



Issue no 35
October 2025

Wreccsam Clarion

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



October - the month of the Rosary (Feast, 7th October), and the season of Ordinary time (green) amidst the harvest thanksgivings. Let us keep in our prayers those who work on the land to bring us food.

Contents of this month's 'Clarion'



Bishop's Column

Page 2

Feasts, festivals and festivities
Prepare *before* and celebrate *after*!

King Charles and ecumenical engagement

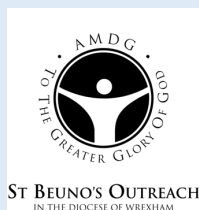


Round and About in the Diocese

Page 6
Engagements, events

Advertisement for Bishop's PA

The role, and details



St Beuno's Outreach

Page 3

What it means to be a Christian
The 'Romero Prayer'



What is the role of the Bishop's PA?

Page 7

Read here the Job Description
The work of Mrs Dominique Gresty,
'behind the scenes'
(keeping the Diocese running smoothly!)

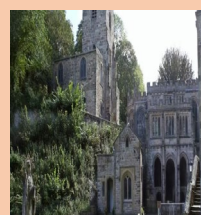


Gospel Year of Luke

Page 4

The Feast of St Luke the Evangelist
The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers
are few

The Season of Creation



St Winefride's Well & Shrine

Page 8
Open Forum

Serpents, serpents, serpents

A reflection on the
Exaltation of the Cross



Nostra Aetate

Page 5

60 years of recognising common bonds
with Jews and Moslems.

The Rosary



Safeguarding Survey

Page 9

A plea to participate in the survey
if you may have been affected

Health Carers' Mass 24th October

Bible Society Wales

Marriage and Family Life Commission

TWO dates for your diary:

30th November 2025 Family Advent Day at Buckley,
Our Lady of the Rosary
7th February 2026 Family Mass at Wrexham,
the Cathedral

Teachers -Beware what you promise!

A teacher left her class, and on her return the children were sitting in profound silence, arms folded. Not only surprised at the silence she was also bewildered.

A little girl stood up and spoke up:

"Miss, you told us one day that if you ever left the room and came back to find us all sitting perfectly silent, you would drop dead"

Special Occasions in October

Sunday 5th St Joseph's Colwyn Bay 125th Anniversary
Thursday 9th Open Forum at St Winefride's Well
Sunday 12th Prisoner's Sunday & week of prayer
Sunday 19th St Richard Gwyn Mass - Cathedral
Friday 24th Health Carers' Mass - Cathedral

AND, PLEASE NOTE

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR BISHOP'S PA
MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

Out of work, a man responded to an ad for a job at the zoo. He was to dress up as a monkey and perform in one of the cages. All went well for the first few days. Then, swinging across the branches he fell, and shouted 'Help, help'. "Shut up" said the lion in the next cage "or we will both lose our jobs"

Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwsm.org.uk

With the passing of the autumn equinox, I begin to feel a real sense that the year is coming to an end; another page is turned in the Liturgy of the Hours and there are only nine weeks of the year left. I am, of course, writing of the liturgical year which ends in late November. It is not helped either by not only the appearance of shelves full of Halloween paraphernalia and perfectly edible pumpkins, which are only going to end up in the refuse or the compost heap, but the early appearance of mince pies and Christmas puddings which are not going to have their moment for a month or more after Halloween.

I know there is little we can do about the seeming loss of distinct seasons due to changes in the weather patterns, but we could at least exercise some control over the parameters of the feasts and other days of celebration, both secular and religious. These celebrations are contained within ritual and many elements go into making a ritual and giving it meaning; the more public the occasion, the greater the need for an overall structure. It is the rules that frame a ritual. As has been observed, 'A river needs banks or it will be a dangerous flood, but banks without a river epitomise aridity.' (Victor Turner quoted in *Passages of the Soul* by James Roose-Evans).

So often driven by commerce, our society has lost its natural sense of ritual: we have breached the banks and abandoned, not least, the idea of times of celebration, of loss or gain, joy or mourning. Coupled with this, or perhaps underlying it, is the loss of collective memory. Our many and intricate cycles of time observed, within our faith and society generally, as feasts and celebrations are commemorations of significant events.

Some people will greet you with 'Happy month!' at the beginning of another calendar period – a celebration of the return of the waxing and waning moon, the light of the night (*Genesis 2:5, 14-17*). The exhortation to rest on the Sabbath reminds us that the cosmos in its artistic design and orderliness bears witness to the supreme wisdom of the creator (*Psalms 19:1, Wisdom 13:5, Romans 1:20*).

