good before self-interest. Do look at the Bishops' Conference website <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/> which provides useful information about some of the issues important to Catholics at this time of Election.

In addition to the issues, we are encouraged too to support those who truly demonstrate a political vocation, a permanent willingness to serve others, not only in electoral times, but throughout their lives. Remember too to pray for the candidates and for yourselves that you may vote with integrity to elect the next UK Government, an authority then to be heeded, cf. Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 13:1-7

May you, and our nation, be blessed in the Lord Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life that all people may know justice, peace and prosperity, + Peter

POPE PROCLAIMS JUBILEE: 'MAY HOPE FILL OUR DAYS!'

Christopher Wells of Vatican News writes: "Hope" is the overarching theme of the forthcoming Ordinary Jubilee of 2025, a theme reflected in the opening words of the [Bull of Indiction](#), *"Spes non confundit. Hope does not disappoint."*

Long passages of the Bull were read out ahead of Vespers on Ascension Thursday, during a ceremony in which the document was solemnly consigned to the Archpriests of the four Papal Basilicas, the Pro-Prefects of the Dicastery for Evangelisation, and representatives of the world's Bishops. In *Spes non confundit*, Pope Francis announces that the Jubilee Year will begin with the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, 2024.

Later, on 29th December, the Pope will open the Holy Door of the Archbasilica of St John Lateran, (*San Giovanni in Latrano*) the Cathedral of Rome. On the same day, every Cathedral and co-Cathedral throughout the world will have

Mass celebrated by the local Bishop to mark the opening of the Jubilee.

On the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, 1st January 2025, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door for the Basilica of St Mary Major, (*Santa Maria Maggiore*) with the Holy Door for the Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls (*San Paolo fuore le mura*) being opened on Sunday, 5th January, the Vigil of Epiphany.

"In the course of the year," Pope Francis writes, *"every effort should be made to enable the People of God to participate fully in its proclamation of hope in God's grace and in the signs that attest to their efficacy."*

The Jubilee will end in the particular Churches throughout the world on 28th December 2025, with the Holy Doors of St John Lateran, St Mary Major, and St Paul's Outside the Walls being closed on that same date.

Finally, the Jubilee Year will draw to a close in Rome on the Solemnity of Epiphany, 6th January 2026.

Talent is God-given; be thankful.
Conceit is self-given; be careful. (Thomas La Mance)

Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is love. Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. (Mother Teresa)

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

This month we celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi, or the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. The feast falls 60 days after Easter on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, but it is often observed on the following Sunday. Just as we celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and then the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity in the previous two weeks, we now give thanks for the gift that Jesus gives us in the Eucharist – his very self as our food and drink.

This month's image is of a little girl throwing petals during the Eucharistic procession as the Blessed Sacrament passes by.

Take a moment to ponder the image, noticing what strikes you. Then read the text from St John's gospel slowly and reverently, stopping where you are drawn.



Image: © ATX Catholic 2017

Just as food and drink nourish us and become part of us, so Christ nourishes us and becomes part of us too, living within us. To eat the bread and drink the wine is to enter into communion with the person of the living Lord. Communion implies commitment: the will to follow Christ.

Jesus said to the Jews:

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another:

'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said.

Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise that person up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in them.

As I who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father,

so whoever eats me will draw life from me.'

John 6: 51-57

If you find some of these lines difficult, ask the Lord to help you, and show you their deeper meaning.

Perhaps you may want to focus more particularly on the life-giving relationship between Jesus and his Father and ponder this.

Or perhaps your attention is drawn to Jesus speaking of the living bread, and of his own flesh and blood. We need food and drink to keep physically fit; what do we need to be spiritually fit?

As you read St John's text again, you may notice what it is that Jesus promises, the words he uses, and the impact these words have on his listeners and on you.

Imagining that Jesus is speaking directly to you, pause where the Holy Spirit draws you.

How do **you** feel? Perplexed ...? At peace?

Perhaps you bring to mind times when God gave you strength and courage, or times when you felt alive and energised to do his work. Speak to the Lord as one friend to another, and tell him what is in your heart just now.

Resisting the temptation to 'figure things out', remain in silent adoration a few moments longer, perhaps desiring to return to this same text tomorrow ... and even again the next day.

When you are ready, slowly leave your place of prayer, drawing life from Jesus, the 'living bread'.

