



Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 15
January 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



**In this issue:
Important;
Into the Future-3
The Listening Exercise
Go now to Page 2
Bishop Peter's regular column
And
The Listening Exercise**



**Do you recognise these THREE churches?
They are now ONE Parish!
Read how they are creating a single unity from
a threesome...
Turn to Page 6 for 'Spotlight'**

Do Not Miss page 2:

Details of the times and venues for the *Listening Exercise* in which Bishop Peter wishes to hear YOUR Views on the future of the Diocese. – "Into the Future – 3"

Also: Go to the Diocesan website for

1. The Advent Pastoral Letter (front page)
2. Into The Future, 1 & 2, go to menu for 'Bishop', then on the 'drop down menu', 'Pastoral Letters'



A 'King of Cakes', and a 'Cake of Kings' - The 'Galette des Rois' is served in France on the

Feast of the Epiphany. With sweet puff pastry and a frangipane filling, it celebrates 'right royally' the feast of the manifestation of Christ to the wider world.

BUT what do we *really* know about the Kings? - learn more on **Page 4**



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH
IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

Praying 'as one friend
to another'.

Join St Beuno's Outreach
on **Page 3**



**Devotion
To the
Child
Jesus**



Page 4

The Infant Jesus of Mechelen (left -now in the Louvre)

The Santo Niño de Cebú (right)

Read how this devotion spread from Iberia throughout the world. Celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of January in the Philippines.



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**Events in the wider Community
Peace Sunday – 14th January:**

'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity -18th=25th January

Holocaust Memorial Day - January 27th

"Fragility of Freedom"



Join a full 'Our Lady, Help of Christians' church in Ruthin, with the Ruthin "Dementia Friendly Community Choir".

Find out on **Page 7** how one talented young person is putting her Christian commitment into practice!

Around and About in the Diocese

'Safeguarding Audit', and 'Events' on **Page 7**

How well do you know the Diocese? Try the picture Quiz on **Page 8**, and try to recognise 25 of our 53 listed Mass Centres. You can score extra points if you can name the dedication. If you need a clue, the alphabetical list of towns is alongside, but when you need it, the full list of answers is on page 5. No prizes, just a glow of self-satisfaction is permitted!

Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwxm.org.uk

Jubilee Year 2025 is now less than a year away! A year which Pope Francis invites the Church to observe and to celebrate with the theme '**Pilgrims of Hope**'. For this, the foundations have been laid, since, in 2023, we had been invited to reflect upon the four Dogmatic Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council, revisiting the fundamental topics that breathe new life into the profound and timely teaching of the Council whose 60th anniversary was observed in October last year.

On this foundation is to be built a year of prayer, 2024, aiming to create a favourable context for the Jubilee and helping pilgrims to prepare for this primarily spiritual event in a consistent and fruitful manner.

The full meaning of an Holy Year is to be found when the historical context in which the Church finds herself is taken into consideration. So, what is the historical context in which we find ourselves to-day and in the coming months? More than anything else are the signs of anxiety and unrest, combined with a rise in perceived expectations. Recent experiences of vulnerability and the fear of the violence of wars go only to heighten the paradox of the human condition. On the one hand, to feel the overwhelming power of technology which determines our days, on the other hand, to feel uncertain and be confused about our future. Thus, the urgency to live in the light of a new hope to the world.

In the newspaper on the one day between Christmas and New Year I had the chance to read more fully, I was able to read about both the developments and application of Artificial Intelligence which we can come to expect in 2024. In the same edition there was an article about the creation and growth of commercial digital de-toxification retreats at £100+ a night where people can go and be without digital technology and modern conveniences in any of their forms.

Is it acknowledged that to be 'off-grid' is a need that people have - to have time away from being constantly bombarded with calls for their attention and pre-packaged entertainment to develop that feeling for freedom that enables an inner creativity to come to life and reduce stress?

