



Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 23
October 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



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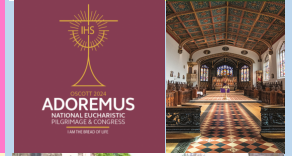
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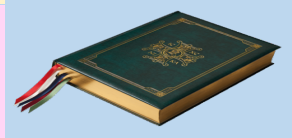
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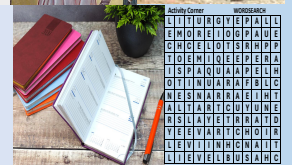
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Pope Francis calls for a Day of Fasting and Abstinence for Peace

This Monday, October 7th, is the first anniversary of the attack by Hamas in Gaza on the Israeli kibbutz. One year on, hostages are still held, but thousands are now dead. Pope Francis said in his homily last week: *"...the Christian community is always at the service of humanity, in order to announce the joy of the Gospel. In such a dramatic time in our history, when the winds of war and the flames of violence continue to devastate entire peoples and nations, there is need for this message."*

In order to invoke the intercession of Mary Most Holy for the gift of peace, I will recite the holy rosary and make a heartfelt plea to the Virgin in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major this coming Sunday.

The following day, 7th October, I ask everyone to participate in a day of prayer and fasting for peace in the world. Let us walk together. Let us listen to the Lord and allow him to guide us by the "breath" of the Spirit."

The Holy Father will recite the Holy Rosary on Sunday at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore.

Bishop Peter invites parishes to do the same this coming Sunday, invoking Our Lady Queen of Peace, uniting our prayer with that of the Pope.

Our banner heading this month depicts the light Marian colour blue and representing the month of the Rosary; the green indicates liturgical 'Ordinary Time'; and the yellow indicates the harvest of ripened wheat.

For more information on how 'blue' came to represent Mary, mother of Jesus, see previous issues of 'Clarion'

Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwxm.org.uk

The keeping of anniversaries is an important part of our life's history. The Church's seasonal cycle mimics the remembrance of events in the history of the people of Israel and Judah and is the basis of so much of our liturgical calendar and celebration. (cf. Exodus 12:1-5, 14; 23:14-17 & 34:18-24)

Anniversaries which represent a significant number are of particular note (25, 50, 100). We are currently living through a time of *eightieth* anniversaries. Earlier this year, in May, we commemorated the eightieth anniversary of the D-Day landings and the beginning of the end of the Second World War; but it is not until June of next year that we can commemorate VE day and yet three months later, VJ day, to represent the end of hostilities.

In between times, a number of significant moments and battles will be remembered and not always because of their success. One such is the Battle of Arnhem in which paratroops made a daring allied forces raid by parachuting into the Dutch city of Arnhem. One of the heroic casualties was Flt. Lieutenant David S. A. Lord, V.C., D.F.C., R.A.F. He was born in Cork and was brought up in Wrexham and received part of his education at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Wrexham. He was an altar server at the Cathedral and tried his vocation to priesthood at St. Alban's College, Valladolid, in Spain, before joining the R.A.F. He died in action on 19th September 1944 aged 31 years and was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry and sacrifice. His story can be read on-line or in books such as *Heart of a Dragon – The VCs of Wales and the Welsh Regiments 1914-82* by W. Alister Williams. Memorials to David Lord can be found in St. Mary's Cathedral and at the Memorial Hall, Wrexham.

Lord died along with many other thousands of men and women who fought in those months and years to free Europe from the tyranny of Hitler and his Nazi fascist regime.

Ten years earlier, and now the *ninetieth* anniversary, we recall the Gresford Colliery disaster of 22nd September 1934 in which 261 men and boys were killed by a huge underground explosion and fire; a further three died the following day as they attempted the rescue of survivors of which, in all, there were just six from the day-shift workforce.

This was the second worst mining disaster of the 20th century in Wales. No single cause for the disaster was ever found, although an inquiry that began in 1934 highlighted a lack of safety measures and bad working

practices in the colliery. The owners were never prosecuted.

It is now nearly fifty years since coal was mined in North East Wales, but we are never to forget the dangerous job that it was and the sacrifices that men and their families made to heat our homes and power industry. In these days when fossil fuels are demonised and we are in an age of environmental concern and the search to produce clean and renewable energy, it behoves us even more to recognise their sacrifice. As it happens, this anniversary coincides with the closure of the last coal-fired power station in Britain at Ratcliffe-on-Soar.

The parishes in and around Wrexham whose history is tied to the mining industry were inevitably affected as many of our families, now, would have had grandfathers, fathers, and sons employed in the mines between the wars and even to their closure in the 1960s and '70s.

