



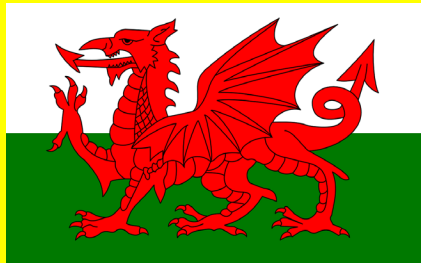
Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 29
March 2025

The newsletter of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham –
serving the parishes of North and Mid Wales

To make clearly known
To declare
To clarify
To call to prayer



This month's banner is 'riddled' with symbolism. The predominant colour is that of repentance and forgiveness: purple. The liturgy demands purple vestments, and no undue decoration, for penitence. Yet, in the midst of that, "Rejoice, Jerusalem", "Laetare, Jerusalem" -on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, 'pink' is the liturgical colour. The month begins with the celebration of St David, Patron of Wales, and the traditional colours of "Y Ddraig Goch", the Red Dragon on the green and white background – first used by Henry Tudor (Henry VII) at the Battle of Bosworth. IS the green, the hills of (North) Wales or the colours of the leek? Who knows?



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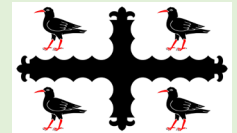
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Hogward - Own work, Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hogward-2000000000



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Photo: St Peter's Square from the Apostolic Palace. MJP

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POPE FRANCIS

'We continue to pray for the Holy Father that in his sickness he may know comfort, strength and peace. We commend him to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of the Divine Physician and also to St. Winefride at whose intercession great healing has been brought.'



Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwxm.org.uk

The word 'hope' is increasingly used in the course of daily conversations. Commonly this is in the context of the world news, the weather, or some other future matter to which the speaker is looking forward, or fearing might happen.

It can be just a wish or desire that something might or might not happen, or is it an expression of a well-founded expectation and belief being fulfilled?

We might hope the weather will be good tomorrow despite the fact that the forecast indicates rain and fog. We might hope that our lives on this earth will achieve that fulfilment of God's promises revealed to us in the life and word of Jesus. Of course, the two are not exclusive but they are of different value and significance.

It is this latter kind of hope upon which our faith is based and in which we live our discipleship of Jesus. It is confidence in God and His faithfulness, and our faith in His promises that guarantees the reality of the future eternal life, and our being 'like God' (1Jn.2:25) for 'we shall see him as he is' (3:2-3)

In the Bull announcing the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025, at a moment in history in which "heedless of the horrors of the past, humanity is confronting yet another ordeal, as many peoples are prey to brutality and violence" (*Spes non confundit*, 8), the Holy Father calls on all Christians to become *pilgrims of hope*. This is a virtue which must be sourced, above all, in the grace of God and in the fullness of His mercy. It is to be rediscovered in the signs of the times, which, encompassing "the yearning of human hearts in need of God's saving presence, ought to become signs of hope" (7).

It is possible for the believer to desire this future of eternal life, or more accurately, to hope for it. But that is where the rub is, since participation in this certain future depends on a faithful and patient love, and that is a difficult thing to ask of a creature - humanity - which, often, is not very good at faithfulness, patience or love. We cannot have any absolute confidence in our own ability to achieve that to which we are called.

However, we can confidently hope that the God in whom we believe and who alone can make our freedom capable of loving, will give it to us. Our lives centred in this way in faith and trust, enable hope to open out toward the future and sustain the whole of our lives with its dynamism. Faith, trust,

hope and love, therefore, are different aspects of one complicated spiritual being.

In *Spes non confundit*, Pope Francis speaks eloquently of the important place of the Sacrament of Penance in the lives of the faithful; for it is there that we have the assurance that God wipes away our sins. After quoting Psalm 103, 'As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our sins' (v.12) he goes on to say: 'The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not only a magnificent spiritual gift, but also a decisive, essential and fundamental step on our journey of faith. There, we allow the Lord to erase our sins, to heal our hearts, to raise us up, to embrace us and to reveal to us his tender and compassionate countenance.' (N.23).