The theme "Pilgrims of Hope" is the motto that has been chosen for the Jubilee. It expresses the need to make sense of the present so that it can be preparatory for a real thrust into the future in order to embrace and respond to the various challenges that arise from time to time. To be pilgrims of our time and disciples for the world necessitate a solid foundation of prayer that must include a 'detox' of all that prevents the voice of God being heard in our hearts as well as the nourishment it gives for the important things of life; the love of self and neighbour in the praise, worship and service of God.

In Lent, (only six weeks away!) we are invited as individuals and parish groups to reflect upon and pray with deeper understanding the prayer Jesus himself gave us, the **Our Father...**; aids and resources are available. This can be the beginning of our stay-at-home off-grid retreat and preparation to be not just pilgrims of hope, but messengers of the joy that our faith gives us.

With the assurance of my continued prayer I wish you all a blessed, joyous and hope filled 2024,

+ Peter

Jubilee 2025

P.S. Please look at the Jubilee website

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html> as well as

<https://www.rcdwxm.org.uk/> for information and

resources and to read of what is happening in the Diocese.

INTO THE FUTURE – 3

LISTENING EXERCISE

In Bishop Peter's Pastoral Letter on Advent Sunday he spoke of meetings in the New Year to consider the updated pastoral plan. Dates and venues for those six open meetings are now established:

They are all **Saturdays** as follows:

3rd February

10.30am to 12noon -**Welshpool**;

2.30pm to 4.00pm -**Wrexham**;

24th February

2.30pm to 4.00pm -**Rhyl**;

2nd March

10.30am to 12noon -**Llandudno**;

2.30pm to 4.00pm -**Porthmadog**;

9th March

2.30pm to 4.00pm -**Buckley**.

Before attending a meeting or making a submission, please be sure to read 'Into the Future – 3'

https://www.rcdwxm.org.uk/files/ugd/0d070d_ba440c4896e347feb6b5fc0127eb57a8.pdf

Each meeting will have the same format:

- Formal and silent prayer;
- Presentation from Bp. Peter;
- Opportunity for opinions, comments and suggestions from those present*
- Closing Prayer.

*Guidelines:

Oral contributions at the meetings:
(maximum 3 minutes, please)

Written submissions can be made:
(maximum 250 words please)

These can be sent to the Diocesan Offices by post or by email pa@rcdwxm.org.uk

Please Note, also,

Written submissions should be signed – *anonymous comments cannot be considered.*

Comments should intend to be helpful and constructive - *purely negative responses do not provide guidance for the future.*

DO, please, ensure that you read the document before attending a meeting or making a submission. The document is online or ask for a print copy from your parish.

All meetings will take place in the church, as listed.



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.

Our image this month is by Ukrainian Lyuba Yatskiv, one of almost 40 iconographers based at the Iconart Contemporary Sacred Art Gallery in Lviv.

Their work interprets the long tradition of iconography within the context of modern culture and artistic fashion. Today it also helps Christians all over the world to pray with and for Ukraine and its people.



Lyuba Yatskiv, *Adoration of the Magi* (2020)
Iconart Contemporary Sacred Art Gallery, Lviv, Ukraine

by kind permission of Iconart Gallery
(iconart-gallery.com/en),

The Twelve Days of Christmas end on 5th January, the eve of Epiphany – when tradition dictates that our Christmas decorations should be taken down and safely stowed away for another year! The feast day itself of the 'Epiphany of the Lord' (6th January) invites us to celebrate both the coming of wise men from the east to worship the infant Jesus, and also the revelation ('epiphany') of Christ to all peoples.

Take a moment to ponder the image, and then reflect on the text that follows, which is part of the gospel for the Feast of the Epiphany (Matthew 2: 1-12):

"Having listened to what King Herod had to say, the wise men set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising: it went forward and halted over the place where the child was.

The sight of the star filled them with delight and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage.

Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and returned to their own country by a different way".