The annual observance of Passover has its instruction in the book of Exodus (*13:3-10*) which in turn is the precursor of the Christian celebration of the Resurrection or Easter as it would be called in English (though not Welsh or most other languages). Both of these feasts have their likely earlier origin in a celebration of the spring equinox.

The Abrahamic tradition has the commemoration and celebration for days *after* the memorial itself; certainly not for weeks before. The days and weeks *before* are times of preparation, fasting prior to feasting. Even the armistice at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1919 was not celebrated beforehand and now we are poignantly reminded of Henry Gunther (American), George Ellison (British), Augustin Trébuchon (French) and others who were killed just minutes before the ceasefire.

Please don't think I am against celebrations and festivities of important events both religious and secular, but they have to my mind a greater intensity and meaning if they have a determined beginning and end and not a gentle slide of anticipation without adequate preparation and contrast to the events themselves.

Next time I write it will be for the November issue, at the end of that month we will begin Advent, it will be another 24 days before we get to Christmas. By all means shall we prepare for the celebration of that great moment in humanity's redemption and the greater moment of the Lord's return in judgement and glory but let us resolve to observe Advent, after all it is the time of 'coming' or 'awaiting arrival'.

May your Autumn be blest with the fruits of your faith, hope and charity.

With every good wish and the assurance of my prayers,
† Peter.

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Sunday 19th October

Pilgrimage to St. Mary's Cathedral for the commemoration of St. Richard Gwyn, Saint and Martyr.

With St Winefride, we may truly claim St Richard Gwyn to be 'one of ours'! Living, working and eventually martyred in this Diocese, St Richard Gwyn has a special place in our hearts.

Remember, also, that the Cathedral is a place of pilgrimage for the granting of a Jubilee indulgence, along with the Church of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, Dolgellau and St. Winefride's, Holywell.



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

An extensive range of articles and resources are available on the Bishops' Conference website:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025/>

ROYAL VISIT TO THE VATICAN

The state visit in April of King Charles III and Queen Camilla to the Vatican postponed due to the ill health of Pope Francis has now been reinstated for this month. Details are yet to be released, but it will be a further recognition of the ecumenical engagement of the Church of England and the Catholic Church

HRH KATHERINE DUCHESS OF KENT RIP

We extend our condolences to His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, assuring him of the prayers following the announcement of the Duchess' death at the age of 92 on Friday, 5th September 2025.

At her funeral in Westminster Cathedral on 16th September Bishop James Curry addressing His Majesty the King, the Duke of Kent, and members of the Royal Family and other distinguished guests, praised the Duchess for her passion for charity work, her commitment to helping young people thrive, and her desire to comfort the suffering. "She experienced and gave compassion, empathy, forgiveness and reconciliation," he said.

A full account of the funeral and the homily can be found at: [Duchess of Kent's humanity, kindness and empathy celebrated in Bishop's Requiem Mass homily - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#) The King's attendance at the Mass, was the first time that a monarch has attended a Catholic Mass in this country in modern times.



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.

For October, we suggest that you spend some time reflecting on what it means to be a Christian.

'If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?'

Take a moment to reflect on this challenging question. It might then help to consider the following:

- In what ways do people know that I am a Christian?
- If I were to make a list of the things that define me as a Christian, would it just involve statements about what I believe, or would it also include the way I live and treat others?

Christian life isn't just about what we don't do. It's about actively pursuing what is good and fruitful. St Paul himself defines the life of a good Christian as one guided by the fruits of the Spirit:

The fruit of the Spirit

is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control ...

**If we live by the Spirit,
let us also keep in step with the Spirit.**

(from Galatians 5: 22-25)

Read these words prayerfully, and then ponder:

- Are these fruits of the Spirit evident in your daily life?
- What specific steps might you take to make your own faith more visible?

You may also like to reflect on these words from the famous 'Romero Prayer'.

(The prayer has long been associated with Archbishop Oscar Romero (1917-80); it was actually written by Bishop Ken Untener of Michigan in 1979 for a celebration of departed priests.)

'Come and See' day at St Beuno's for lay ministers in the diocese

Thank you to everyone who wished to come to our 'Come and See' day at St Beuno's on 13th September. Since the day was oversubscribed, we'll be running the day again (using the same material) on **Saturday 15th November from 10.30 to 4pm**. Please do join us if you can and share the message with anyone else you think might be interested. All are most welcome! Register your place through stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com or ring us on 07919 986062.

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

Read slowly, stopping whenever a phrase catches your attention.