As the Season of Creation 2024 closes for another year on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we must not put aside our care for creation. The Holy Father, in his 2019 message for the World Day of Creation, wrote: *'It is also a season to reflect on our lifestyles, and how our daily decisions about food, consumption, transportation, use of water, energy and many other material goods, can often be thoughtless and harmful. Too many of us act like tyrants with regard to creation. Let us make an effort to change and to adopt more simple and respectful lifestyles! Now is the time to abandon our dependence on fossil fuels and move, quickly and decisively, towards forms of clean energy and a sustainable and circular economy. Let us also learn to listen to indigenous peoples, whose age-old wisdom can teach us how to live in a better relationship with the environment.'*

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/cura-creato/documents/papa-francesco_20190901_messaggio-giornata-cura-creato.html

A season is not enough, we must make it a lifetime's practice.

In this month of the Rosary we continue to pray for ourselves and those who have gone before us, (whatever number the anniversary may be), seeking the Blessed Virgin Mary to 'pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.'

May the autumn be for you and for those you love a time of peace, blessing and fruitfulness in the gifts of the Lord.

My best wishes and continued prayer



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH
IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

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.

Monday 7 October marks the first anniversary of the devastating attack on Israel by Hamas militants, and this month we remember especially all those affected by the resulting conflict. As we pray for an end to all violence and injustice, and for lasting peace, we ask that Israeli and Palestinian Christians throughout the region might be symbols of hope and reconciliation.



This month's image is by the Palestinian artist Sliman Mansour, born in 1947 in a Christian town north of Ramallah. Regarded as a leading figure among contemporary Palestinian artists, Mansour's work reflects the idea of *sumud*, meaning 'steadfast perseverance' in Arabic - a word often used to describe Palestinian non-violent everyday resistance against occupation.

Jesus is depicted here in a traditional Palestinian chequered *keffiyeh*, a symbol of his identification with all peoples: Palestinian and Israeli, Gentile and Jew, male and female, slave and free. It also reminds us that Jesus faced oppression and persecution at the hands of the powerful forces of his own time, calling us to pray for a world where all can live free from persecution and injustice.

Take time to ponder the picture and notice anything that strikes you.

The Nazarene, 1993 © Sliman Mansour

This month of October, and particularly Monday the 7th, is traditionally dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary.

Before praying the Scripture below, you might want to say a decade or more of the Rosary as a way of achieving some inner quiet, trusting that Our Lady will be with you as you pray for peace within you and around the world.

This month's Scripture extract is from the letter of St James.

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

James 3: 16-18

Read the text slowly and reverently, and then focus on becoming still in the company of Mary, in this moment, in this place. Perhaps you can ask her to intercede with her Son, as you too ask him to help you become fully present to his word.

Now turn to the text again and notice any thoughts or feelings stirring within you.

Stay with any word or phrase that particularly touches you.

James describes peace-making, kindness, and compassion as an outcome of *the wisdom that comes from above*. Where are you most aware of these qualities within your own life? Take a moment to give thanks for them, and to ask the Lord to deepen these gifts within you.

Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness. Who are the peacemakers that come to mind for you just now ... perhaps within your family or community, or within the wider world?

What seeds of peace are they helping to sow, and what might the resulting fruit look like? Perhaps God is inviting you yourself to plant seeds, however small, that could help bring about peace and holiness?

Speak to the Lord openly and honestly, as one friend to another. Listen for how he might answer. Ask with confidence for anything that you need.

Before you close your prayer, take time to bring to God all those around the world whose lives are blighted by disharmony and who long for peace. You may like to pray especially for Palestine and Israel, and for all who live in the area we call the Holy Land. You may also want to thank Our Lady of the Rosary for her help during your time of prayer.

Our Father ...



Other resources

Go to www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com for more resources, including the weekly *Prego* and *Prego Plus* leaflets. Notice that the weekly *Prego* always has the symbol of a dove on the front page, reminding us to pray regularly for peace across our world.

Notices of Retreats

ADVENT RETREAT 29th NOVEMBER – 1st DECEMBER

The Bishop of Wrexham-led Advent Retreat this year will again be at the House of Prayer, St. Augustine's Priory, Old Colwyn.

See www.houseofprayer.org.uk for more details.

Loreto 'special' retreats:

Space to Grieve
A weekend retreat for those who have recently been bereaved

Loreto Spirituality Centre, Llandudno, North Wales
15 - 17 November 2024
Led by Ewa Bem IBVM and Rev Kate Le Sueur

A weekend for those who are grieving someone who has died. There will be opportunities to share our stories, reflect and pray together, and plenty of space for yourselves. Individual accompaniment will be available.

Please ensure that at least six months have elapsed since the death of your loved one before coming on this retreat.

For more information:
www.loreto.org.uk | info@loreto.org.uk | 01492 878031

A LEAP OF DIVINE JOY
Advent Scripture Reflections with Art, Poetry and Music

LORETO SPIRITUALITY CENTRE
Llandudno

2-6 December 2024

With Tom McGuinness SJ
& Magdalen Lawler SND

For more information:
www.loreto.org.uk
info@loreto.org.uk
01492 878031

WORLD DAY FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The theme **"God walks with His people"** was chosen by the Holy Father for the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR). Pope Francis asked all of us to walk together, with the most vulnerable, with Jesus.