(Matt. 2: 9-12)

You may want to spend a few moments visualising in your mind's eye the wise men meeting with King Herod, tired after their long journey from the east.

Perhaps you feel tempted to follow them as they continue their journey to Bethlehem.....

How do you feel when you see the light of the star coming to rest above the house where the Holy Family is staying?

What do you want to say to Mary and Joseph as you see the little baby asleep?

What treasure have you brought for Jesus?

When it's time to go home, do you, like the Wise Men, somehow feel that you need to follow a different path

.....or do you prefer the familiar, comfortable road by which you arrived?

An epiphany can be a moment when you suddenly feel that you understand or become conscious of something very important. Perhaps your encounter with the Wise Men and the infant Jesus in this time of prayer has been a kind of personal epiphany for you?

Share with the Lord anything that seems really important to you now, speaking as one friend to another.

When you are ready, end your prayer with your own words of gratitude.

You can download the weekly Prego at
<https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/>
Contact us at stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com

Gospel Year of Mark

Jesus Calls the First Disciples



Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of

men. And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one with authority, and not as the scribes.

(Mark 1:16-22 ESV-CE)

Who Is a Disciple?

St. Basil, a fourth century doctor of the Church, wrote this about becoming a Christian: "A disciple is, as the Lord himself taught us, whoever draws near to the Lord to follow him – to hear his words, to believe and obey him as Lord and king and doctor and teacher of truth ... So, whoever believes in the Lord and presents himself ready for discipleship must first learn to set aside every sin and everything that distracts from the obedience owed to the Lord." (On Baptism 1.2)

DEVOTION TO THE CHILD JESUS

From the thirteenth century devotion to the Infant Jesus is to be found on the Iberian peninsula, and from there it spread around the world especially to those places and countries that experienced the influence of trade and colonisation by the Hispanic adventurers. The most common depiction is a statue of Christ as a child, holding in his left hand a globe with a cross on it and his right extended in blessing. The gift of a statue often being enough to begin a cult and a tradition of devotion as in the sixteenth century with the image going to Prague from Spain and being housed in the Carmelite church there. The name, the 'Infant of Prague' is probably the one best known by northern and central Europeans. But a hundred years earlier we are to see the 'Infant Jesus of Mechelen' (Malines in Belgium) around 1536 and earlier still the 'Santo Niño de Cebu' in the Philippines in 1521. Wherever the statues are to be found it is in celebration of the mystery of the Incarnation. In Prague the feast is observed on 14th January; in the Philippines the third Sunday of January. The original images were naked as in the case of 'Infant Jesus of Mechelen' or for 'Santo Niño' a simple shroud-like garment, but the tradition developed in the eighteenth century of vesting the images in highly decorated regal-priestly-like garments which are changed according to liturgical norms.

Among the Filipino community especially, the third Sunday of January is preceded by a novena of prayer to Santo Niño and the celebration of the feast which in many cities in the

More on the Wise Men ...

St Matthew is the only evangelist to mention the 'wise men from the east' who came to pay homage to Jesus. He gives no details, although mention of their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh has led to the tradition that they numbered three. The idea that they were kings draws on the Old Testament. The readings chosen for Mass on the feast of the Epiphany include Psalm 70 (71), which refers to kings of Tarshish, Sheba and Seba coming to 'pay him tribute' and 'bring him gifts' ('Before him all kings shall fall prostrate'), while the prophecy from Isaiah 60 mentions camels and dromedaries and the bringing of gold and incense. The following of the star mentioned by St Matthew has led to the suggestion that these wise men from the east were Magi or astrologers.

Over the centuries, popular legend has given the wise men names and geographical origins. Melchior supposedly came from Europe; Gaspard (or Caspar/Caspard) from Asia; and Balthasar from Africa. (Balthasar is traditionally depicted as black in artistic representations from c. 1400). The third-century theologian Origen also gave their three gifts particular significance in the context of Jesus, the Son of God made flesh. Gold is the symbol of kingship; Frankincense symbolised deity; and Myrrh was used to embalm the dead, foreshadowing the death of Jesus to save the world.

