Issue no 47
October 2026

Wrecsam 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, fully into autumn in the Northern Hemisphere, and we prepare for the shedding of leaves. One of the significant days is the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. Thus October is seen as a Marian month.

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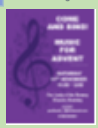
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Photos in public domain

OCTOBER SPECIALS!

SAINT RICHARD GWYN PILGRIMAGE SUNDAY 18th

The Annual Pilgrimage in honour of St. Richard Gwyn will be celebrated at 3.00pm in the Cathedral. After Mass will be the blessing with the relic, and opportunity for veneration.

This Diocesan pilgrimage celebrates a significant local martyr, saint and first of the Reformation martyrs in Wales who was a schoolmaster, teacher, husband and father, an example in faith and hope to us all but especially to all lay people.

You are invited to join in celebration of, and thanksgiving for, his life and witness given that we might have the freedom to practise, live and witness to our faith without fear, let or hindrance to-day

HEALTH-CARERS MASS – FRIDAY 23rd

If you are involved in healthcare in any way, as clinician, auxiliary or ancillary, manager or Trust Board member, chaplaincy volunteer, or home carer, you are invited to the celebration of Mass at 7.00pm in St. Mary's Cathedral on Friday 23rd October, (following the feast of St. Luke, the previous Sunday)

Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwxm.org.uk

Bishop's Column

This Sunday - 4th October - is the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi and were it not a Sunday, we would be celebrating his feast day in this ***Jubilee Year of St. Francis*** proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV. There is still much we can take from his life to inspire us in our discipleship and also in the plain common sense of how to live on this earth.

In declaring 2026 to be a special 'Year of St Francis', Pope Leo said we are all called to become saints in our world, following St Francis' example. We are called to model a holiness of life and witness to peace. "*This Year of St Francis spurs all of us, each according to our possibilities to imitate the poor man of Assisi, to form ourselves as far as possible on the model of Christ... may the hope that has seen us as pilgrims [in the Jubilee Year 2025] now be transformed into zeal and fervour of active charity.*"

At the beginning of the Year in January the Apostolic Penitentiary wrote *"This Year of Saint Francis should encourage all of us, each according to his or her own possibilities, to imitate the Poor Man of Assisi".* What message does the life of Saint Francis offer to modern man?

The biography of Saint Francis shows that true imitation of Christ is not based on declarations or ideas, but on a concrete and real lifestyle rooted in the Gospel. He reminds us of the timeless value of poverty and simplicity. By renouncing wealth and social prestige, Francis showed that freedom of heart is born of detachment from material goods. For today's person, living in a world of consumerism, this is an extremely timely invitation to moderation, responsible use of goods, and placing God and neighbour above material possessions: it is a matter of "being" more than "having."

In our time, when faith is often superficial or reduced to emotions and experiences, his attitude also encourages consistency between faith and daily life, and witness given through actions rather than only words or feelings. St. Francis teaches active and fraternal love, especially towards the weakest, the poor, and the marginalised. His life was a response to indifference and sometimes to selfishness—problems just as evident today, when interpersonal relationships tend to flatten and "the virtual prevails over reality."

Not least, St. Francis also shows that peace is born from a converted heart, not from self-interested declarations or compromises without truth. In a world marked by conflicts, social violence, and insecurity, his life is a call to build peace based on the Gospel of Christ, the only Redeemer of humanity!

The three 'P's that we can take from Francis' life that could be observed in our own are: embrace evangelical **p**overty; to build **p**eace; and to **p**erceive with the eyes of the Lord. In the continuing concerns about climate change, the environment, and creation, Francis' humble discipleship, underpinned by prayer, is one that is within the grasp of us all for it is not our human endeavours, less still our strength, that builds and bring to fulfilment the kingdom of God, but of our allowing God to be at work in us, transforming and restoring us to be the children of his that we are called to be.

The exhortation Francis heard in 1205 while at prayer near the church of San Damiano, "*Francis, go and repair my church which, as you see, is all in ruins!*" he mistakenly understood to be about the stone and mortar of a building rather than the church that is the body of Christ.

This same exhortation is for us also to hear and to which we are to respond; thus my question in *Into the Future IV,* - "What is my mission, that of my parish, and of the Diocese?

