



Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 4
February 2023

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



Bishop's Column

In these days between New Year and the beginning of Lent we may well wonder 'where we went off the rails with the New Year's resolutions' and 'what might I do or not do for Lent this year?'

Since his election as Supreme Pontiff on 13th March 2013 Pope Francis has repeatedly returned to the theme of the importance of the Scriptures in our personal lives as well as that of the whole Church. It was in June of that year that he gave the invitation and advice about carrying a 'pocket-size' Gospel with you, and read just five minutes a day, allowing the Word of God to draw near to your heart - and your lives will change.

Most recently Pope Francis said: *'For the believer, the Word of God is not simply a text to read. The Word of God is a living presence, it is a work of the Holy Spirit that comforts, instructs, gives light, strength, relief, and a zest for life. To read the Bible, to read a piece, one or two passages of the Bible, is like a short telegram from God that*

immediately goes to the heart. The Word of God is a bit — and I am not exaggerating here — it is a little, real foretaste of heaven. A great saint and pastor, Ambrose, the Bishop of Milan, understood this well when he wrote: "while I read the sacred Scriptures, God walks in Paradise" (Letters, 49.3). With the Bible, we open the door to God who is taking a walk. Interesting.' (General Audience 22nd December 2022)

In addition to reading part of the scriptures each day and prayerfully reflecting upon them, we have the opportunity to pray the prayer of the scriptures themselves through the praying of the Liturgy of the Hours. Here we pray as Jesus himself prayed in his home, in the synagogue and Temple, on the mountain, in the garden and on the cross.

Reading the Scriptures and praying with the Scriptures helps us to sense the Lord's presence, to hear his voice, and to become conscious of the deepest desires of our heart. In this

way, we grow in love and closeness to Jesus, who assures us of the Father's merciful love and, by his death on the Cross, reveals God's power to bring life out of death and good out of evil. While this is of course significantly observed on the Sunday of the Word of God (3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time) is it too important to confine it to one day of the year.

Lent is about 'change', the word itself originating from the old English referring to the lengthening days of springtime; it is a time for us to make some changes to our lives, not just by the penance of fasting or abstinence but by the greater encounter with God through his Word and the shaping of our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. So why wait till Ash Wednesday to begin?

May you have a blessed and grace filled Lent, and please be assured of my continued prayers,

+ Peter

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See page 2 to discover how YOU may help! Photo: Andy Aitchison

Since the pandemic, being together in church has felt different. We have a new appreciation of what it means to be together, to join in a spirit of prayer and celebration in close proximity – this past Christmas was joyful as we got back to what we knew with a renewed sense of gathering. One of the sadnesses of the pandemic was being prevented from travelling. For the Diocese of Wrexham that meant that the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes was impossible. This summer we resume our pilgrimage. I hope that you can join us.

Gathering for a pilgrimage is a very special experience. Whenever the Diocese of Wrexham gathers it is a special experience of being the church. One only has to think of the celebration of the Mass of the Sacred Chrism when people from all across the Diocese, our Bishops and Deacons and the Priests express their unity in faith and witness, prayer and song and action. A pilgrimage as a diocese expresses beautifully what it means to be a pilgrim people united in faith.

This year's Pastoral Theme for all pilgrims to Lourdes is "Go and tell the priests to build a chapel there". It is taken from the words of Our Blessed Lady to Bernadette during the apparitions. The theme will give us much to ponder as we prepare to journey together, whilst we are in Lourdes and when we return.

Building the church is not merely a matter of maintaining a building: it is about deepening communion with one another. It is about participation. It is also about mission. These words are central to the process that Pope Francis has called us to... 'the synodal pathway'. Joining together on a pilgrimage is a wonderful experience of being on a pathway, of talking and listening, of prayer and singing and silence and



contemplation. It is an experience of being alongside fellow pilgrims, making new friendships and renewing old associations, not just from within the Diocese of Wrexham but from across the whole church.

