



Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 33

July/August 2025

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



Green of Ordinary time, is fed by the yellow of the sun, transforming the green shoots of crops into the golden harvest of wheat. All God's beauty is put at risk by the black horror of man's inhumanity to man in war and conflict.



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In which Bp Peter writes of Synodality, sharing decision making, and volunteering for ecclesial roles



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YOUR chance to respond
USE the QR code

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Do you know your chickens from Dickens?
And your cheeses from hills and
Motorway Services

Humour

Talk can get you into trouble!

(Photo: Sting. Copy of bust in the Louvre)



As the 'Clarion' takes its summer break during July and August, the season of Jubilee and Hope, of Pilgrimages and conferences continues. Schools will have visited Rome: Individuals will have walked pilgrimage routes, and parishes will have celebrated special occasions. Why not persuade Someone (?) to write a resumé, or send in photos, and share the Good News with others.

Remember, 'Someone has to do it. Everyone is asked. Anyone could do it. No-one volunteers. Someone gets angry, because Anyone could do it. Everyone says it is Someone's job. Someone says it is Anyone's job. Everyone blames Someone, because No-one does what Anyone could do'.

Are you No-one? Or are you Someone, whom Anyone and Everyone respects!

The best part is... what YOU think is 'ordinary' and 'run-of-the-mill' is actually interesting, innovative, and inspirational to others who have been looking for exactly what YOU have found.

Clarion is there to tell the world!

Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwxm.org.uk

From the 'listening meetings' carried out across the Diocese over twelve months ago, the two most recurring themes were a call for more opportunity for Adult Formation and for a greater involvement in areas of Participation and Decision making. Both are themes that the Synod 2021-2024 also discussed and reported in the Final Document, -a document which could be your summer reading in preparation for parish and Diocesan discussions in the early autumn. [Synod-Synodality-Final-Doc-ENG.pdf](#)

The Final document from the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, dated 26th October 2024, outlines propositions aimed at fostering a more synodal Church. It emphasises transparency, accountability, and the active participation of all Church members seeking to harmonise decision making and expand lay roles in ecclesiastical life. The main ideas focus on the theme of, *For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission*.

At the heart of Synodality is the role of the Holy Spirit in calling the Church towards conversion and unity, rooted in a sacramental understanding of the people of God. Synodality is a journey marked by spiritual unity and with a sense of shared mission among all members of the Church. At the heart of Synodality is the listening to the call of the Holy Spirit voiced in Church teaching and in the informed reflections of all the faithful.

Synodal conversion calls each person to enlarge the space of their heart, the heart being the first place where all our relationships resonate, grounded in each believer's personal relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

Pastoral action cannot be limited to tending to relationships between people who already feel attuned to one another but rather encourage the encounter between all men and women. (110)

Formation is needed to help the People of God realise the call of every baptised person to exercise the charism with which they were endowed at baptism.

In the Christian community, all the Baptised are enriched with gifts to share, each according to his or her vocation and way or condition of life. (57)

They ask that their commitment be recognised for what it is: Church action in light of the Gospel, and not merely a personal choice. Lastly, they ask the community to accompany those who, through their witness, have been drawn to the Gospel. (59)

Shared synodal formation for all the Baptised constitutes the horizon within which to understand and practise the specific formation required for individual ministries and vocations. (147)

It is with this in mind that I strongly encourage participation in the Catholic Pastoral Leadership course run by Liverpool Hope University (see page 6) or any of the pastoral theology or bible study courses run by our institutions. If a parish chose to organise for itself a series of talks or study sessions it would answer some of the questions and needs that are in the mind of your own community. If you do the local planning and organisation I will provide the speakers or leaders.

On the matter of consultation, leadership and decision making I bring to your notice the need for Foundation

Governors for our schools, (see 'Spotlight', p 7) as well as volunteers to be part of the Diocesan commissions and other bodies.