With all good wishes and the assurance of my continued prayer for you all,

† Peter.

As detailed in the September issue of Clarion, there is a special weekend of events in North Wales this weekend 3rd-4th October, including a Quiet Day and a joyful Transitus service in Bangor Cathedral on Saturday 3rd October.

Can you name who uttered these 'Last Words'?

1. "I am on my way to God, and I commend you all to his favour" (FA, c1181-1226)
2. "It is not my design to drink or to sleep, but my design is to make what haste I can to be gone" (OC 1599-1658)
3. "You must pardon me, gentlemen, for being a most unconscionable time a-dying" (after "Let not poor Nelly starve") (C 1630-1685)
4. "Die, my dear Doctor? That's the last thing I shall do" (HP 1784-1865)
5. (Epitaph) - "I told you I was ill" (SM 1918-2002)
6. "I am just going outside and may be some time" (LO 1880-1912)
7. "I believe that a life lived for music is an existence spent wonderfully, and this is what I have dedicated my life to " (LP, 1935-2007)
8. "Don't die like I did" (GB 1946-2005)
9. "I'd rather be skiing" (SL, 1890-1965)
10. "This is no way to live" (GM, 1890-1977)
11. "Goodbye, kid. Hurry back" (HB 1899-1957)

Answers on the next page….

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.

© franciscanfriars.org/2026

As you look at this painting of the death of St Francis by Giotto (*c.* 1325), you may like to read, ponder and pray this account of his last moments by St Bonaventure, then Minister General of the Franciscan Order. It comes from his text *Legenda Major*, written *c.* 1260:

As the moment of his death drew near, the saint had all the friars who were there called to his side; he spoke to them gently with fatherly affection, consoling them for his death and exhorting them to love God.

He mentioned especially poverty and patient endurance and the necessity of holding to the faith of the holy Roman Church and gave the Gospel pre-eminence over any other rule of life. The friars were grouped about him and he stretched out his arms over them in the form of a cross, because he loved the sign, and blessed all the friars, both present and absent, in the power and in the name of the Crucified.

Then he added, 'I bid you goodbye, all you my sons, in the fear of God. Remain in Him always. There will be trials and temptations in the future, and it is well for those who persevere in the life they have undertaken. I am on my way to God, and I commend you all to his favour.' When he had finished his inspiring admonition, … as best he could, he intoned the psalm, With all my voice I cry to you, Lord … (Psalm 142) and recited it all, down to the last verse.

When all God's mysteries had been accomplished in him, his holy soul was freed from his body and assumed into the abyss of God's glory, and Francis fell asleep in God.

Sunday 4th October is the feast day of St Francis of Assisi – a day that receives special attention this year, as we celebrate the 800th anniversary of his death in 1226. On the eve of his death on Saturday 3rd October, the Franciscan family throughout the world will pause to mark his journey from this life to the next by observing the 'Transitus' (from the Latin *transire*, which means 'to come across, to pass over') – a memorial service that often includes a reenacting of his final hours, storytelling, and singing. It is a tradition that keeps alive the spirituality that Francis and his early companions left us.

With Pope Leo, and in union with all the members of the Franciscan family, you may like to read the following prayer slowly, remembering St Francis and all those who over the years have followed him, trying to live in poverty, humility, mercy and peace.

Saint Francis, our brother,
you who, eight hundred years ago
went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace,
intercede for us before the Lord …
You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war
and misunderstanding,
give us the courage to build bridges
where the world raises up boundaries.
In this time afflicted by conflict and division,
intercede for us
so that we may become peacemakers:
unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that
comes from Christ.
Pax et Bonum ***Amen***

Another date for your diary

On Saturday 24th October, St Beuno's Outreach invites you to a Day of Prayer, Reflection, Sharing and Growth entitled 'Here I am Lord, send me'. This is for all lay people involved in the life of the Church and will be held at St Beuno's Spirituality Centre from 10 am to 4.30 pm, ending with Mass. Please do join us if you can: all are most welcome! Places are offered on a first come, first served basis: ring 01745 586725: or email us at stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com to book yours.

You can find more Outreach resources at www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com, including the weekly Prego and Prego Plus leaflets.