'The Romero Prayer'

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

**We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.**

**We lay foundations
that will need further development.**

**We provide yeast that produces effects
far beyond our capabilities.**

**We cannot do everything,
and there is a sense of liberation
in realising that.**

**This enables us to do something,
and do it very well.**

**It may be incomplete,
a step along the way;**

**An opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do
the rest.**

**We may never see the end results;
but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.**

**We are workers, not master builders;
ministers, not Messiahs.**

We are prophets of a future not our own.

- Do you find these words encouraging and comforting, or challenging and depressing?
- In what ways does the prayer reflect your own life as an active Christian?

Spend a few moments reflecting on why this is.

As you sum up your prayer time, it may be helpful to take away with you these words from Peter Scholtes's well-known hymn:

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Words: 1966 F.E.L. Publications, assigned 1991 to the Lorenz Corporation

Weeks of Guided Prayer on Zoom with St Beuno's Outreach (9 to 29 November)

Once again we'll be running one-to-one Weeks of Guided Prayer by Zoom this autumn. You can either follow the one-week version from Saturday 9 to Saturday 15 November (where you meet with a trained guide every day for a week), or a three-week version from Sunday 9 to Saturday 29 November (twice-weekly meetings over three weeks). Please email us at stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com to find out more and to book your place.



Gospel Year of Luke

THE FEAST OF SAINT LUKE, EVANGELIST*

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.

And he said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

Carry no money bag, no knapsack, no sandals and greet no one on the road.

Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace be to this house!"

Luke 10:1-5 ESV-CE

*18th October

Commentary:

This episode exists only in Luke and is the second missionary tour as Jesus had previously (9:1-6) sent the twelve with similar tasks. There is a pattern here following that of Moses, who commissioned 70 elders to be prophets in Israel (*Num.11:24-25*). The Jewish court with 71 members had already modelled itself on this leadership structure established by Moses and the 70 elders. The number 70 is also significant as it points to Genesis 10 which describes the origin of the 70 nations of the ancient world, not including Israel. The ministry of the 70 disciples thus anticipates the Church's mission to the nations instructed by Jesus in 24:47. St. Jerome in his interpretation of the haul of fish accounted in John's gospel (21:9-11) after the Resurrection of Jesus considers the 153 as the gathering of believers from every nation into the Church by the apostles made fishers of men by Christ. (*Mt.4:19*)

'... two by two ...' reflects a missionary practice in the early Church (Acts 8:14, 15:39-40) and one adopted by very many organisations, sodalities and agencies ever since and especially in our own day, now in the context of safeguarding.

Reflection Prayer:

Mary, Virgin and Mother, you who, moved by the Holy Spirit, welcomed the word of life in the depths of your humble faith:

As you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One, help us to say our own "yes" to the urgent call, as pressing as ever to proclaim the good news of Jesus. ...

Virgin of listening and contemplation, Mother of love, Bride of the eternal wedding feast, pray for the Church, whose pure icon you are, that she may never be closed in on herself or lose her passion for establishing God's kingdom.

Star of the new evangelisation, help us to bear radiant witness to communion, service, ardent and generous faith, justice and love of the poor, that the joy of the Gospel may reach to the ends of the earth, illuminating even the fringes of our world.

Mother of the living Gospel, wellspring of happiness for God's little ones, pray for us.

Amen Alleluia! (N.288)

Pope Francis. Apostolic exhortation on the proclamation of the Gospel in to-day's world Evangelii Gaudium. November 2013

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION –October

For collaboration between different religious traditions. Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER: From September to Christ the King, we are asked to pray for these intentions:

The Spread of the Gospel;

Students and Teachers;

The Harvest;

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.

The Season of Creation

To-day 4th October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi marks the end of this year's 'Season of Creation', but that must not be the end of our care and concern for the environment and the health of our planet for another year. Eight years after *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis gave us the Apostolic Exhortation *Laudate Deum* (4th October 2023) in which he wrote, that with the passage of time the reactions and steps taken have turned out to be increasingly insufficient, while 'the world that welcomes us is crumbling and perhaps approaching a breaking point' (cf. LD 2). In summary Pope Francis reflects upon our personal experiences, and scientific evidence shows us that the climate crisis is overwhelming. We have already borne witness to the suffering caused by this trend for a long time. Global governance has been disappointing in its ability adequately to address the issues. What is the way

forward with the 'little time' we have left? We must look to personal changes, cultural changes, alliances, global agreements, and multilateralism with real authority ... and walking together in the same direction.

"Praise God" is the title of this letter. For when human beings claim to take God's place, they become their own worst enemies. (LD 73)

Have we moved any further forward in the last two years? 'It is not enough to think only of balances of power but also of the need to provide a response to new problems and to react with global mechanisms to the environmental, public health, cultural and social challenges, especially in order to consolidate respect for the most elementary human rights, social rights and the protection of our common home.' (LD 42)

The Invitation.....