The Baptised participate in decision-making, accountability and evaluation processes through institutional structures, primarily through those already provided for the local Church set out in the existing Code of Canon Law. ... these are: Diocesan Synod ... Presbyteral Council ... Diocesan Pastoral Council ... Parish Pastoral Council ... Diocesan and Parish Finance Council. Members participate on the basis of their ecclesial role and their differentiated responsibilities and capacities (charisms, ministries, experiences, competencies, etc). (103)

And this brings us back to the place and importance of formation –

Formation is needed in order to engage in decision-making processes grounded in ecclesial discernment and which reflect a culture of transparency, accountability, and evaluation. The formation required is not only technical; it also needs to explore theological, biblical and spiritual foundations. (80)

These and many other themes are to be worked on by the Church between now and October 2028 when there will be a celebratory 'ecclesial assembly in the Vatican.'

Not a new Synod as might have been the case (one every three years), but a focus of the consolidation of the path taken so far from this Synod on Synodality.

I wish you a very happy and safe summer and holidays and assure you of my prayers throughout that time,

† Peter.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

7th September; 10:30 am – 4:30 pm

at Loreto Centre; Abbey Road
Llandudno LL30 2EL

Spiritual Day of Hope, Prayer and Activities
Buffet lunch
Will conclude with Mass celebrated by
Bishop Peter Brignall

"Blessed are
those who have
not lost hope."

Booking Essential by August 17th
Cost: £ 18
For more information and to book
please contact:
Wioletta Trebska
Tel: 07542268728
Email: mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk

Organised by Marriage and Family Life Commission

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

Take time to ponder the painting: the three figures; the background detail; the atmosphere that is invoked. Notice what strikes you. Mary and Martha have become classic figures in Church representing different styles of life – the active and the contemplative – but in most cases a balance between the two is necessary.

As you settle to pray with these words, relax your body and mind to be attentive to the presence of God within you and all around you. Breathe in God's love and life and ask the Spirit to pray within you.

Then take a moment to consider this familiar story, perhaps with the painting alongside.

How does Jesus seem to be? Is he relaxed or anxious?

What about the two sisters? Do you identify with one rather than other? Why is that?

As you consider the scene, notice Jesus's words about 'the good portion'. What might that 'good portion' be in your own life?

What do you treasure? What do you wish should not to be taken from you in your own relationship with the Lord?

Martha and Mary offer hospitality to Jesus, and he is our guest too. Does he seem to want frenetic service? What might he really want from us?

Take a moment now to think of other people – perhaps your family, your friends, those you work with. How do you welcome them?

Do you listen attentively?

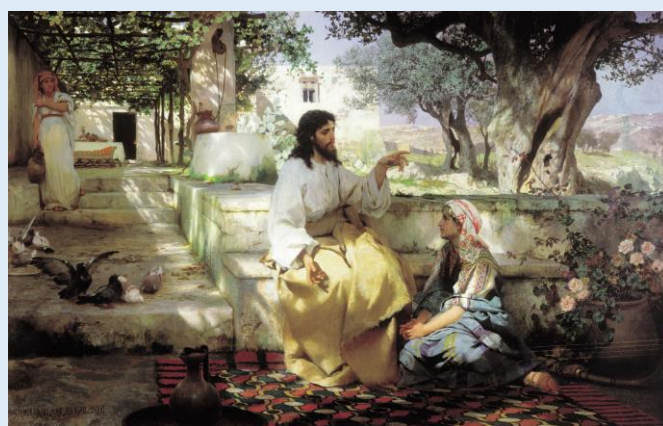
Take some moments of quiet to sit silently at Jesus's feet now, and, then speak to him from your heart. Maybe he has something to say to you?

End your prayer by asking the Lord to help you see him today in all those you meet.

This month we remember three people whom Jesus counted as special friends – Mary, Martha and Lazarus of Bethany, a village less than two miles from Jerusalem. The Church observes the feast of Mary, Martha and Lazarus on 29 July, while the Gospel at Mass on the Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (20 July) tells of an occasion when the sisters Mary and Martha welcomed Jesus to their home.

This image of Christ in the house of Martha and Mary (1886) is now in the Russian Museum, St. Petersburg. The painter is the Polish artist Henryk Siemiradzki (1843-1902), born and educated in Kharkiv, in what is now Ukraine.