But he goes on to say that every sin "leaves its mark'. *Sin has consequences, not only outwardly in the effects of the wrong we do, but also inwardly, inasmuch as 'every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death, in the state called Purgatory'. In our humanity, weak and attracted by evil, certain residual effects of sin remain.*

These are removed by the indulgence, always by the grace of Christ, who, as Saint Paul VI wrote, 'is himself our 'indulgence''. It is especially in the time of Lent when we can avail ourselves of this Jubilee indulgence and know the merciful love of the Father in Jesus Christ. We can build afresh our hope for the glories of the heavenly kingdom as we make our pilgrimage of life, being not just *pilgrims of hope*, but pilgrims with hope; pilgrims whose lives are excited by prayer and love in this world, but anchored firmly in the world to come and are able to give hope to the world, of which we are part, which is in need of mercy and love.

With every good wish and the assurance of my continued prayer for you and the world throughout the time of Lent. Through your prayer, fasting and almsgiving may you know Jubilee mercy and a renewed hope for the glories of our true home in the Kingdom of the Father,

† Peter.

The Twelfth '24 hours for the Lord'

Pope Francis has chosen a particularly significant motto in this year of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025: "You are my hope" (Ps. 71:5). Each Jubilee has its own way of being lived, by the historical context and in the profound nature of its content resulting from the Holy Father's intention for it to be enacted according to the Bull of Indiction. Jubilee 2025 is set in the light of, "*Spes non confundit*," "Hope does not disappoint," taken from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans. This Holy Year, the Jubilee of Hope, in which everyone, wherever they are in the world, will be invited to become "Pilgrims of Hope", has the purpose to put the Sacrament of Reconciliation into the centre

of the pastoral life of the Church, in our communities, and parishes. It is the centre of the Gospel message: the Mercy of God, which gives us the certainty that before the Lord no one will find a judge, but rather will find a father who welcomes him, consoles him and also shows him the way to renewal.

The Dicastery for Evangelisation has produced a handbook offering suggestions to help parishes and Christian communities prepare to experience this initiative. This booklet is obtainable as a pdf document: <http://www.evangelizatio.va/content/dam/pcpne/image/24ore/2025/ENG%20Sussidio%2024ore%2025.pdf>



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.



DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

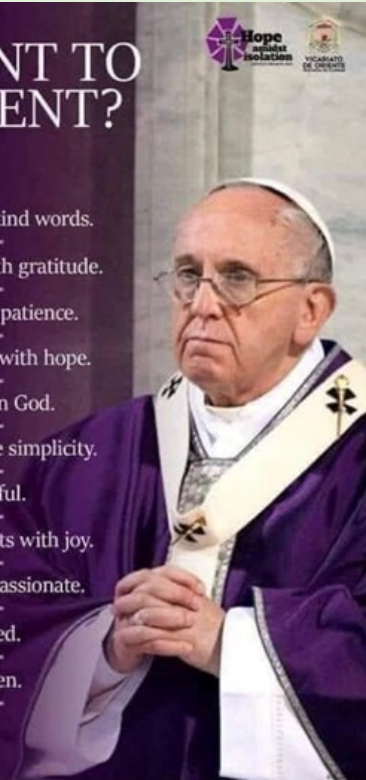
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



Take a moment to read these words slowly and prayerfully. Then stay with any one line or phrase that 'speaks' to you more particularly.

Ask yourself why this is so ...

what links it to your daily life?

How far have you experienced

this 'new kind' of fasting?

Which of these 'fasts' would you like to try?

During this healing time of Lent, you might want to ask God's Spirit to help you strengthen your resolve to be filled with hope and compassion, trusting that God will never turn you away.

At the end of your prayer, what do you want to say to Jesus? Speak to him as one friend to another.



