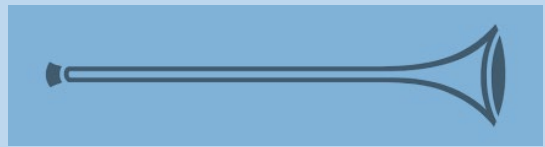




# Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 25  
December 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



A banner in blue is an historical reference to Advent. Blue represented hope and divine presence, linked to the heavens. It is no longer a liturgical colour of vestments, although white may carry blue for celebrations of Mary, Mother of God. Now, it is approved as a papal indult for use in Spain, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (8<sup>th</sup> December)



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

In the coming days and weeks, we will be preparing for the celebration of 'Christ Sent': yes, that is what I meant to say. St. Paul gives us the fullness of meaning to these words when he writes to the Philippians: 'Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant being born in the likeness of men..' (2:5-6)

The Latin word which gives our Liturgy its name is *missa* and from which we get the terms 'dismissal' and 'mission'. It is both a celebration of Christ being sent by the Father and of our being sent to the world to evangelise and sanctify it – that was Christ's mission and that is ours as we draw life from him.

So, as we look around us and see the great spend on food, drink, and presents, with an ever decreasing understanding of the depth of reason for all of this, we realise the irony and extent of poverty in the world.

By contrast, we have the gift of the Holy Father's fourth Encyclical letter *Dilexit Nos* 'He loved us' on the human and divine love of the Heart of Jesus Christ. Building on the teaching in the previous social Encyclicals *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti* Pope Francis specifically speaks of the centrality of the love of Jesus Christ and of our engagement with him. The Person of Jesus Christ, Lord and Saviour, God's revelation to humanity, is the source and centre of our Christian faith and of his love for us and ours for him. We are not to be ashamed to tell others with discretion and respect. In the course of the document Pope Francis reflects time and time again on the importance of the heart, not as a physical organ, but as a symbol of the intimate and spiritual nature of the person and of Jesus Christ.

Beginning with the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ, Pope Francis takes the reader through the symbolism and culture of the heart and of its place in the Bible. Then, considering the place of the heart in social and human relationship, he shows the need to break away from the individualism, consumerism and superficiality in which the world is descending.

Creating a deeper union with Christ through our worship, contemplation and adoration, we are helped to understand the fullness of the love of Jesus for us, and of our responsibility to overcome, with our love, the injustices, conflicts and imbalances. In this way, we promote a more just, balanced and equitable world.

In the concluding paragraphs the Holy Father writes, 'In a world where everything is bought and sold, people's sense of their worth appears increasingly to depend on what they can accumulate with the power of money. We are constantly being pushed to keep buying, consuming and distracting ourselves, held captive to a demeaning system that prevents us from looking beyond our immediate and petty needs ... Christ's love can give a heart to our world and revive love wherever we think that the ability to love has been definitively lost.' (N.218)

As St. John proclaims in his Gospel, Jesus addressing his disciples on the evening of the day of Resurrection: 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.' (20:21). If the world wishes to observe Yuletide, so be it, but let us with humility, confidence and a degree of urgency celebrate and proclaim Christmas.

Please be assured of my continued prayer for you and your families and may Advent be for you a time of blessing, joyous expectation and holiness,  
† Peter



Pictures by [Cofradiabsn](#), [Michol Sanchez](#), [Jescario](#)  
(declared free of copyright)



### Santo Niño

In the 'Looking Ahead' column, Bishop Peter notes the blessing of Santo Niño of Chebu. This is a Filipino celebration of the child Jesus, and reputedly the oldest Christian artefact in the Philippines. Originally it is thought to be a gift from Ferdinand Magellan on the occasion of the ruler's Christian baptism. Twice the image seemed to have been saved from destruction. It appears to have been of a pale complexion, then painted dark, and then revealed again to its pale complexion. Celebrations consist of the Sinulog festival of a procession and dancing. At a Pontifical Mass, the image is undressed, representing the total humility of Christ, before being re-clothed in a plainer set of robes. This action desires each individual to be inspired to an internal spiritual conversion. In 2015 Pope Francis followed other papal endorsements, and declared Santo Niño as 'Protector of the Philippines'.