Later he studied painting in St Petersburg and Munich, before moving to Rome where he set up his own studio. Some of his best-known works are scenes from the New Testament. Here Martha is seen at work in the background while Jesus and Mary enjoy a conversation in the sunlight.



www.wikiart.org

At that time: Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.' Luke 10:38-42

You can download our prayer resources for the Sunday Scripture readings as the weekly Prego and Prego Plus at
<https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/>

Job Opportunities

at the Oblate Centre of Mission -Island of Anglesey

The RC community on Anglesey is seeking two community-minded, collaborative, dependable and innovative individuals to join the friendly Oblate Centre of Mission

1. Island Mission Property and Finance Officer

Responsible for overseeing management and maintenance of properties, ensuring safety compliance and supervising financial operations.

20 hrs pw. p/t, self managed schedule (tbc) £28k -£35k pro rata

2. Island Mission Faith Development Co-ordinator

To witness to Jesus Christ, Gospel values, and participate as a member of pastoral teams and local churches in promoting the dignity and uniqueness of each person.

20-25 hrs pw. p/t flexible. £26k - £32k pro rata

Details at anglesey@oblates.co.uk 07856 153 314. 01407 521 393. Closing Date **14th July** Interviews **7th/8th August**. Please send a cv with covering letter, by email or post, and indicating which post(s) you are interested in. Missions Office, Ty Mair, Holyhead, Longford Road, LL65 1TR



THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking to him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

... a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my chosen One; listen to him!'

Luke 9:28B-31, 34b-35 ESV-CE

Participating in Jesus' Prayer. Key events in Jesus' life take place in the context of his prayer: his baptism (Luke 3:21), the calling of the twelve (6:12-130 Peter's confession (9:18-20), and the Transfiguration (9:28-29). Thus –

prayer was the central act of the person of Jesus and, indeed . . . [he] is constituted by the act of prayer, of unbroken communication with the one he calls "Father". If this is the case, it is only possible really to understand this person by entering into this act of prayer, by participating in it . . . Therefore a participation in the mind of Jesus, i.e., in his prayer . . . is not some kind of pious supplement to reading the Gospels, adding nothing to knowledge of him or even being given an obstacle to the rigorous purity of critical knowing. On the contrary, it is the basic precondition if real understanding . . . is to take place . . . The person who prays begins to see.

Joseph Ratzinger, Behold the Pierced One: an Approach to a Spiritual Christology, trans G. Harrison (San Francisco: Ignatius 1986)

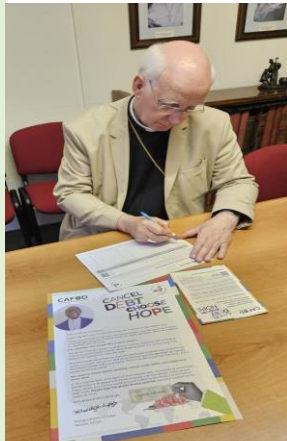
Christian commitment in ACTION

Thank you so much

to all of the wonderful CAFOD parish volunteers across the diocese who have been so proactive in organising the 'Cancel Debt, Choose Hope' petition. We are so grateful to you for your commitment to CAFOD campaigning which is so crucial to encourage those in power to hear the cry of the poor. Over 54 countries are currently facing a devastating debt crisis. For example, Kenya spends five times as much on repaying foreign debts as it spends on healthcare and education. The global financial system pushes low income countries in to borrowing at extortionate interest rates, keeping them in a vicious cycle that makes it impossible to clear the debt and that a better world is possible.

We need to create better systems, cancel unfair debts and implement fairer laws to prevent this happening in the future, so that countries can spend their money where it is needed such as on doctors, education and support for small farmers.

(cont) →



Bishop Peter kindly supports the campaign and has signed the petition. He said, "Pope Francis invited us all to be tangible signs of hope for our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind. This Jubilee Year, we are called to advocate for change today and by signing this petition to clear unfair debts, we can all respond to this plea".