We are encouraged to **walk a piece of the road together**, with our community, parish, and diocese, involving those on the 'existential peripheries' whom the Holy Father encourages us to welcome.

The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development has materials to support local initiatives such as meditative walks, moments of reflection in stages, or prayer vigils. As the Pope says, *'The important thing to remember, is not to leave anyone behind'*. For more details and resources: [Walking the road with Migrants and Refugees - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://Walking the road with Migrants and Refugees - Catholic Bishops' Conference (cbcew.org.uk))

It includes the link to Pope Francis' Message for the 110th World Day of Migrants & Refugees.

Bishop Peter suggests that your parish could start by making a 'pilgrim walk' - eg part of the way to the celebration of St. Richard Gwyn on October 20th?

Or....

PRAYING THE PSALMS

In his General Audience address and Catechesis, *'The Spirit and the Bride, The Holy Spirit guides the people of God towards Jesus our hope- §4 The Spirit teaches the Bride to pray'*, Pope Francis spoke particularly about **'The Psalms, symphony of prayer in the Bible'**.

In summary he said: *'Today we continue our catechesis on the Holy Spirit, who teaches the Church, as the Bride of Christ, how to pray. For our symphony of prayer in preparation for the upcoming Jubilee, we turn to the poetry of the Psalms, just as that great "orchestra", the communion of saints, has done since the Church's earliest days. The Psalms express every movement of this symphony and echo every sentiment of our hearts in words that often convey wonder, grief, and hope. The more frequently we repeat these inspired prayers, the stronger and more effective they become. May the Holy Spirit enrich our prayer with this gift, and in so doing, empower us to give voice to all creation, involving it in our praise'*.

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The full message can be read:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2024/documents/20240619-udienza-generale.html>

From the First Sunday of Advent the Psalms will be taken from the revised Grail Psalm translation which is now called the Abbey Psalms because the translation was made by the Conception Abbey. This new translation should make us sit up and pray afresh those words with which Jesus himself prayed. *(The Readings will be taken from the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition as the New Lectionary is introduced)*.

Archbishop John Wilson of Southwark has taken up the theme of Praying the Psalms and the Archdiocese shares this through prayer videos across social media in the hope that it will encourage people to make praying the Psalms a regular part of their lives. [In the Psalms you will find the Lord Jesus' says Archbishop: Archdiocese of Southwark \(rcaos.org.uk\)](http://In the Psalms you will find the Lord Jesus' says Archbishop: Archdiocese of Southwark (rcaos.org.uk))

Another way of praying the Psalms is through the 'Liturgy of the Hours' - part of the Church's formal worship - to which those who are ordained are obliged to pray. It is so much more than a devotional or pious exercise. This is easily available on your digital equipment through Universalis <https://universalis.com/index.htm>

In Wrexham Diocese, Bishop Peter has long encouraged the praying of parts of the Liturgy of the Hours -Morning or Evening Prayer both individually and as a community in parishes even when there is weekday Mass, but especially when there isn't. It is part of the Church's prayer which does not require an ordained minister to lead or preside. It is therefore ideal for small or large groups of parishioners to pray it in common, and ecumenically. If the digital form and presentation doesn't appeal it is available in print form but at greater cost.

A pilgrimage walk.... You can join in solidarity with refugees and migrants on your usual walk, by contemplating their plight, especially at this time as so many families seek refuge from Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, Myanmar, and many parts of the world.

Or follow the example of the two young men who walked from Wrexham to Holywell, via Mold, one weekend. (see the September 'Clarion' issue).



Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus (30th Sunday of the Year)

One of the titles given to the apostolic Church was 'the Way' (cf. Acts 9:1-2). We can understand that Bartimaeus became a disciple of Jesus and for Mark (writing in about 70 A.D.) he became a member of the Church.

Jesus speaks of himself as 'the Way, the Truth and the Life' (Jn 14:6) and elsewhere in the Scriptures we find the 'way', 'path' or 'road' - a very rich expression or theme of obedience to the commands of God and life in Him:

YOUR PATHS ARE LOVE AND TRUTH

God our Father,
Your Holy Spirit moves us to pray in the psalm:
"All of God's path's are love and truth."

Help us to understand, O Lord,
that these words are true!

This joy which overwhelms us,
this grief which consumes us,
this despair which lies in wait for us
like a savage beast at the bend
in a path through the undergrowth,
and even this colourless day
which covers us like a mantle of sadness –
all these are the road by which
your love and fidelity come to us.