Answers to "Who uttered these Last Words?":

1. Read the full text, above! **Francis of Assisi**.
2. **Oliver Cromwell** 1658
3. **King Charles II** "Nelly" being Nell Gwynne.
4. **Lord Henry Palmerston.**
5. **Spike Milligan.** This is written on his tombstone
6. **Captain Lawrence Oates** on the ill-fated Scott Expedition to the Antarctic
7. **Luciano Pavarotti**

"Last Words" – continued

8. **George Best** Footballer, suffered much alcoholism
9. **Stan Laurel,** of the Laurel and Hardy comedy duo
10. **Groucho Marx** known for his quips and one-liners
11. **Humphrey Bogart.** Spoken to his wife, Lauren Bacall. She briefly left his hospital bedside to go and pick up their children. When she returned shortly afterwards, he was unconscious.

Gospel Year of Matthew

The Question about Paying Taxes

The Pharisees sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, . . .
'Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?'
But Jesus was aware of their malice, said,
'Why put me to the test, you hypocrites?
Show me the coin for the tax.'
And they brought him a denarius.
And Jesus said to them,
'Whose likeness and inscription is this?'
They said, 'Caesar's.'
He said to them,
'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'

Matthew 22:16a, 17b-21 *ESV-CE*

Prayerful Reflection:

In the New Testament we are reminded in 1 Corinthians 11.12 that all things come from God. This picks up a theme from the Old Testament from 1 Chronicles 29.14: 'all things come from you, and of your own have we given you'. All that we appear to have does not belong to us outright. We are custodians of that which God has given us, for the purposes he intends. This is sometimes known as the 'universal destination of the goods'. Where taxation is a means to use the gifts that God has given us for the purpose for which he has given them, a theology of taxation sees the redistribution of wealth via the tax system as one means of delivering goods to those from who God intends them, of which we have been granted the privilege of being custodians.

'In God we tax? Theology and taxing for the common good'

Simon Cuff. The Church Action for Tax Justice and JustShare Debate 12 Apr 2019

For a greater consideration of tax and taxation you can refer to '*Render unto Caesar*'

The document offers 12 insightful chapters from economists, academics and experts in the field, covering a wide range of topics, such as the principles that should underlie taxation from a Catholic-Christian perspective, taxation and the family, and the moral implications of tax avoidance and tax evasion.

Render unto Caesar aims to help inform government policy by blending moral principles with economic analysis. As well as examining the principles on which a tax system should be based, it also looks at how they can be applied given the many challenges Western countries face – ageing populations, changing patterns of family life, increased conflicts, environmental challenges, and the consequent huge fiscal pressures.

For the full document:
https://www.cbcew.org.uk/render-unto-caesar/

Commentary:

22:19 'the coin'/ a 'denarius': A coin stamped with the profile portrait of Tiberius Caesar, the Roman Emperor (A.D. 14-37). This tax was especially offensive to the Jews, who knew that God forbade the fashioning of graven images in the likeness of any created thing as stated in the Ten Commandments. (ex.20:4)

22:21 'Caesar's . . . God's': Jesus evades the intended trap with a subtle and riddle-like response. His words have several implications. i. At one level, Jesus plays on the word "likeness" (literally, "image"). Caesar's coins could be given back to him in taxes without religious compromise, after all he minted the coins with his own image and they were his rightful property. ii. More important, everyone has the duty of giving himself-created in the "image" of God (Gen1:27)- back to God. Jesus implies this higher duty is incumbent even upon Caesar. iii. Jesus' response turns his adversaries trap back on themselves. He hints that taxation is the result of their own sins – had Israel been giving to God his due, they would not have been subjected to the yoke of Roman rule. iv. In the end Jesus affirms the propriety of fulfilling civil duties, while emphasising our primary duty of serving God. (cf. Rom.13:1-7, 1Pet.2:13-17).

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – October

For mental health ministry.

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses or handicap.

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,
the Fruits of Human Work and the Reverent Use of Creation;
Justice and Peace in the World;
All Victims of War; Young People;
Prisoners and their Families.

ADOREMUS 2026

The 2026 National Eucharistic Congress next weekend Saturday-Sunday 10th-11th October is the Bishops' invitation to renew our devotion to the Eucharistic Lord.

There are two main strands to the *Adoremus* National Eucharistic Congress in 2026.