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. During the season of Advent, we offer you the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of St Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), the founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). In his *Spiritual Exercises*, St Ignatius invites us to meditate on the mystery of the Incarnation made possible by Mary's *fiat*: 'Let it be done unto me'.

St Ignatius suggests that in the company of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – we might imagine ourselves looking upon this earth, as we reflect on how Jesus – the Word made human for us in a stable in Bethlehem – chose to enter our world. The Incarnation is still ongoing, and lives in the hearts, hands and minds of all people of good will: a reminder that Jesus brings hope to all.

### St Ignatius imagines the Mystery of the Incarnation

'I try to enter into the vision of God –  
the mystery of divinity shared by the three divine persons –  
looking upon the world:

men and women being born, and being laid to rest,  
some getting married and others getting divorced,  
the old and the young,  
the rich and the poor,  
the happy and the sad,  
so many people aimless, despairing, hateful, and killing,  
so many undernourished, sick, and dying,  
so many struggling with life and blind to any meaning.  
With God, I can hear people laughing and crying,  
some shouting and screaming, some praying, others cursing.

### The leap of divine joy:

God knows the time has come  
when the mystery of salvation,  
hidden from the beginning of the world,  
will shine into human darkness and confusion.  
I notice how our triune God works –  
so simply and quietly, so patiently.  
A world goes on,  
apparently oblivious to the new creation that has begun.'

(David L. Fleming S.J., from the First Contemplation: The Incarnation, *Draw me into your friendship: A Literal Translation and A Contemporary Reading of the Spiritual Exercises* © The Institute of Jesuit Sources, St Louis, 1996, r. 2016)

### A Date for your diary:

#### 'Watching and waiting as Pilgrims of Hope'

Please do join us on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm** for our St Beuno's Outreach Advent Journey by Zoom (email us at [stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com](mailto:stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com) for the link).

You can download our Advent and Christmastide resources as well as the weekly Prego at

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



© Tony Walter, *Hands of God*  
[www.conversations.net.nz/worship-resources.html](http://www.conversations.net.nz/worship-resources.html)

Our image this month is by Tony Walter and is complemented with words from 'The Coming' by the poet R. S. Thomas, who lived and worked as an Anglican priest in north Wales. The poem imagines Jesus making the decision to step into our world.

The son looked....

Let me go there, he said.

R. S. Thomas (1913-2000): 'The Coming'

*H'm* (1972) © R. S. Thomas Research Centre, Bangor University, UK

Spend some time pondering the image, and then turn to the text (left), a modern translation by David Fleming S. J. of the meditation on the Incarnation written by St Ignatius.

As you prepare to spend some time – however short – with the Lord, take a few deep breaths, perhaps lifting your gaze to feel the warmth of God's loving attention on you. Let your breathing find its natural rhythm.

As your body relaxes, maybe you can envisage a calm and quiet space within you where you are able to look forward to and welcome anew the Word made flesh at Christmas.

Notice anything that draws your attention as you slowly read the text on the mystery of the Incarnation.

Perhaps images come to your mind: '*men and women being born, and being laid to rest ... in peace and at war ... the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the happy and the sad ... so many struggling with life and blind to any meaning.*' So many faces and stories which matter to you, some of which you may know personally.

Consider how the '*leap of divine joy*' of the Son coming into the world changes everything, whether people accept him or not. The time has come.

In your imagination, hold out your hand and draw these people into the light that is Jesus, and ask for his blessing on them.

Eventually, when you are ready, close your prayer with your own words of thanks to the God who continues to work 'so simply, so quietly, so patiently', year after year.



## Gospel Year of Luke

### WATCH YOURSELVES

Jesus said to his disciples:

'But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.