This year the Pilgrimage will depart on 28th July and return on 2nd August. I do hope that you can join with us. It is hoped

that the change of date will accommodate young people from our three diocesan high schools and also other young people will be able to join with us. More details can be found in church or at the website of Joe Walsh Tours.

(www.joewalshstours.ie
or call 08081 890 468)

Booking forms are available from your priests, from Bishop's House and from me at Bangor. Please do give some thought and prayer to joining with the Diocesan Pilgrimage this year.

A visit to Lourdes can be a life-changing event. The time of the pandemic has confronted us with many realities. It has also offered us new priorities in our lives. Hopefully our faith and the consolation that it offers to us will have a new place in our lives. This summer we were privileged to welcome the relics of St Bernadette of Lourdes here in the Diocese as they toured the various dioceses of England & Wales. It was good to be part of celebrations of our faith which gathered people from across the Diocese. Please God many of us will journey together in faith to Lourdes this summer to share faith.

Perhaps the most important aspect of our faith is the joy of sharing with one another and experiencing deepening in faith. All this in a place of beauty and joy – and it is enjoyable, and memorable. I look forward to seeing you there.

Can you Put Faith into Action with Pact's 'Visiting Mum' Service?

Pact, The Prison Advice and Care Trust, is the Catholic prison charity working across England & Wales. One of the ways Pact supports families in this diocese is through the innovative 'Visiting Mum' project. Wales does not have a womens' prison so when a mother from Wales is in prison, this will be in England. Pact needs volunteers to help our work supporting children and families in this situation.

Our 'Visiting Mum' project offers support to prepare children to visit their mum, and with transporting children and carers to prison visits. Our work strengthens family ties during this, often distressing, period of separation.

In support of Pact, Bishop Peter says, *'How many things might a child say about their mother's arms? But what if that comfort, strength, healing, love and loads more can only be felt occasionally because Mum is in prison and far away? Jesus welcomed the children and blessed them. Through Pact's 'Visiting Mum' project you can help children know the compassion and blessing of Jesus in the arms of their mothers by volunteering to help them and their families make those all-important visits. I wholeheartedly support this work of Pact and their*

generous volunteers and commend you and your families to the protection and intercession of Mary, the Mother of Jesus.'

Would you like to learn more?

This is what being a 'Visiting Mum' volunteer involves: Fully trained volunteers, alongside the Pact Coordinator, will firstly visit HMP Styal in Wilmslow, Cheshire, to meet mum, and then visit the family home in North Wales to meet family members and to offer support.

This role requires availability on a Tuesday or Thursday with the occasional Saturday or Sunday to fit in with the prison's visiting times. The average volunteer time-commitment is a full day of 7.5hrs and a minimum of one day a month for a period of six months is also required. Additionally, the role requires the use of the volunteer's own car with mileage paid at 0.45p per mile.

For more information please contact Christine, the North Wales 'Visiting Mum' Coordinator:

christine.buscombe@prisonadvice.org.uk
or you can apply directly at: <http://bttr.im/ijd06>
or www.prisonadvice.org.uk/volunteer

Catechumens and Candidates for the Rite of Reception

Those who, as adults, make that very personal choice to become Christian within the Catholic Church are to be encouraged, supported, and prayed for, by the whole community that elects and welcomes them into the Church. Formally this takes place on the 1st Sunday of Lent at the Rite of Election marking the beginning of the final period of preparation before being admitted to the Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Bishop Peter invites all catechumens and those preparing for Reception into the Catholic Church together with their sponsors and families to these celebrations in the Cathedral. The Rite of Election which forms part of their preparation will be celebrated within the solemn celebration of Evening Prayer of the Church on Sunday 26th February at 3.00 pm.

This will be followed on 27th May by the celebration of a Mystagogy Mass. An opportunity for those 'new' Catholics in the Diocese of Wrexham to share the faith they have in communion with one another and with Bishop Peter, priests, deacons, religious and lay people of the Diocese.