Lucien Deiss, C.S.Sp. Biblical Prayers

Gospel Year of Mark

And when [Bartimaeus] heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David have mercy of me!" ... Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." ... And throwing off his cloak he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Go your way, your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

(Mark 8:31,34-35 ESV-CE)

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – October

Let us pray that the Church continues to sustain a synodal lifestyle in every way, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, communion and mission shared by priests, religious and laity.

During the month of October, especially, **the Rosary** is commended to us all as a personal and/or community prayer to be prayed in private within the home or publicly in church or chapel.

'... [The] Gospel inspiration of the Rosary ... : *the Rosary draws from the Gospel the presentation of the mysteries and its main formulas. As it moves from the angel's joyful greeting and the Virgin's pious assent, the Rosary takes its inspiration from the Gospel to suggest the attitude with which the faithful should recite it. In the harmonious succession of Hail Mary's the Rosary puts before us once more a fundamental mystery of the Gospel-the Incarnation of the Word, contemplated at the decisive moment of the Annunciation to Mary. The Rosary is thus a Gospel prayer, as pastors and scholars like to define it*

(Apostolic Exhortation Marialis Cultus for the right ordering and development of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pope Paul VI, February 1974)

The entire document of St. Pope Paul VI, which contains many simple and helpful explanations about devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and prayer generally can be found at:

https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19740202_marialis-cultus.html

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:

During Ordinary Time (Autumn), *i.e.* from September to Christ the King, we are asked to pray for these intentions:

The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest;
Students and Teachers; Young people;
The Fruits of human work, and the reverent use of Creation;
Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War;
Prisoners and their Families.

PRISONERS' SUNDAY– 13TH OCTOBER

"This day ... with me ... paradise" Luke 23:43
Prisoners' Week begins on Sunday 13th October and is an important opportunity for us all to direct our thoughts and prayers to the needs of prisoners and their families, as well as those who work to support our brothers and sisters within the criminal justice system.

Many parishes choose to support the work of Pact (The Prison Advice & Care Trust) with a collection which is very much appreciated and valued. Leaflets and envelopes for individual contributions are available, as is further information:

www.prisonadvice.org.uk

Select one of these Bidding Prayers for use in Prisons' Week:

-Pray for prisoners currently in prisons to be treated with the dignity and compassion that every human being deserves.

-We pray for all prisoners that they can prepare to start anew on release and rejoin their communities as valued members.

-We pray for prison staff who undertake such challenging work.

-In our Diocese, please pray for those in HMP Berwyn.

-We pray that families and communities will support them in their determination to start anew.

-We pray for Prison Chaplains who work in challenging circumstances.

-We pray for charities working with those in prison, with their families, particularly the Society of St Vincent de Paul, and the Prison Advice and Care Trust.

[Prisoners' Week began in 1975, an initiative of Bishop Victor Guazelli]



“CHURCH IN 2024 SURVEY”

Everyone is invited to take a moment to respond to [Church in 2024 Survey](#). It builds on the two surveys undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic in partnership with York St John University.

The survey has several aims:

- to listen to the opinions of clergy and churchgoers on long-standing issues that have been discussed for some time;
- to explore in detail beliefs about more recent issues such as climate change and living in a synodal manner; and
- to assess how churches are coping since the end of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Church in 2024 Survey” is seeking Catholic responses. Please click [here](#) for more information.

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The Catholic Union of Great Britain is one of a group of Christian organisations promoting a

NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER - 12-20 OCTOBER

Christians from around the UK and British Isles are being urged to join church leaders and Christian organisations, NGOs, and civil society in a [National Week of Prayer](#). There is more detail at info@catholicunion.org.uk

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Also, the Catholic Union of Great Britain is seeking to offer a new service to parishes by providing weekly Bidding Prayers for Sunday Mass. This can be found at [A New Service From the Catholic Union \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

(Many parishes already prepare their own Bidding Prayers, but this may help for compilers seeking ideas. However, please note that in their sample of weekly petitions they have included the Hail Mary which of course is not necessary and can/should be omitted. -Ed)

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It is pure coincidence that these three notices from the Catholic Union have arrived together -it does not imply any endorsement of the organisation in particular. -Ed

The Interview Applying for a job, the applicant handed the Manager a letter saying, “This is a letter of recommendation from the priest”. “That’s all very well”, said the Manager, “Do you have any references from anyone who knows you the rest of the week?”

A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ENGLAND & WALES PROVINCE OF WALES

Archbishop Mark O’Toole has announced the creation of the united **Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia**

In a pastoral letter, Archbishop Mark O’Toole shared the joyful news of the creation of the new Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia. The announcement was promulgated from Rome, on 12th September the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary, following the decision of Pope Francis. This significant moment marks a new chapter for the Catholic community in South Wales and Herefordshire.

We wish the new Archdiocese well and assure Archbishop Mark, the Clergy and Lay Faithful of our prayers as they forge their new identity.