As we enter into Lent, we remember the key words often associated with this Season:

Prayer Fasting Works of Love

Prayer, repentance and forgiveness, sometimes through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, lie at the heart of our faith.

Fasting can help us develop a humble and contrite heart.

Works of Love can take many forms, such as almsgiving, which may prompt us not just to give money, but also time, support and friendship – and perhaps a listening ear to someone who needs it.

This year, we reflect particularly on **fasting**. A fast before the solemnity of Easter during the season of Lent was instituted in the very earliest days of the Christian faith, and it was only natural that this period of penance should follow Jesus's example of fasting forty days and forty nights in the desert.

Jesus also spoke of fasting on other occasions, as in St Matthew: *The disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus, saying, 'Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?' And Jesus said to them, 'Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast'.* (Matthew 9:14-15 ESV-CE)

Then in the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples put Jesus's request into practice: *Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent off Barnabas and Saul.* (Acts 13: 3).

As strict fasting practices have been relaxed by the Church over the centuries, we might wonder whether it is still a worthwhile discipline. However, St Augustine is clear about its purpose in one of his sermons: *'Fasting cleanses the soul, raises the mind, subjects one's flesh to the spirit, renders the heart contrite and humble.'* (De orat. et Jejun. [Serm. lxxii (ccxxx, de Tempore)])

But these days, our fasting need not only mean cutting down on food and drink. We can understand fasting in its wider meaning of an act of self-denial. Indeed, rather than considering fasting as doing without something that we like, we could consider it as actually accomplishing something which is out of our 'comfort zone'. Pope Francis invited us to consider it this way in his annual Lenten message of 2021, illustrated above, left.

Date for your Diary

Saturday 29th March 2025:

Day of Prayer for Lent, St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre,

10.30 am to 4.30pm. Mass will be celebrated at the end of the afternoon.

Please email stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com if you would like to come, so we have an idea of numbers. Entrance is free and all are most welcome.

Resources from St Beuno's

Go to www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com

for more resources, including the weekly Prego leaflet and

our special illustrated booklet of reflections, *Praying Holy Week with St Beuno's Outreach 2025: Journeying beyond Pain towards Hope.*

The Season of Lent

LENT STATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

Diocesan Services of Reconciliation

'... and **endurance** produces **character**, and character produces **hope**, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

'For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die- but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.' (Romans 5:4–8 ESV-CE)

Stational Jubilee services of Reconciliation will be held around the Diocese this Lent.

Wednesdays at 6.30pm.

12 th March	Holy Family Church,	Llandudno Junction
19 th March	St. Winefride's Church,	Holywell
26 th March	St. Thérèse's Church,	Abergele
9 th April	Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Church,	Dolgellau
29 th March	Saturday 11.00am	St. Mary's Cathedral

(also to close the 24 Hours for the Lord at noon).

As well as prayer before the Blessed Sacrament there will be opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).

Jubilee Indulgences

Both St. Mary's Cathedral and St. Winefride's, Holywell are designated Jubilee holy sites of pilgrimage at which the gift of plenary indulgence can be received.

In the Bull of Indiction, *Spes non confundit n.23*, Pope Francis writes:

'Indeed, the *indulgence* is a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy. Not by chance, for the ancients, the terms "mercy" and "indulgence" were interchangeable, as expressions of the fullness of God's forgiveness, which knows no bounds.'

