



# Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 44  
June 2026

The newsletter of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham –  
serving the parishes of North and Mid Wales

To make clearly known  
To declare  
To clarify  
To call to prayer



The Liturgical colour of Ordinary Time is green. However, the sacred solemnities and feasts of The Most Holy Trinity (May 31<sup>st</sup>), Corpus Christi, (June 7<sup>th</sup>), The Most Sacred Heart (12<sup>th</sup>) are celebrated in white, and at the end of the month we celebrate the Feast of St Peter and St Paul, marked by martyrdom, in red.

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The JULY/AUGUST issue of 'CLARION' will be prepared **ONE WEEK** earlier than normal, ie 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> June.  
PLEASE NOTE the deadline is **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June.**  
The **SEPTEMBER** issue will return to normal, deadline, the last Sunday in August, 30<sup>th</sup>.

Visit the Diocesan website: [rcdwxm.org.uk](http://rcdwxm.org.uk)

**Now the Senedd election** is over and we have a new party of government, albeit minority government, it is worth reminding ourselves what was in their election manifesto and what we might expect from the new First Minister Rhun ap Iorweth and his government.

The **manifesto** was committed to improving government effectiveness, strengthening Wales's autonomy, and delivering quicker, more visible change. It was presented as a break from the past model, with a strong emphasis on making public services more responsive and better coordinated.

On **health**, the priority is reducing waiting lists and shifting resources towards primary and preventative care, alongside improving efficiency and long-term sustainability. There was also a focus on tackling inequalities in access and outcomes, particularly in areas such as cancer care.

For **families**, the manifesto proposed expanded childcare, targeted support to reduce child poverty, and wider access to free school meals. In **education**, it centred on raising standards in literacy and numeracy and strengthening support for pupil wellbeing.

**Economically**, the approach is to build a more self-sustaining Welsh economy, including a new National Development Agency, support for Welsh-owned businesses, and reforms to business rates. This is paired with a strong emphasis on **renewable energy**, including a publicly owned energy company, and ensuring communities benefit from natural resources.

There were no meaningful references to religion, churches, or faith communities.

Summarised the Key points are:

- Focus on more effective, Wales-led government and further devolution
- NHS reform centred on prevention, primary care, and reducing waiting lists
- Expanded childcare and targeted action on child poverty

- National Development Agency and support for Welsh-owned businesses
- Public energy model and community-focused renewable strategy
- Increased social housing and support for rural communities

As with any new government of course, time will tell as to what can be achieved through its efforts and with the cooperation, or not, of the opposition parties. At the current time when so many international influences -war, potential fuel crisis, environmental issues, AI to name but a few, are beyond the control or power of a single government it remains our Christian responsibility to speak up for the dignity of each and every human being, especially on the existence of life issues, the place for justice for each and every person in law, government, finance and economics, and opportunity.

We have **the duty** not only to speak out but in our own lives to act with the Gospel virtues in fulfilment of our Baptismal and Confirmation commitment that has been refreshed and inspired anew with the celebration of Pentecost. Many will have heard in the solemn blessing at the end of the Pentecost Mass:

*'May God, the Father of lights, who was pleased to enlighten the disciples' minds by the outpouring of the Spirit, the Paraclete, grant you gladness by his blessing and make you always abound with the gifts of the same Spirit'*

I pray that the comforting and challenging words of Pope Leo in his Pentecost homily will be true for us all:

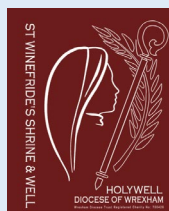
"Through the power of the Spirit, our proclamation is filled with joy and hope, for we — yes, we ourselves — are the newness of the world, the light and the salt of the earth..."

With all good wishes and the assurance of my continued prayer for you all,

*† Peter.*

### ST. WINEFRIDE'S SHRINE AND WELL

#### "The Shrine Shop"



A development that has taken place in recent months at Holywell is that the Shrine Shop now has a greater variety of religious cards and devotional items, not just for the benefit of pilgrims and

visitors, but for all who require religious cards or gifts for First Holy Communion, Confirmation or other celebrations.

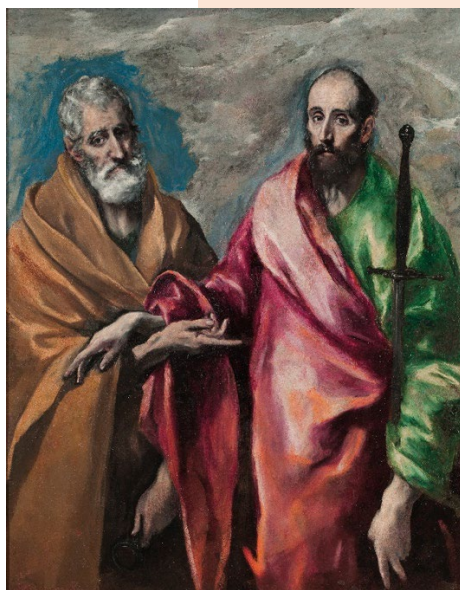
### Welcome to the Diocese:

#### Sons Of Mary Mother Of Mercy (SMMM) Fathers

**Welcome** to Fr Reuben Ezebuofor, SMMM and Fr Christopher Ekechukwu SMMM who join Fr. Robert Ehileme, SMMM in the service of the Diocese of Wrexham. They will work in the west of the Diocese which has for some time been without an appropriate number of priests necessitating retired priests or others from the east of the Diocese making a round trip of over 100 miles supplying Mass on Sundays

## 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.



**St Peter and St Paul** as depicted by the Cretan-Spanish artist El Greco, 1541-1614, one of the first to depict the saints.

**Peter**, gentle & meek, holds the keys of heaven in his left hand.

**Paul**, devout & passionate, holds the sword - a symbol of his martyrdom.

(The work dates from 1590-1600, now in Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, Barcelona)

Peter (initially Simon) was chosen personally by Jesus to lead the apostles and build his church, giving him authority symbolised by the keys of the kingdom of heaven. He is effectively the first pope. The new name given to him by Jesus comes from the Greek *Petros*, meaning rock: 'You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church' (Matthew 16: 18). Paul, known as Saul before his conversion, became the great missionary to the Gentiles, travelling extensively throughout the Roman world. Together, the two saints represent unity, faith, missionary zeal, and the strength of the early Christian Church. Yet neither were perfect: they were ordinary human beings with their flaws and weaknesses. Peter denied knowing Jesus before his Passion, while Paul, before his conversion, persecuted early Christians.

*Spend some time imagining the scene: the countryside near Damascus; the great light from heaven; Paul, on the ground; the voice of the Lord challenging him.*

*What are their voices like? What are they wearing? Don't worry about historical accuracy: simply focus on what they look and sound like to you at this moment.*

*Does this scene resonate with you? Maybe there have been times when the Lord might have asked you a similar question? If so, turn to him and share how things were at the time, and how they are now. Tell him who or what helped you to change paths.*

*Perhaps you are also struck by Paul's temporary blindness as you imagine the scene?*

*On 29<sup>th</sup> June, the Church celebrates the feast of St Peter and St Paul, recognising the unique and complementary roles that these two saints played in spreading Christianity. Tradition suggests that both men were martyred in Rome on the same day, although not in the same year. Peter was crucified upside down and Paul was beheaded.*

Our Scripture passage this month speaks of the momentous events that happened to Paul on the road to Damascus.

As usual, go to a place where you are unlikely to be disturbed. Try to shut out all anxieties and worries. Then read these words from Acts slowly, several times.

**In those days: Paul said to the people, 'I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day.**

**'As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon, a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And I answered, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said to me, "I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting."**

**'Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. And I said, "What shall I do, Lord?" And the Lord said to me, "Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do." And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus.**

**'And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well-spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, came to me, and standing by me said to me, "Brother Saul, receive your sight." And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him.'**

*Acts 22: 3-4,6-13*

*Once again, consider your own life. Who has helped you to see things more clearly? Spend a few moments giving thanks for them.*

*To what extent have you been able to help others, as Ananias helped Paul?*

*Eventually, when the time comes and without rushing, conclude your prayer with your own words of gratitude for these moments spent with the Lord.*

### Other resources

Go to [www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com](http://www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com) for more resources, including the weekly Prego and Prego Plus leaflets.



## Gospel Year of Matthew

### Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ

[Jesus] said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'  
'Simon Peter replied,  
'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'  
And Jesus answered him,  
'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah!  
For flesh and blood have not revealed this to you,  
but my Father who is in heaven.  
And I tell you,  
you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,  
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:15-18 *ESV-CE*

#### Reflection Prayer:

Holy and most kind Peter, faithful shepherd of the flock of God, chief of the apostles, prince among such mighty princes.

You are able to bind and loose as you will; you can give the kingdom of heaven to whom you will.

Great Peter, rich with so many and such great gifts, high in so many and such dignities, here am I, the poorest and weakest of men, surrounded by many difficulties and hardships.

In my misery, I need the help of your power and kindness,

but I have no words to express my need as it really is, And my love is not great enough to reach up from such depth as mine to such height as yours.

*The beginning of a longer prayer in which St. Anselm prays for the bread of mercy rather than the stone of justice and concludes with a prayer to the 'door-keeper' to lead him from the kingdom of his sin into the kingdom of heaven.*

*St. Anselm (1033-1109) to St. Peter*

#### Commentary:

*Petros* (Gk): A masculine noun meaning « rock » or “stone”. Although a common word in Greek, there is no evidence that *Peter* was ever a proper name before Jesus renamed Simon. This accentuates the symbolism of the name: Simon is himself the rock upon which Jesus builds the Church. Further N.T. evidence suggests that Jesus' words to Peter were originally spoken in Aramaic. In this language the word *kepha* is equivalent of *Peter* and denotes a “sizeable rock” -one suitable as a building foundation. This Aramaic name is preserved as “Cephas” 9 times in the N.T. (Jn.1:42; 1Cor.1:12,15:5, Gal1:18, 2:9, etc.).