WORLD MISSION DAY – 20th OCTOBER

World Mission Sunday is a day set aside for the Catholic Church throughout the world to publicly renew its commitment to the missionary movement, coordinated by the Pontifical Mission Societies, who are also known as *Missio*.

The Holy Father begins his message for to-day:

‘Go and invite everyone to the banquet (cf. Mt 22:9)

Dear brothers and sisters!

The theme I have chosen for this year’s World Mission Day is taken from the Gospel parable of the wedding banquet (cf. Mt22:1-14). After the guests refused his invitation, the king, the main character in the story, tells his servants: “Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find” (v. 9). Reflecting on this key passage in the context of the parable and of Jesus’ own life, we can discern several important aspects of evangelization. These appear particularly timely for all of us, as missionary disciples of Christ, during this final stage of the synodal journey that, in the words of its motto, “*Communion, Participation, Mission*”, seeks to refocus the Church on her primary task, which is the preaching of the Gospel in today’s world.’

The complete message can be read at

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/02/02/240202a.html>

A mandatory collection in support of *Missio* is to be taken.

LEGACIES – FREE WILLS MONTH

Free Wills Month brings together a group of charities and solicitors across the UK in March and October each year, offering people aged 55 or over the opportunity to have a simple will professionally written or updated for free.

There are many big national charities behind and supporting Free Wills Month. Their work protects and enriches the lives of millions of people each day. Like all charities their work and services depend more and more on legacies. Your Church too needs whatever support you are able to give after your death. A gift in your Will costs you nothing now and can make a difference to the maintenance of the church in which you were baptised,

married or have worshipped in the whole of your life as well as to the work of evangelisation and mission. Those using this offer are under no obligation to leave a gift to one of the Free Wills Month Charities, but they do hope that many will see this as a chance to help a favourite cause. For more information look to <https://freewillsmoonth.org.uk/> and also the Diocesan note on Legacies

<https://www.rcdwxm.org.uk/legacies> and https://www.rcdwxm.org.uk/files/ugd/0d070d_b1d1c058d43c411db2f8375d9065a76f.pdf

Commonly legacy gifts to charities can reduce Inheritance Tax liability.



In the Spotlight



IUBILAEUM A. D. MMXXV
PEREGRINANTES
IN SPEM

**Pilgrims
of
Hope**

**Jubilee
2025**

Wrexham Diocese Co-ordinator:
Rev Deacon David Ives Pwllheli

Pope Francis has designated the year 2025 as a Holy Year – A Jubilee. This will formally begin with the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter’s. A Year of Jubilee originated in the Mosaic Law of a Jubilee every fifty years. In 2015-6, Pope Francis extended the principle of the Holy Door by granting to every Diocese the privilege of a Holy Door in the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.

2025 is part of the tradition of a Holy Year, started around 1300 when it was every 100 years, and has since become every 25 years.

Pope Pius XII declared 1950 a Holy Year, to pray especially for peace among peoples after the Second World War.

Now, Pope Francis intends this Holy Year to be a year of hope and trust for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased threats to the climate, and he is asking everyone to study again the documents of the Second Vatican Council *“The four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, together with the Magisterium of these recent decades, will continue to provide direction and guidance to God’s holy people, so that it can press forward in its mission of bringing the joyful proclamation of the Gospel to everyone”*.

The Jubilee of Hope will begin in December 2024 with Pope Francis opening the “holy door” in St. Peter’s Basilica, offering the world’s 1.3 billion Catholics the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence and a year of special graces. The Jubilee of Hope will end on the feast of the Epiphany in 2026.

Most of all, from Moses until now, the Year of Jubilee is the time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and it involves the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

To that, we may still say “Amen”

JUBILEE 2025
GENERAL CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2024
24 December
Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter’s Basilica

JANUARY 2025
24-26 January
Jubilee of the World of Communications

FEBRUARY 2025
8-9 February
Jubilee of Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel
15-18 February
Jubilee of Artists
21-23 February
Jubilee of Deacons

MARCH 2025
8-9 March
Jubilee of the World of Volunteering
28 March
24 Hours for the Lord
28-30 March
Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy

APRIL 2025
5-6 April
Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers
25-27 April
Jubilee of Teenagers
28-29 April
Jubilee of People with Disabilities

MAY 2025
1-4 May
Jubilee of Workers
4-5 May
Jubilee of Entrepreneurs
10-11 May
Jubilee of Marching Bands
12-14 May
Jubilee of the Eastern Churches
16-18 May
Jubilee of Confraternities
30 May - 1 June
Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly

JUNE 2025
7-8 June
Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities
9 June
Jubilee of the Holy See
14-15 June
Jubilee of Sport
20-22 June
Jubilee of Governments
23-24 June
Jubilee of Seminarians
25 June
Jubilee of Bishops
25-27 June
Jubilee of Priests