Other resources

Go to

www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com for more resources, including the weekly Prego and Prego Plus leaflets.



Gospel Year of Mark

And on the first day of Unleavened Bread when they sacrifice the Passover Lamb

... And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." *Mark* 14:12,22-26 ESV-CE)

Prayer Intentions

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – June

Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:

During Ordinary Time (Summer), *i.e.* up to September, we are asked to pray for these intentions:

A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews;
Those who Suffer Persecution, Oppression
and Denial of Human Rights;
Europe;
Human Life;
Seafarers.

A Prayer for Corpus Christi

Love makes you, O prince supreme,
share this heavenly banquet with your friends,
giving them in a wonderful way
your sacred body in a morsel of bread.
Love, knowing that we were under sentence of death
because of that fruit of old,
gives us yourself, fruit of a maiden's womb,
in form of bread, that all may live.
Love, O Jesus, makes you do marvellous things:
your own hands wash the disciples' feet,
leaving us an example,
and showing us the way to live justly.
Love, in all goodness and conquering might,
then bade you say to your friends;
'I long to eat this Passover with you
before the time of my sacrifice comes.'
Love commands, and sweetly you say:
'I shall drink no more of the fruit of this vine,
Until I drink it with you in fullness
in my Father's heavenly kingdom.'

*Part of the 'Song of Love' by John of Howden (fl.1268/9-1275)
English Franciscan friar from the north of England, one time
chaplain to Queen Eleanor of Provence, wife of King Henry III.*

GENERAL ELECTION 2024

The Prime Minister called a General Election for Thursday 4th July. On the Bishop's Conference website <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/> you will find information and guidance on key issues of importance to us as Catholics, to help inform how we vote.

The Feast of Corpus Christi

Origins of the feast of Corpus Christi

The feast of Corpus Christi originated in Belgium during the early thirteenth century at a time of growing devotion to the reserved sacrament and the real presence. The nun St Juliana of Mont Cornillon near Liège had visions of Eucharistic adoration that inspired her to campaign for a new feast, and the idea was spread by the Dominicans. It proved so popular that Corpus Christi was instituted throughout the Church by Pope Urban IV in 1264 and eventually made official in 1317.

Processions were an important part of the new feast, where the reserved sacrament was taken out of the church and carried through the town or village. The earliest recorded was in 1279 in Cologne, but during the later Middle Ages such processions became very elaborate and were often sponsored by craft guilds, leading to mystery plays and other dramas. (These have been revived in recent years, as at Chester, where the medieval plays are performed roughly every five years).

In 1551, the Council of Trent described Corpus Christi as a 'triumph over heresy', meaning that when Christians celebrated the festival they affirmed their belief in the doctrine of transubstantiation, and thus the victory of the Church over those who did not accept that the host became the real body of Christ during the consecration at Mass.

Corpus Christi and devotion to the Eucharist

The feast of Corpus Christi has led people to meditate deeply on the Eucharist and to discover new depths to the Sacrament. Popular street processions continue in many countries, with the consecrated host carried in a monstrance, sometimes under a canopy to protect it from the sun. There is also a long tradition of throwing flowers before the host to celebrate Jesus coming as king. St Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-97) was especially moved by this: 'What a joy it was for me to throw flowers beneath the feet of God! Before allowing them to fall to the ground, I threw them as high as I could, and I was never so happy as when I saw my roses touch the sacred monstrance'.



Although Corpus Christi processions have all but disappeared in Britain, other signs of devotion to the body and blood remain including the burning lamp by the tabernacle, benediction services, Holy Hours, quarantore (forty hours devotion in front of the Blessed Sacrament), and exposition.

DAY FOR LIFE - 16TH JUNE

The Lord is my Shepherd



The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. In England and Wales and this year in Ireland and Scotland too, *Day for Life* is celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year.

The theme is "The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life".

A debate on end-of-life issues has been in the headlines in recent months with calls for assisted suicide being expressed, especially by celebrities, a view that opposes the Catholic view that life is a gift and that we are called to care for others at the end of their lives.

A scripture reflection for Day for Life focusing on compassion and hope at the end of life, along with other information and resources can be found on the Bishops' Conference website <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life>

There is a mandatory collection taken in parishes the third weekend to support the work of the Bishops on life issues.