At another level Simon's name change recalls the O.T. episode where God renamed Abram as Abraham (Gen17:5) and Jacob as Israel (Gen.32:28). Peter now stands in this biblical tradition where new names signify new God-given roles in salvation history. In Peter's case, Jesus designates him the foundation stones of the New Covenant Church. Just as the Temples of the O.T. were built upon a great Stone (1Kings 5:17; Ezra 3:10) so Jesus builds his N.T. Church upon the foundation rock of Peter (cf. Eph.2:20, Rev.21:14)

#### THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – June

Formulated by the Worldwide Prayer Network, the intentions this month are:

For the values of sports;

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

#### THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:

During Ordinary Time (i.e. Summer - 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.**

#### FOOD



A recent report by [green christian](https://www.greenchristian.org/) says that many churches are not addressing the ethical implications of food. The survey revealed the extent of food-related activities in the life of churches, highlighting a missed opportunity for demonstrating ethical practices that would protect the environment and help the poor. *A relatively high proportion of Roman Catholic survey respondents* indicated their churches 'rarely' or 'never' served refreshments after services, did not serve food at events and, when they did, were least likely to take ethical issues into account.

The survey included members of all the major UK Christian denominations. It works alongside Eco Church, with which CAFOD works through its 'Live Simply' campaign.

For the Eco-Network in the Diocese, contact Ali Mawdsley at [environmentallead@rcdwxm.org.uk](mailto:environmentallead@rcdwxm.org.uk)

And see page 8 in this issue.



## News from the wider Community

### Do you have ideas for illustrating the Bible? Here is an 'Open Call' to artists, graphic designers and illustrators across the UK.

From cover to cover, we are celebrating the Bible. In 73 books – from Genesis to Revelation – is the greatest story ever told. Our passion is to bring them alive through the medium of art in this unique competition and exhibition.

We invite artists, graphic designers and illustrators to design the front cover of any of the 73 books of the Bible. We want to celebrate creativity and innovation and promote a greater visual awareness and understanding of the Bible today. We welcome multiple submissions (up to four), and all selected entries will create the final exhibition.

**We offer seven cash prizes with an overall winner decided by our Panel of Judges.**

**A full colour catalogue of the 73 selected covers will be published.**

Our Exhibition runs from 10th February 2027 to 9th April 2027.

**REGISTRATION and further information:**

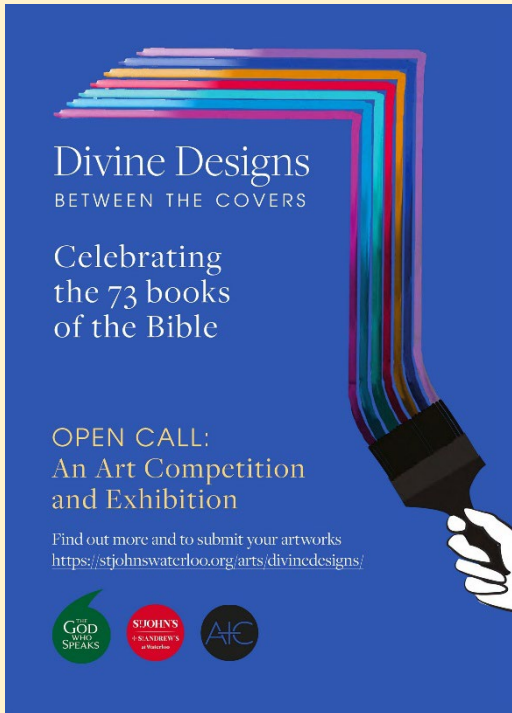
<https://stjohnswaterloo.org/arts/divinedesigns/>

#### Why 73 books?

The Bible or Sacred Scriptures isn't just one book but a Library. Although the core of the Bible is common to all Christian churches, there are some differences in the number of books included in each Canon.

In the Catholic Church it contains 73 books: 46 books in the Old Testament, and 27 books in the New Testament.

In the Protestant Church the Bible contains 66 books: 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament.



This competition is organised through the auspices of **The God Who Speaks**.

The Word of God is not only proclaimed in the oral and aural form but in art and music too, if you would like to be part of that, follow the link [The God Who Speaks](#) for this art competition and exhibition to take place next spring in London.

#### DAY FOR LIFE 2026

With the theme, *The Wonder of the Life of the Child in the Womb*, Archbishop John Sherrington launched the resources for the [Day for Life](#) which this year is on 21 June. We are invited to reflect on the humanity of the unborn and to acknowledge with compassion the deep grief experienced by parents who lose a child before or shortly after birth.