Different countries and cultures celebrate Epiphany in various ways. In France, for example, there has been a custom from the fourteenth century of deciding who will be the 'King of the Day'. A porcelain charm or plastic figurine is placed in a traditional flat cake called a galette, made from flaky puff pastry layers. The cake is filled with a dense centre of frangipane (almond-flavoured sweet pastry cream). Whoever finds the charm in their portion of the galette is crowned King (or Queen) of the Day and can wear the crown.



Philippines is done with great festivity and processions following the celebration of Mass, this is especially so in Cebu where up to two million pilgrims and visitors gather to see the spectacular celebrations. Search online [Santo Niño de Cebu](#) and Sinulog Festival

Between now and the feast is also a time of blessing of children:

"All powerful God and Father, you are the source of all blessings, the protector of children, whose presence enriches family life and the life of the church.

Look with favour on these children reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, keep them faithful in the life of the family of the Church, there to share in your kingdom and with us to bless your name forever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord." AMEN

"May the Lord Jesus, who loved children, bless and keep you in his love, + and the love of the Father and the Holy Spirit now and for ever." AMEN

Holocaust Memorial Day 27th January
'Fragility of Freedom'

The Theme this year is taken from words of Anne Frank's diary entry of 20th June 1942 reflecting back to May 1940 when the Germans arrived in the Netherlands:

'That is when the trouble started for the Jews. Our freedom was severely restricted by a series of anti-Jewish decrees.'

Today many people in western democracies take freedoms for granted – on this year's Memorial Day, we can reflect on how these freedoms need to be valued, and on how many people around the world face restrictions to their freedoms to live, worship, work and love, freely.

For example, Uyghur Muslims in China are facing forced relocation to Xinjiang province, 're-education' that threatens to eradicate the Uyghur culture, and other limits to free expression, free movement and freedom of worship.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims are living in refugee camps in Bangladesh, having escaped religious persecution in Myanmar.

Conflict is still ongoing in the Darfur region of Sudan. Survivors of the genocide, now safe in the UK, are terrified for the safety of their family members still in Darfur, and scared to speak out publicly in the UK lest their family members' lives are threatened.

Anne Frank's comment, quoted above, concludes *'You couldn't do this and you couldn't do that, but life went on'*. But of course, for Anne, and millions of others, life did not go on – they were deliberately murdered. Building upon the multiple restrictions on their freedoms, their freedom of life was destroyed.

On Holocaust Memorial Day 2024, we can all reflect on how freedom is fragile and vulnerable to abuse. As we come together in communities around the UK, let's pledge not to take our freedoms for granted, and consider what we can do to strengthen freedoms around the world.

More information is on the Holocaust Memorial Trust website: <https://www.hmd.org.uk>

Prayer Intentions. THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:

In the Winter season of Ordinary time, we are invited to pray for these intentions:

Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God;
Christian Unity; The Unemployed
Victims of Human Trafficking and Those Working to Combat It;
the Sick and Those Who Care for Them

PEACE SUNDAY 14th January

The 57th World Peace Day will be observed on Sunday 14th January in England and Wales – Pope Francis has taken the theme for this year as:

'Artificial Intelligence and Peace.'

More information and resources can be found on the Pax Christi website: www.paxchristi.org.uk and the Holy Father's Message in full on: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20231208-messaggio-57giornatamondiale-pace2024.html>

[Peace Sunday 2024 - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

A retiring collection to assist the work of Pax Christi may be taken in parishes on this day.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18TH - 25TH JANUARY 2024

'Go and do likewise'.

Resources are available for WPCU 2024. These materials were prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso facilitated by the local Chemin Neuf Community. The chosen theme is

'You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself'

(Lk 10:27).

*[Welsh/English](#) version is now available!