The Day for Life Fund provides financial assistance each year to organisations working to support the Church's mission to protect human life from conception to natural death. Each year, the money donated by the faithful on the Day for Life is dispersed to organisations to assist them in undertaking specific projects relating to life issues. These can range from educational workshops to advocacy campaigns, practical support services to commissioning research. Applications are now open to apply for a grant through the Day for Life Fund and will stay open until 23rd June. For more information and to apply please visit:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life-fund/>

For enquiries please email: dayforlife@cbcew.org.uk

CALLED TO BE PEACEMAKERS

A Catholic approach to arms control and disarmament



On 22nd May, the International Affairs Department of the Bishops of England and Wales released the document *Called to be Peacemakers*, focusing on disarmament and weaponry. This document has been a collective effort, with contributions from many national and international Church agencies. It argues that if Catholics are to take up the call to stand as peacemakers in our troubled world, an integral part of this mission involves working to limit the proliferation of weapons and to advance the cause of global disarmament. The document stresses that every human life lost to violence and conflict is a tragedy for our universal family. The paper is divided into three chapters:

Chapter One: The Church's call for nuclear disarmament
The first chapter deals with nuclear disarmament in general; and, specifically, of the call of the Holy See to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It calls for the UK to take a leading role in creating a world without nuclear weapons, including the ultimate elimination of our own.

Chapter Two: The Church's call for General and Complete Disarmament
This chapter deals with the arms trade and military spending. Specifically, it discusses a new session on disarmament at the United Nations General Assembly, of support for a global fund to promote peace and integral human development; of the UK's role in the arms trade; and investment in the arms industry, promoting investment practices that align with *Mensuram Bonam*.

Chapter Three: The Church's call to put emerging technology at the service of humanity
The final chapter looks at our relationship with technology in warfare. It seeks to address pressing ethical questions about human involvement and agency. It sets out several principles, urging "that people receive appropriate pastoral care when engaged in the deployment and operation of weaponised drones and other uncrewed weapon systems."

The paper can be found on the Bishops' Conference website <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/05/Called-to-be-Peacemakers.pdf> or *Called to be Peacemakers*. Contact Jacob Oakes at jacob.oakes@cbcew.org.uk if you wish to receive more information about the document.

CHILD OF WAR EXHIBITION

A landmark exhibition by the award-winning war artist Arabella Dorman being held in London until 6th June at The Holy Family in Exile Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, Binney Street, W1K 5BQ (just off Oxford Street)



Arabella Dorman's Child of War features art and essays by children from all faiths and cultures from Britain and around the world, relating to conflicts in Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and beyond.

Curated by Dorman and based on her first-hand experience as a war artist, the exhibition forms a powerful dialogue between artist and child, revealing the profound and lasting psychological impact of conflict-related trauma, the possibility of hope and renewal, and the ways in which children of war may be rehabilitated and supported in our increasingly divided and violent world.

"Good manners and soft words have brought many a difficult thing to pass" (Aesop)

"A gentleman is a man who can disagree without being disagreeable" (Anon)

DECREE FOR GRANTING INDULGENCES IN THE HOLY YEAR 2025

The Holy See has published the Decree of Indulgences which will sit alongside the Bull of Indiction for the Holy Year of Jubilee 2025. The Decree on the Granting of Indulgences in the Holy Year 2025: https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/tribunals/apost_penit/documents/rc_penitenzieria-ap_20240513_norme-indulgenza-giubileo2025_en.html



The NEW Lectionary

How working together as a parish will enable everyone to benefit from the discount. One parish is already doing this.



The four Volumes
of the Lectionary



The Processional **Book
of the Gospels**

Why is this URGENT, now?

Because CTS Books is offering a discount of up to 15% for orders before 30th June.

The CTS (Catholic Truth Society) has been appointed by the Conference of Bishops as the publisher of the Lectionary.

What is changing?

The Readings at Mass will change from the Jerusalem Bible version to the English Standard Version (Catholic edition)ESV-CE.

Why? Many scholars viewed the Jerusalem Bible translation as rather 'loose', even though it is eminently readable. It has been used since the 1970s. The ESV is thought to be closer to the Hebrew and Greek Texts and renders into English a more inclusive language

Catholic Edition??? Isn't it 'The Bible'?

Yes -it is the same Bible, but the Catholic edition includes 7 books of the Old Testament not included in other versions.