The Little Way of Love

To commemorate 25 years since St Thérèse of Lisieux was made a Doctor of the Universal Church, the Sisters of Dolgellau Carmel have produced a twenty minute film about her Little Way of Love. The Little Way is essentially about living a confident, trusting relationship with God our Father, expecting all things from His goodness, with the loving surrender of a little child. Like little children Thérèse wants us to be poor, humble, trusting, simple and grateful. She encourages us to make little acts of sacrifice and love - anything that costs us - simply to please Jesus. It means embracing your weakness as God's opportunity to manifest His mercy. In weakness we realise we cannot do anything on our own, and it is this that prompts us to unite ourselves to Jesus and ask him to do everything in and through us. This film, set in the Carmel in London, gives an insight into cloistered Carmelite life, and a way of holiness that can be practised by anyone in any walk of life. There are further resources on Prayer from the Carmelite Saints, on Discernment and the Holy Spirit at: <http://carmel-dolgellau.uk>

Aged between 18 and 35?? This is FOR YOU...

Register for World Youth Day 2023

Join Pope Francis in Lisbon in August 2023. a group will travel from July 31st to August 7th. Contact Catherine McCormack at catherine.mccormack@strichardgwyn.flintshire.sch.uk to receive further details. www.lisboa2023.org



Praying with St Beuno's Outreach:



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH
IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

'As one friend to another...'

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



Jesus in the wilderness: a place where the absence of light pollution often gives views of stunning clarity.

Lent is a good time to ask God to help us see with greater clarity too ... to rediscover our true values.

Take a moment to pause and reflect on the image and on the text, from the responsorial psalm at Mass on the First Sunday of Lent (Year A).

We can join with Jesus in praying these words, which he would have known so well himself and prayed from childhood.

'Have mercy on me God in your kindness ... give me again the joy of your help.' Psalm 50 (51)

You may then like to ponder:

Where have I found joy this year?

Where have I experienced God's kindness?

Where might I bring God's help to other people this Lent?

At the end of my prayer, what do I want to say to Jesus?

Speak to him as one friend to another.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 26th February to Saturday 4th March: Week of Guided Prayer by Zoom with St Beuno's Outreach (one-week version)

Sunday 26th February to Saturday 18th March: Week of Guided Prayer by Zoom with St Beuno's Outreach (three-week version)

Monday 3rd April: Praying Holy Week with St Beuno's Outreach, by Zoom, 7pm

(Contact St. Beuno's for the zoom link)

Gospel Year of Matthew

The Temptation of Jesus



Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him: "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ... If you are the Son of God throw yourself down..." "All these I will give you if you fall down and worship me." ... Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! ..."

(Matt.4:1-3, 6, 9-10. ESV-CE)

Whether we gaze with longing into the garden or with fear and trembling into the desert, of this we can be sure – God walked there first! And when we who have sinned and despoiled the garden are challenged now to face the desert, we do not face it alone; Jesus has gone before us to struggle with every demon that has ever plagued a human heart. Face the desert we must if we would reach the garden, but Jesus has gone there before us.

James Healey. From: Starting Point. National Catholic Reporter April 1990

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I recently watched an interview with a Norbertine Priest on the Journey Home Programme on EWTN.

The Priest, Fr Sebastian Walshe, made the suggestion that we should all make a return visit to the Church in which we were Baptised as infants. He suggested a pilgrimage to the actual Font that was used.

At the Font we should quietly renew our Baptismal Promises. A recommitment to our Faith as adults, reflecting on, and being open to the words of Saint John the Baptist, "He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

I think this is a wonderful idea, and should be encouraged, perhaps taking the opportunity of Confession also.

Unfortunately, the Church where I was Baptised is now a block of flats so it is impossible for me, and with closure of Churches, for other people as well.

However, a visit to our Cathedral Font with the desire of a Pilgrim on our Journey of Faith would be equal I'm sure.

Yours etc. (name and address supplied)

YOUTH EVENTS

2023 CYMFED flame

Sponsored by

Join us on Saturday 4 March 2023 at OVO Arena, Wembley for the largest Catholic gathering of young people in England and Wales, Flame Congress.