A mandatory collection is to be taken up in parishes. Applications for Day for Life **grants** opened on Friday 15 May

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 on the Day for Life is dispersed to these 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.

In previous years grants have been made to a number of parish projects in this diocese.

#### PRESIDENT OF CARITAS EUROPA

We offer **Bishop John Arnold** of Salford Diocese our congratulations, best wishes and prayerful support having been elected President of Caritas Europa.

He will serve a four-year term, starting from May 2027, whilst continuing in his role as Bishop of Salford.

Elections for key positions in the organisation took place at its Regional Conference which was held in Zagreb, Croatia, from 4-7 May.

Caritas Europa is a network of 49 organisations from 46 countries, and the Regional Secretariat is its main statutory decision-making body. It is one of seven regional bodies in the Caritas Internationalis confederation.

For more information: [Bishop John Arnold elected President of Caritas Europa - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

#### Truth - What is that?

(Jn 18:38)

Aristotle, tutor to Alexander the Great, was asked what a person could gain by telling 'untruths', replied

**"Not to be believed, when he does speak the truth".**

Seen from the 'other side', it is also said of Petrarch, the Italian Poet, and a man of strict integrity, that when called as a witness, about to take the oath before a court of justice was told by the Judge:

**"As to you, Petrarch, your word is sufficient"**



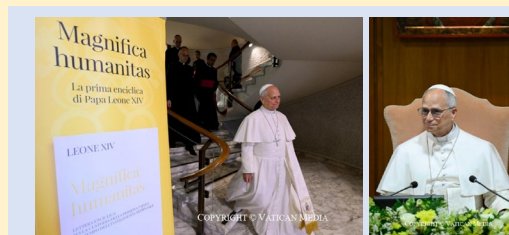
## MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS



Pope Leo signs the Encyclical  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

(photo: © Vatican Media)

# In the Spotlight



**“Magnificent Humanity”  
published  
May 25<sup>th</sup> 2026**

© Vatican Media

### Encyclical published

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May Pope Leo XIV’s first encyclical *Magnifica humanitas* was published

This **first** encyclical of Pope Leo is on safeguarding the human person in the time of artificial intelligence about which he has already spoken on a number of occasions.

It bears his signature dated 15th May, the 135th anniversary of the publication of Pope Leo XIII’s encyclical [\*Rerum novarum\*](#).

In the presence of the Pope the Encyclical was presented by several speakers:

**Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández**, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith;

**Cardinal Michael Czerny, S.J.**, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development;

**Professor Anna Rowlands**, theologian and professor at Durham University (United Kingdom);

**Christopher Olah**, co-founder of Anthropos (USA) and head of research on the interpretability of artificial intelligence; and

**Professor Leocadie Lushombo, I.T.**, professor of political theology and Catholic social thought at the Jesuit School of Theology / Santa Clara University in California (USA).

Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin offered closing remarks, followed by an address and blessing by Pope Leo XIV.

### A Gesture with Strong Historical Weight

The choice of May 15 for signing the document is not casual. In the Vatican, it is interpreted as a direct reference to *Rerum novarum*, the encyclical of Leo XIII published on that same day in 1891, which marked the beginning of the modern social doctrine of the Church.

Since then, other milestones of social magisterium have reinforced that tradition: *Quadragesimo anno* (1931), which developed the principle of subsidiarity; *Mater et magistra* (1961), focused on the social question in the industrial world; and *Centesimus annus* (1991), where St. John Paul II offered a decisive assessment of the role of the market economy after the fall of communism.

#### BEING HUMAN IN A DIGITAL AGE

**A study and networking day** from the Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

In anticipation of Pope Leo XIV’s first social encyclical, it was decided to dedicate the study day this year to a related theme. The day will explore the themes of the new text, and the timely subject of remaining fully human in an era marked by digital, AI and other technological realities.

For further information click below:

[More information](#)

### New Challenges for a New Stage

In this context, Leo XIV’s encyclical is an update to that tradition in the face of a global scenario marked by profound transformations. Artificial intelligence appears as one of the main axes, but linked to broader issues such as;

international stability; the weakening of global legal frameworks;

and the risks of dehumanisation in contemporary societies. The Encyclical indicates that the approach taken in recent doctrinal documents —where it is emphasised that technology must serve the person and not replace them —now points to acquiring magisterial rank (ie the teaching of the Church), offering clearer criteria for the Church’s pastoral and social action.

It is a text destined to mark his Pontificate: not only does he address technological challenges but he places them within a broader vision of the moral and social order, with an eye on the tensions specific to the 21st century.

The entire document can be read on the Vatican website: [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

A summary and study notes will be available in the next edition of **CLARION**.