In London, there will be a representative gathering of the Church with bishops, priests, and people. No less important is how *Adoremus* is marked in our parishes throughout England and Wales. Local Masses, processions of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hours will unite these local events with the national gathering. Footage from the London event will be made available to enable remote participation. The whole event will be on-line for you to participate in part or in full with all that is going on in London.

Now is the time for your parish to be thinking about your participation and initial arrangements about an Holy Hour at least on that day. Resources are available.

The programme for the London Day which includes a Blessed Sacrament Procession from Southwark Cathedral to Westminster Cathedral can be seen: https://www.cbcew.org.uk/adoremus-2026/

PRISONERS' SUNDAY– 11TH OCTOBER

The theme for 2026 is "I was in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:36) This day is the national Catholic day of prayer and action for prisoners and their families and marks the beginning of the ecumenical Prisons Week, 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. In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus makes it clear that a life worthy of the reward of Heaven must involve actively helping people in need – "I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Pact (The Prison Advice & Care Trust) is the national Catholic prison charity which supports prisoners, people with convictions, and their families. Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, they believe in the dignity of every person and in the possibility of a fresh start. Many parishes choose to support the work of Pact with a collection which is very much appreciated and valued. Leaflets and envelopes for individual contributions are available, as is further information, resources and prayers: www.prisonadvice.org.uk

SEASON OF CREATION

Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

The Season of Creation is a global ecumenical celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home, starting each year on 1st September and closes on the feast of St Francis, 4th October.

The Biblical text for this year is drawn from Ezekiel 47: 1- 12, which portrays God's life-giving water flowing from the temple of God. The river grows deeper and deeper restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems. The vision invites human responsibility: recognising ecological damage, embracing interconnectedness, we are called to immerse ourselves in the water, and actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together.

https://laudatosimovement.org/news/season-of-creation-2026

For more information: Season of Creation - Catholic Bishops' Conference which includes Pope Leo XIV's Message for the 2026 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, on the theme "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (Is 2:4). Message of the Holy Father on the occasion of the 11th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation [1 September 2026] (15 August 2026)

This year perhaps more than any other we have experienced the inconvenience of some water shortage but globally water is becoming a more and more scarce resource the consequences of which are that more people are at risk from poor health, hunger and hygiene disasters

WORLD MISSION DAY – 18th OCTOBER

World Mission Sunday is a day set aside for the Catholic Church throughout the world publicly to renew its commitment to the missionary movement, coordinated by the Pontifical Mission Societies, who are also known as *Missio*.

Pope Leo chose the theme '**One in Christ, United in Mission'** to celebrate 100 years of World Mission Sunday and wrote: *'The church's primary missionary responsibility is to renew and sustain spiritual and fraternal unity among its members. The evangelising mission that Christ entrusted to his disciples requires, above all, hearts that are reconciled and eager for communion.'*

The full text is of the message is available at Message of the Holy Father for the 100th World Mission Day 2026 [18 October 2026] (25 January 2026)

On World Mission Sunday, we are called to celebrate the mission God has given us – his missionary Church. Being 'one in Christ' calls us to keep our gaze fixed on the Lord, so that he may truly be at the centre of our lives and communities, the centre of every word and action and interpersonal relationship, leading us to say with amazement: 'It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.' (Galatians 2:20).

Resources and prayers at: www.missio.org.uk/wms

There is a mandatory collection to-day in support of *Missio*

In the Spotlight

60 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

Sixty years of faith, friendship and community in Dolgellau.

The Church of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, Dolgellau celebrates 60 years, 1966-2026.

For the story of Fr Scalpell, and the church, see Clarion issue 46, September 2026

Bishop, Clergy, Parishioners, Deanery with Ministers of Churches and Chapels of Dolgellau, and the Maltese Community, came together in Dolgellau for a celebration of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Catholic Church.

The Jubilee celebration, was to give thanks for six decades of faith, worship and community life in Dolgellau. The Bishop concelebrated with parish priest Rev Dr Michael O. Madu and visiting clergy.

Father Francis Joseph Scalpell was especially remembered for his determination and faith to build the church. Father Scalpell devoted years to raising the funds, writing thousands of appeal letters and inspiring supporters far beyond the town. One particularly special part of the anniversary was the presence of the family of **Jack Moran of Crosby, Liverpool**, one of Father Scalpell's most devoted friends and supporters.