JULY 2025
28 July - 3 August
Jubilee of Youth

SEPTEMBER 2025
15 September
Jubilee of Consolation
20 September
Jubilee of Justice
26-28 September
Jubilee of Catechists

OCTOBER 2025
4-5 October
Jubilee of the Missions
4-5 October
Jubilee of Migrants
8-9 October
Jubilee of Consecrated Life
11-12 October
Jubilee of Marian Spirituality
31 October - 2 November
Jubilee of the World of Education

NOVEMBER 2025
16 November
Jubilee of the Poor
22-23 November
Jubilee of Choirs

DECEMBER 2025
14 December
Jubilee of Prisoners

www.iubilaeum2025.va | @iubilaeum25.va

Many people will take the opportunity of a Holy Year to travel to Rome. Perhaps parishes may decide to organise a group. The calendar above details the events for special Jubilee intentions. More information can be found on the website listed. Accommodation is often cheaper and easier using the ‘mother house’ of Congregations, especially if you have a connection. The British Embassy, Rome, and in the Holy See, offers a list of ‘Top Tips’ for pilgrims. For example, to pass through the Holy Door, and the three other Papal Basilicas, registration for a free digital Pilgrim’s card is essential. Since the last Holy Year, it must be remembered that travel to Europe has changed. Therefore more planning is required to ensure a safe and enjoyable visit.



It was a very important day of prayer, reflection and adoration. Bishops, priests, and laypeople from all dioceses in England and Wales gathered as pilgrims at St Mary's College, Oscott on Saturday,

14 September 2024 for the National Eucharistic Congress "Adoremus".

It was a moment of grace for everyone to renew and deepen their reverence and devotion to the Eucharist.

This day of prayer included the celebration of Mass and lectures on the Eucharist and the highpoint was the Eucharistic Procession through the through the famous grounds of Oscott College which historically was the venue of the first Eucharistic Procession after the Protestant Reformation. The 2018 Adoremus Congress in Liverpool attracted a larger number of participants – Oscott was restricted to representatives and delegates.

Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham welcomed the pilgrims by emphasising the importance of prayer. Especially it is the Holy Mass which brings us close to Jesus who is truly present in the Eucharist. Adoremus 2024 was "a great opportunity for us to deepen our love for the Lord who is always present to us in the Eucharist – and especially during this Year of Prayer in preparation for the Holy Year of 2025." He used St John Henry Newman's motto: 'Heart speaks unto heart,' to encourage participants to open their hearts to the Lord and to be at one with each other in prayers and adoration.

For his part, **Bishop Alan McGuckian** of Down and Connor (Northern Ireland) encouraged participants at the event to consider themselves active pilgrims and not observers. He stressed the important place of the laity at Mass in which each person unites his or her prayers and sacrifice with the ultimate sacrifice of the Holy Mass. Accordingly, it is helpful to remember that "everyone offers sacrifice, priest, deacon and lay person, each in his or her own way, because sacrifice is an act of giving, rather than of giving up." It means that "Each time we attend Mass, we are called to bring our own lives – our joys, sorrows, successes and failure – and lay them on the altar under the symbols of bread and wine."

In his homily, **Cardinal Vincent Nichols**, reflected that "the Eucharist, then, is the fount and source of all our efforts." He explained that in each Eucharistic celebration, "the Lord is raised again before us and gives himself to us in a

manner that is selfless and timeless that effects his redeeming sacrifice. The eye of faith beholds Jesus, whole and entire in his great act of sacrifice. The mystery of faith brings about an interchange whereby our human reality, in all its brokenness and poverty, is taken up to the Creator and the flow of saving grace is opened, ever anew for humanity'. In this regard, "every act of loving kindness, of sacrificial giving, whether that of a tired parent, a dear friend, a harrassed nurse, an emergency worker, schoolteacher – finds its utter fulfilment. Here every personal, loving sacrifice becomes enfolded into the work of our salvation".

Sister Margaret Atkins (an Augustinian nun and theologian from Boarbank Hall in Cumbria), reflected on the prayer over the gifts and the Bread of Life as the source and summit of our faith, sustaining the Church and her people. Specifically, "the Sacrament, as we eat it, turns into us, becomes part of our body. And we, through grace, become the Body of Christ, the Church. So the whole of creation, human labour, the prayer of the priest and the congregation, God's grace, combine for this so that people of all kinds, all races, all languages, all ages, all status and conditions, people who don't know each other, people who would never bump into each other apart from the Mass, people all over the globe can become brothers and sisters in Christ." She anchored her closing remark on the thought of Pope Benedict XVI on Christian hope which is open-ended, open-hearted and open-minded because God's purpose and God's imagination are always bigger than ours.