## Around and About in the Diocese

### BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

#### June

01-05	Clergy Retreat		St Beuno's
<b>07</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Cathedral</b>
11	11.00am	Year 6 Leavers' Mass	Cathedral
13	10.00am	Safeguarding Training	Buckley
23	1.00pm	Trustees' Meeting	Bishop's Hse
26	7.00pm	Mass for Legal Profession	Cathedral
28		National Pilgrimage to St Winefride's Well & Shrine, Holywell:	
	2.30pm	Procession from the parish church	
	3.00pm	Mass at the Shrine	
30	12Noon	Chapter Mass	Cathedral

### SILVER JUBILEE OF PRIESTHOOD

and of the church of

#### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, BUCKLEY

This year, Canon Francis Doyle celebrates 25 years of priesthood. At the same time, the parish of which he has been Parish Priest, itself celebrates its silver jubilee.

Planned for June, this has been postponed in order to allow Canon Francis to recover more fully, following a fall. The new date will be advertised as soon as it is confirmed.

In the meantime we extend to him our heartfelt congratulations, best wishes and the assurance of continued prayer for a speedy recovery to full health.

Also, the parish is preparing a 'Spotlight' on the church, to be published in the '**Clarion**', to celebrate both Silver Jubilees simultaneously.

### LEGAL MASS

**Judges, barristers, solicitors, magistrates** and others of the legal world, together with **Police, Prison** and **Probation Service Officers** are invited to gather with their spouses for the celebration by Bishop Peter of the Diocesan Legal Mass.

This Mass will be celebrated in the evening of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June, around the feast of the martyrs St. John Fisher, Bishop, and St. Thomas More, Lawyer. It is an occasion for us to remember in prayer 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.

### Conscience

On page 8, our regular contributor (RB) offers a reflection on conscience. From St John Henry, Cardinal, Newman, the author travels forward to Alexander Solzhenitsyn, and his 'hero' Innokenty's realisation of the significance of truth and conscience.

Here are Solzhenitsyn's own words:

**"No one can bar the road to truth, and to advance its cause I'm ready to accept even death"**

### Events and Invitations

#### LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

#### JUNE

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Liturgical Cycle:

Weekdays in Ordinary Time Week 9

Lectionary Year II.

Liturgy of the Hours Week1

Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ  
- *Corpus Christi*

Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Sundays in Ordinary Time resume :  
Year A Week 11

Thu 11<sup>th</sup> Primary Schools' Year 6 Leavers' Mass

Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart

Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Day for Life

Tue 23<sup>rd</sup>. Meeting of the Diocesan Trustees

Fri 26<sup>th</sup>. *Legal Mass* for all involved in the creation, application, enforcement of law and justice in the country.

Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Solemnity: Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Solemnity: Ss Peter & Paul, Apostles (from 29<sup>th</sup>)  
Pilgrimage to the National Shrine & Well of St. Winefride, Holywell

Tue 30<sup>th</sup> Cathedral Canons' Meeting & Chapter Mass

#### JULY

4<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> International Eisteddfod, Llangollen

Sun 12<sup>th</sup>. Sea Sunday

### PILGRIMAGE TO THE NATIONAL SHRINE AND WELL OF St. WINEFRIDE 28<sup>th</sup> June

The annual pilgrimage is on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Following the Procession from St. Winefride's Church at 2.30pm. Mass will be celebrated in the Well grounds at 3 o'clock. The blessing of the sick with the relic of St. Winefride will be followed by the 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 your prayer.** As the legend of St. Winefride tells a story of sexual harassment, violence and abuse against a young woman, it is well to remember in prayer those self-same victims in our society today.

### Peter's Pence –

#### An Ancient Custom Still Alive To-day

Peter's Pence is the name of financial support to the Holy Father 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](http://www.obolodisanpietro.va)

The custom for this mandatory collection is that it is taken on the

**Sunday of the feast of Ss. Peter and Paul** or the **Pilgrimage to the Shrine and Well of St. Winefride**

### The Eco-Network:

A new regular contribution of 'green' credentials from across the Diocese. This month, from Colwyn Bay.

#### A Grace Galvanised

by Tom MacLean.

Beneath the soft saltbreath of St Joseph's Centre in Colwyn Bay, here squats the unassuming metal box, green and simple, swallowing coats, shirts, wee trousers, and shoes, with its patient iron mouth.



And here is Paddy, dropping the garments of yesterday into its hollow belly, not as waste but as resurrection. Cloth reborn. A second wandering for the jacket, another winter for the child's jumper.

No trumpet sounds for such small salvations, yet the earth itself sighs easier. Less to landfill, fewer rag mountains rotting under rain and gull cry. Sustainability, though a small direct affirmative action, lives quietly here in the scrape of a carrier bag and the kindness of reuse.

And mark this too: the company who planted the box upon the grounds of St. Joseph's centre in Colwyn Bay tend it, empty it, spirit it away at no cost to the centre or our parish and in turn they place coin into the hands of the centre according to the tonnage gathered. A miracle of modest arithmetic. Charity feeding charity. Waste turned worthy or put simply: grace in galvanised steel softening the centre and the community carbon footprint.