Jack's extraordinary association with Dolgellau began after hearing about a collection for a poor priest in Wales. He subsequently cycled from Crosby to Dolgellau to meet Father Scalpell, beginning a friendship that would last for many years. Jack regularly made the long journey by bicycle to support Father Scalpell's work, bought him the gold pen with which he wrote thousands of fundraising letters, and later undertook an 80-mile sponsored walk in support of the celebrations marking Father Scalpell's 40 years of association with Dolgellau. He also organised three coaches to bring supporters from Liverpool. The presence of Jack's daughter Trish and members of the Moran family made the Jubilee particularly poignant, linking today's congregation directly with the extraordinary story behind the building of the church.

After Mass the celebrations included the cutting of a specially made 60th anniversary cake. A Special Collection for Charity – Jesuit Refugee Service – was carried out in memory of Fr Francis Scalpell. The Jesuit Refugee Service is an international Catholic organisation which accompanies, serves and advocates for refugees and other forcibly displaced people, offering practical support, friendship and hope to those who have been forced to leave their homes. The collection provided a fitting way to honour Fr Scalpell's memory by continuing the Christian values of compassion, service and care for those in need that were so important to his priestly life.

As the congregation looked back over sixty years, the celebration also looked towards the future — ensuring that the legacy created by Father Scalpell, Jack Moran and countless parishioners continues for generations to come.

Around and About in the Diocese

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

October

02. 6.00pm	Cn Francis Doyle Silver Jubilee Mass,	Buckley
09 6.00pm	Induction of Dom Alexander Austin OSB	Prestatyn
11 10.30am	Prisoners' Sunday	Cathedral
13 12 Noon	Chapter Mass	Cathedral
14 6.00 pm	Induction of Fr Pontius Bandua, AJ	Llay
16 10.45am	St Richard Gwyn Patronal Feast Day Mass	SRG School
18 3.00pm	St Richard Gwyn Pilgrimage Mass	Cathedral
20 5.30pm	Clergy Finance Day	Llay
21 6.00pm	Commissioning of Acolyte Patrick Morton	St Anne's
23 7.00pm	Health Carers' ('Medical') Mass	Cathedral
24 10.00am - 4.00pm	Visit of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima	Buckley
26 7.00pm	Presbyteral Council Meeting	Loreto
27-29	Diocesan Clergy Conference	Loreto

November

01 10.30am	All Saints	Cathedral
02 9.00am	All Soul	Cathedral
03 12 Noon	St Winefride Mass - Expired Foundation Donors	Cathedral

DIOCESAN FINANCE REPORTING

On Tuesday 20th 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). On completion of the external audit of the Diocesan Accounts for the Year 2025-26 a summary will be published in CLARION. The full accounts will be found on the Charity Commission website.

ST. WINEFRIDE'S SHRINE AND WELL, HOLYWELL

Part-time appointment:

St. Winefride's Shrine and Well is growing in popularity as a place of prayer, devotion and historic interest. The pattern of pilgrims and visitors follows a broadly seasonal and weekly pattern which means that more staff are required at some peak times in the week and year and to provide holiday or absence cover for the established staff.

Would you be interested in being part of a supply pool of part time staff prepared to be called upon as and when required, possibly at short notice? Initial induction, training and familiarisation would be given. The Shrine is an important window on the history and heritage of the Church in Wales as well as a living place of faith and evangelisation.

If you are interested and have a few hours you could give from time to time as requested please contact Rebecca Garratt with an expression of interest and sufficient personal information for us to get back to you with more details. Age, young or old is not a barrier, but mobility is essential due to the nature of the site and the work.

Please email: chiefoperatingofficer@rcdwxm.org.uk

The Diocese of Wrexham is a Living Wage employer.

