



# Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 24  
November 2024

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

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



The month of the Holy Souls with green vestments of Ordinary time, 'sandwiched' in the white of All Saints and St Andrew.



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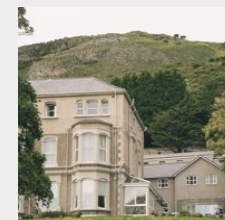
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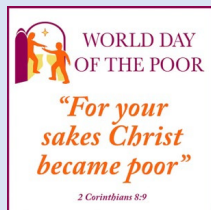
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For the last twelve months and more our focus of issues of life and death has been in foreign parts – Ukraine, Gaza, Palestine and Israel, Yemen and Iran, Sudan, Columbia and Myanma to name but a few of the 110 places around the world that are currently living in a state of armed conflict as defined under international humanitarian law. What is even more amazing is that some have lasted over fifty years.

In our countries now we are having to face up to the issue of life and death not in armed conflict but in the context of the bill -Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults- currently making its way through Parliament.

For an update on the progress of the proposed legislation the Bishops' Conference website (CBCEW) is a good source of information and carries a raft of resources to keep you informed.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

The posters on the webpage both have QR codes. The first poster links to the 'Right to Life UK' website. It provides a simple digital form and suggested letter that helps you contact your MP to ask him or her to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law.

The second poster links to the assisted suicide resources page on the Bishops' Conference website (link above) where you will find resources laying out the Catholic position on assisted suicide, and what you can do to help stop its legalisation.

On **page 6** of this issue of "Clarion" you will also find a letter from Baroness Hollins outlining some of the issues. The Bill is currently being discussed in the House of Lords and is set to have its Second Reading in the House of Commons on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Recently, on 23<sup>rd</sup> October the Senedd, the Welsh Parliament, voted by 26 votes to 19 decisively making it clear that the Welsh Senedd opposes the imposition of assisted suicide on Wales by MPs when they vote on the subject next month. The Senedd rejected a motion

calling for Westminster to introduce assisted suicide. Among those who voted against the motion were the First Minister, Eluned Morgan and Secretary for Health and Social Care, Jeremy Miles. Opposition from Senedd members came from all the major parties including Labour, Liberal Democrats, Plaid Cymru and the Conservatives. The power to introduce assisted suicide is reserved to Westminster and is not devolved to Wales but this vote in a Labour controlled Government is a clear message to its partner one in Westminster.

The fight is not over by any means and I add my voice to that of Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop Mark O'Toole and my fellow bishops in expressing the importance of writing to your MP to oppose assisted suicide being rushed into law.

And of course, we must not forget the element of prayer - valuing and giving thanks to God for the sanctity and dignity of human life; remembering those who are near the end of their lives, that they may know the accompaniment of those who love them and the precious nature of their lives, their hope and affection to their very last breath. We pray also for all medical and health care staff that the care they give upholds all that is good in humanity. We do not forget the legislators, politicians, and ourselves, that all may be open to the truth and informed of the supreme and incomparable value of life and act to protect it, and to be aware of the dangers of legislating for assisted suicide. (*See below, left, the invitation to join the Bishops in prayer on 13<sup>th</sup> November*).

While this is an immediate priority we remember too the innocent victims in those 110 armed conflicts that continue across the world.

Be assured of my continued prayer for you, your families and the Diocese.

Best wishes and blessings, **+Peter**

### HOLY HOUR FOR THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

During the November Plenary Assembly of the Bishops of England and Wales, there will be a **Holy Hour** for prayer to promote the dignity of the human person and the culture of life in our countries in the face of the assisted suicide legislation before the UK Parliament. This will take place at 5.30pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in the Chapel of the Holy Family in Hinsley Hall., Leeds. Ending with Evening Prayer before a concluding Benediction, Cardinal Nichols has asked that this might become a national 'hour'.