NOSTRA AETATE

..... The Explanation

Bishop Patrick McKinney of Nottingham, the 'lead' bishop for Interreligious Dialogue writes, 'October 28th 2025 marks the 60th Anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, the ground-breaking declaration of the Second Vatican Council on the Catholic Church's relations with non-Christian religions. For six decades this document has inspired and guided the Holy See and dioceses all around the world in building relationships and promoting cooperation with followers of different religious traditions to foster better understanding, friendship and working relationships in the search for truth, justice and peace.

This anniversary is celebrated within the Catholic Church's Jubilee Year with its emphasis on hope. Over the past sixty years interreligious dialogue has shown itself to be a powerful means of healing wounds, preventing conflict and building bridges of harmony in a fragmented world.

It provides the Catholic Church in England and Wales with an opportunity to celebrate the interreligious dialogue and close working relationships that have been built up over those years with Colleagues from other religions'.

Invitation to attend Nostra Aetate Celebrations, Birmingham, 26 October 2025

Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Archbishop Bernard Longley, invite you to attend the National Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of *Nostra Aetate* in St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham on 26 October, both to celebrate the past sixty years and to renew our commitment to interreligious dialogue.

If you wish to attend please let Elliot Vanstone in the secretariat know ASAP as soon as possible:
Elliot.vanstone@cbcew.org.uk

The declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions was not intended to provide a full judgement on non-Christian religions. Its aim was to stress what Christians have in common with others, not the points which divide us. Its character is quite deliberately positive in contrast to what had proceeded the Churches approach to non-Christians in previous decades and centuries.

The chief common religious elements which the declaration are:

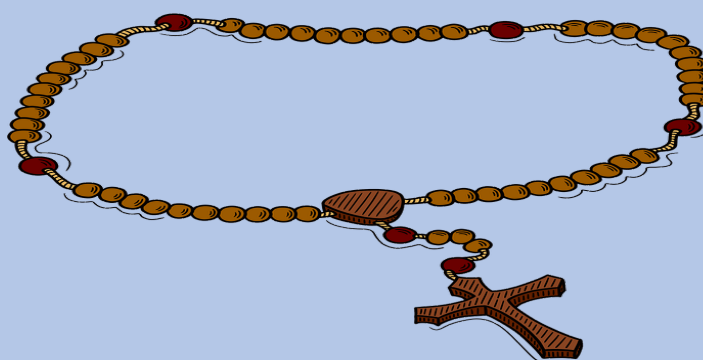
All men and women have a common destiny, both naturally and supernaturally. We are united in the religious implications of our human nature as such, we are also united by the act that God's supernatural 'saving designs extend to all men. (N.1)

We are united in our sense of need, the 'mysteries of the human condition', the problems of life and death, for which all religions must offer some answer.

Many, though not all, are further united by common religious perceptions of different kinds. Here the strength of bond varies. It is strongest with Jews and Moslems who share with us a common semitic tradition of absolute monotheism.

What is most striking about the declaration is not the individual remarks but that for the first time, the Church felt herself called upon to speak publicly and positively in a fully official way about the great non-Christian religious traditions of the world.

https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651028_nostra-aetate_en.html



As the political parties meet in conference, and extremists try to hi-jack the agenda, this comment from a correspondent to the Guardian newspaper is apposite in view of the message of *Nostra Aetate*:

"The Christian message has often been corrupted by power-hungry manipulators through the centuries, but ordinary Christian people like me remain steadfast in working for peace, trying to love even our enemies, and crossing boundaries to seek fellowship with all people of good will, of every faith and none".

(Guardian letters, Monday 22nd September 2025)

Joyful Mysteries

1st Annunciation

2nd Visitation

3rd Nativity

4th Presentation at the Temple

5th Finding in the Temple

Sorrowful Mysteries

1st Agony of Jesus in the Garden

2nd Scourging of Jesus at Pillar

3rd Crowning with Thorns

4th Carrying the Cross

5th Crucifixion

Glorious Mysteries

1st Resurrection of Jesus

2nd Ascension of Jesus

3rd Descent of Holy Spirit

4th Assumption of the Virgin Mary

5th Coronation of Blessed Virgin Mary

Light Mysteries

1st Baptism of Jesus

2nd Wedding of Cana

3rd The proclamation of the Kingdom of God

4th The Transfiguration

5th The institution of the Eucharist

Most people are familiar with the 5 decade Rosary.