If your parish hasn't signed the petition yet, but would like to, please download the resources at cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt Alternatively, please sign the online petition at cafod.org.uk/debtpetition

If you can, why not get more involved in this campaign, and join us on Wednesday 9th July, as we lobby our MPs in Westminster.

For more details, visit

<https://cafod.org.uk/news/campaigning-news/join-us-for-the-mass-lobby-of-parliament>

CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. We are part of the Caritas family in England and Wales. Please get involved with more CAFOD campaigns and fundraising, or becoming a CAFOD Parish Volunteer. Contact Colette on 07779 804 242 / cbyrne@cafod.org.uk

Mission Today: Impact Report

This recent report shows that for 2024, £2.23m was raised in England and Wales through the Red Boxes in, and a further £793,836 was raised on World Mission Sunday.

In the Diocese it is pleasing that a 1.44% increase on the previous year meant that £22,357 was raised in the Red Boxes and £5,006 on Mission Sunday. Thank you!

Pope Leo reminded the National Directors of the Pontifical



Mission Societies in May, that, 'Our world, wounded by war, violence and injustice, needs to hear the Gospel Message of God's love and to experience the reconciling power of God's grace.' Together, working with Missio, we the people of the Diocese of Wrexham are helping to make this a reality. The Summer 2025 edition of *Mission Today* gives the full report for 2024

The Diocesan Director of Missio is Rev'd Dcn John Goggin in Mold Parish.
Registered Charity No.1056651

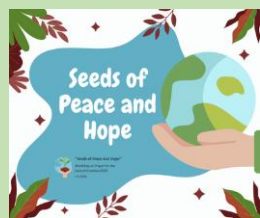
A Miscellany of themes

Assisted Dying. – The next steps in Wales

The Welsh Parliament (Senedd) has been told that the Welsh NHS will only help terminally ill people with assisted dying if the [Senedd agrees](#) to it first.

Last year the Senedd, which oversees law on healthcare, rejected assisted dying, 26 to 19.

Such constitutional issues need to be addressed. You can read a [debate](#), tabled by Tom Giffard MS, (Con) South West Wales, on the constitutional impact of the bill proposed by Kim Leadbeater.



Seeds of Peace and Hope

The theme of the 20th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2025

Pope Francis chose the theme this year:

“Seeds of Peace and Hope”.

This ecumenical initiative is becoming customary and takes place from 1st September (Feast of St Francis of Assisi) to 4th October. In this Jubilee year, the tenth anniversary of the publication of the Encyclical *Laudato si'*, *Isaiah 32:14-18* has been chosen as the Biblical reference text for this initiative. The Magisterium of Pope Francis and his recent predecessors, emphasised the close link between peace and care for creation (cf. Messages for the 1990 and 2010 World Day of Peace). Similarly, there is a very close connection between war and violence on the one hand, and degradation of the common home and waste of resources (destruction and armaments) on the other. The Message urges prayer for the creation of the conditions for peace, a lasting and jointly built peace that inspires hope. The metaphor of the seed indicates the need for long-term commitment. Good practices and seeds of peace and hope from different continents are illustrated in the message.



THE CATHOLIC UNION

As previously in the 'Clarion', Bp Peter invites readers to keep up to date with the interface between religious life and faith, and public life and politics in the weekly briefing from Catholic Union of Great Britain. The weekly briefing is a source of news and items currently in the public forum and about which we need be informed and prepared to act: info@catholicunion.org.uk

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER: ordinary Time (Summer) (i.e. up to September), we are asked to pray for these intentions:

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



PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Our Lady of Seven Sorrows,
Dolgellau



At the request of those in the west of the Diocese the Church of **Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, Dolgellau** joins **St. Mary's Cathedral** and **St. Winefride's, Holywell** as a Pilgrimage site to gain the Jubilee Indulgence

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

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



SEA SUNDAY -13TH JULY

Adrian Gannon,
Director of Development of
Stella Maris wrote recently in

thanks for the kind support of the work of Stella Maris (The Apostleship of the Sea) through the Sea Sunday Appeal 2024 to which the Diocese contributed £894. 82 [plus Gift Aid on some donations]. This all helps to ensure that seafarers and fishers in this country and around the world will continue to receive the care and support that they need. He wrote:

'For fishers and seafarers, life at sea can be extremely challenging. In current times, it is particularly perilous for those who travel through the Red or Black Seas due to the conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine.