***I ask the parishes in the Diocese of Wrexham to facilitate a Holy Hour at the same time as we, the Bishops, will be at prayer thereby creating a powerful moment of prayer in our lands promoting the intrinsic dignity of every person.***

Please see your Parish news or Diocesan website for details of where churches will be holding the Holy Hour.

### 'PRAY AS YOU GO'

One of the many prayer resources that is readily and freely available to all who have a smart phone is one that comes from the Jesuit stable of spiritual resources. '**Pray As You Go**' is a daily, audio prayer app that helps you to encounter God wherever you are. This will help you to pray whenever you find the time, but particularly whilst travelling to and from work or study. Download the app and discover a multitude more resources including for children on <https://pray-as-you-go.org/discover>

### ADVENT RETREAT 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER – 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER

Initiated by Bishop Edwin, Bishop Peter continues the tradition of leading the Advent Retreat. Once again, this year it will be at the House of Prayer: St. Augustine's Priory, Old Colwyn. Details at [www.houseofprayer.org.uk](http://www.houseofprayer.org.uk).

## DAY FOR MIGRANTS

On 29<sup>th</sup> September the Church observed the 110<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR). However, in England and Wales, as well as the World Day kept in September, we have long observed **3<sup>rd</sup> December as Migrant's Day**. This provides us with another opportunity to reflect upon and pray for our increasingly multinational parishes. Once the migrants just came from across the English Channel or Irish Sea, now they travel the world's oceans and continents to enrich our communities

Taking the theme **"God walks with His people"**. Pope Francis asks all of us to walk together, with the most vulnerable, with Jesus.

Being encouraged to **walk a piece of the road together**, with our community, parish, and diocese, the Holy Father asks that we involve those on the 'existential peripheries' and encourages us to welcome them.

To make this a reality, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is offering materials to support local initiatives that can take the form of meditative walks, moments of reflection in stages, or prayer vigils. The important thing to remember, as the Pope says, is not to leave anyone behind. For more details and resources: [Walking the road with Migrants and Refugees - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](#)

You will find here also the link to Pope Francis' Message for the 110<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants & Refugees.

## LECTIONARY

The new edition of the Lectionary for Mass (*Ordo Lectionum Missae*) confirmed by the Apostolic See in 2023 comes into use in England and Wales on the First Sunday of Advent, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

By decree of the Bishops' Conference, "From that date forward, no other English language edition of the Lectionary for Mass may be used in the dioceses of England and Wales."

Many of the Diocese's liturgical ministers who proclaim the Word at Mass have completed a study day, led by our deacons, on the new Lectionary and their ministry of Reader.

Bishop Peter writes:

'I hope this introduction will help to establish best practice across the Diocese in proclaiming, and a greater understanding of, the Word of God. I hope it may be the beginning of a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Bible by all.

In response to the views expressed at the diocesan *Listening Meetings* earlier in the year I hope also that this will lead to more adult formation and study of Scripture and the Liturgy within the Diocese.

To augment the training which Readers have already received, and for the benefit and interest of all congregations, the videos on the Bishops' Conference website will be of interest and use.

I commend them to you all:

[Lectionary Video Resources - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

Bp. Peter

(For more information, and further reading, see 'Spotlight' on page 7 – Ed)

## CHURCH IN 2024 SURVEY

We are invited to take a moment to respond to [Church in 2024 Survey](#). It builds on the two surveys run during the Covid-19 pandemic in partnership with York St John University. The survey has several aims:

- to listen to the opinions of clergy and churchgoers on long-standing issues that have been discussed for some time;
- to explore in detail beliefs about more recent issues such as climate change and living in a synodical manner; and
- to assess how churches are coping since the end of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Church in 2024 Survey is seeking Catholic responses. Please click [here](#) for more information.