BOOK NOW

Coaches from Wrexham Diocese

Cost £24 including coach and ticket

To book - contact flame@strichardgwynflint.co.uk by 14th February

The Congress is open to all from 14 to University age. Simply use the email address, and the school (SRG) will contact you.

The Season of Lent

Stations of the Cross during Lent

Every Wednesday evening, from 7pm, the Stations will be prayed **on-line**, via **Zoom**. Give yourself a period of quiet reflection (usually 30 minutes -maximum 40 minutes), at home. Join parishioners and visitors for a special time of grace and prayer. A different 'version' is prayed each week.

How does this work? From 6.55 pm the Zoom link will be open, and you will see a 'static' picture, often St David's Church in Mold. There may be background reflective music -or simply silence! *At this point, please make sure that your microphone is 'muted'*. At 7pm the leader will begin, and lead you through each Station. Usually, a different picture will help you to focus. You may respond or simply pray quietly, as you wish.

At the end of the Stations, there will be silence, and you may either 'leave meeting' or the session will be ended.

But I do not have 'Zoom'!!? That should not be a problem – you can download the 'app' and access Zoom. It is a free app -you do not pay. Type zoom.us/download in your web browser, and choose 'Zoom cloud meetings'. This can be accessed on a PC, a Laptop, a phone, or on ipad.

Please note:

This link will remain the same to provide access to all the Stations, on Wednesdays at 6.55pm. They will be on Ash Wednesday, 22nd Feb, 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March, and 5th April.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7767387912?pwd=dkovd1RvbTNyMTNFQGlReDRlRmJ6dz09>

Meeting ID: 776 738 7912 Passcode: 066559

If you have any problem, please contact the Editor, at clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk but without any guarantee of competence!

Racial Justice Sunday 2023:

All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church.

Let us walk together, pray together, and work together

This year's Racial Justice Sunday falls on 5th February.

The theme "*All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together*" reflects on the role each of us must play in promoting the mission of Christ and his Church. This was inspired by conversations around last year's Racial Justice Sunday and Pope Francis' visit to Canada when he spoke about looking towards a future of 'Justice, healing and reconciliation'.

To mark the day, three video reflections have been produced, highlighting the three sections; Walking together; Praying together; and Working together. A supportive discussion paper has been produced.

Resources also exist for *Made in the image and likeness of God*. This year's resources can be found on the Bishops' Conference website at:

www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday

Please share this link widely in your parish. It is hoped that these resources may additionally be useful throughout the year to provoke discussion and reflection in prayer groups, as well as during preparation for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation.

Parishes can mark the day at Masses on Racial Justice Sunday by praying the following words and including in the Universal Prayer Intercessions an intention for Racial Justice:

**God of our past, present and future,
You created each one of us in your image and likeness
Help us to recognise you in each person
As we pray for end to suffering caused by racism.
Lead us this day
to walk with one another
pray with one another
and work together
so that we create a future based on justice and healing.
where all can fulfil the hope you have for all peoples.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

There may be a retiring collection this day in support of the work of the Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ)

www.carj.org.uk

Anne bids Berwyn a fond farewell

SVP Member and Voluntary Prison Chaplain **Anne Coleman**, said a sad 'Goodbye' to friends and colleagues at HMP Berwyn last Saturday (21st January), when she finally called time after almost seven years of dedicated service.

Anne's decision to 'retire' was, she said, a difficult one but in response to Family pressure to, "slow down and start taking things a little easier." In recent years Anne was making two trips a week to the Wrexham prison – all the way from her home across the Mersey, in Bootle.

Anne was one of the very first volunteers to visit Berwyn when the facility opened in February 2017. She remembers that, "in those days there were often more volunteer visitors than men" attending the new Saturday morning Masses. However, together with colleagues, Anne persisted to a point where, six years on, attendances regularly number seventy men or more!

Together with attending volunteer colleagues and men, Berwyn's Roman Catholic Chaplain, Wally Vella (pictured), paid tribute to Anne and spoke of her love and dedication for the men under her spiritual care.