Stella Maris' port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors provide a beacon of hope, welcome and support, in a foreign port where fishers and seafarers may know no one. Our chaplains and volunteers listen to their stories, help to provide what they need, and answer Jesus' call to give hospitality to the stranger. Through your congregations' prayers and financial support our chaplains and volunteers will provide spiritual, pastoral and practical support to seafarers and fishers over the next year.

'On behalf of us all at Stella Maris and our seafarer and fisher beneficiaries, I off you and your congregation our heartfelt thanks for your compassionate and generous support for our ministry.' Registered Charity No 1069833

Prayer Intentions

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION

July

For formation in discernment.

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ.

For Mutual coexistence.

August

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons.



CATHOLIC PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Are you involved in any ministry in the Diocese? Are you interested in doing more for the parish or diocese? Do you want to expand your skills in pastoral leadership? A new online course in Catholic Pastoral Leadership might be what you are looking for?

Liverpool Hope University has partnered with several Catholic dioceses across England and Wales to help people like you to gain fresh perspectives on Scripture and Church teaching. You will look at real-world issues in the light of our tradition and consider the best ways of exploring Christian faith and life with others.

You will take 4 modules over 2 years:

- The Word of God
- The Synodal Church
- Dimensions of Christian Life
- The Church's Mission in the World

You will follow the course online. You will do most of the work at a time to suit yourself - with occasional synchronous sessions.

There are two ways you can take this course. All students will review the material presented online and do some assessed work to complete the course (total cost £1900). Or you can take this course as a postgraduate certificate (60 credits) at extra cost and with additional work (total cost £2400).

To find out more, please email m.mui@rcaol.org.uk and we will invite you to a Zoom information session, 7.00-8.30pm on Tuesday 15 July.

Financial support will be given to those within the Diocese from your parish and/ or the Diocese if requested (Bp P.)



NATIONAL BOARD OF CATHOLIC WOMEN An Invitation to Appoint a Diocesan Link for Women's Formation and Participation

The President of the National Board, Amy Cameron, invites the Diocese to appoint a Diocesan Link for Women's Formation and Participation, based on its programme 'Reaching the Next Generation of Catholic Women'

On behalf of the NBCW, Amy writes to share the latest phase in its renewed mission to support the formation of Catholic women across England and Wales. Under the newly ratified constitution, they are strengthening their commitment to fostering communion, participation, and mission — in alignment with the synodal journey of the universal Church.

Those who would be considered for the nomination will be someone in good standing who:

- Possesses pastoral awareness and the ability to reflect and discern with clarity (*Head*)
- Embodies compassion, openness to the Holy Spirit, and a love for the Church (*Heart*)
- Is committed to active service and building up the Church in practical ways (*Hands*)

NBCW particularly would welcome women from diverse backgrounds and a younger demographic.

A Formation Retreat in October is offered to the newly appointed Diocesan Link.

Further information about the NBCW and the role description of a Diocesan Link can be found on the website: www.nbcw.co.uk and leaflet <https://www.nbcw.co.uk/nbcw-leaflet/>

Self-nominations for consideration by the Diocese should be submitted to Dominique Gresty pa@rcdwxm.org.uk at Bishop's House by 31st July

Events of Interest for Young People – Creating the Future of the Church



WE BELIEVE – A FESTIVAL OF CATHOLIC LIFE 25 – 28 July 2025 at St. Mary's College Oscott. (Birmingham)

WeBelieve is a Festival of Catholic Life celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope. This July, we are gathering the whole Church to celebrate our faith in Jesus. This festival is **brand new and you are invited to build it with us.**

WeBelieve is a feast of Catholic faith, 'ever ancient, ever new'. The festival programme is drawn from the rich traditions of the Church and the legacy of a pivotal network of evangelists. For further details: [WeBelieve - A Festival of Catholic Life - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

Calling the
Young at Heart
'We Believe' Festival
Catholic Glastonbury
with camping on site,
and lots of activity
and fellowship, see
website for details

Or,
wish to stay more
'local'?
Then
join the walk from
Flint to Holywell
with
Wrexham Diocesan
Youth

Wrexham Diocese Youth
YOU ARE INVITED...