The reflections, which centred on the beauty and theological importance of the Eucharist, provided both spiritual enrichment and a deeper understanding of the Eucharist as central to Catholic life. This was followed by key feature of the day; the moment of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, fostering a deep personal connection with Christ in the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Eucharistic Congress at Oscott was organised to coincide with the International Eucharistic Congress in Quito, Ecuador which took place on 15 September 2024. Parishes in England and Wales were encouraged to hold Eucharistic Adoration after their last Masses for that weekend. This was to foster a sense of unity as the Church in England and Wales gathered as the Family of God in prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.



(The icon in Wrexham Cathedral)

"Rattling The Chains"

Such was the title of the whole -school retreat in the 90's at St Richard Gwyn High School, in preparation for the Feast Day Mass. Living long in the memory of pupils, staff and invited guest speakers, it celebrated the humour, and determination of the man. Taken in chains to hear a sermon, he **rattled the chains** on his legs and arms, so no-one could hear the preacher!

The full story of Richard Gwyn can easily be found on Wikipedia. It is well worth a few minutes of your time!

(The sources can be recommended as accurate -Ed)



(above: the Relic of St Richard Gwyn in The Cathedral, Wrexham)

Around and About in the Diocese

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr John Bosco's sister, **Justine Kainza**, who died recently. Fr John is currently on annual leave in Uganda. Also, for Canon Doyle's brother-in-law **Denis Clare. RIP**

HEALTH-CARERS MASS – FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER

If you are a clinician, auxiliary or ancillary worker, hospital manager or trust board member, chaplaincy volunteer, home carer or in any way are involved in healthcare, Bishop Peter invites you to the celebration of Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral on Friday 18th October at 7.00pm. Following the Mass there will be refreshments in the Cathedral Hall.

SAINT RICHARD GWYN PILGRIMAGE

On **Sunday 20th October** the Annual Pilgrimage in honour of St. Richard Gwyn will be celebrated at 3.00pm in the Cathedral. Following the Mass there will be blessing with and opportunity for veneration of the relic of St. Richard Gwyn.

ST. WINEFRIDE'S SHRINE AND WELL, HOLYWELL

An Invitation

On **Thursday 31st October** there will be an Open Forum meeting for all who are interested in hearing of the recent and future developments at the Shrine. The meeting will be at 11.00am at the Shrine. All are welcome, especially anyone who would like to be involved in this ancient shrine and pilgrimage site. Light buffet refreshments will be available.

DIOCESAN FINANCE REPORTING

On **Thursday 10th October** the Diocesan Finance Secretariat will make the annual report to the Clergy of the Diocese together with one member of the Parish Finance Committees (PFC). On completion of the external audit of the Diocesan Accounts for the Year 2023-24 a summary will be published in CLARION. The full accounts will be found on the Charity Commission website.

EMPLOYMENT or VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Currently the Diocesan Trustees are seeking: **Environmental Lead** to help educate, advise and implement the Church's environmental policies within the Diocese.

Never there when you need one!

A train was travelling through the night, and down the corridor came an American, calling out, "Is there a Roman Catholic Priest on the train?". Meeting with no response, he retraced his steps asking, "Is there an Anglican priest on the train?". He had almost reached the last carriage when a little man wearing a 'dog collar' stepped out and said, "Excuse me. I heard you asking for a Catholic Priest, then an Anglican Priest. Can I be of help? I am a Non-conformist minister". "Not a hope in hell", replied the American. "I am only trying to borrow a corkscrew"

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

OCTOBER

Fri 4th CAFOD Harvest Fast Day.

Sat 5th Makhēl Mass and International Celebration - Cathedral

Thu 10th Annual Diocesan Financial Reporting

Sun 13th Day of Prayer for Prisoners *I was in prison and you came to me* <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/faith/events>

13th -19th Prisons Week *Jesus looked at him and loved him* <https://www.prisonweek.org/>

Fri 18th Mass for Healthcare workers following the feast of St. Luke

Sun 20th Pilgrimage to St. Mary's Cathedral for the commemoration of St. Richard Gwyn, Martyr

World Mission Day

Sun 27th 2.00am BST ends, clocks go back one hour. (GMT)

Thu 31st St. Winefride's Shrine & Well Open Meeting.

NOVEMBER

Fri 1st Solemnity of All Saints.

Sat 2nd Commemoration the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

Sun 3rd Annual Diocesan Mass Intention for Foundation Mass Donors and their Intentions. 10.30am St. Mary's Cathedral

Thu 7th Feast of the Dedication of the Cathedral Church of Our

Lady of Sorrows (1857)

Sun 10th Remembrance Sunday

Sun 17th 8th World Day of the Poor

Wed 22nd #RedWednesday www.acnuk.org/redwednesday - For displaced and suffering young Christians

Sun 24th Solemnity of Christ the King (last Sunday of the Church's Year)

Youth Day

THE NEW LECTIONARY & THE MINISTRY OF READER

Formation days on the new Lectionary have been organised for those who exercise the liturgical Ministry of Reader. This is in preparation for the introduction of the new Lectionary on the First Sunday of Advent. These days will be led by Deacons in parishes as follows, all from 10am to 3pm;

Saturday 19th October

Pwllheli & Cathedral

Saturday 26th October

Mold & Colwyn Bay

Saturday 9th November

Tywyn & Prestatyn

If unable to attend the meeting closest to you, you will be welcome at any of the other venues. The meetings will take place in the church due to expected numbers. Attendees should bring a packed lunch, although tea and coffee will be available in the church hall.