For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

*Luke 21:34-36 ESV-CE*

They watch for Christ who are sensitive, eager, apprehensive in mind, who are awake, alive, quick-sighted, zealous in honouring him, who look for him in all that happens, and who would not be surprised who would not be over-agitated or overwhelmed, if they found that he was coming at once. ...

This then is to watch:

to be detached from what is present, and to live in what is unseen;  
to live in the thought of Christ as he came once, and as he will come again;  
to desire his second coming, from our affectionate and grateful remembrance of his first.

*St. John Henry Newman (1801-1890)*

The symbols are to be found first in the vision of heaven given in the prophet Ezekiel (1:1-21) and taken up by John in the Book of Revelation (Rev.4:6-8) which are then attributed to the four Evangelists by the early Christian Fathers. The living creature "... like a calf, signifying Jesus' sacrificial and sacerdotal order." Irenaeus (140-202) in his treatise *Adversus Haereses (Against Heresies XI)*.

As we embark upon the 'Year of Luke' for the Gospel readings through the liturgical year, here is a thumb nail description of his work. The Gospel of Luke is a revised version of the Gospel of Mark for a Gentile rather than a Jewish-Christian audience. For Luke, Jesus is a saviour for the whole of humanity; his Jesus is constantly at prayer, is a model of perseverance, is on the move as he encounters people who are the poor of society both in affluence and status. Luke's gospel gives women a significant place in the account of the life and teaching of Jesus. It is Luke who gives the Christian tradition, and beyond, some of the most familiar and popular stories, parables, and teaching.

Throughout the coming months we will hear much of St. Luke's Gospel in the liturgy (Lectionary: Sundays Cycle C - 56.5% and Weekdays Cycle 2 - 87.8%). There is still more to discover from the twenty-four chapters comprising 1151 verses. Why not give it a go and read the whole of St. Luke's Gospel at home, alone or with your family, or with fellow parishioners in the coming months? Reading the Gospel in that continuous way enables you to make connections and gain understanding that cannot be made with even the most attentive listening at Mass.

More scripture resources can be found on the God Who Speaks website [godwhospeaks.uk](http://godwhospeaks.uk)

## Loreto Spirituality Centre

Sign up for the newsletter, and receive details of retreats and Days of Prayer available at Loreto Spirituality Centre  
The 2025 Programme is available now

Loreto Spirituality Centre  
Llandudno, North Wales

'Come with me to a quiet place, and rest a while.'

2025 Programme Available Now

Day Retreats  
Individually Guided retreats  
Preached Retreats  
Advent Triduum  
Understanding Our Everyday Beliefs  
Living Theology  
And many more

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

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

01492 878031



### LORETO DAYS OF PRAYER 2025

'Come away and rest a while'  
At the Loreto Centre Abbey Rd, Llandudno LL30 2EL

These days are for anyone who would like to come away for a few hours for some space for prayer and reflection. All are welcome. The days are led by the Loreto Centre Team, and offer plenty of quiet time for personal prayer, and sharing for those who wish.

For more information and dates please see our website:  
[www.loretocentre.org.uk](http://www.loretocentre.org.uk)  
Or email us:  
[loretocentre@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:loretocentre@yahoo.co.uk)  
Or call us:  
01492 878031



## UNDERSTANDING OUR EVERYDAY BELIEFS

'I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full'  
(John 10:10)

LORETO SPIRITUALITY CENTRE, LLANDUDNO  
Wednesday 12th - Saturday 15th March 2025

Topics covered include:  
• The Sacraments and Sacramentality  
• The Passion according to St John  
• The Church and the Work of Jesus Christ

For further information:  
[www.loretocentre.org.uk](http://www.loretocentre.org.uk) 01492 878031  
[loretocentre@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:loretocentre@yahoo.co.uk)



**Canon Pelosi celebrates his Golden Jubilee**



Bishop Peter travelled down to St David's Church in Swansea to join Canon Pelosi as he celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Priesthood. The photographs have been submitted by a parishioner in Swansea, Dr Damian Rosser, who has sent a file of photos. The file may be obtained on request to [clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk](mailto:clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk)

**MIGRANTS' DAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER**

The day provides us with the opportunity to reflect upon our increasingly multinational parishes. Once the migrants just came from across the English Channel or Irish Sea, now they travel the world's oceans and continents to enrich our communities – we are blessed in them.