For example, Maccabees, Tobit, Judith, and Wisdom are included. (We use Wisdom very commonly at funerals "The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God"). Also, we are often confused by the numbers of the Psalms eg "The Lord is my Shepherd" (Psalm 23) is often numbered 22, because Psalms 9 and 10 can be conflated.

My 'Sunday Missal' is redundant?

Sadly, yes! But then for the past 13 years you have not used the texts of the prayers of the Mass, the Gloria or the Creed, because in 2011 these changed. So, a **NEW** Sunday Missal will bring everything back together, Prayers, readings, feasts etc

Any 'good' news?

Yes, if Sunday Missals are ordered by the parish with the Ambo Lectionary, and a Book of the Gospels you will get the 15% discount!!! (Enquiry to CTS has confirmed this!!)

What is available?

The new Lectionary comes in **four** volumes (instead of three). (*Weekdays will be in two volumes-weeks 1-9 with Lent and Easter, and 6-34*).

a. The '**Ambo edition**' (*approx. A4 size £695*) is most suitable for churches where the Readings are proclaimed by a Reader.

b. The '**Chapel edition**' is for side chapels, and small Mass centres. It is 75% the size of the Ambo edition. (*just above A5 £395*)

c. The '**Study Edition**' (*slightly smaller than A5 £250*) is for personal study, or House Masses.

Book of the Gospels;

e. Processional edition (*larger than A4 £395*) has an embossed front cover.

f. Basic version (*same size £275*)

Sunday Missals:

All versions have the Order of Mass, Eucharistic prayers, prefaces and blessings. Mass texts in Latin and English.

g. Standard edition (£19.95).

h. White Presentation edition, and the Burgundy 'Gift' edition (£29.95).

i. **Gospels** -Individual Gospels

j. **Psalms and Canticles** – text of the Grail Psalms, an updated translation

k. **Music** – Gregorian chants (Introits) for sung Mass

l. **Psalms** – and organ or voice edition

ALL of these are subject to 15% discount IF a) and e) or f) are ordered

SUGGESTED JOINT ACTION!

YOUR parish can make an order to include parishioners' requests.

1. Ask your Parish Priest/Office
2. Go to ctsbooks.org
3. Check what you wish to order
4. Volunteer to co-ordinate, and collect money!
5. Go on line, to order everything to the 'basket', using the discount code
6. Wait until 14th October for delivery

ESSENTIAL to know:

The 15% discount is available **ONLY** when ordering the **AMBO** edition, **PLUS** a **Book of the Gospels**. (ie as a parish)

Otherwise - ALL Lectionary products will be eligible for 10% if ordered by June 30th. (ie as individuals)

Example SAVINGS: (*approx figures*)
AMBO edition £695, save £100
Book of the Gospels £395 save £60
Sunday Missal £19.95, save £3

Other editions the saving is 10%: eg.
Chapel edition £395 save £39.95
Book of Gospels £275 save £27.75
Sunday Missal £19.95 save £ 1.99

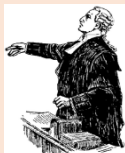
Rationale – CTS knows there are 2475 parishes in England and Wales -if they know the orders by June 30th and if all buy an Ambo edition, and Book of the Gospels, they will be able to arrange printing, packing and dispatch – The Ambo edition + Gospels weigh 20kg!!

AND FINALLY! – Why not consider a **DONATION** to the **liturgical life** of the parish? No doubt the parish will be pleased to receive any donations (*which can be Gift Aided*), and there is an opportunity for donors to be recorded in the Lectionary, and so remembered during the celebrations of Mass. Remember, some parishes have multiple Mass Centre–each needing their own....

Around and About in the Diocese

**Judges, Barristers, Solicitors, Magistrates,
Police, Prison, Probation Service Officers**

LEGAL MASS



In the evening of Friday 28th June, all are invited to gather with spouses for the celebration by Bishop Peter of the Diocesan Legal Mass.

This Mass, celebrated around the feast of the martyrs St. John Fisher, Bishop, and St. Thomas More, Lawyer, is an occasion for us to remember and pray for all who have the responsibility to make, administer and enforce the laws of the land and to uphold the justice we value in the democracy of our countries.