### **Bishop Peter adds:**

*There is still opportunity to complete this survey and would be useful that you do.*  
+Peter

## ENCYCLICAL "DILEXIT NOS,"

**'HE LOVED US'**, Saint Paul says of Christ *qv. Rom 8:37* "in order to make us realise that nothing can ever "separate us" from that love (*Rom 8:39*):" Thus begins Pope Francis' Encyclical, which takes its title from the opening words, *Dilexit nos*.

In his fourth Encyclical, promulgated on 24<sup>th</sup> October Pope Francis retraces the tradition and relevance of thought on "the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ," calling for a renewal of authentic devotion to avoid forgetting the tenderness of faith, the joy of serving, and the fervour of mission.

The Encyclical is dedicated to the human and divine love of the Heart of Jesus Christ: "His open heart has gone before us and waits for us, unconditionally, asking only to offer us His love and friendship," the Pope writes in the introductory paragraph. "For 'He loved us first' (*qv. 1 Jn 4:10*). Because of Jesus, 'we have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us' (*1 Jn 4:16*)."

You can download the Holy Father's fourth encyclical, *Dilexit nos on the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ*: [Encyclical – Dilexit](#)

## LEGACY

In this month of November, as we pray for the Faithful Departed we may think of the Last Things, so it may also be appropriate to consider what gift we might leave to the world on our departure from it. These should not be morbid thoughts, but a realistic and practical consideration of what is inevitable sooner or later.

Responsibilities to dependants must first be honoured and fulfilled, but thereafter everything is in your gift.

A leaflet which explains how you may make this ultimate gift to the Church is available in your parish, from Bishop's House or the Diocese website. Your generosity would not be known until after your death or it can remain anonymous, but please be assured your gift will be wisely used in the handing on of the precious gift of faith in the work of the Diocese of Wrexham. Mass is celebrated during the month of November for the repose of the souls of and in thanksgiving for all testators to the Diocese





## Gospel Year of Mark JESUS CALLS THE FIRST DISCIPLES & GOES TO THEIR HOUSE

Feast of St. Andrew 30<sup>th</sup> November

*Passing* alongside the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ...

And they went into Capernaum and immediately on the sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. ...

And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ...

(Mark 1:16-18, 21, 29 RSV-CE)

**V**isit our homes, Lord, we pray,  
and drive far from them all the snares  
of the enemy;

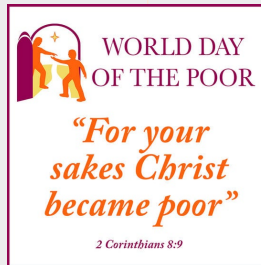
let your holy angels dwell therein  
to preserve us in peace;  
and may your blessings be upon us evermore,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

*Prayer at the close of Compline (Night Prayer) for  
Solemnities from the Divine Office.*

### WORLD DAY OF THE POOR - November 17, 2024,

**The World Day of the Poor**, established by Pope Francis in 2017 for Catholics to "reflect on how poverty is at the very heart of the Gospel." Initiated by Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter, **Misericordia et Misera**, issued on 20 November 2016 it indicated the end of the *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy*.



The Pope also reiterates that prayer must find its true authenticity by being expressed in concrete works of charity. Prayer and good works go together:

**"If prayer is not translated into concrete action it is in vain; (...) however, charity without prayer risks becoming philanthropy which soon runs out"** (n. 7).

For this 8<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis has chosen for this year dedicated to prayer, a particularly significant motto, given that the day will be celebrated shortly before the beginning of the Jubilee Year of 2025: **"The prayer of the poor rises up to God"** (qv: *Sir 21.5*). Given the context, this expression, which comes from the ancient sacred author Ben Sira, has an immediate and clear impact.

The Pope reiterates that the poor have a privileged place in the heart of God, who is attentive and close to each of them. God listens to the prayers of the poor and, in the face of suffering, becomes "impatient" until he has done them justice. In fact, the book of Sirach goes further, stating that, "the judgment of God will be in favour of the poor" (21.5).