The Holy Father's Message for the World Day for Migrants and Refugees can be read and heard at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wdmr24-pope-francis/>

**WORLD AIDS DAY**

No longer an issue of headline-grabbing news, AIDS is still very relevant in our world vision. 'The world can end AIDS – if everyone's rights are protected. With human rights at the centre, with communities in the lead, the world can end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.' WHO

In 2023: around the world –  
 -an estimated 39.9 million people were living with HIV  
 -some 630 000 people died from HIV related causes  
 -an estimated 1.3 million people acquired HIV

On 1 December the World Health Organisation joins partners and communities to commemorate World AIDS Day 2024. Under the theme

**"Take the rights path: My health, my right!"**,

WHO is calling on global leaders and citizens to champion the right to health by addressing the inequalities that hinder progress in ending AIDS.

Please remember to pray for all who are affected by AIDS.

**CAFOD's World Gifts for Christmas**

*This Christmas, give your loved ones something exceptional and life-changing. Buying CAFOD's virtual World Gifts makes a real difference for our sisters and brothers facing the injustice of poverty around the world. Choose from a range of beautifully illustrated cards, each representing a gift of hope, inspired by real people and real needs. Cards can be sent by post, as an eCard, or printed at home. Purchase World Gifts and other gifts such as Advent calendars and jute bags at [worldgifts.cafod.org.uk](http://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk) or pick up a catalogue in church.*



**JUBILEE YEAR 2025**

In the papal bull *Spes non confundit*, the Holy Father Pope Francis has decreed that the Jubilee Year will be inaugurated on 24<sup>th</sup> December with the opening of the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican.

On the following Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, the opening of the Jubilee will be celebrated in the various Churches.

In our Diocese, that opening will take place for us at the Cathedral Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, Wrexham at 10.30 am to which all are welcome, indeed encouraged by the Holy Father to attend.

The celebration will begin in the Cathedral Hall where we shall gather and go in pilgrimage to enter the Cathedral. This is the sign of the journey of hope of the pilgrim people behind the cross of Christ, as evidenced in the Jubilee logo: "In a world in which progress and regression are intertwined, the Cross of Christ remains the anchor of salvation: a sign of hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the love of God, merciful and faithful." (Pope Francis, *General Audience* 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023)

An extensive range of articles and resources is available on the Bishops' Conference website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025/>



News and items currently in the public forum can be seen in the weekly briefing: Catholic Union of Great Britain [info@catholicunion.org.uk](mailto:info@catholicunion.org.uk)

**Assisted Dying.**

Faith leaders in Wales have united to oppose the Assisted Dying Bill by issuing a [statement](#). Access the statement by clicking 'statement', above.

**SR. MARGARET CATLOW LSU, RIP**

You are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of Sr. Margaret Catlow, LSU (Sister Maggie) who died in October. Sr. Margaret was for a time school chaplain at St Joseph's High School in Wrexham.

Sr Maggie was a bundle of energy, and humour, with a lively interest in her students. She was self-deprecating, as she told the story of her car running out of oil. She spent some time filling it via the dipstick, until a mechanic showed her the filler tube!