Charismatic prayer meetings in Mold

The Diocesan Service team for Catholic Charismatic Renewal has organised two prayer meetings in St David's Parish hall, Mold on 8th June, and 3rd August. Both meetings will begin at 1.30 pm until 5.00 pm. There will be a shared lunch before praise, scripture and prayer ministry. Everyone is welcome to these prayer-filled days. For more information contact Steve Halsall on email stehalsall@yahoo.co.uk

Those attending are welcome to join in the Parish Mass which follows at 5.30 pm on Saturdays

PETER'S PENCE –

AN ANCIENT CUSTOM STILL ALIVE TO-DAY

Peter's Pence is the name given to the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of their sharing in the concern of the Successor of Peter for the many different needs of the Universal Church and for the relief of those most in need.

For more information, visit: www.obolodisanpietro.va

As is the custom on the Sunday of the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul this mandatory collection is taken up.

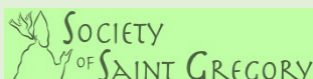
Youth Events

The new **Youth Council** is planning an event in Rhyl on Saturday 29th June. Young people from across the Diocese are involved in the planning for 14 to 20s.

Youth Mass – 24th November Youth Sunday.

Information from Ann Ryan, Chair of Youth Council

Reminders from the May Issue:



**Summer School 2024 'A
Symphony of Praise in
Word and Music'**

31st July to 3rd August 2024 Liverpool Hope University
The Summer School conference is a chance to gather with parish musicians and liturgists from all over the country and to worship together. Full residential or day attendance is available. Bursaries and financial support are available on application from the McElligot Bursary Fund. All enquiries are confidential. For further details: ssg.org.uk or summerschool@ssg.org.uk

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

Events and Invitations

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

JUNE

Sun 2nd Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Our Lord

Fri 7th Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of

Priests

Wed 12th Primary Schools' Year 6 Leavers Mass - Cathedral

Sun 16th Day for Life

Sun 23rd Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of St. Winefride

Fri 28th Mass for the Legal Profession and those of the

Criminal Justice System

Sun 30th Transferred Feast of SS. Peter and Paul

JULY

Thu 4th International Eisteddfod Mass – Llangollen

Tue 9th Meeting of the Cathedral Canons and 12noon

Chapter Mass.

Sun 14th Sea Sunday

Sun 28th IV World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly



PILGRIMAGE TO THE NATIONAL SHRINE AND WELL OF ST. WINEFRIDE

This year the annual pilgrimage is on Sunday 23rd June. Following the Procession from St. Winefride's Church beginning at 2.30pm Mass will be celebrated in the Well grounds, at 3 o'clock followed by the blessing of the sick with the relic of St. Winefride and opportunity for individual veneration. Again this year part of the grounds will be under-cover, providing protection from the elements whether they be searing sunshine or torrential rain.

Intention for prayer. As the legend of St. Winefride tells a story of sexual harassment and violence against a young woman we remember in prayer especially those self-same victims in our society today.

Keen walkers may choose to walk the final stages of the new pilgrim route from St. Mary's Cathedral, Wrexham to the National Shrine, as given in Hearts in Search of God pilgrimages <https://www.pilgrimways.org.uk/wrexham> or go via the British Pilgrimage Trust St. Winefride Pilgrim Way <https://www.britishpilgrimage.org/portfolio/st-winefride-pilgrim-trail>

FORTHCOMING EMPLOYMENT or VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Archivist p/t The Diocesan trustees will be seeking a part time Archivist to taken on the work relinquished by Mrs Sue Copp

Visitor Centre Manager to work with the Administrator in the development of the National Shrine of St. Winefride, Holywell

Environmental Lead to help educate, advise and implement the Church's environmental policies within the Diocese.

Marriage and Family Life Worker - a vacancy exists from August.

Early expressions of interest for any of these posts should be sent to Mrs Dominique Gresty pa@rcdwxm.org.uk prior to formal advertising of these posts.

INTRICATELY WOVEN BY THE LORD

a pastoral reflection on gender



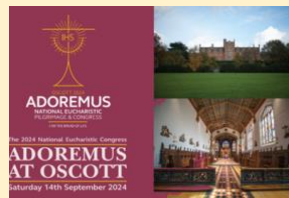
At the end of April the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales issued a reflection highlighting the teaching of the Church but stressing that accompanying those struggling with gender dysphoria is “a complex but essential pastoral task.”

The document, titled ‘Intricately Woven by the Lord: A Pastoral Reflection on Gender’ by the bishops of England and Wales, emphasises that all are welcome in the Church, but says that the sexual identity of an individual is not a purely “cultural or social construction.”