Events and Invitations

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

OCTOBER

Fri 2nd Cn Francis Doyle Silver Jubilee Mass Our Lady of the Rosary, Buckley
11th-17th. Prisons Week
Sun 11th Prisoners' Sunday
Tue 13th Meeting Cathedral Canons/Chapter Mass

Fri 16th World Food Day
Sun 18th 100th World Mission Day St.Richard Gwyn Pilgrimage, Wrexham
Fri 23rd Health Carers' ('Medical') Mass

NOVEMBER Month of the Rosary

Sun 1st Solemnity of All Saints
Mon 2nd Commemoration of the Faithful departed.
Sun 8th Remembrance Sunday
Sun 15th World Day of the Poor- 'The Lord is the Refuge of the Poor
Wed 18th Red Wednesday – ACN awareness raising for those persecuted for their faith
Sun 22nd Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.
Youth Sunday
Sun 29th. First Sunday in Advent

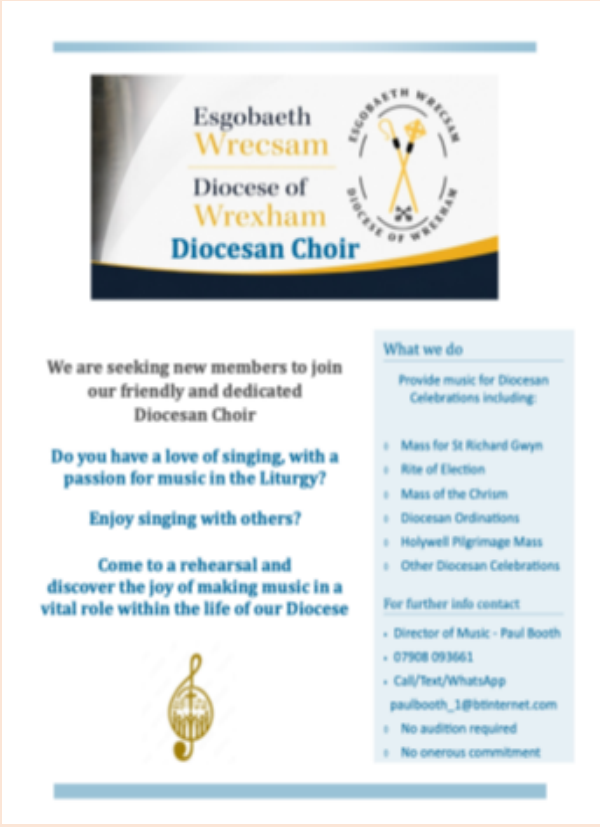
WREXHAM FILIPINO SOCIETY UK

On Saturday 5th September the Filipino community in and around Wrexham celebrated the Silver Jubilee of its presence here. In 2000 the NHS specifically recruited nurses from the Philippines and fifty came to each of the District General Hospitals in North Wales- Wrexham Maelor, Glan Clwyd and Bangor. Since then, others too have come and now without them in our hospitals and nursing homes life would less good for the patients and residents. Over that time many have settled here and married making Wrexham and N.Wales their home, such that the Jubilee celebration, a cultural gala had the title "Homecoming". A wonderful evening of cultural heritage in song, dance, memories and food was hosted by and for the Filipino community and very many friends. We add our congratulations and gratitude to the community for leaving their homeland and making their home here enriching our Church communities in so many ways but especially with their faith and joy and dedication.

A wise old owl sat on an oak.
The more he saw, the less he spoke.
The less he spoke, the more he heard.
Why aren't we like that wise old bird?
(Edward Henry Richards)

Love your enemy -it will drive him nuts *(Eleanor Doan)*

Speaking without thinking is shooting without aiming
(WG Benham)



St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

What we do

Conference members, motivated by faith, help support the vulnerable, visit the lonely and much more. At the heart of our work, we make it our mission to be there, in-person for those who need us most, working with kindness and care. We help anyone experiencing poverty at any point before, during or after a crisis. Our volunteer members visit and help anyone in need, regardless of faith, ethnicity, status or sexual orientation.

We are actively looking for more people of all ages to join us and share their gifts and talents. If interested in finding out more, please contact your parish SVP representative in the first instance or if your parish doesn't currently have an active SVP conference, please contact Sue Roberts (Wrexham Central Council) :SusanR@svp.org.uk 07715 580251

CHRISTIAN ART

Christian Art offers a unique approach to daily Gospel readings. Each day, a work of art relevant to the day's scripture passage is selected and a short reflection on the two are offered. Written by Patrick van der Vorst a Roman Catholic priest for the Diocese of Westminster, London and a former Director of Sotheby's London, Christian Art's mission is to draw people closer to God through the magnificent pairing of art and the Christian faith.
https://christian.art

From The Wrexham Diocese Eco-Network Group..