NB See also the Pope's Prayer Intentions

Answers to the picture Quiz:

1. Queensferry; Blessed Trinity
2. Bangor; Our Lady and St James
3. St Asaph; St Winefride
4. Ruthin; Our Lady, Help of Christians
5. Llangollen; Holy Cross
6. Mold; St David
7. Tywyn; St David
8. Abergele; St Thérèse of Lisieux
9. Towyn; Christ the King
10. Wrexham; St Anne
11. Benllech; Our Lady of Lourdes
12. Blaenau Ffestiniog; St Mary Magdalen
13. Denbigh; St Joseph
14. Overton; Our Lady and the Welsh Martyrs
15. Holyhead; St Mary, Help of Christians
16. Coedpoeth; Holy Family
17. Connah's Quay; Blessed Sacrament
18. Holywell; St Winefride
19. Flint; Immaculate Conception
20. Colwyn Bay; St Joseph
21. Dolgellau; Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows
22. Caernarfon; St David and St Helen
23. Harlech; St David in Seion
24. Amlwch; Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Winefride
25. Llandudno; Our Lady, Star of the Sea

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION - January

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

The Vale of Clwyd Parish, Denbighshire

Creating Unity through Action

The Vale of Clwyd Parish serves the churches of **St. Joseph, Denbigh; Our Lady, Help of Christians, Ruthin; St. Winefride, St. Asaph.**



Parish Priest
Fr. George Areekuzhy, CMI.

Since the Autumn of 2017, three previously separate Parishes in the Diocese have been worshipping and working together as one Parish, in an arrangement established by Bishop Peter. We share here some highlights of our experience to date, and celebrate how the arrangement has become embedded, and works for us all.

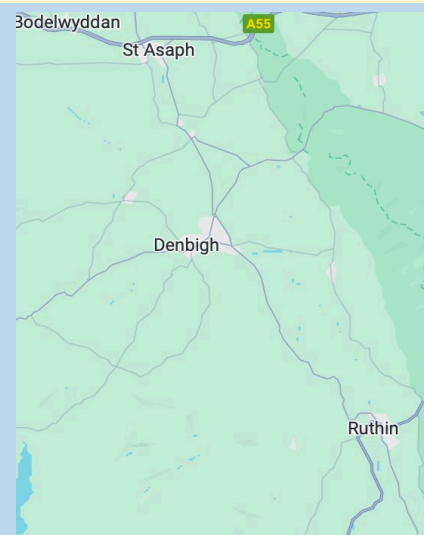
Key to the ongoing success of our shared Parish is the dedication, intelligence, warmth and sheer hard work of Fr. George, a man of patience and humility, who seems tireless faced with much commuting, juggling commitments and keeping abreast of all our news.

A prayerful and wonderful example to us all.

Our parish covers a sizeable patch, comprising both distinctly urban and rural areas, and with some parishioners living some distance away from any church building - in many cases travelling awkward country miles to get to Church! Nevertheless, this arrangement clearly works for us, although initially it took some getting used to, understandably. Weekday, Vigil and Sunday masses are shared across the Parish, allowing parishioners to worship at their nearest church, OR to worship at the time and in the place best suited to their needs and circumstances.

Many activities and chores are shared, bringing efficiencies, and even more importantly, a sense of shared endeavour, with new friendships and interest groups developing across time. For example: the weekly Offerings and any special Collections, are pooled; we share one Weekly Newsletter; and we offer support and expertise across the parish to help with upkeep, pastoral care and social events.

Our most recent Parish meeting was held in Denbigh in November, when we discussed parish fundraising for charitable causes, social events, and parish finances: always sensitive to the need to be mindful of seeking yet more



contributions from Parishioners in these more challenging times.

Our most recent Fundraiser was an excellent Christmas Concert held in Ruthin on The Feast of The Immaculate Conception [see separate article also in this edition of *The Clarion*], and our most recent Social Event was an excellent Christmas Lunch, with nearly 50% of active parishioners attending, on Saturday December 9th. We gathered at the aptly (but coincidentally!) named, *Vale of Clwyd Country Club* on the outskirts of Ruthin, and it was a joyous occasion.