The document refutes the idea, proposed by Gender Identity Theory, that everyone has an ‘inner’ gender identity, which sometimes fails to match the biological sex of the individual. It upholds the value of the body and importance of sexual differentiation.

The bishops assert that we are all created in the image of God, with a dignity given to us by our creator and stresses that leading people to the fullness of life in Christ is a journey rooted in truth as well as compassion.

The document, and the executive summary, can be read and downloaded [Pastoral Reflection: Intricately Woven By The Lord](#) and [Summary: Intricately Woven By The Lord](#)



National Eucharistic Congress at Oscott – Saturday 14th September

Deadline Date 2nd June

44 places have been allocated to each Diocese. 2nd June is the deadline to apply to pa@rcdwxm.org.uk for one of the **free** places for the Diocese. A coach will be organised (no individual access is possible, due to the constraint of the College grounds), with a contribution to the cost. Please reserve your place by informing your Parish priest of your intention to go – untaken places can be allocated to other dioceses

Details of the programme:

- 11.00 Welcome and keynote address
- 12.00 Angelus and Mass. Cardinal Vincent Nichols
- 1.15 lunch
- 2.00 Keynote address
- 3.00 Site activities and afternoon break
- 4.30 Eucharistic Procession and Benediction
- 6.00 Departures

Activities include: Carlo Acutis presentation, Rosary walk, Pilgrimage walk, Scripture encounter, Museum visits. Lectio Divina workshop.

Catholic Concern for Animals

An international charity, founded in the UK seeks to promote compassion and welfare of all animals. In 2029, it will be 100 years old.



A current Trustee is Fr Terry Martin, a priest of the Arundel and Brighton Diocese. He is seeking to make a database of interested clergy and lay people who share an animal-friendly, compassionate approach to these divinely created beings. Thus, the database will consist of those who, like CCA, feel a call, in the name of the gospel, to advocate for all animals with a Catholic Christian concern. If you wish to support the work of the charity, especially in the light of ‘Laudato Si’, look at the website, www.catholic-animals.com and contact Fr Terry at terry.martin@abdiocese.org.uk

Laudato Si Animators:

A regular correspondent, Virginia Bell, a Laudato Si animator is also a member of another animal action group CAA- Catholic Action for Animals.

She has written to inform readers that a document is available entitled “The General Election and the Environment” – available from vrbell18@yahoo.co.uk

Also, A YouTube video is available:

INTRODUCTION TO ANIMAL RIGHTS FROM A FAITH PERSPECTIVE: New Insights into Animal Agriculture
It is produced in collaboration with the Laudato Si’ Action Platform, with an Introduction by Bishop John Arnold
For the YouTube recording, click [HERE](#)

What did the earthworm say to the caterpillar.
“Where did you get that fur coat?”



Caritas Social Action Network, has just launched its Do Justice campaign. You can find out more at: <https://dojustice.co.uk/>
The aim of the campaign is to encourage Catholic parishes and schools to discern the needs of their local communities in the light of the Gospel and to act with the skills and resources they have at their disposal to bring about a more just society.

A three-session resource pack has been produced for parishes as a guide to this process. The sessions use the Conversations in the Spirit method of the synodal process, to make sure that everyone is heard, and the best ways forward can be discerned.

You’ll also find attached a poster for display in the parish. On the Do Justice website, you’ll be able to download a copy of the ‘core text’ of the campaign, [Do Justice: A Vision for Spiritual and Civic Renewal in England and Wales](#).

This document might be a helpful introduction for parishes who want to engage with Do Justice. It’s a reminder of the scriptural roots of justice and the main principles of Catholic Social Teaching which guide our work for a better world.

If your parish is interested in engaging with Do Justice, the staff at CSAN love to hear from you. They’re beginning to convene a number of parish groups who are working on this so they can offer support and learn from each other.

CSAN - Caritas Social Action Network shares in the mission of the Catholic Church, committed to tackling the causes of poverty, promoting justice and restoring dignity, specifically by convening and animating alliances of member charities involved in the social mission of the Church, leading on the formation of those involved in social action, and raising a prophetic Catholic voice in the public arena

This resource is exactly the kind of ongoing lay lead adult formation that was being asked for at the Listening exercise meetings. Now is your opportunity!