For further information please see the Papal Bull calling the Jubilee Year

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html

and the decree on the Granting of the Indulgence

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/tribunals/apost_penit/documents/rc_penitenzieria-ap_20240513_norme-indulgenza-giubileo2025_en.html

Marriage and Family Life Commission invites you to a FREE



Lent Family Day



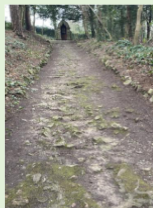
Saturday 12th April 2025

Location: Vincentian Divine Retreat Centre Hall,
Franciscan Friary, Monastery Road, Pantasaph,
Holywell, CH8 8PE

Arrive from 12:00 noon

Please, bring a picnic lunch.
Refreshments provided

Everyone is welcome to join us
on Lent craft and activities for
all ages followed by Stations of
the Cross with Bishop Peter on
the Calvary Hill



Booking is essential by Sunday 30th March

Contact Wioletta Trebska

Marriage and Family Life Worker
mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk
or 07542 268728

Parish Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage

On Saturday 29th March, Connah's Quay Parish will be visiting the **Franciscan Friary, Pantasaph** for a day of prayer and pilgrimage.

The pattern of the day will be the celebration of Mass in the church at 11a.m, followed by lunch (bring your own) then the Stations of the Cross.

We will hold the Stations in church if the weather is bad. The café will be open for hot and cold drinks, cakes and snacks. Please be advised that the path up the hill is quite stoney and somewhat uneven in places. It is unsuitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs.

All are welcome. Come and join in this event to participate in the Jubilee Year. This invitation is open to parishioners from all around the Diocese.

For further information, contact rose1647@hotmail.co.uk

Prayer Intentions

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – March

For families in crisis.

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:

During Lent, we are invited to pray for these intentions:

Candidates for the Sacraments (esp on Sundays of Lent);

Women;

The Needy and Hungry of the World;

Penitents and Wanderers.

Stations of the Cross LIVE. Every Wednesday 7pm

You are welcome to join the Stations every Wednesday in Lent at 7pm, without travelling from home!

Click on the link below from 6.50 and join the Stations presented in different formats each week. Please ensure that your 'video' is OFF, and microphone 'muted'

Zoom meeting ID invitation

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7767387912?pwd=dkovd1RvbTNyMTNFOGIReDRIRmJ6dz09> or join with meeting ID 7767387912, and Passcode 066559.

(We hope that Recordings will be available: www.churchservice.tv search 'Mold', and recordings under 'featured videos')



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him. "If you are the Son of God command this stone to become bread."

And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I will give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ...

And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you', and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" ...

And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Luke 4:1-3, 5-7, 9-11,13 ESV-CE

Pilgrims of Hope - Sayings and proverbs for reflection:

"If you do not hope, you will not find what is beyond your hopes"
(Clement of Alexandria)

"We promise according to our hopes, and perform according to our fears"
(La Rochefoucauld)

Hope is the only good common to all people: those who have nothing else possess hope still"
(Thales)

"The word which God has written on the brow of everyone is Hope"
(Victor Hugo)

"No one is able of oneself to grasp the supreme good of eternal life: one needs divine help. Hence there is here a two-fold object. The eternal life we hope for, and the divine help we hope by"
(St Thomas Aquinas)

"Hope is a lover's staff; walk hence with that, and manage it against despairing thoughts"
(Shakespeare)

"I am a man of hope, not for human reasons, nor from any natural optimism, but because I believe the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church and in the World, even where his name remains unheard"
(Cardinal Joseph Suenans)

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement, but nothing can be done without hope"
(Helen Keller)

Proverbs....

"While there is life there is hope"
(Latin)

"If it were not for hope, the heart would break"
(English)

"It is never winter in the land of hope"
(Russian)

"Youth lives on hope, old age on remembrance"
(French)

"No matter how long the night, morning is sure to come"
(African)

What the Christian warfare means is giving up sin and building up ways of virtue in place of sin. This is not done without effort and real struggle. Actually, for each person it means mobilising energies and facing the enemy right at the front lines, and battling there.

While the precise character of the battle varies with the individual persons, the weapons which the church provides are the same for all. And each person will find these weapons meet precisely her or his individual needs in the battle. These weapons are prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Going to God, Book One: The Christian Life. Jane Marie Murray, O.P.

©1957 Fides Publ. Ass'n. Ch.

Fasting is the soul of **prayer**.