B Corporations (B Corp for Short)

Have you heard about B Corps, or B Corporations, in the media? What are they and why are we focusing on this in the Season of Creation?

We hear a lot about the negative aspects of businesses, especially big businesses, not only in relation to climate change but in terms of financial profits at the expense of exploited environments, resources and the people employed by those businesses.

Not all businesses are like this. Many not only have a different business ethic but have sincere credentials in caring for the environment and especially the conditions of employment of their workers. They look to the creation of an economic system that is at once inclusive, equitable and regenerative.

Thousands of businesses across the globe have achieved at least a minimum standard of measurable factors that enable them to obtain what's called B Corp Certification. Not only do businesses and companies demonstrate their commitment to the environment through their manufacturing processes and supply chain governance, they also demonstrate their commitment to social sustainability; the working conditions of the people they employ.

They must also be transparent in terms of public scrutiny in all that they do.

It's a growing movement and marks a shift in moral responsibility, a movement away from the profit-driven, exploitative operations that some of the larger companies are often labelled with.

These are the sorts of changes that Pope Francis called businesses, governments and financial institutions to embrace for the benefit of our world, its peoples and its ecosystems.

Why shop for B Corp brands?

When you shop from B Corporations, you're supporting businesses that prioritise ethical labour practices, environmental responsibility, and social good. So perhaps we could look out for B Corp Certificate businesses, services and their goods that we buy confident that they are working towards a better future for all – look out for the B Corp logo on purchases!

If you'd like to know a little more about B Corp and what the movement stands for, here's the website link https://bcorporation.uk/

And a short Prayer we could include in our Prayers of Intercession……

God Our Father, Bless those who courageously set out to redress the balance of economic, financial, environmental and social sustainability for the longer benefit of the world and all its ecosystems.

YSGOL EIN HARGLWYDDES BANGOR
OUR LADY'S SCHOOL

In glorious sunshine and led by a Samba Band pupils, staff, governors, alumni, friends and parishioners processed along Caernarfon Road from the old school to the new to mark a new beginning of Catholic Education in Bangor. The move is not just one of a different building; it is a move from the original Victorian school to a state of the art primary school providing the very best opportunities both inside and out for the children of Bangor in which to learn and grow.

On arrival at the School there was a prayer of blessing of the new building and of all who will learn therein by Bishop Peter accompanied by Fr.Savi. The guests had the opportunity to see the new facilities and then gathered in the Hall for musical presentations by the children and refreshments for all.

This event followed the celebration of Mass in the church of Our Lady and St. James

The formal Opening Ceremony in the presence of national, County and civic dignitaries will take place after the half-term holiday.

"Whatever do they learn in school?"

The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mum looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

Another Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?"
Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."

After explaining the commandment to honour your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters. One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

A mother was preparing pancakes for her young sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait." The oldest boy turned to his younger brother and said, "You be Jesus."

Razor sharp wit….

"Mummy, do men ever go to heaven?" asked the little girl.
"Why, yes of course they do", answered her mother. "Why do you ask?"
"Because I have never seen an angel with whiskers", said the girl.
"Well," replied the mother. "Some men do go to heaven, but they only get there by a close shave!"

THE BACK PAGE
A 'gallimaufry of serendipity'

Saints of October - *A Polish influence!*

5th **St Maria Faustina Kowalska** Born 1905 in Krakow, became a nun against her parents' wishes. Claims a vision of Christ, 'in a white robe, with red and pale rays emanating from his heart. She said she was to name Low Sunday as 'Divine Mercy Sunday"

6th **St Bruno of Cologne.** Founded the Carthusian order in 1084. Adviser to his student Pope Urban II. Contemplative, and self-effacing, his 'mortuary roll' with 178 commendations is one of the best preserved. The French Charterhouse is better known as La Grande Chartreuse, even today makers of the 'green' liqueur

9th **St John Henry Newman.** An Anglican priest, he joined the Oxford Movement, and became Catholic in 1845. Founded the Oratory, London and Birmingham. Canonised in 2019, and a Doctor of the Church by Leo XIV in 2025.