PILGRIM WALK

Saturday 12th July

Flint Castle
to
St Winefride's Well

Come and walk, talk and grow in faith and hope together as we journey through this jubilee year as Pilgrims of Hope.
For more information please contact:
s.jones@strichardgwyn.flintshire.sch.uk





FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

The new school year in September begins a new term of appointment for Foundation Governors. “**In the Spotlight**” guides those who have not held the post before, and might consider if they can serve the Diocese and the schools in this way.



What is a Foundation Governor?

A Foundation Governor is appointed in the name of the Bishop and together form the majority of the governing body of a Catholic school. They have a legal duty to preserve and develop the Catholic character of the school and to ensure that the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed; some will be parents of children currently in the school, but not all.

THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

As a Governing Board, the overarching responsibility is to ensure that the school complies with the legal and canonical duty to ensure that its Catholic character is preserved and developed..

Foundation Governors are required, as the cornerstone of their role, to ensure this objective is achieved.

Governing boards have three core functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

The ministry of Foundation Governor is important, because the Catholic character of our schools depends on committed Catholics being willing to undertake this service. Foundation Governors will consider not only the interests of the School, but the interests of other Catholic Schools and of Catholic education throughout the diocese. The Bishop is therefore very appreciative of all those who offer to assist him in this vital task.

Responsibilities and Time Commitments

The average Foundation Governor role will take up about 6-10 hours per month. However, this can vary depending on the school calendar or by events, such as an Estyn inspection.

This commitment includes the minimum requirement of attending three full governor meetings per year and serving on at least one committee.

The committees will focus on areas such as finance, curriculum, pupil progress, mission and witness and site management.

You will also be encouraged to attend training sessions.

Do I fit the criteria?

Because of our baptism, all Christians are all called to serve the Church's mission. So lack of experience is no bar to appointment, because all that is required is a wish to serve the mission of the Church in this way. Induction and training will be provided.

General Criteria

1. To become or remain a foundation governor, a person must be, and remain:

- * a practising Catholic;
- * providing education for his or her own children, if of school age, in a Catholic school/college (unless exceptional circumstances apply);
- * able to give priority of attendance at meetings of the governing body to ensure representation of the Bishop;
- * in possession of a valid DBS disclosure certificate.

2. To become or remain a foundation governor, a person must not be disqualified in accordance with:

- * the current School Government Regulations;
- * the Charities Acts; and
- * the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

Specific Criteria

3. In respect of the school for which a person is or is to be a foundation governor, he or she must not at any time be:

- * related to any member of the school staff, teaching or non-teaching;
- * related to any governor whether elected, appointed or *ex-officio*, of the school;
- * employed (whether as a teacher or otherwise) at the school.

4. A person (other than the parish priest) will not normally be re-appointed as a foundation governor of a particular school or college if he or she has just completed three consecutive terms on that particular governing body.

Termination of Office

If criterion 2 ceases to apply during the term of office of a governor, the term of office comes to an end automatically by operation of law. Should criteria 1 or 4 cease to apply to a foundation governor during his or her tenure of office, the governor would be expected to offer his or her resignation to the Ordinary.

Further information about Foundation Governors can be obtained from the Catholic Education Service:

<https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/>

Those offering themselves to be a new or re-appointed Foundation Governor should complete the application form obtainable from Central Services, Bishop's House. pa@rcdwxm.org.uk

Around and About in the Diocese

PROPOSAL TO REORGANISE THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION PROVISION IN FLINTSHIRE

Within Flintshire there are six schools that are categorised as English-medium Voluntary Aided Catholic schools:

- St Anthony's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Saltney.
- St David's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Mold
- St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Flint.
- St Winefride's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Holywell.
- Venerable Edward Morgan Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Shotton.
- St Richard Gwyn Catholic Voluntary Aided High School, Flint.