A small hamper, containing products sourced from her 'Liverpool home', was presented to Anne, with sincere Thanks.



Footnote:

The weekly Saturday Mass at HMP Berwyn is supported by SVP members from Wrexham Diocese, St Werburgh's, Chester, along with Bp Peter, Fr Paul (from St Werburgh's), Canons Francis Doyle and Adrian Wilcock, and Deacon John Goggin.

Prayer Intentions

In the winter season of Ordinary Time, we are invited to pray for these intentions; Victims of Human Trafficking and those who work to combat it (especially 8th February). The Sick and those who care for them (especially 11th February); the Unemployed (especially 19th February).

During Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Candidates for the Sacraments; the Needy and the Hungry of the World, Women; Penitents and Wanderers (Those preparing the Universal Prayer (General Intercessions or Bidding Prayers) throughout the year will find a useful resource on the Liturgy Office web-site in the draft intentions for the special days of prayer www.liturgyoffice.org.uk as well as clear information about the correct form and structure of the general intercessions.)

Cycle of Prayer -



LORETO SPIRITUALITY CENTRE

‘Come away and rest awhile...’

Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary
IBVM
Loreto Sisters

Our Foundress, Mary Ward was born in Yorkshire in 1585, a time of deep religious division and persecution. Surrounded by courageous women of strong faith, she realised the contribution that women make to the Church and society. She pioneered a new, apostolic way for women religious, on mission with Christ, meeting the needs of their times. With companions who shared her vision, she opened schools for girls, and to this day her sisters continue to provide education and care for many girls in areas of greatest poverty and deprivation both here and worldwide.

The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius are central to our life, as was made clear to Mary Ward that this must be the foundation stone of her Institute. Retreat work is therefore a significant part of our mission, as we constantly search for new ways to respond to the spiritual hunger of our times, and to provide people with the means by which to deepen their relationship with God.

The dynamic of the Exercises leads us to a desire to respond to the call of Christ in our present world. With Mary Ward's challenge to live lives of 'justice, freedom and verity' our boundaries are virtually limitless. We can use all we have for God's service. We are often uncertain of the way ahead, and unclear about the work we have to do. Yet we find courage in the knowledge that this was Mary Ward's predicament too – and we are inspired by her continuous trust and desire to respond to the will of God, in the face of all obstacles.

For a detailed account of Mary Ward's life visit:

<https://www.ibvm.org/>

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

Loreto in Llandudno - In 1919, the Loreto sisters founded a house in Llandudno which became a boarding and day school. When the boarding school closed in 1970 and the day school was handed over to the diocese and moved to other premises, the buildings began to be used for other purposes. This was the beginning of Loreto Spirituality Centre.

More recently, the community moved to a new building which is named Loreto House. The old convent site was then refurbished to become the new home for Loreto Centre.



Loreto Spirituality Centre in Llandudno is five minutes walk from the west shore and at the base of the Great Orme. It is run by the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto Sisters).

We offer residential accommodation and days of prayer for those would like to 'come away and rest a while'. Our programmed events are diverse, to suit a variety of needs, and everyone is welcome. We can also accommodate those who would like some quiet time and respite from ministry. We also welcome parish groups who come with their own programme, and we have a well-equipped conference room which can be booked for a day event or on a residential basis.

For more information, please visit our website: www.loretocentre.org.uk, and to contact us please email loretocentre@yahoo.co.uk, or phone us on 01492 878031.

OUR PROGRAMME 2023

Day Events

Loreto Days

A **Day of Prayer** once a month for those who wish to come away for a few hours. The next one will be on February 11th.