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

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

June

01	10.30am	Deacons' Meeting	Mold
02	10.30am	Corpus Christi	Cathedral
03-07		Diocesan Clergy Retreat	St Beuno's
12	11.00am	Year 6 Leavers' Mass	Cathedral
18		Episcopal Ordination	Westminster
19	11.00am	M&W Infirm Secular Clergy Fund AGM	Caersws
21		Board of Trustees' Meeting	Bishop's Hse
	7.00pm	40 th Anniversary of Ordination, Canon Joseph Stewart	Connah's Quay
23	2.30pm	Annual Pilgrimage to St. Winefride's Shrine	Holywell
28	7.00pm	Legal Mass	Cathedral
30	3.00pm	St. Thomas Celebration	Cathedral

July

04	5.00pm	International Eisteddfod Mass	Llangollen
05	6.00pm	Silver Jubilee, Fr Innocent Abonyi, MSP	Llandudno
09	10.30am	Chapter Meeting & Mass	Cathedral

Top Ten Tips of Etiquette for Teens (and others) for a Christian life:

Putting '**love of neighbour as yourself**' into practice

- 1) Avoid "Me and my friend..." *Don't put yourself first.*
Say "My friend and I..." (it's grammatically correct anyway!)
- 2) Don't answer your phone when someone is talking to you.
They are far more important (unless it is an emergency..)
- 3) Step back into single file with friends on a narrow pavement,
so that others approaching can pass
- 4) Keep on the outside to face the traffic.
You can see what is coming. Don't force others into the road.
- 5) Remember 'Please' and 'Thank you' –
and especially at home after a meal
- 6) Stand back to let others pass through a door before you –
or go through and hold it open. It won't delay you....
- 7) Be aware of others around - *they may be offended by your language.*
- 8) Remember table manners – *then others will wish to join you*
- 9) Think non-verbal communication. *Don't pull faces!! It offends*
- 10) Treat others with respect, - *it is an expression of love!*

Life needs perspective

A man approached his pastor; "Life is unbearable. Nine of us live in one room. What can I do?" The pastor advises "Take the goat into the room with you. Do as you are told and come back in one week." A week later the man returns. "We cannot stand it. The goat is filthy" The pastor tells him, "Go home and let the goat out, and come back in a week." Next week the man returns. "Life is wonderful. We enjoy every minute. No goat, only the nine of us"

True conversion

Asked how many it took to convert him, a man replied, "Two". "Two? How is that? Didn't God do it all?" He replied, "The Almighty and myself converted me. I did all I could against it, and the Almighty did all he could for it, and he won!"

'THE LADDER OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE'

by GUY



Probably the fifth prior of the Grande Chartreuse
 One day when I was engaged in manual work I began to think about the spiritual life, whereupon it suddenly occurred to me that it was divided into four degrees, or steps, that is to say into **Reading, Meditation, Praying, and Contemplation**. This is a ladder set indeed upon the earth but reaching unto heaven. It consists of but few steps but it rises to an immense height so as to scan the secret places of heaven itself. First there is careful and attentive **reading** of the Scriptures, then **meditation** which is the busy activity of the mind searching for the hidden truths of the Scriptures by the light of human reason. After this comes **prayer** which is the fervent lifting up of the heart to God so as to implore his aid in temptation and his grace to lead the perfect life. Finally there is **contemplation** which is the suspension of the mind in speechless love and adoration of God. Now that I have described the four steps or rungs of this ladder it remains to consider the functions proper to each one. Holy Reading **seeks** the Perfect Life, Meditation **finds** it, Prayer **asks** for it, Contemplation **enjoys** the fruits of it. So does the Lord himself tell us, saying "seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you". We seek by reading, we find by meditation, we knock by prayer and it is opened unto us in contemplation. Holy reading places the **solid food** into our mouths, meditation **bites** upon it and masticates it, prayer gives us the **flavour** of it, and contemplation the serene and refreshing **joy** of it.

(La Grande Chartreuse is the head monastery of the Carthusians near Grenoble. Opened by St Bruno in 1084, it has an almost unbroken history (except 1903-29). Guy (or Guigo the First) was the fifth Prior from 1109-1136. It is the home of the green and orange liqueurs, which began in 1605, although the drink (consisting 130 ingredients) is made separately from the Monastery and the village, because of the danger of explosions from the volatile liquids! This translation was made by Mgr Bruno Scott James. Anyone interested to know more of the 10 page booklet should contact the Editor.)

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