No wonder she proved a popular chaplain! We extend our condolences to La Sainte Union Community. May she rest in peace. Amen

**First Sunday of Advent;** Your missal has different readings and prayers? Yes, the new Missal is needed. CTS Publications are the official suppliers. Alternatively, some parishes may have copies to purchase, without the p&p. Clarion knows of some in Mold... approx. £20



UNION OF CATHOLIC  
MOTHERS (UCM)



# In the Spotlight



Conwy & Llandudno Junction

Parish Priest *Fr Ebuka Umekachikelu msp*



HOLY FAMILY RC CHURCH  
LLANDUDNO JUNCTION

UNION OF CATHOLIC  
MOTHERS (UCM)

*Celebrating its 40th  
anniversary of Love and Faith*



The sun radiated joy in crystal clear weather as members of the Conwy and Llandudno Junction **Union of Catholic Mothers Wales (UCMW)** gathered to celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary; a significant milestone, marking four decades of dedication to supporting Catholic women in their faith, family life, community work and spreading love.

Members and their families, friends and the parishioners of the Most Holy Family came for the celebration of a Mass of Thanksgiving. The Parish Priest Fr Ebuka Umekachikelu, MSP welcomed everyone and thanked Mgr. John Allen from Salford Archdiocese, Fr Peter Egboo from Westminster for coming to join the UCM members to offer prayers of gratitude for their achievements over the years.

After the UCMW millennium lamp was lit by the President, Maureen Rees, Mgr Allen, reminded the UCMW members of their core mission to support the spiritual, emotional, and social well-being of Catholic women, particularly in their roles as mothers and wives. He encouraged them on the importance of continuing to foster strong Catholic values in their homes and to raise children within the teachings of the Church, and never to stop the UCMW's strong focus on outreach, charitable works, and community service, helping vulnerable people in society through fundraising and hands-on support. After Mass, cutting the anniversary cake and refreshment was a high point of the occasion. While appreciating the mother for the different roles they play in the parish life and caring

for the priests, Fr Ebuka, MSP urged them to continue to focus on strengthening family life through faith, prayer, and action.

The Conwy and Llandudno Junction UCM, is a part of a national organisation which originated in England in 1913 and became UCM Wales in 1990. At that time most married women didn't work outside the home and it was felt that something was required to support them and their families. Indeed, life difficulties should never be faced alone; so, in 1984, Fr Fergal Shannon in 1984 invited a UCM member from Menai Bridge foundation to speak to mothers in the parish, to support the mothers in the parish to help and strengthen one another - from there a group was formed.

According to North Wales Weekly News, the first meeting was held on March 3rd, 1984, when 20 members were enrolled, five of whom are still very active to this day. The 17 members, including the 5 pioneer members alive today continue to support the church and care for the wider society, through fundraising for CAFOD, Ty Gobaith, Red Cross, St David's Hospice, HCPT, Macmillan Nurses and the Homeless.

UCM Members continue to have fun, enjoy many shared meals especially Christmas dinners, visit to places of interest, the Cinema and crafting together. Today membership is open to all Catholic women.

*By Fr Ebuka Umekachikelu msp*

## Aims of the UCM

1. **To help Catholic women to appreciate the Sacramental character, responsibilities and permanence of marriage and to live in unselfish love observing the laws of God and His Church.**
2. **To assist them to bring up their children as practising Catholics and public-spirited citizens.**
3. **To teach and defend Christian values in family life and to ensure Catholic education for future generations.**
4. **To offer love, sympathy and practical help to the family in difficulty.**

## Around and About in the Diocese

### Clergy Moves, and Parish Changes

Bishop Peter has announced the following changes:

**Canon Bernard Morgan** has now retired. He celebrated his Golden Jubilee in 2022. Most recently based in Abergele, Canon Bernard served in Bangor and in the Cathedral during his active ministry. He hopes to continue serving the Diocese, supporting parishes as necessary.

In his place, the Bishop has appointed:

**Fr John Bosco Bukomba AJ** as parish priest of Abergele and Towyn, moving from Ruabon/Chirk/Llangollen.

From his position as Assistant Priest at the Cathedral,

**Fr Jasper Tobby Omongo AJ** will now move to Ruabon in succession to Fr John Bosco.

We wish them well in their new responsibilities.