Residential Retreats and Courses

During Lent and Holy Week:

Triduum - led by Fr Nicholas King SJ, with the theme of *Praying Matthew's Gospel in Lent*.
20-24 March

Holy Week Retreat - *an opportunity to experience the Holy Week Liturgies in the context of a prayerful retreat*
5-9 April

Coming up later in 2023, our events include:

Lord, teach us to pray –

A retreat for beginners

Living Theology Summer School

Praying with our story,

-Interconnected with Scripture Texts

Finding Life in an era of change

Community Church – a film retreat

Visio Divina – praying with the camera or mobile phone

Space to Grieve – retreat for those recently bereaved

Praying with Julian of Norwich

Plus preached and individually guided silent retreats.

For more details about these events please see www.loretocentre.org.uk

Around and About in the Diocese

School Governors and Members of Diocesan Commissions

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese and also the Diocesan Commissions are always in need of people to join them as volunteers to uphold the ethos and teaching of the Catholic Church as well as to assist and advise schools' management leaders and the clergy of the Diocese. If you have professional skills you are able to offer, or just the interest and commitment to help and act as a critical friend to further the work of the Church in the Diocese please let Bishop Peter know. Some roles require safeguarding checks (DBS) to be carried out.

If you want to know more or can offer yourself please contact Bishop Peter's PA, Dominique Gresty pa@rcdwxm.org.uk with your expression of interest; there are times when there may be no vacancy for the particular role for which you are offering yourself: if that is the case, you may be asked to 'sit tight' for a while or be invited to consider another option, but please know your offer is always valued.

Marriage & Family Life

Wedding Anniversaries – Will you, or will someone you know either in your family or parish, celebrate a significant wedding anniversary this coming year? Have you got married in the last year? Bishop Peter would like to hear from anyone who will be celebrating their 1st, 25th, 40th, 50th 60th or any subsequent or significant wedding anniversary during 2023. Please send names, anniversary and contact details as soon as possible to Jeanie Larkin, Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Coordinator c/o Bishops House, Sontley Road, Wrexham. LL13 7EW. Or by email: mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk or by phone 07542 268728. Your details will only be used in connection with the Celebration.

*Mass in Celebration of Marriage
and Married Life*

ALL ARE WELCOME

SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2023
AT 12 MIDDAY

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS, WREXHAM

Please let us know if you are celebrating a special anniversary this year
and for more information, contact Jeanie Larkin:
mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk or 07542 268728

Events and Invitations

Looking Ahead -

Thursday 2nd February

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

Sunday 5th February.

Racial Justice Day

Wednesday 8th February –

St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin.

Day of Special Prayer for Victims of Human

Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it.

Mass for Victims of Modern Slavery – 12noon Cathedral

Saturday 11th February –

Our Lady of Lourdes.

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

Mass for the Sick & celebration of the Sacrament of

Anointing – 12noon. Cathedral.

Read the Holy Father's Message at:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20230110-giornata-malato.html>

Saturday 18th February

Celebration of Marriage

Wednesday 22nd February

Ash Wednesday. A day marked by Fasting and Abstinence.

Sunday 26th February

First Sunday of Lent.

Rite of Election

Wednesday 1st March

Solemnity of S. David, Bishop.

Patron of Wales & Patron of Wrexham Diocese

Friday 3rd March

CAFOD Lent Family fast Day

Women's World Day of Prayer

Saturday 4th March

FLAME '23 London (see poster in this issue)

Friday-Saturday 17th -18th March

24 Hours for the Lord

For further information of these events and celebrations please look for the details in your church, on the Diocesan website www.rcdwxm.org.uk or ask your priests.

How to access websites and emails listed in 'Clarion'

Using the version which you have received 'on-line', simply click on the web address or email address, which is underlined and (sometimes) italicised.

The website or email will then appear on your screen.

Remember, to read the 'Clarion' in larger size, simply increase the image.

To print, you can print in colour or greyscale on the printer settings

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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, or by signing up on the Diocesan website.