Also available are:

1. The One decade rosary (straight or looped)
2. The bracelet or anklet rosary

3. The 'pocket' finger Rosary
4. The child's Rosary (coloured decades)
5. Special occasion rosaries, baptism, marriage etc

Around and About in the Diocese

Diocese of Wrexham

Personal Assistant to the Bishop

Applications are invited for the role of the Bishop's Personal Assistant.

Following the announcement of the impending retirement of Mrs Dominique Gresty as the Bishop's PA and Secretary, applications are invited for this very important post within the diocese.

Below are details of 'Essential' details, the Role, the Personal qualities, and How to apply.

On the next page ("Spotlight") is a full Job Description

ESSENTIAL DETAILS

Part time 25 hours (5 hours each day)

Circa £26,000 pro-rata

Office based - Curial Office, Bishop's House, Sontley Road, Wrexham, LL13 7EW

Closing date: 10th November 2025

Interview Dates 18th and 19th November 2025 (could be subject to change):

Commencement of Employment January 2026

General information and Job Description can be found below, on the following page, and on website: www.rcdwxm.org.uk

To apply, please send your CV and cover letter with details of 2 professional references detailing how your skills and experience make you suitable for this role to: Rebecca Garratt businessmanager@rcdwxm.org.uk or by Post to: Bishop's House, Sontley Road, Wrexham, LL13 7EW by the closing date.

Role

Following the retirement of the current Post holder the Diocese of Wrexham is seeking to appoint a Bishop's PA / Secretary to provide a personal assistant service and administrative support to the Bishop of Wrexham.

The applicant should have strong people and communication skills and the ability to deal with confidential information with sensitivity. Flexibility to support the office needs and a proactive attitude will also be key skills.

This role will involve providing extensive administration and secretarial support as required by the Bishop such as managing emails, and other correspondence. Managing his diary, coordinating engagements and travel arrangements. Preparation and proof reading of mass booklets, organizing meetings and minute taking. Liaison with Bishops Conference, parishes, deaneries and diocesan departments as needed, developing good working relationships with them all.

In the absence of other Curial Office members of staff, you may be asked to provide general office cover.

The Person

The successful applicant will:

Have significant experience of working in a confidential environment.

Excellent written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills

Be a confident internet/email user and be proficient in the use of Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint, publisher and Teams/Zoom.

Have a confident sensitive telephone and respectful telephone manner and be used to dealing with a number and variety of contacts.

Be able to work with minimum supervision and have good organizational skills.

If not a Catholic, be comfortable about working in a church environment and supportive of the culture and practice of the Roman Catholic Church.

Bishop's Engagements

October

01	11.00am	Sr. Kathryn Mary's Final Vows, Carmel,	Dolgellau
05	10.00am	125 th Jubilee of St Joseph's Church	Colwyn Bay
09	11.00am	Open Forum St Winefride's Shrine & Well	Holywell
11	11.00am	Celebration of Feast Day - Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem	St David's Mold
12	10.30am	Prisoners' Sunday	Cathedral
14	5.30pm	Clergy Finance Day	Mold
15	10.30am	M&FL Commission	
15	6.00pm	Confirmations	Buckley
16	6.30pm	Youth Commission	Colwyn Bay
17	10.45am	St Richard Gwyn Feast Day Mass	SRG School
19	3.00pm	St Richard Gwyn Pilgrimage Mass	Cathedral
21	12Noon	Chapter Mass	Cathedral
24	7.00pm	Mass for Healthcare workers	Cathedral
27	7.00pm	Presbyteral Council Meeting	Loreto
28-30		Diocesan Clergy Conference	Loreto

November

01	12Noon	Expired Foundation Masses	Cathedral
02	10.30am	All Saints (transferred)	Cathedral
03	9.00am	All Souls (transferred)	Cathedral

Events and Invitations

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

OCTOBER

Month of praying the Rosary

Fri 3 rd	Harvest Fast Day
Sun 12 th	Prisoners' Sunday Week of Prayer for Prisoners & their Families begins
Tue 14 th	Annual Diocesan Financial Reporting
Sun 19 th	World Mission Sunday Pilgrimage to St. Mary's Cathedral for the commemoration of St. Richard Gwyn, Martyr
Fri 24 th	Mass for Healthcare workers following the feast of St. Luke (18 th Oct.)
Sun 26 th	British Summer Time ends.