Mercy is the lifeblood of fasting.

If we have not all three together, we have nothing.

Peter Chrysologus, (406-450) Bishop

Prayers for Pope Francis

As this month's "CLARION" is circulated, we offer prayers for the recovery of Pope Francis, that he may regain full health and return with renewed vigour to his pontificate.

Recognising that the medical prognoses have been very uncertain, **the Vatican prepares for all eventualities, as we all should, for ourselves and family.** (see below)

On the announcement of a Papal death, each Bishop will say Mass in the Cathedral, that day, if possible, or the next. Then, Mass will be celebrated by the Bishop in the Cathedral for the next NINE days.

Parishes may also choose to do likewise. Prayer cards will be made available: parishes may wish to emulate the cathedral and offer spaces for candles and prayers for the Pope. *Parishioners are invited to discuss with their Parish priest what each parish wishes to do.*

A papal funeral occurs within four to six days

With the current interest in the film '**Conclave**', it is certain that the news media will follow the conclave closely. In fact, a conclave is called to start within fifteen to twenty days.

Only Cardinals under the age of 80 on the date of the Holy Father's death are eligible to vote.

Cardinals reside in the Domus Sanctae Marthae (no longer the Sistine Chapel), but they do vote in the Sistine Chapel. All contact with the outside world is forbidden, and wi-fi is blocked!

At these moments of great significance and concern for the health of the Pontiff, the process may seem to be melodramatic. **Let us remember that within this is the soul of a humble man, for whom we offer our sincere and heartfelt prayers.** At this time of great concern for the Holy Father, it is appropriate also to think of our own family.

The Bishops' Conference offers a leaflet with guidance on what to do, and how to plan a Catholic funeral. This simple leaflet can be downloaded at

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/plain/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2019/07/FuneralsGuide.pdf>

No-one wishes to foresee that moment, but it is always strongly recommended that **YOUR** wishes should be made known. Your family will be grateful for that.

TURNING TABLES

Are you looking for something to inspire, reflect upon, pray about and do during Lent?

Look to **'Turning Tables'** a Toolkit for Scripture and Social Action

*Speak out for those who cannot speak,
for the rights of all the destitute.
Speak out, judge righteously,
defend the rights of the poor and needy.*

Proverbs 31: 8-9

'Turning Tables' is a resource designed to help adult Catholics across England and Wales to understand and engage with their faith, Scripture and social justice in practical ways.

It will do this by covering five core themes:

- **Understanding the Bible** – how it lays the foundations for a just and fair world.
- **Deepening our faith** – how to translate our beliefs and spirituality into social action.
- **Understanding social action** – how to bring about change at local and national levels.
- **Knowing who to contact** – how and where to contact governments, policy makers and charities.
- **Creating momentum and support** – how to share resources and ideas, lobby and volunteer.

Download [Turning Tables: A Toolkit for Scripture and Social Action Toolkit](#)

Hard Cases Don't Make Good Law.

The 'Assisted Dying' Bill

The Catholic Union is holding a [webinar](#) on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill on Thursday 3 April. at 18.30 Chaired by Baroness Hollins, President of the Catholic Union, it will give members and supporters the chance to unpick the Bill guided by three experts: Dr Matthew Doré; Dr Philip Howard and Professor Julian Hughes.

You can register your attendance [here](#) and the zoom link will be sent to you in due course. Read more about the event [here](#).

(A source of news and items currently in the public forum and about which we need be informed can be found at: info@catholicunion.org.uk)

Wrexham Diocese Environmental Lead

Bishop Peter is pleased to announce that Rebekah Fleming and Alison Mawdsley from St. Mary's Holyhead have volunteered as 'Environmental Lead' to look into the Diocese's current environmental impact, and to explore potential ways that we can do our bit to protect and live more gently and sustainably within our common home. The intention is to be a positive, creative and exciting process, and they look forward to working with parishes. They will be getting in touch with each parish throughout this process, but if anyone would like to get involved right away or to pass on ideas and thoughts, they will be happy to hear from you. Their email address is:

environmentallead@rcdwxm.org.uk

We offer Alison and Rebekah best wishes in their role

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORK

'Towards a Just Peace' –

Challenging the inevitability of violence

25th - 27th July 2025

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

We live in a world where many people believe there is an inevitability of violence as a means of resolving conflict.