14th **St Callistus I** A slave, in charge of money, he fled when it was lost. He became pope in 217, but denounced by Hippolytus who wanted to be pope. Perhaps killed in an uprising.

15th **St Teresa of Jesus** (of Avila). Became a Carmelite, and had visions and heard voices. First woman to be pronounced Doctor of the Church, as a result of her writings.

16th **St Richard Gwyn.** Teacher, Parent, and a saint of this diocese. Patron of the Diocese, and of the first Catholic Secondary school in North Wales.

16th **St Margaret Mary Alacoque.** Had visions of Christ himself, mainly showing his heart. Thus began veneration of the **Sacred Heart.** Lived in the convent at **Paray-le-Monial**. She began the First Friday devotions.

17th **St Ignatius of Antioch.** (d 107) Consecrated bishop by St Peter. Wrote seven treatises on marriage, Trinity, Incarnation, Redemption, and Eucharist.

19th **St Jean de Brébeuf** (d 1649), Jesuit, missionary to Canada. Wrote the 'Huron Carol', or "T'was in the Moon of Wintertime". He named the sport of lacrosse, because the sticks looked like a cross. Martyred in 1649.

22nd **St John Paul II.** Born Karol Wojtyla. First non-Italian pope since Adrian VI (Nicholas Breakspear, the only English pope). Longest serving since St Peter. Having been Archbishop of Krakow, as pope he promulgated Divine Mercy Sunday, after his compatriot, **Maria Faustina.**

23rd **St John of Capistrano.** d.1456. Studied law, and married, but asserted it was not consummated. Became a Franciscan (OFM). Renowned for his preaching. Died of plague.

28th **Sts Simon & Jude.** Jude (Thaddeus) is thought to be a cousin of Jesus. His father Alphaeus the brother of Joseph and his mother Mary Cleophas was a cousin of Mary. **Simon,** better known as the **Zealot.** Brutally killed, their relics are in St Peter's Basilica.

APPOINTMENTS WREXHAM CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

The Bishop Peter is pleased to announce the appointment of two new Cathedral Canons.

Fr. Nicholas Enzama, **A.J.** Cathedral Dean and

Fr. Francis Arinzi Ayogu, M.S.P. Parish Priest of Pwllheli and Porthmadog and Vicar Forane for the Deanery of St. Beuno and St. Garmon.

They will be Installed at the Chapter Mass on Tuesday 13th October at 12noon in St. Mary's Cathedral.

All are welcome to this Mass and there will be a Buffet Reception in the Cathedral Hall after the Mass. If you wish to attend, please advise Rachel the Cathedral Secretary secretarywrexhamcathedral@rcdwxm.org.uk .

As announced in the September issue, the retirement of **Canon Bernard Morgan** and **Canon D. Bernard Lordan**, and the Vicar General **Canon Terry Carr** has necessitated several changes.

VICAR GENERAL

Canon Zbigniew Swoboda, Parish Priest of Wrexham Maelor Parish has been appointed Vicar General.

Fr Andrew Franklin (who is working outside the diocese at Our Lady of the Wayside in Shirley) is now the Vice Chancellor in the particular capacity of Canonical Advisor to the Bishop, the Vicar General and the Chancellor, Deacon David Gozzard.

PARISH PRIESTS

Dom Alexander Austin, OSB, monk of Douai Abbey is appointed as Parish Priest of Prestatyn with Rhuddlan and **Father Pontius Bandau, A.J**. is appointed Parish Priest of Llay.

The wonders of a good breakfast….

A tough old sheep farmer gave some advice to his granddaughter at the start of the First World War, in 1914. He said that the secret to a long life was to sprinkle a pinch of gunpowder on her cereal every morning.

The granddaughter followed the advice assiduously until her death at the age of 109.

She left 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren, 25 great-great grandchildren, and a forty foot hole where the crematorium used to be.

RETURN TO GREENWICH MEAN TIME

As you reach the last page, and it has taken a month to arrive, then remember that on Sunday 25th October British Summer Time (BST) ends and clocks go back one hour at 2.00am to resume Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) until next spring -28th March 2027.

Enjoy your extra hour in bed!

Wrecsam 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.
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