NOVEMBER

Sun 2 nd	Solemnity of All Saints (Transferred)
Mon 3 rd	Commemoration of the Faithful departed.
Sun 9 th	Remembrance Sunday
Wed 19 th	Red Wednesday – ACN raising awareness for those persecuted for their faith
Sun 16 th	World Day of the Poor
Sun 23 rd	Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.
	Youth Sunday
Sun 30 th	Advent Sunday



BISHOP'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT

JOB DESCRIPTION



Mrs Dominique Gresty
Bishop's PA

• Emails

- Personal inbox (reply / forward as applicable)
- Check Bishop's inbox
- Circulate information as directed by the Bishop (or from colleagues)
- (Check Barmouth Parish inbox – currently no PP or secretary)

• Telephone Calls

- Answer all calls to the Curial office and transfer accordingly.

• Bishop's mailings to the Clergy / other dioceses

- Varia / notices (twice a week)
- *Ad Clerum* (6 times a year approx.)

• Manage the Bishop's diary

- Set up meetings / engagements as applicable
- Email the Bishop's engagements to *The Clarion* & Communications Officer (monthly) and include in *ad Clerum*
- Request necessary information for the Bishop's engagements prior to meetings and visits.

• Travel Arrangements

- Book the Bishop's travel arrangements (& organise compensation as applicable)

• Administrative Tasks

- Print documents for the Bishop's meetings (CBCEW Standing Committee / CaTEW / Departments; Cytûn)
- Administrate Clergy engagements:
- Clergy Lunches, Clergy Retreat, Clergy Conference, Clergy Days of Recollection (collate names / information; liaise with venues; liaise with Business Manager and Accountant re. invoices and payments).
- Diocesan Pilgrimage, as applicable
- Prepare Clergy Appointment letters & Faculties
- Clergy Anniversaries: Maintain records; Produce anniversary cards to be signed by the Bishop
- Collate / Maintain Clergy Personal Information
- Keep contact details up-to-date (email / postal addresses and telephone numbers; Outlook Contacts / spreadsheet / address labels)

• Other correspondence

- Frank/post office mail as required
- Christmas cards (Order Christmas cards, update and print address labels, maintain database of email addresses)
- Collate Mass Counts (annually - October)
- Prepare schedule of events and Masses for Ordo and for Cathedral. Administrate second collection dates. – annually
- Mass booklets: Prepare and/or print as applicable according to schedule or as required
- Organise long-term Clergy supply schedule (as applicable)
- Update and print stationery as required (Letterhead / comp slips / reply postcards / Bishop's mileage form)
- Forward invoices to Accountant as applicable
- Manage Zoom subscription

• IT

- Liaise with Netcentrix as applicable (e.g. IT issues, new/change of email address or password, additions to Outlook address book)
- Maintain record of email addresses and passwords for the Diocese

• St Winefride's Shrine & Well Committee

Minutes Secretary

- Circulate agenda prepared by the Chair
- Take Minutes, type up and submit to the Chair for approval
- Circulate draft to members
- Attend any other meetings and take minutes as required (e.g. Museum Accreditation meetings)
- Set up Open Forum (annual)
- Prepare Events Programme (annually - liaise with Well Administrator for information)
- Liaise with CADW/Church in Wales about use of Chapel during Pilgrimage Season

• Education:

Foundation Governors

- Maintain record of Foundation Governors for each school
- Prepare appointment letters for the Bishop to sign on receipt of an application

Every 4 years:

- Liaise with Diocesan Director of Education re. Foundation Governors' new Term of Office.
- Contact all schools (Heads, Chair of Governors, Clerks to the Governors) for re-applications, new applications, resignations, recruitment
- Prepare appointment letters for all Foundation Governors

Annually:

- Email the Bishop's letter to school leavers to secondary schools

• Deceased Clergy Registrar

- Send and receive notification of deceased Clergy (as applicable – liaising with registrars from other dioceses in the same PACT)
- Maintain records

• Additional role:

- Secretary to the Finance Secretariat and Trustees (job description as prepared by Chair of Trustees)

• Roles to be transferred from Communications:

- Administrate the collation of the Diocesan Year book (June to October)
- Create and update Priests' ID cards
- Press releases, requests for interviews and filming in collaboration with outside agencies

CONFRATERNITY OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

The Rosary Confraternity is a pious association of the Catholic Church which since 1867, the within Great Britain has been established in the church of Our Lady of the Rosary, Haverstock Hill, London, NW5 4LB, under the care of the Dominican friars.

Its members strive to pray the complete Rosary (15 decades) once a week.

They form a union of the Faithful throughout the world who, along with their own intentions, pray for the intentions and needs of all the Confraternity's members, living and dead. St John Vianney said, "If anyone has the happiness of being in the Confraternity of the Rosary, he has in all corners of the world brothers and sisters who pray for him."