However, as people of faith, we believe that we have been given an alternative model. We are to put down our swords, and live out the Gospel message of justice, peace and love.

Violence is not inevitable, there is another way. During this Jubilee year, Pope Francis urges us:

*'to become pilgrims of hope,
to silence the sound of arms
and overcome divisions.'*

'Act justly. Love tenderly, walk humbly with your God'
Micah 6:8

For more information and booking:

www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference

LENTEN ALMS - Syria and Lebanon Emergency

Christians in Syria are turning to **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)**, desperate for help, amid widespread fear and huge uncertainty following a sudden regime change.

The Church in Lebanon is also in dire need of emergency aid as the region is yet again devastated by war, which has caused a harrowing displacement crisis.

St Ephrem (d. 373), Syria's most famous saint, said "Christ knows that we have no other help but him alone." Your love through prayer, fasting and almsgiving can bring Christ's help and consolation to his followers in desperate need and crippling despair in Syria and Lebanon, two countries that form part of the crucible of Christianity.

ACN's on-going assistance in Syria and Lebanon includes:

- Emergency aid such as food medicine, clothing and other basic necessities for displaced Christians.
- Support for Christian schools and universities.
- Trauma counselling for children distressed by the horrors of war.
- Support for suffering elderly people often too poor to pay for their basic medication.

ACN's Syria project partner Sister Annie Demerjian said: "Our people are so tired. They have suffered so much for so long. I want to thank each and every one at ACN for all you are doing" through the efforts and generosity of those who support you.

You can continue this assistance by your fasting, prayer and almsgiving through the Pontifical Agency *Aid to the Church in Need (ACN-UK)* Registered Charity (England & Wales) No.1097984 <https://acnuk.org/syria-lebanon25>

Alms collected in parishes and presented at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday should be sent to Bishop's House to be forwarded to ACN.



**Special
Celebratory
Masses
in the
Diocese**



Our Lady of the Rosary, Buckley



Marriage Mass at Wrexham Cathedral

On Saturday, 15th February at 12:00, the Marriage Mass at Wrexham Cathedral of Our Lady of Sorrows marked the beautiful conclusion of Marriage Week. This special celebration honoured marriage and wedding anniversaries across our diocese. Bishop Peter celebrated a beautiful Mass, guiding us through the renewal of our marriage vows. It was a deeply touching and uplifting experience, strengthening our commitment to one another and to God.

The Marriage and Family Life Commission offers a heartfelt 'thank you' to all the helpers who made this day possible and to everyone who joined in the celebration. May Almighty God bless you all abundantly.



**Retirement Mass for
Canon Francis Doyle**

The January edition of the Clarion reflected the twenty-four years of priestly service of Canon Doyle to the Diocese.

On St Valentine's Day (how appropriate - although in fact the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius) he was given a grand send off by Bishop, priests, and parishioners.

Bishop Emeritus Edwin joined Bp Peter and priests to concelebrate the Mass which it was possible to transmit live to Canon's family and friends in Ireland and Australia.

The church of Our Lady of the Rosary was full of parishioners, from the youngest (in a pram), to the 'not so young'!

As a statement of hope for the future, one of Canon's last acts came just two days later when he baptised that very same 'parishioner' - coincidentally the latest grandchild of the late Clerk of Works who oversaw the building of the 'new' church, which Canon served with love and fondness. AMDG...