Of course, we cannot get together frequently, nor do we need to, yet it was special to have the opportunity to be together as one, in a different place, recognising faces and greeting friends, as we have got to know each other from the different Church bases, across the years, due to shared worship and contact. It was also an opportunity to welcome together a recent and most welcome newcomer to our Parish: **Sister Triphosa, ESM**, from Kenya. Sister is now settled in the Presbytery in Ruthin, soon to be joined by two more Sisters from the same Order.



St. Joseph, Denbigh



Our Lady, Help of Christians, Ruthin



St Winefride, St Asaph

Around and About in the Diocese

Dementia Friendly Choir Christmas Concert

The Dementia Friendly Ruthin Community Choir performed a **Sell Out Success** at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, for *Dementia Friendly Ruthin* and the Restoration Fund for the church porch, as part of the town's heritage.

Talented young Leader, Alys Winstanley is a regular parishioner. The Choir's performance covered an eclectic mix of classic Christmas Carols, including *Joy to the World*; innovative pieces such as *Cwsg, Cwsg, Cwsg*, and a particularly lively rendition of *Feliz Navidad*, complete with audience participation! There was also a reading from Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, by Julie Danson, and some solo performances, too.

Words of appreciation and friendship to all, especially those visiting the Catholic Church in Ruthin for the first time, from **Fr. George**, were followed by mince pies and hot drinks in the Church's ample porch, recently restored due to many fundraising events by Parishioners, and further aided by a Grant from the **National Historic Churches Trust**.

Several local businesses supported the concert by donating food, gifts, raffle prizes, and a Christmas tree

In total, the Concert raised close to £1000 to be shared by the Choir and the Church, a Gift which thus "gave back" to both local groups.

Alys Winstanley commented, "*We were overjoyed with the success of the Christmas concert! It was a celebration of the love and joy of our community choir and we were so grateful for the warm and supportive audience who helped make it such a wonderful night. Diolch o galon!*"



Choir Leader, Alys Winstanley, with her father, enjoying the parish Christmas lunch, the day after the Community concert.

Below:

Members of the Dementia Friendly Community Choir, and the crowded church



Events and Invitations

January

Saturday 6th BSL Mass
Sunday 7th Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday 14th Peace Sunday www.paxchristi.org.uk
Sunday 21st Sunday of the Word of God
18th -25th Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity
Saturday 27th Holocaust Memorial Day
Sunday 28th Racial Justice Sunday

February

Friday 2nd World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
7th to 14th Marriage Week 'Wake up. Marriage is a great Idea' <https://marriage-week.org.uk/>
Thursday 8th Day of Special Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking and Those Working to Combat it.
Saturday 10th Diocesan Mass for the Sick and Infirm
Sunday 11th World Day for the Sick (Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes)
Day of Prayer for the Unemployed
Wednesday 14th Ash Wednesday
Saturday 17th Diocesan Celebration of Marriage "Marriage Mass"
Sunday 18th 1st Sunday of Lent
Rite of Election in St. Mary's Cathedral
Thursday 29th Leap Year Day

March

Sunday 31st Easter Day of the Resurrection of the Lord
For further information of these events and celebrations please look for the details in your church, on the Diocesan website 'Diocese of Wrexham' www.rcdwxm.org.uk or ask your priests.

SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

At the December ordinary Meeting of the Diocesan Trustees, the Trustees were pleased to receive the Executive Summary and full Report of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA). The CSSA Baseline Audit was conducted in September 2023. The overall grading was, 'Firm Progress'. The Trustees' Safeguarding Sub-committee, together with the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Staff, and Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSRs), were thanked for their significant work and the creation and initiation of the action plan to implement the Report's recommendations.