To join the Confraternity, one must be a baptised Catholic and voluntarily undertake the obligations of membership in a spirit of genuine devotion.

For further information, the benefits and obligations of membership and enrolment can found on <https://rosaryshrine.co.uk/rosary-shrine/rosary-confraternity>

BIBLE SOCIETY WALES

Siân Rees warmly invites you to a celebration of the work of Bible Society Wales on the 15th of October at Llandaff Cathedral. "Wales and the Word" will be an evening in the company of Dr Andrew Ollerton, Siân Wyn Rees, Dai Woolridge, as well as other members of the Bible Society team, and the launch of our goal to raise the Biblical literacy of a million Christians in Wales and England. Entry is **FREE**, but you will need to book a ticket in advance through <https://WalesandtheWord.eventbrite.co.uk> Join us from 6pm onwards at Prebendal House (CF5 2LA) for tea, coffee and cake (also free!) The event will begin promptly at 7pm. Please do feel free to share this with others. Should you need some paper invitations, please do let me know.

*Hoffwn eich gwahodd chi yn gynnes i ddathliad o waith Cymdeithas Y Beibl yng Nghymru ar y 15fed o Hydref yn Eglwys Gadeiriol Llandaf. Bydd "Cymru a'r Gair" yn noson yng nghwmni Dr Andrew Ollerton, Siân Wyn Rees, Dai Woolridge, ynghyd ag eraill o dîm Cymdeithas Y Beibl, a lansiad ein hymgyrch i godi llythrennedd Beiblaidd miliwn o Gristnogion yng Nghymru a Lloegr. Mynediad **am DDIM**, ond rhaid bwcio tocyn o flaen llaw trwy*

<https://WalesandtheWord.eventbrite.co.uk> Ymunwch â ni o 6yh ymlaen yn Nhŷ Prebendal (CF5 2LA) am baned o de, coffi a chacen (hefyd am ddim!). Bydd y digwyddiad yn cychwyn yn brydlon am 7yh. Croeso i chi rannu hyn gydag eraill.

**Cymru
a'r Gair**

15fed o Hydref am 7yh
Eglwys Gadeiriol Llandaf, CF5 2LA

**Wales and
the Word**

15 October at 7pm
Llandaff Cathedral, CF5 2LA



SAFEGUARDING – INSPECTING SURVIVOR ENGAGEMENT

The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA), the independent auditor of the Church's safeguarding work, has issued a **public call** for information to learn from survivors' engagement experiences.

CSSA is currently doing a thematic audit of survivor engagement across all dioceses and religious life groups in England and Wales. To do this as effectively as possible, it would welcome information from anybody who feels they have something to share with regard to survivor engagement.

Information regarding this survey can be found here:

[Public Calls for Information](#)

The direct link to the survey is

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SSQzRY2ft0OpJmB_Xy63KLBEXoG2tlVAm_9UYqKjMSFUOTc5TzLLEdTWkUySjhaTIU0QUraOU05SC4u

This process is being conducted with transparency, respect, and in a survivor-centred way. Your cooperation will help ensure we hear from as many voices as possible, enabling us to identify good practice and areas for improvement across the Church.

If you have any questions, please contact our Quality Assurance team at:

qualityassurance@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

NB The Diocese is required to send a return to indicate that it has promoted the survey, and that 'all who wish to contribute are aware of the opportunity to do so'.

PRISONERS' SUNDAY– 12TH OCTOBER

The theme for 2025 is "God's word is not chained," focusing on the idea that God's word can bring freedom even in the most difficult circumstances. This day marking the beginning of Prisons Week is an important opportunity for us all to direct our thoughts and prayers to the needs of prisoners and their families, and those who work to support our brothers and sisters affected by 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

HEALTH-CARERS MASS – FRIDAY 24TH 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 24th October at 7.00pm. Following the Mass there will be refreshments in the Cathedral Hall.

DIOCESAN FINANCE REPORTING

On Tuesday 14th 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), at St David's Mold. On completion of the external audit of the Diocesan Accounts for the Year 2024-25 a summary will be published in CLARION, the full accounts will be found on the Charity Commission website.