To register for your copy individually, please sign up on the Diocesan website at www.rcdwxm.org.uk



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

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

February

01	6.30pm	Confirmation	Colwyn Bay
08	12noon	Modern Slavery Mass	Cathedral – St. Josephine Bakhita
	6.30pm	Mass	Bangor Chaplaincy Feast of St Thomas Aquinas
10	6.30pm	Induction of Fr Vimalarajan Parunanthu OMI	Colwyn Bay
11	12noon	Mass for the Sick	Cathedral
18	12noon	Mass for the Celebration of Marriage	Cathedral
21		Episcopal Ordination of Mgr Canon Philip Moger	Southwark
22	12noon	Ash Wednesday	Cathedral
26	3.00pm	Rite of Election	Cathedral
28	12noon	Chapter Mass	Cathedral

March

01.	12noon	St. David's Feast Day Mass	Cathedral
08.	12.30pm	Overseas Clergy Meeting	Pwllheli
09	7.00pm	Confirmation	Llandudno
17-18		24 Hours for the Lord	
21	1.30pm	Board of Trustees' Meeting	Bp's House

April

05	7.00pm	Chrism Mass	Cathedral
06	7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	Cathedral
07	3.00pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	Cathedral
08		Easter Vigil	Cathedral
09	10.30am	Easter Day Mass	Cathedral

Children's Corner

The Way of the Cross

During Lent, we pray the 'Stations' -it derives from Latin (sto, stare, steti, statum -to stand). These are the places where Jesus may have stood for a moment, and each 'station' explains the reason.

Every Catholic Church has an artistic interpretation of each station, many are drawings or paintings, so why not draw your own? Think of how people today may suffer as Jesus did...

Each week in Lent ending in Holy Week, create TWO stations, based on your own ideas.....

More important than a picture, however, is to imagine a short prayer, or a situation which explains each station. For example, we don't know if Jesus did 'fall' three times, but WE do fall. Perhaps our 'fall' is when we were unkind, or we sinned against a friend, or told a deliberate lie (Station 3). Perhaps our own 'Simon of Cyrene' is when a friend has helped us out of difficulty and has stood by us (Station 5). Perhaps we have seen a friend stripped of dignity by unkind words or bullying at school, or on Twitter and Instagram. Or perhaps another person has forwarded a photo without permission. They have lost all 'protection' (Station 10) ... What did we do to help? -or not? (Station 11) Look at the list and choose Two stations each week. They will then be YOUR **Stations of the Cross**

'Laudato Si' -

Latest news from COP

In December last, the UN Biodiversity Conference took place with 195 countries signing the BioDiversity Framework.

Plans are:

- To protect 30% of land and water by 2030
- To 'mobilise' \$200bn per year by 2030
- To maintain, enhance, restore ecosystems, halting species extinction and maintaining genetic diversity
- To ensure provision of food, clean water for humanity
- To ensure fair sharing of resources eg medicines from plants
- To protect indigenous peoples' rights
- To put money in to biodiversity and ensure correct placement according to need.

75% of the earth's surface, and 60% of marine environment has already degraded. Half the coral reefs have disappeared, and 85% of wetlands degraded.

Achievement requires:

- Reducing the risk of use of pesticides and hazardous chemical by half by 20-30
- Sustainable consumption choices to halve global food waste by 2030
- Monitoring impacts of biodiversity by companies is 'encouraged'

More details can be available from the 'Laudato Si' Animators Writing Group

Society of Saint Gregory –

Taking Liturgy Seriously 2 (2023)

Following the success of the first year of the course, the Society has now prepared for a second year, starting this month. The focus will be on the Eucharist, exploring its theology, scriptures, the words in prayer, symbolism, music, and our environment. The six topics will facilitate a deeper appreciation and understanding of what is at the heart of our Catholic faith. More information is available at:

www.ssg.org.uk or email : liturgycourse@ssg.org.uk

"Liturgy is not incidental, nor is it to be taken casually."

Cardinal Arthur Roche, Prefect of the Dicastery for Divine Worship

The Traditional Stations:

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus takes up the cross
3. Jesus falls for the first time
4. Jesus meets his mother
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls a second time
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus dies on the cross
13. Jesus is taken down from the cross
14. Jesus is laid in the sepulchre

Many people now add:

15. Jesus rises from the dead