1. Bp Peter with clergy during the Mass, assisted by Deacon John Goggin, with Canon Doyle and Fr Pius (who takes over as PP) behind.
2. Parishioners making the presentation of the gift from the parish.
3. Canon Francis expresses his thanks, and appreciation for the support he received in his ministry as Parish Priest.

After the Mass, everyone joined Canon Francis in the parish hall to offer their own personal thanks and congratulations.

Around and About in the Diocese

CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN FLINTSHIRE

Bishop Peter writes:

Later this month Flintshire Council's Cabinet will consider proposals to launch a formal consultation with key stakeholders to reset Catholic Education in Flintshire as part of the Council's school modernisation programme. Investment has been identified in partnership with the Diocese of Wrexham and Welsh Government.

The proposal and subsequent investment would amalgamate four schools and create a new all-through (3-18 years) school which, following assessment of existing sites, would be developed on the current sites of St Richard Gwyn and St Mary's in Flint.

In order to effect this plan and create the new Catholic school, St Anthony's Catholic Primary School (in Saltney), St David's Primary School (in Mold), St Mary's Catholic Primary School (in Flint) and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School (in Flint) would all close. While the new all-through building is approved and constructed, the four schools impacted by the 3-18 proposal will continue to operate as separate establishments on their individual school sites.

Claire **Homard**, Chief Officer for Education in Flintshire, said: "We are working together with the Diocese of Wrexham to ensure we have a proactive strategy for sustainable, high-quality education for the future.

"We currently have a significant issue with surplus places which is unsustainable in the long-term. This proposal is an opportunity to revitalise education and give learners the best possible opportunities."

Bishop Peter said: "This projected scheme has my support and that of the Diocese as it offers to secure Catholic Education in Flintshire into the future

"I am pleased to be working in partnership with Flintshire County Council and the Welsh Government to secure the opportunity for Catholic schools in Flintshire to provide for those families who wish, faith based education of the highest quality and opportunity for our young people."

For more information about Flintshire's schools modernisation programme, visit the Council's website [Schools](#).

All submissions with regard to the Proposal should be addressed within the consultation process when the Consultation Document is released later this month. The Diocese is not able to make individual responses to submissions.

Bill: "Have you ever realised any of your childhood dreams?"

Pete: "Yes. When mother used to comb my hair, I often wished I didn't have any"

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

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

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

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

MARCH

Sat 1 st	St. David, Patron of Wales. Patron of the Diocese of Wrexham
Sun 2 nd	Day for the Unemployed
Wed 5 th	Ash Wednesday. Day of Fast and Abstinence.
Fri 7 th	Women's World Day of Prayer
Sun 9 th	1 st Sunday of Lent Rite of Election in St. Mary's Cathedral
Thu 13 th	12 th Anniversary of the Election of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, SJ as Pope
Fri 14 th	Lent Fast Day
Tue 18 th	Anniversary of the Inauguration of the Pontificate of Pope Francis. Meeting of the Diocesan Trustees.
Tue 25 th	The Annunciation of the Lord
Fri 28 th	Mass & Inauguration of Mission MS-ESM Sisters. Ruthin 6.00pm
Fri 28 th - Sat 29 th	Noon to Noon 24 Hours for the Lord.
Sun 30 th	British Summer Time begins. Clocks go forward 1 hour at 2.00am

APRIL

Sun 13 th	Palm Sunday
Wed 16 th	Mass of the Holy Chrism. 7.00pm Cathedral

Sacred Triduum

Maundy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday	Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
Sunday 20 th	Easter Day

MISSIONARY CONGREGATION

OF THE EVANGELISING SISTERS OF MARY (MC-ESM)

Mass celebrating the coming of the Sisters to the Diocese and a formal Inauguration of Mission will be celebrated on 28th March at 6.00pm in the Church of Our Lady Help of Christians, Ruthin. All are welcome and even if you are unable to be there, please keep the Sisters in your prayers as they begin this new chapter in their Congregation's life and be assured of their prayers for the Diocese.