Advent Retreats
Loreto Spirituality Centre
www.loretocentre.org.uk
01492 878031
info@loretocentre.org.uk

Advent Weekend Retreat
28th - 30th November *
Advent Choices

Advent Triduum
Prepare the Way of the Lord
8th - 12th December
Gemma Simmonds CI

'LIFE TO THE FULL'
Praying with the Gospel of John
Loreto Spirituality Centre
17th - 19th October 2025
Josette Zammit-Mangion IBVM

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

ST JOSEPH'S COLWYN BAY 125 YEARS JUBILEE MASS

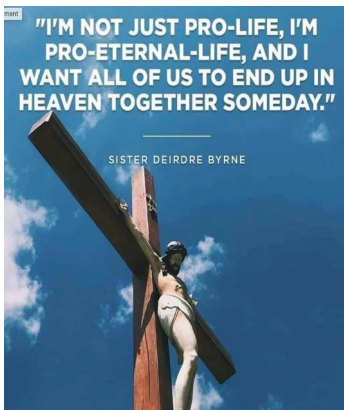
Sunday, 5th October 2025 at 10:00am

We will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the opening of St Joseph's Colwyn Bay.

After Mass members of the parish will share Words of Thanksgiving followed by refreshments in the School Hall next door.

If you are planning to attend, please let the parish know in advance priestcolwynbay@rcdwxm.org.uk
01492 532 670

Bishop Peter will preside and Fr. Lorcán, the provincial of the Anglo-Irish Province, will also be present. (Many will remember Fr Lorcan who spent some time on Anglesey in the 1990s)



Facts:

There are over 3,071 types of snake of which only 600 are venomous. The only poisonous one in the UK is the adder. It is rarely fatal. They can represent both good and evil -but Milton and Hollywood suggest the latter!

St. WINEFRIDE'S SHRINE AND WELL, HOLYWELL - An invitation

On Thursday 9th 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, open to all, especially anyone who would like to be involved in this ancient shrine and pilgrimage site, will be at 11.00am at the Shrine. Light buffet refreshments will be available.

This is an opportunity for all who are interested in the Shrine and Well of St. Winefride to learn more of the prospects for the future and to offer their assistance to develop further the shrine as a place of pilgrimage and of evangelisation.

Serpents, serpents, serpents...

(A parishioner reflects on the readings for 14th September, the Exaltation of the Cross.)

The world's first serpent lived in the Garden of Eden. It lived there with Adam and Eve in a garden that is called 'the garden of delights', for that is what the name of the place, 'Gan Eden' (גַּן עֵדֶן), means in Hebrew. Unlike the other animals and birds that lived in the garden it seems that the serpent was the only one who was able to talk to our first parents. Their relationship is unlike others.

Serpents or snakes arouse a particular horror in most of us. I once worked in a foreign country where I walked to work every day across a lovely wooden bridge over a swampy inlet. I could always see in the water below long sinuous snakes swimming rapidly a few feet away. I felt a frisson of fear at the sight. I knew that they were deadly. Another time, at the crossroads of two tracks, I met a black snake about a foot long. It did not move. We looked at each other for maybe two minutes. I felt that I had met someone important.

Snakes, serpents, hold a fascination for mankind. They seem to hold some secret powers. In ancient days they were thought to contain the secrets of death. The way they shed their skins each year suggested that they were born again, a triumph of life over death. We should keep this in mind when we hear each year on 14th September at the Exaltation of the Holy Cross how the Israelites in the desert of Sinai were afflicted with a plague of venomous snakes. They appealed to Moses to save their lives. He told them to make a bronze serpent and to put it on a pole and that looking on this image would save them from death.

Today we probably find it strange, even hard to comprehend what the Exaltation of the Holy Cross has to do with putting a bronze serpent on the top of a wooden pole. The readings clearly want us to recognise this response as in some way foreshadowing the cross on which Jesus surrendered his life. The similarity does not lie in the outward appearance of the two, not at all; rather, it is in the recognition by the Israelites of their waywardness and ingratitude to the Lord of Life who had rescued them from slavery in Egypt.

Today a snake bite would send us hurrying to the doctor in the hope of finding an appropriate antidote. The ancient Israelites reacted in the same way but they saw life and death as much more than a medical condition. They did not think that life was just a set of problems to be 'fixed'. Like them, as Christians, we see the world as God's loving creation, but Adam and Eve were tempted by the mysterious serpent to live independently from God, to become 'like gods' themselves. Today we know that we are not gods. Instead we know that we must struggle to live in the broken beauty of this world.

And for us, looking at the cross is a reminder of our waywardness and ingratitude: looking at the cross, and realising what it means protects us from the death of sin, if only we have the eyes to see.

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

The smile that you send out returns to you (Indian Wisdom)

Wrexham Clarion is published by the Diocese of Wrexham, Bishop's House, Sontley Road, Wrexham, LL13 7EW
Telephone 01978 262 726 Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Bishop or the Diocese.

For further information and contributions please contact the Editor, Mark J. Philpot at clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk

The newsletter is distributed through parish email lists.

To register for your copy individually, please email your request to communications@rcdwxm.org.uk