Following the regulatory guidance of the School Organisation Code 2018, the Catholic Diocese of Wrexham and Flintshire County Council wish to consult interested parties regarding a proposal to reorganise the Catholic education provision in Flintshire.

It is proposed to:

Close St Anthony's Catholic VA Primary School in Saltney by 31 August 2026.

- Amalgamate St David's Catholic VA Primary School in Mold, St Mary's Catholic VA Primary School in Flint and St Richard Gwyn Catholic VA High School in Flint.
- Amalgamation would see the individual schools close by 31 August 2026 and a new amalgamated English medium 3-18 Catholic Voluntary Aided school, with a new name and school number, opened in September 2026, operating over the three current sites.
- Move the new school to the new buildings from 01 September 2029.

This consultation commenced 03 June 2025. It closes at Midnight on 18 July 2025.

Full details of the proposal have been detailed in a Statutory Consultation Document that can be found here: <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Consultation-and-Engagement/Open/Catholic-Education-Proposal.aspx#>:

Those wishing to participate in the consultation should follow the links below. Consultation responses which in the interests of transparency should usefully include the perspective or position from which you are writing need to be submitted by 18th July.

Events and Invitations

JULY

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Sun 6 th | 14 th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C |
| Thu 10 th 17.00 | Mass International Eisteddfod, Llangollen |
| Sun 13 th | Sea Sunday |
| Sun 27 th | 5 th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly <i>'Blessed are those who have not lost hope.'</i> |

AUGUST

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Wed 6 th | Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord |
| Thu 7 th 18.00 | Wrecsam Is-y-Coed Eisteddfod Offeren |
| Fri 15 th | Solemnity of the Assumption the Bl. Virgin Mary <i>Holyday of Obligation</i> |

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Mon 1 st | World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation |
| Sun 7 th | Diocesan Grandparents Day |
| Sun 14 th | Education Day |
| Mon 15 th | Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows –
Titular Feast of the Cathedral |

Responses can be given...

- Placed in the School Modernisation Postbox at all schools
- Complete a questionnaire on-line at: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/catholiceducationconsultation/> Use the QR link below



- Complete a response form and return it to the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Ty Dewi Sant, Ewloe, CH5 3XT; or
- Alternatively put your responses/questions in writing to the School Modernisation Team, Education and Youth, Ty Dewi Sant, Ewloe, CH5 3XT or Email: CatholicEducationConsultation@flintshire.gov.uk



Editor's Note: The QR code above is probably too small, and inaccurate. It is enlarged here for your convenience. It has been tested and will lead you to the response form

For reasons of space in the 'Clarion' the notice above cannot be full size: the QR code may not copy clearly and therefore it is provided in an enlarged form.

The above notice is taken from the "Consultation Document" as prepared by Flintshire County Council.

Full details of the proposal and consultation are at the website address. Please note this is NOT restricted to Flintshire 'residents' - that is a hyperlink to speed access to the documents on line. Also, the responses are not restricted to those currently involved in the schools. Former pupils, students, teachers, and parishioners are equally welcome to respond. As in all consultations, views opposing and in favour are sought. If you wish to learn more of both positions, schools and parishes affected will be able to help.

As noted above, the Consultation responses must be received before midnight, 18th July. Responses in hard copy can be posted, or placed in the School Modernisation Postbox in the schools concerned.