Please pray for your Readers that they may be inspired afresh by the Scripture they proclaim to the benefit of all who desire to hear the word of God that it may instruct their faith and their lives.

This is the first time there is to be a mass liturgical formation across the Diocese of a single ministry and could be the beginning of further ongoing formation.

"Mummy, do men go to heaven?"

"Yes, dear. Why?"

"Well, because I have never seen an angel with a beard".

"Ah. Of course! That is because men only get there by a close shave".

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

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

October

| | | | |
|-------|-------------|--|----------------------|
| 05 | 12noon | Makhēl Mass | Cathedral |
| | 6.00pm | Confirmation | Holywell |
| 10 | 5.00pm | Clergy Finance Meeting | Mold |
| 13 | 10.30am | Prisoners' Sunday - Mass | Cathedral |
| 17 | 6.30pm | Canon Pelosi's Jubilee Mass | Swansea |
| 18 | 9.45am | St Richard Gwyn Feast Day Mass | SRG School |
| | 7.00pm | Healthcare Mass | Cathedral |
| 20 | 3.00pm | St Richard Gwyn Pilgrimage Mass | Cathedral |
| 21 | 7.00pm, tbc | Presbyteral Council Meeting | Loreto |
| 22-23 | | Clergy Conference | Loreto |
| 29 | 12Noon | Chapter Mass | Cathedral |
| 30 | 7.00pm | Confirmation | Buckley |
| 31 | 11.00am | St. Winefride's Well & Shrine Open Forum | St. Winefride's Well |
| | 6.30pm | Confirmation | Pwllheli |

November

| | | | |
|----|---------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 01 | 12noon | All Saints | Cathedral |
| 02 | 12noon | All Souls | Cathedral |
| 03 | 10.30am | St. Winefride – Expired Foundation | |
| | | Mass Intentions | Cathedral |
| 07 | 12Noon | Dedication of the Cathedral | Cathedral |
| | 6.30pm | Confirmation | Welshpool |
| 08 | 1.00pm | Installation of Bishop of Plymouth | Plymouth |



Andy Jones recently joined the Catholic church and undertook a retreat at St Beuno's, where he became inspired to write this poem. He grew up in Coedpoeth and was educated in Bangor – now living in Oxford. Clarion is pleased to offer his contribution, and hope others may be inspired to contribute

St Beuno and the Curlew

As Blessed Beuno's sacred scriptures sank
 Beneath the surf on shell bejewelled beach,
 The baleful curlew call with bare lament,
 Wind-whipped across Llanddwyn and beyond reach.

Disturbing Dwynwen's lone devotions deep,
 diverting them towards her island shore
 Where Beuno's boat bobbed helplessly about,
 Her intercessions fell on him once more.

At which, the curlew wheeled and turned its gaze
 Below to parchments dappled 'neath the waves
 And dived down with its downcast bill
 To snatch the scriptures from their watery grave.

O Walia, where the scriptures once were read
 In chapel, church and corrugated hall.
 O Wasteland where the Word is seldom heard
 In crumbling chapel sprouting buddleia tall.

Deep calling deep down centuries of decay,
 A curlew call to Beuno is discerned.
 And pilgrims choose to walk his Blessed way
 To Bardsey where two thousand martyrs burned.

A dispensation dawns upon the land -
 Where mission field comes home to Cymru's coasts.
 Revival of true faith untainted by
 Schism, dissenters and invading hosts.

Cathologion Cymru 'ma o hyd,
O linach apostolaidd Dewi'n dod.
 We ask a blessing on the pilgrim's path
 And walk the way where Beuno's footsteps trod.

Andy Jones (neu Beuno y Bardd)
 1st September 2024

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The Missing Word:

EUCCHARIST

A London newspaper once offered a prize for the best definition of "Money". The winning answer was: -
 'Money is an instrument that can buy you everything but happiness. and pay your fare to every place but heaven'

Where Charity starts: A little girl, collecting for a charity approached the Bank Manager, who put a £1 coin and a £5 note on the table. The little girl picked up the coin and said, "My mother taught me always to take the smallest. But just in case I lose it. I shall wrap it in this piece of paper."

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Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Bishop or the Diocese.

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Or you can email your request to communications@rcdwxm.org.uk