Our eco evolution continues.

To join the Eco-Network, or for more information, email Ali at [environmentallead@rcdwsm.org.uk](mailto:environmentallead@rcdwsm.org.uk)

### Conscience, the Vicar of Christ

#### "The aboriginal vicar of Christ in the soul."

This is how the 38<sup>th</sup> Doctor of the Church, John Henry Newman, characterises that elusive concept we call 'conscience'. It is, Newman tells us, the presence of a "judge, holy, just, and powerful, an all-seeing, supreme governor." What I hear is not my own voice, but the voice of an unknown Other. It is a voice that makes me see my whole life and my world, in a new light, as if I were standing in a Court of Appeal. It is something that I must respond to with my life. I can try to run away, as Jonah did, but if I do my integrity would be lost; my conscience would be ruined, and my relationship to God, broken.

Conscience is the 'vicar' – the representative – of Christ within us. It is the image of the divine that ties us to God (*Gen1:26*). Conscience brings us up short. It is as if someone were telling us to do something. We know we should do something but instead we try to run away from what we know we should do. We try to avoid the truth just as Adam and Eve tried to hide from God in the Garden of Eden. Today we try to hide from the image of Christ in so many ways. We hear it in internet slang as 'YOLO!' 'You only live once!' 'Look around you', says the tempting voice: 'This is it. There is nothing else, nothing more, there is nothing to stop us.'

This is the 'one life' that we so much want to get and enjoy – the heaven-scraping cities, the prestigious hotels, the infinity pools – all those advertisements that meet us at every turn. They fill our heads and hearts and weaken the promptings of conscience. But there are many other ways to silence the heart. Fear that something we have will be taken away from us is the most common.

In Solzhenitsyn's novel 'In the First Circle,' Innokenty Volodin is a young diplomat working for Stalin's Russia. He has a promising future before him. This was in 1949. His privileged life of society parties and appointments in western capitals starts to crack open beneath him: "The great truth for Innokenty used to be that *we are given only one life*. Now with the new feeling that had ripened in him, he became aware of another law: that *we are given only one conscience, too*."

Only one conscience? What does the author mean? He probably means that this one life that we have can so easily be lost to the world, living lives that are not truly our own. He goes on to say, 'A life laid down cannot be reclaimed, nor can a ruined conscience.' If Innokenty gives up his privileged life as a Soviet diplomat, he cannot hope to get it back. But if he doesn't give up this life his conscience will be lost forever.

But perhaps Solzhenitsyn also wants to remind us that people everywhere share the same conscience: whatever our nationality or beliefs we all have the same conscience, one that calls us into His presence.

(A Parishioner -RB)



# Eastertide Family Day



A Joyful Celebration of Faith and Family

**On 10th May in Holywell**, families from across the diocese gathered together for a beautiful and faith-filled Eastertide Family Day.

It was a truly wonderful occasion, full of prayer, creativity, fellowship, and joy for children and adults alike.

**Our day began** at the convent, where families took part in a variety of engaging craft activities connected to Eastertide. One of the activities focused on **Saint Thomas**, who needed proof of the Resurrection of Jesus, where children created colourful hands to reflect the moment when Thomas encountered the Risen Christ.

Another craft invited families to make small figures representing the disciples walking on the **Road to Emmaus**, reminding us how Jesus walks alongside us in our daily life.

There were many other creative activities throughout the morning. Children made small **sheep** and **fish**, beautifully connecting with the Gospel stories after the Resurrection. Families also enjoyed decorating delicious biscuits, which were later shared and enjoyed together during the day.

After our time at the convent, we moved to **St Winefride's Church**, where everyone gathered to practise the songs for Mass. Together, we celebrated a joyful and prayerful Mass accompanied by a wonderful small band from Mold, led by Maria. The music brought great warmth and energy to the celebration and helped everyone enter deeply into the joy of Eastertide.

**Following the Mass**, families walked together down to St Winefride's Well, where Father Charles led us through the Stations of Eastertide with prayers, reflections, and songs. It was a moving and meaningful experience, helping us reflect on the hope and joy of the Resurrection.

To finish the day, everyone gathered together to enjoy **hot dogs** kindly prepared by the Knights of St Columba. It was a lovely opportunity to spend time together, share conversations, and celebrate our community spirit.

The whole day was a touching and memorable experience for all involved — filled with **happiness, friendship, faith**, and the **joy** of being together as families.

We warmly invite everyone to join one of our forthcoming Family Days across the diocese.

We are already looking forward to our **Summer Family Day in Llandudno on 12th July**, followed later in the year by **Grandparents' Day**; and our **Advent Family Day in Colwyn Bay** as we prepare together for the season of Advent.

God bless.