The Executive Summary can be found on the CSSA and Diocesan websites:

<https://catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/audits-and-reports/cssa-audit-reports/>

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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



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

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

January

07. 10.30am	Mass of the Epiphany	Cathedral
19	Visit to Christ The Word School	Rhyl
24	Mass for the Feast of St Thomas Aquinas	Bangor Chaplaincy
30-31	Joint Bishops' Conference	

February

06 12noon	Chapter Mass	Cathedral
10 12noon	Mass for the Sick	Cathedral
5.30pm	Vigil Mass with Benemerenti Presentation & Welcome to the DDL Sisters	Rhyl
13	Clergy Shrove Tuesday Meal	
14 12noon	Ash Wednesday	Cathedral
17 12noon	Marriage Mass	Cathedral
28	Clergy Ongoing Formation Day: New Lectionary & Preaching	(location TBC)

Clues to the picture quiz – Find the church for.....

Abergele	Connah's Quay	Llandudno
Amlwch	Denbigh	Mold
Bangor	Dolgellau	Overton
Benllech	Flint	Queensferry
Blaenau Ffestiniog	Harlech	Ruthin
Caernarfon	Holyhead	St Asaph
Coedpoeth	Holywell	Towyn
Colwyn Bay	Llangollen	Tywyn

A Picture Quiz -

How well do you know the churches?

All of the following are Mass centres within the Diocese of Wrexham. Can you identify them?

How to score: One point for recognising the town /25

Two further points for naming the church's dedication /50

Give yourself an extra twenty-five points if you complete it in less than FIVE minutes!! *Will You claim 100 points?*



Clues: a) You will find all these churches, and the picture, on the Diocesan website, under 'Parishes'
 b) The alphabetical list of towns is on this page.

Pause for thought: The picture quiz above includes 25 of the 53 Mass centres in the Diocese. The financial, and personnel issues in the upkeep of these Mass centres is the focus of the document "Into the Future -3". Without more priests, deacons, and sisters to lead, and without mass goers to contribute to the finances, the 'Listening Exercise' needs to be based on realistic perceptions, not emotion.

Who said....?	1. Albert Einstein	2. W Somerset Maugham
3. Henry Kissinger	4. Frank Sinatra.	5. Donald Trump
6. Winston Churchill	7. Harold MacMillan	8. Ronald Reagan

Strangely wise words:

WHO said....?

- If you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid. (AE)
- Only a mediocre person is always at his best. (WSM)
- 90% of politicians give the other 10% a bad reputation (HK)
- Las Vegas is the only place where money talks. It says "Goodbye". (FS)
- I don't like to analyse myself. I might not like what I see. (DJT)
- I could not live without champagne. In victory I deserve it; in defeat I need it. (WSC)
- Housing is not a question of Socialism or Conservatism: It's a question of humanity (HM)
- I'm not worried about the deficit. It's big enough to take care of itself. (RR)

'Angels dancing on the head of a pin' ???

Two theologians were discussing the merits of baptism by Total Immersion or otherwise. After a learned dissertation, one asked if a person is baptised by immersion to the chin. "No", said the 'immersionist'.

"Well, is a person baptised if immersed to the nose?" Again, the reply was "No".

"And if he is immersed up to his eyebrows?" persisted the theologian. Yet again, the reply was "No.... You don't seem to understand. The person must be immersed completely in water – until the head is covered".

"And that is my argument all along", responded the other, triumphantly, "it's only a little water on the top of the head that counts."

On Christian Unity:

Speaking from the moon, the astronaut Frank Borman said "We are one hunk of ground, water, air, clouds, floating around in space. From here it really is one world".

Seeking to share ecumenism in an Irish village, three ladies from a Protestant church visited the local Catholic church. Recognising them and wishing to welcome them, the Priest said to the altar server, "Three chairs for the Protestant ladies". At once, the server jumped to his feet and shouted, "Three Cheers for the Protestant ladies." The congregation rose, responded heartily, and the service continued.