The week before the Day of Prayer, all parish and diocesan communities will be asked to focus on the needs of the poor in their local area through practical initiatives and by making this effort a priority in their pastoral work. On the day itself, the Holy Father will preside at Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. This will be followed by the traditional lunch with poor people in the Paul VI Hall, organised by the Dicastery for Charity, and the Dicastery for Evangelisation will provide for the neediest through various charitable initiatives.

In his *Message*, Pope Francis invites everyone to learn to pray for the poor and to pray together with the poor, with humility and trust. The *World Day of the Poor* is an opportunity to become aware of the presence of the poor in our cities and communities, and to understand their needs. The Pope also makes reference to the "new poor", the victims of violence and wars, **"bad politics carried out with weapons"** (n. 4), which causes many innocent victims.

This is the legacy which many saints in history have left us, such as Saint Theresa of Calcutta, who always repeated that prayer was the place from which she drew the faith and the strength she needed to serve the poor. In the *Message* we also find the example of Saint Benedict Joseph Labre, the "wanderer of God", a poor man himself who lived among the poor, whose tomb is in the Roman church of *Santa Maria ai Monti*, and which is venerated by many pilgrims each year.

Let us not forget, however, the numerous people in our cities who continue to dedicate a large part of their time to listening to and supporting the poor. They are ordinary people who, with their example, "give voice to God's response to the prayers of those who turn to Him" (n. 7).

The *World Day of the Poor* is an opportunity to remember each of them and thank the Lord for them.

Pope Francis' *Message* for this 8<sup>th</sup> *World Day of the Poor*, invites everyone to pay more serious spiritual attention to the poor, who need God and need a human presence – someone who is a concrete sign of listening and closeness to them.

The Holy Father's message for to-day can be downloaded; <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/content/dam/iubilaeum2025/notizie/2024/messaggio-per-la-viii-giornata-mondiale-dei-poveri/Message-for-the-8th-World-Day-of-the-Poor-1.pdf> and a Liturgical and Pastoral Handbook <http://www.evangelizatio.va/content/dam/pcpne/image/GiornataMondialePoveri/2024/FINALE%20Sussidio%20GMdP%2024%20ENG.pdf>



## 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.

This month's Scripture extract is from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

### **You are God's building.**

**By the grace God gave me, I succeeded as an architect and laid the foundations, on which someone else is doing the building. Everyone doing the building must work carefully.**

**For the foundation, nobody can lay any other than the one which has already been laid, that is Jesus Christ.**

**Didn't you realise that you are God's temple, and that the Spirit of God was always among you?**

**If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy them, because the temple of God is sacred, and you are that temple.**

*1 Corinthians 3: 9-11, 16-17*

Take time to read the Scripture slowly and reverently, then as you begin to pray, ask God for the gift of listening to what Paul is saying in this passage.

He tells us that we Christians are God's building, the dwelling place of God. ***How does this make you feel?***

You may want to bring to mind the evangelists; St Paul himself; the saints; teachers; writers. ***How have they helped the Church to be God's dwelling place?***

Thank God for them.

And what about the many good people you know, the different groups in your community, your diocese ... ***How do they help us to be Church?***

Perhaps you can now focus on the leaders of the Church, as they try to steer people towards Jesus in today's world. ***What difficulties do they face?***

Pray that they will have courage, and be sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

You are also one of the stones of God's dwelling place. ***What does this mean for you?***

Speak to the Lord, as one friend to another.

You may like to pray especially for all Christians who have no church to dedicate or building in which they can gather at this time. We ask God's special blessing on all those forced to worship in secret, and on all affected by conflict in the place we call the Holy Land. Though they may have no physical building, they continue to be God's temple, and the Spirit of God is with them.

As you close your prayer, you may want to use the words of the *Glory be*, conscious of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit who have helped you today.

### **Other resources**

Go to [www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com](http://www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com) for more resources, including the weekly *Prego* and *Prego Plus* leaflets.