Wioletta Trebska

Marriage and Family Life Coordinator



Rehearsing music for Mass in St Winefride's



Stations of the Resurrection at the Well

**WEBELIEVE**

**Festival of Catholic Life**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2026

St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham.

**WeBelieve** Festival brings the Church together in England and Wales. It is an unmissable opportunity to discover the traditions and charisms that flow through the Church, to experience the joy of community, and to encounter personally the Lord Jesus, our salvation. Join us amidst the history and beauty of St Mary's College, Oscott for a feast of the True, the Good and the Beautiful.

Book your tickets at [webeliefefestival.com](http://webeliefefestival.com)

**Living Theology Summer School**

10-13 July 2026

Understanding your everyday Beliefs  
at Loreto Centre, Llandudno

Booking now open

[www.loretocentre.org.uk](http://www.loretocentre.org.uk)

[info@loretocentre.org.uk](mailto:info@loretocentre.org.uk)

01492 878031



For more information:

<https://loretocentre.org.uk/living-theology-2026/>

**THE JESUIT INSTITUTE**

The Jesuit Institute has a host of retreats and online events in the coming months. Details may be found on the website [Jesuit Institute](http://Jesuit_Institute) where a full schedule is listed.



As notified in previous 'Clarion', Bp Peter encourages readers to keep 'up-to-date' with the weekly briefing from the Catholic Union. Founded in 1870 by the Duke of

Norfolk and other Catholic peers, the aim of the Catholic Union is to provide a voice for Catholic lay people through sensible, balanced and informed contributions to public debate and legislation. The Union brings together the expertise of the laity with Catholic members of both Houses of Parliament. The Union has consultative status to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and makes a vital Catholic contribution to the national conversation.

It has a charitable Trust to support its work through the St. Thomas More Circle.

For further details, click : [St Thomas More Circle](http://St Thomas More Circle)

Link to website: [The Catholic Union of Great Britain](http://The Catholic Union of Great Britain)

Email: [info@catholicunion.org.uk](mailto:info@catholicunion.org.uk)

**HOSPICE**  
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

I'm taking part in the Hospice Strictly Challenge because I've seen just how important hospice care is to families during some of life's most difficult moments. The Hospice of the Good Shepherd provides far more than medical care – they offer dignity, compassion, comfort and support not only to patients, but to the people who love them too.

By stepping outside my comfort zone and taking part in this challenge, I hope to play a small part in giving something back and helping ensure these vital services remain available for everyone who may need them. Hospices rely heavily on the generosity of local communities, churches and supporters, and every contribution helps provide specialist care, emotional support and precious moments of peace for families facing incredibly hard times.

I'm proud to support such an important cause and grateful for any encouragement or donations that help keep hospice care at the heart of our communities.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

Anna Walsh



[https://www.justgiving.com/page/anna-walsh-7?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL&utm\\_campaign=lc\\_frp\\_share\\_transaction\\_transactional](https://www.justgiving.com/page/anna-walsh-7?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_transactional)



**The Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Buckley**

celebrates the Silver Jubilee of the new church this year. Twenty-five years ago, Gerry Walsh was the Clerk of Works representing the Parish, overseeing the construction and refurbishment of the church.

Now, his daughter, Anna, wishes to mark this milestone in the parish by supporting the Hospice of the Good Shepherd which cared for her father in his final days.

Anna, herself, is no stranger to dance! In her youth and teenage years, she was a highly recognised "Irish Dance" expert, often giving solo and team demonstrations. She was a regular Altar Server in the 'old' church, and also in the 'new' church. Now, as a Mum, she remains fully involved in the organisation of the parish, as the 'webmaster' safeguarding co-ordinator, and many other roles.

Her 'dancing' days may be in the past, which is why she sees this 'Strictly' event as a challenge.

Your support in fund raising for the Hospice, and in recognition of the Silver Jubilee of the church will be very gratefully received. (Ed)



**THE BACK PAGE**  
**A 'gallimaufry of serendipity'**

**"No devotion to the saints is more acceptable or more proper than if you strive to express their virtues" (Erasmus)**

**Jun 1<sup>st</sup> St Justin Martyr** c100-c165 Apologist and Philosopher  
Martyred by beheading

**Jun 2<sup>nd</sup> Sts Marcellinus** (priest) and **Peter** (exorcist). d 304. Beheaded by Diocletian; in prison they made many converts. Constantine built a church in their honour.

**Jun 3<sup>rd</sup> St Charles Lwanga & Companions.** Martyrs. 1860-1886  
Martyred by King Mwanga in Uganda, the companions consisted both Catholic and Anglicans, and revered as saints by both communions.

**Jun 5<sup>th</sup> St Boniface** 680-754, born in Crediton, Devon, ordained in 715, sent by Pope Gregory to Germany. He destroyed the pagan 'Oak of Thor' proving it had no power to harm him. The "Apostle to the Germans"; attacked and killed by pagans. Patron saint of Devon.