It is understood that decisions on the consultation will be made later in the year, so it is probable that discussion of the issues involved may continue into the next academic year. (Ed)

THE BACK PAGE

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

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

July			
10	5.30pm	International Eisteddfod Mass	Llangollen
30-02/08		Society of St Gregory's Summer School	Liverpool
August			
07		Wreccsam Eisteddfod Mass	(venue tbc)
10	10.00am	50 th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption	Rhyl
15	12Noon	The Assumption of BVM	Cathedral
17	2.30pm	Kerala Pilgrimage Shrine of St Winefride	Holywell

People, Places, Pilgrimages, and Prayers

Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham was elected as Vice-President of the Bishops' Conference replacing **Archbishop Malcolm McMahon**.

Sr. Mavis Thérèse OCD has been re-elected as Prioress of the Carmelite Monastery in Dolgellau.

Cathedral Dean, **Fr Nicholas Enzama AJ** celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Ordination

Rev. David Tarbrook was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate in St Richard Gwyn Parish (Ruabon, Chirk and Llangollen)

Fr Dr Saviour Menachery, CMI has come to minister in our Diocese: currently staying in Mold with Fr Pius until his appointment in the coming weeks

Oscott College, (the Birmingham seminary) is joining forces with **Maryvale Higher Institute of Religious Sciences (HIRS)**. Maryvale HIRS will become a part of Saint Mary's College, Oscott but separate from the seminary.

Caritas Social Action Network CSAN will celebrate a Jubilee of Social Justice on 20th September at Liverpool Cathedral Mass at 12.00 noon with Archbishop Emeritus Malcolm McMahon OP, followed by a light lunch and Social Action Exhibition in the Pontifical Hall.

The National Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life will take place at the Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham. Saturday 2nd August 2025

For general booking details: www.prolifepilgrimage.org or call 07779 122365 To join the pilgrimage via the livestream: <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>

St David's Hospice and **Nightingale House Hospice** were among the hospices nominated for the **Crib Offerings** which totalled **£4511.25p**. Thank you for your generosity

Friends of the Holy Land thank all parishioners for **£799.30** for Christians in the Holy Land when they desperately need our help

Do you know which is which?

Chickens or Dickens?

Clemency Newcombe
Crodd Langohan
Prince Turveydrop
Fascinaton Fledgely
Berba d'Everberg
Dolge Orlick
Canon Crisparkle
Lavender Orpington
Mulberry Hawk
Borans Goldline

Cheese, Hill, both, or Motorway Services?

Lymeswold
Rivington
Cobham
Chevington
Duddleswell
Cherwell Valley
Golden Cross
Pease Pottage
Parlick Fell
Perl Wen
Trefalddwyn
Billinge Lump
Beacon Fell
Dovedale
Thorpe Cloud
Coquetdale
Cheddar
Mam Tor
Knutsford
Sedgemoor

Talk can be dangerous!

"I won't go into all the details. In fact I have already told you more about it than I heard myself!"

"If you're sure it will make you too happy for words, I'll buy it"

Mr Brown: "Look here, Mr Green. Mr Gray told me that that you had told him the secret I told you not to tell him"

Mr Green: "Oh! How unfair! I told him not to tell you that I told him".

Mr Brown: "We'll let's agree that you don't tell him that I told you he told me"

In confession: "I have gossiped about my neighbour. One day I saw my neighbour stagger about in the garden, so I told friends he was drunk. Now I find the staggering was caused by a leg injury. How can I undo the gossip I started?"

The priest left the confessional, and returned with a pillow, and they both went to the side porch. He cut a hole in the pillow, and emptied the feathers, in the shrubs, up in the trees, wherever the wind took them. Feathers floated across the street. "Now will you go and pick up the feathers?", he asked.

"But that would be impossible" was the reply.

"Exactly, so it was with your gossip"

A crook walked into his local branch of Lloyds Bank.

"I am a prophet and God has sent me to collect £500."

The quick thinking clerk responded "I'm sorry, sir, but God banks at Barclays"

Some prophecies ring true: Socrates (470-399 BC) is reported as saying: "The perfect righteous man will be scourged and bound, and at last suffering every kind of torture, he will be crucified" (*Plato, in 'The Republic'*)

"Awareness of ignorance is the beginning of wisdom."

"In every person there is a sun. Just let them shine."

"I know that I am intelligent, because I know that I know nothing"