### Into The Future -3 Mold and Buckley

The Diocesan Plan has taken a step further with the announcement that the parishes of St David's Mold, and Our Lady of the Rosary, Buckley, will amalgamate in the coming months into one parish.

**Canon Francis Doyle**, Buckley, will retire from full time parish ministry, and will continue to serve the Diocese in other ways. **Fr Pius Mathew CMI** Parish Priest of Mold, will take on responsibility for both Mass centres, based in the presbytery in Mold. Since Fr Pius will be on annual leave in January, these moves will start from 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

### CRIB OFFERINGS

With the Parliamentary vote of Assisted suicide behind us we must not let up on our commitment to the issues at the heart of it all and so this Christmastide I invite you to match your action to your words and support the work of the three adult and one children's hospice in the Diocese. The offerings made at the Crib this Christmas will be divided between Nightingale House Hospice, Wrexham; St. David's Hospice, Llandudno; St. Kentigen's Hospice, St. Asaph; and Hope House Tŷ Gobaith Children's Hospice, Conwy.



### Annual Mass for Altar Servers Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December St Mary's Cathedral, Wrexham

Bishop Peter invites the Diocese's Altar Servers to join him for the celebration Mass for the Guild of St. Stephen and to renew their commitment to serving at the Altar on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am in St. Mary's Cathedral.

If there are any servers to be enrolled into the Guild of St. Stephen on that day, please let the Cathedral Office ([office@wrexhamcathedral.org.uk](mailto:office@wrexhamcathedral.org.uk)) know ASAP in order that medals and membership cards can be prepared.

Following the Mass there will be a 'Burger Lunch' for all servers in the Cathedral Hall. To help defray the costs a small cover charge will be made for the lunch.

### LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

#### DECEMBER

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> First Sunday of Advent

Advent Family Day – Rhyl

World AIDS Day

Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Migrants' Day

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Guild of St. Stephen Annual Mass for Altar

Servers following the Feast of St. Stephen

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Opening of the Holy Year –

St. Mary's Cathedral

#### JANUARY 2025

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord (transferred)

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Santo Niño Blessing

Peace Day

18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme for 2025 is: *"Do you believe this?" (John 11:26).*

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Word of God

### LECTIONARY

From to-day, the First Sunday of Advent the Liturgy of the Word at Mass will be taken from the new Lectionary compiled from the English Standard version – Catholic Edition of the Bible and the Abbey Psalms. This translation provides us with a more accurate presentation of the Scriptures and will for a while sound quite different from what we are used to, but also we will hear again passages of the Bible that have resonances of past familiarity.

There are many resources and articles both on the Bishops' website:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/lectionary/>

and the God Who Speaks website; [godwhospeaks.uk](http://godwhospeaks.uk) especially

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Lectionary-Scripture-Resource-FINAL-1.pdf> that will assist in our understanding of, reflection on, and prayer arising from, the Scriptures.

One part of the Liturgy of the Word that will sound quite different is the Responsorial Psalm. Though similar in many ways to what we are used to, the Grail Psalms that we have prayed for the last fifty years now have a revised translation - called the Abbey Psalms - and are significantly more vibrant. In order to help pray them the Spirituality Committee of the Bishops' Conference produces a monthly leaflet to assist the personal prayer of the psalms. It is commended especially to readers and cantors as part of their prayerful preparation of their Sunday ministry. One point we are all invited to remember is that the use of the word 'responsorial' psalm is not so much about it being led by a cantor or reader to which we join in with a response, but that the whole Psalm is a prayerful response by the congregation to what we have heard in the First Reading.

**Recycling.** - With the introduction of the new Lectionary, and Sunday Missals coming 'up-to-date', the Diocese will assist parishes to recycle the old lectionaries, and missals. More details will be made available, but parishes may wish to start by 'boxing up' (eg in 12 bottle wine boxes) for delivery to the Curial Offices when instructed.