**Save the Date:** Join St Beuno's Outreach for their Advent Journey online on Sunday 15 December at 7pm.

## *The Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*



*Photo by Fr Lawrence Lew OP*

Every year on 9<sup>th</sup> November, the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica. To dedicate or to 'consecrate' a place to God is to recognise God's glory and honour.

In the earliest days, Christians met in their own homes to hear Jesus's teachings and to celebrate the Eucharist. But as the Christian faith became more widespread, churches were built. In the fourth century, Constantine the Great (reigned 306-337) declared Christianity as the religion of the Roman empire, and gifted Pope Miltiades a palace previously owned by the Laterani family (who served as imperial administrators). Though little remains of the original structure, the church became the oldest basilica of the Western world and the oldest public church in the city of Rome. It was initially known as the Basilica of the Saviour, though its later dedication to John the Baptist earned it the title of St John Lateran.

The Lateran Basilica was the centre of the Catholic world for many years and home to the popes: 28 popes are buried here. Although our pope today now lives at the Vatican and presides at St Peter's Basilica, his title is Bishop of Rome and St John Lateran is still considered 'his' cathedral. The church was destroyed several times over the years, but always rebuilt. Its final reconstruction took place under the pontificate of Benedict XIII in 1724 when it was rededicated, and this is the year when the Feast of the Lateran Basilica was established.

Christians consider the Lateran Basilica to be the 'mother church of all churches in the world', for it stands as a monument to God and all that God does through the Church. Our celebration of the feast on 9 November is a joyful occasion, for it reminds us of our beginnings as a Church, and our unity.

### **Opening Prayer for the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**

O God, who from living and chosen stones prepare an eternal dwelling for your majesty, increase in your Church the spirit of grace you have bestowed, so that by new growth your faithful people may build up the heavenly Jerusalem. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.



**#RED WEDNESDAY – 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER –  
BREAK THE SILENCE**



Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM

Established in 2016 to raise awareness of Christian persecution worldwide. ACN's #RedWednesday is now a recognised national and international campaign bringing to light the facts about religious persecution across the world; here are just some;

- 62 out of 196

Violations of religious freedom occur in 62 out of 196 countries

- 30

Since 2018, people have been killed in 30 countries as a result of religious persecution

- 23 out of 54

In Africa, Religious Freedom is violated in 23 out of 54 countries

- 67%

67% of people in the world live in countries where grave religious persecution occurs

This year's focus is on displaced young Christians and here's another fact:

The diocese of Nouna, Burkina Faso has welcomed 30,000 displaced Christians, of whom 80% are school age.

For more information and resources for you, your parish or school, to give your support or make a donation go to the Aid to the Church in Need website:

<https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/redwednesday/#>

Your actions and support this #RedWednesday can make a difference to the lives of displaced young Christians.

Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical Foundation of the Catholic Church.

Registered Charity No.1097984

**SYNOD ON SYNODALITY**

Following a process of listening and dialogue, and the fruit of over three years of listening to the People of God, the Final Document, of the Synod on Synodality written over the course of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session that began on 2<sup>nd</sup> October is about to be published.

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October the Holy Father addressing the Synod Assembly highlighted that it reveals, a shared path forward towards a "synodal Church" that embodies the Gospel not merely through words but through every act and interaction. He described the document as a 'threefold gift' dispensing with the normal practice of preparing his response and writing a Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation. He has ratified the final document and ordered its immediate publication.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-10/pope-francis-synod-final-document-gift-spirit-church.html>

This XVI<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops officially concluded with the celebration of Holy Mass in St. Peter's Basilica presided over by Pope Francis. Here is his homily: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2024/10/27-omelia-conclusione-sinodo.html>

*The President of the Catholic Union,  
Baroness Hollins*

writes:

**"The Assisted Dying Bill"**

"As you will have seen in the news Kim Leadbeater MP has introduced a Bill into Parliament to permit medical doctors legally to end the life of those with a terminal illness. This Bill is likely to cause concern on several levels but especially in this attempt to move doctors out of their primary duty to care for patients and towards participation in what would soon, if the bill were passed, become a new UK business sector of euthanasia provision.