**Jun 6<sup>th</sup> St Norbert** 1080-1134 Born at Xanten, Prussia, he first lived a life of pleasure, but reformed when he heard the words which transformed St Paul. He founded an order of Canons, the Premonstratensians, at Prémontré, in Laon, France. They wear white cassocks. Augustinian by tradition. *O. Praem, or 'Norbertines'*

**Jun 11<sup>th</sup> St Barnabas.** 1stC Cypriot Jew, he gave his property to the disciples and followed Paul. He and Paul determined that pagans did not have to be circumcised to be baptised. He left Paul, and joined his cousin John Mark, but was later reconciled to Paul. Tradition says he was stoned to death.

**Jun 19<sup>th</sup> St Romuald** 950-1027 Of noble family in Ravenna, he became a monk to expiate his father's killing of a relative. Sought an ascetic life and founded many monasteries and hermitages.

**Jun 20<sup>th</sup> Sts Alban, Julius, Aaron.** d 304 Probably the first martyrs of Britain. Alban was a leading citizen of Verulamium (St Albans). He hid a priest, and exchanged clothes, was arrested, tortured, and executed. He performed miracles on his way to execution. Julius and Aaron were probably executed under Diocletian's repression at Caerleon, Monmouthshire.

**Jun 22<sup>nd</sup> St John Fisher, (a) 1469-1535 St Thomas More (b) 1478-1535.** a. Cambridge at 14, ordained at 22, he became Chaplain to Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VIII. Bishop of Rochester, and Chancellor, he was known for his writings, against Luther, and for the supremacy of the Pope. Beheaded at Tyburn for 'treason'. Great scholar, friend of Thomas More and Erasmus, he possessed one of the finest libraries in Europe. b. Born London, studied at Oxford, MP in 1504. Married Jane Holt, and their home was a centre of Renaissance in Britain. Wrote *Utopia*, defended Henry VIII, whom he tutored. After Jane's death he married Alice Middleton. Diplomat for Henry, Speaker in 1525, Lord Chancellor in 1529. Resigned, and refused to comment on the Act of Succession. Accused of treason by Thomas Cromwell. Beheaded 1535. "I die the King's good servant, but God's first"

**Jun 27<sup>th</sup> St Cyril of Alexandria,** Doctor of the Church. 376-444  
He clarified the doctrines on the Trinity, the Incarnation, and Mary, Mother of God.

**Reflections on Faith and Good Works**

-All work that is worth anything is done in faith (*Albert Schweizer*)

-You can do very little with faith, but you can do nothing without it.  
(*Nicholas Murray Butler*)

-Two priests were driving to the station, but anxious they might miss their train. One looked at his watch and discovered it had stopped. "How annoying – I have always put such faith in that watch".

"Perhaps", said the other "Good works would have answered the purpose, better".

-Exhausted from working all day, a father wanted peace and quiet. His young daughter kept pestering him. He cut out a map from the newspaper and cut it into many different sized pieces. Promising a bar of chocolate for 'putting the world back together', he settled down. Within five minutes she returned, the task complete. "How did you complete that so quickly?" he asked.

"It was easy", she replied. "I turned the pieces over, and I saw the picture of a man. When the man was right, the world was right".

-A small boy observed his mother put a penny in the collection plate. On the way home from church, she freely criticised the poor sermon they had heard. "But, Mother" said the boy, "what do you expect for a penny?"

-Fund-raising for a church-based action, during Self-denial Week, a young girl asked an elderly gentleman, "Will you give a shilling for the Lord?" "How old are you", he asked, and she answered "Nineteen".

"Well, young lady", he said. "I am eighty-five, so I shall be seeing Him before you do, so I shall give it to Him myself".

-A visiting preacher was invited to preach in a small chapel far out of town, on the subject of 'Giving'. As he waxed lyrical on the virtues of generosity, he was impressed as a gentleman stood up and put a coin in the box at the side. Continuing with his theme, and confident of his success, he was delighted to see another gentleman do likewise. Pleased that he had never had such immediate success, he was stopped as he left. "I hope we didn't disturb you, sir, but ours is a coin-in-the-slot-meter, and we should have been in darkness if we had not attended to it".

-It was Basic Training in the Army. The personnel were divided into denominations and faiths to attend their places of worship Anglicans, Catholics, Jews. One of the recruits saw an attempt to evade attendance and declared himself atheist. "Don't you believe in God?" "No, sir". "Nor in keeping the Sabbath Day holy?" "No, sir. One day is as good to me as another".

"Then", said the officer, "you are just the man we are looking for. You will stay and clean the latrines"

**Sir/St Thomas More,**

is he the only saint who was a knight of the realm?  
Robert Bolt's "*A Man for All Seasons*" portrays his life and death. The film starred Paul Scofield. A \*\*\*\*\* film!  
Hilary Mantel's "*Wolf Hall*" recounts his demise under Thomas Cromwell

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