A £20 donation is requested to support this action

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

**BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS**

**December**

01	Advent Family Day	Rhyl
02	Erection of the new Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia	Cardiff
05	6.30pm Youth Commission Meeting	Colwyn Bay
10	1.30pm Board of Trustees Meeting	Bishop's House
11	Advent Reflection	Carmel, Dolgellau
20	6.00pm Penitential Service	Cathedral
24	10.00am Christmas Mass	HMP Berwyn
	Midnight The Nativity of the Lord	Cathedral
25	9.00am Christmas Day Mass	Coedpoeth
	10.30am Christmas Day Mass	Cathedral
28	11.00am Altar Servers' Mass	Cathedral
29	10.30am Opening of the Jubilee Year	Cathedral
	3.00pm Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite	Cathedral
31	11.00am Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family	Holy Family Convent, Wxm

**Advent -a Time of Preparation**

Preparing for Christmas does not have to be writing Christmas cards, going shopping, and planning food. Of course, these have their place in our modern world, but we can still prepare mentally and spiritually, and especially with children, to ensure they recognise the true meaning of Christ's birth.

The Crib; ever since St Francis of Assisi this has been the most significant learning point of the Christmas story.

**Week One:** form some sort of shelter -cardboard box, paper, formed into a 'rock', or making a barn shape. Together place hay, straw, dried grass into the stable, with an appropriate prayer of explanation.

**Week Two:** What is most natural in a stable?- Animals. Yes, the ox and the ass are traditional, but sheep, chickens, may also have been there- after all there were shepherds on the mountains! Drawings of animals, and coloured make a super display.

**Week Three:** The most natural visitors were the shepherds; cut out and colour figures of shepherds, and bring them into the stable to care for their animals. Always praying for those who provide our food and sustenance.

**Week Four:** Mary and Joseph arrive at the stable. They are hungry and looking for shelter. They need to rest. We should not assume that they arrived EXACTLY when Jesus arrived. After all, Joseph had to go and sign the census form.

**Christmas Day:** the lights go on, as Jesus arrives. The stable is lit with the Light of the World. Angels descend, and more shepherds arrive, drawn by the sound of the angels 'singing' in the heavens.

Pray as a family together at the crib -the children will remember it for a lifetime -the tradition is set, and 'The Family that Prays Together, Stays Together' according to the adage.

**The Pope's Prayer Intentions – December**

Let us pray that the coming Church Jubilee Year 2025 strengthens us in our faith: helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

**THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:**

During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions: Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers

The themes of Advent:

**1st Sunday -Liberation from fear.**

It will be quite enough to receive the evils which come upon us from time to time, without anticipating them by imagination (St Francis de Sales)

Fear makes them fear the worst (Latin proverb)

Those who love to be feared, fear to be loved; they themselves of all people are most abject: some fear them, but they fear everyone. (Jean Pierre Camus)

**2nd Sunday - Joy of Salvation**

Salvation is free for you, because someone else paid (Anon)

Salvation is from God Only (Latin proverb)

Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves. (J.M.Barrie)

**3rd Sunday - Sharing possessions**

"About that umbrella I lent you last week" "Sorry, I lent it to Brown -were you wanting it?" "Well the chap I borrowed it from says the owner is getting a bit anxious about it"

**4th Sunday - Personal Peace**

We should have much peace if we would not busy ourselves with the sayings and doings of others (Thomas à Kempis)

Peace is not made at the council tables or by treaties, but in the hearts of people (Herbert Hoover)

Peace within makes beauty without (English Proverb)

Peace without truth is poison (German proverb)

(source: *Quotes and Anecdotes – An Anthology for Preachers and Teachers-* Anthony P Castle)

Unable to get to Mass? [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv)

Remember that the site above transmits the Mass from **St Mary, Help of Christians, Holyhead, and St David's, Mold**. Times are shown on the website above. From St David's videos are available for the past month, and the homilies (separately under 'Featured Videos'), as well as special Masses. The team of camera operators give close up of the action of the Mass, helping you to pray without distraction.

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