To assist you in contributing to these debates, it may be helpful to watch the documentary '[Better off Dead](#)', written and presented by the disabled actress Liz Carr for BBC One and iPlayer about the rapid extension of assisted dying in Canada from just terminally ill people to a much wider group. My own research in Europe shows that disabled and other marginalised people can be most at risk.

I wonder if you could help and act in two ways:

First, please write to your MP in your own words – not more than one page - sharing your own experiences and views. MPs will have a free vote and so will be interested to hear what you have to say. The government itself has stated that social care, the NHS, social benefits for carers are not fit for purpose. Hospices and palliative care are massively underfunded too. Aside from any other factors in such circumstances it seems to me the wrong time to introduce such a bill before reform and resources are addressed. If you are unsure who your MP is, you can find out [here](#).

Second, it seems to me essential that, even if this bill is passed, doctors and nurses should not be turned into the providers of lethal injections or other forms of what will be deliberate euthanasia. It would quickly break their professional integrity and end patient trust. It would be good also therefore if we could tell our MPs that even if they are minded to support the bill, deliberately ending a life is not a job for doctors, the NHS or private hospitals. And, even if they support the bill it needs to be amended to protect doctors and nurses by creating a new highly regulated profession outside the health and social care system. And the impact on vulnerable communities must be a matter of public record with regular reporting to Parliament.

Please write as soon as you can. Please help and act."

**THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – November**

Let us pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter may find support in their community, and may receive peace of heart from the Spirit of Consolation.

**THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:**

During Ordinary Time until Christ the King, we pray for:

The Spread of the Gospel;	Students and Teachers;
The Harvest;	Justice and Peace in the World
Fruits of human Work, and the Reverent use of Creation;	
All Victims of War;	Young people;
Prisoners and their Families.	





## The Ministry of READER

Lord, be on my lips and  
in my heart, that I may  
worthily proclaim your  
holy word.



At the beginning of next month, December, the First Sunday in Advent, the Readings at Mass will change to a new translation. This translation is known as The English Standard Version -Catholic Edition (ESV-CE).

The Bishops of England and Wales have indicated that this will be the only version to be used at Mass in the ordinary form.

In 2010 the Bishops approved the new Roman Missal, consisting of the prayers at Mass (Collect, Prayer over the gifts, and Post Communion Prayer), as well as the Gloria, Apostles and Nicene Creed, to which we have become familiar. For those who use a 'Sunday Missal' the prayers read by the Priest have differed from those in our Missal, although the Readings have remained the same.

**NOW**, in 2024, the prayers and Readings are aligned, in a NEW Sunday Missal.

A question now asked is: "Is my Sunday Missal any use now? The answer is sadly, "No". Just as Sunday Missals changed in the 1960s after Vatican II, and again in the 1980s with the introduction of the Jerusalem Bible readings, so now a new missal includes ALL the parts, prayers and readings.

The Catholic Truth Society (CTS) is the designated publisher, but other publishers are also producing the new Sunday (and eventually weekday) Missals

Go to [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk) for much more detail.

The prayer above is spoken *sotto voce* by the Priest or Deacon before proclaiming the Gospel.

Perhaps it is appropriate for all readers to say it quietly as they prepare to read.

Throughout October, Deacons have led training Days for Readers to become familiar with the new Lectionary. In the column on the right, are the links to a series of documents listed and prepared for information by Bp Peter. Simply click on the link to access each one.

The purpose of the Training was to ensure that Readers are aware of their responsibility to proclaim the word of God worthily, and to the benefit of the whole congregation.

In some parishes, small variations may occur: for example, one Reader will read the Old and New Testament readings, while a second Reader will proclaim the Psalm, proclaimed as a prayer, with the congregation making the united response.