If you wish to know more of their work please go to mcesm.org

RITE OF RECEPTION for CATECHUMENS

The Rite of Election takes place on the First Sunday of Lent, March 9th at 3pm in the Cathedral marking the final preparation before reception into the Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

The community of the Church is encouraged to support and pray for the adults who make a very personal choice to become members of the Catholic Church.

In May, there will be a celebration of a 'Mystagogia' Mass for New Christians, at which they will share the faith they have in communion with the Bishop, priests, deacons, religious and lay people of the Diocese.

Bishop Peter invites catechumens together with their sponsors and families to all these celebrations in the Cathedral.

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

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

March

01	12 noon	St. David's Feast Day	Cathedral
09.	3.00pm	Rite of Election	Cathedral
12.	10.00am	Presbyteral Council Meeting	Bp's House
	2.00pm	Finance Secretariat Meeting	Bp's House
13	12 noon	Overseas Clergy Meeting	Noddfa
	6.30pm	Youth Commission Meeting	Colwyn Bay
15		Flame '25	OVO Arena
18.	1.30pm	Board of Trustees' Meeting	Bp's House
28	6.00pm	MC-ESM Inauguration of Mission,	Ruthin

April

02		Visitation	Carmel, Dolgellau
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During Lent, CAFOD is inviting you to join Lokho on her journey of survival – of finding hope through devastating drought.

"One day, two of them died," Lokho tells us of her goats. "A day after that, another. A week later, another three. Now I have zero livestock."

When Lokho's animals died in the drought, she had no other way to feed her family, no safety net to fall back on. That was when Lokho teamed up with a group of women and reached out to Wakera, one of our local experts. Wakera made sure that the next time disaster struck, no one would lose hope.

Wakera shared his skills for growing food in harsh climates and provided Lokho's community with seeds and tools to plant their own kitchen garden. Crucially, together, they built innovative shade nets which protect plants from the scorching sun, whilst still allowing every drop of precious rain through.

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL

Now, Lokho sells the produce in her small shop and splits the money between the women.

"These savings will help us when we go through a time of emergency," says Lokho, "At a time when there's a food crisis, we can purchase food to save people. I feel like I'm now safe and secure."

Lokho's eyes turn to her children playing in the yard. "The littlest one was born towards the end of the long drought," she says. "It makes me smile now to see her walking about. I feel great pride."

Lokho has hope for her family's future. She tells us: **"I turn to God through prayer. I pray for a better life in which to raise my children."**

A BETTER WORLD NEEDS ALL OF US. A BETTER WORLD NEEDS YOU.

Help families around the world survive emergency conditions and build a better future.

Please donate this Lent: Give online at cafod.org.uk or call **0303 303 3030** or send a cheque to: **Freepost CAFOD** (no address or stamp needed)

Searching through Etymologies.

On page 2, Bp Peter writes: "But that is where the rub is"

In the 'To be, or not to be' monologue, Hamlet says "Ay, there's the rub". Hamlet is considering his action, and looks at both sides, the 'rub' being the disadvantage.

"To die, to sleep— No more; and by a sleep to say we end the heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to: 'tis a consummation devoutly to be wished. To sleep, perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub! For in that sleep of death what dreams may come, when we have shuffled off this mortal coil, must give us pause."

Shakespeare used the phrase in King Lear and The Tempest.

Lear says "Ay, there's the rub, when wisdom is too late." Prospero says "But there, alas, lies the rub: It is too late to make amends" Shakespeare's use suggests a popular phrase of the time - perhaps from bowls when the 'rub of the green' was against you, and your 'wood' hit an obstacle.

Marriage and Family Life Commission



Is inviting you to share your ideas, skills and experience to help support our Families and Marriages in our Diocese.

We need volunteers and friends.



Can you help?

Please, contact Wioletta Trebska – Marriage and Family Life Worker
 Email: mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk
 Telephone: **07542 268728**

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