The layout of the new Lectionary is such that Readers may better understand the syntax and grammar of the readings, and so enable the listener to hear and understand.

The translation uses 'formal equivalence' signifying that words used by the evangelists and St. Paul are reproduced as faithfully as possible. It allows the use of "Brothers and sisters" in place of just 'Brothers', more 'inclusively'.

# In the Spotlight



## ESSENTIAL READING:

General Instruction on the Roman Missal GIRM  
<https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/GIRM/Documents/GIRM.pdf>

Lectionary General Introduction OLM  
<https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/GIRM/Documents/Lectionary.pdf>

Apostolic Exhortation - *Verbum Domini* Pope Benedict XVI

[https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_exh\\_20100930\\_verbum-domini.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_ben-xvi_exh_20100930_verbum-domini.html)

See especially paragraphs 52-91

## USEFUL READING

Celebrating the Mass CTM

<https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/GIRM/Documents/CTM.pdf>

Homiletic Directory

[https://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc\\_con\\_ccdds\\_doc\\_20140629\\_direttorio-omiletico\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc_con_ccdds_doc_20140629_direttorio-omiletico_en.html)

Contains a useful chapter *Ars Praedicandi* which informs and provides understanding of the structure of the Order of Readings for the Seasonal Cycle and Sundays of Ordinary Time.

Apostolic Exhortation - *Evangelii Gaudium* Pope Francis

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20131124\\_evangelii-gaudium.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html)

See especially paragraphs 135 to 159

Apostolic Letter - *Desiderio Desideravi* On the Liturgical Formation of the People of God Pope Francis

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/20220629-lettera-ap-desiderio-desideravi.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/20220629-lettera-ap-desiderio-desideravi.html)

Address of Pope Francis to Teachers and Students of The Pontifical Liturgical Institute (22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022)

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2022/may/documents/20220507-pont-istituto-liturgico.html>

"*Aperuit Illis*" Instituting The Sunday of The Word of God Pope Francis (September 2019)

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu\\_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190930\\_aperuit-illis.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190930_aperuit-illis.html)

Note - The Sunday of The Word of God DDW (December 2020)

[https://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc\\_con\\_ccdds\\_doc\\_20201217\\_nota-domenicadellaparoladidio\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc_con_ccdds_doc_20201217_nota-domenicadellaparoladidio_en.html)

Address of Pope Francis to Participants in The Plenary Assembly of The Catholic Biblical Federation (FEBIC) (June 2015)

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/june/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150619\\_febic.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/june/documents/papa-francesco_20150619_febic.html)

## Around and About in the Diocese

### Annual Retiring collection for Diocesan Youth activities to be taken on the feast of Christ the King

Anne Ryan, Chair of the Diocesan Youth Commission writes:

Our Diocese is very large from Holyhead to Newtown and we have three senior schools, all in the east. However, the diocese covers the whole of the North Wales coast and the distances involved in travel make it very difficult for young people to meet.

A youth day was held in Rhyl this summer, and whilst attendance was good, the young people were mostly from Rhyl and the surrounding area. We wish to enable more young people to come to such events, so that they can meet other young Catholics to discuss their Faith and have fun.

To that end, at a recent meeting of the Diocesan Youth Commission, it was decided that an annual retiring collection would help. The money raised would be used to provide transport and activities for the youth in the Diocese.

These young people are the future of our Church and need encouraging to continue to learn more about their Faith, and this is easier to do when they get to know other young Catholics.

I ask for your support in this.

### Events and Invitations

#### NOVEMBER

- Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Solemnity of All Saints.
- Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls' Day
- Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed  
St. Winefride, *Virgin*, 10.30am Cathedral  
Annual Diocesan Mass for Foundation Mass  
Donors and their Intentions.
- Thu 7<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Dedication of the Cathedral  
Church of Our Lady of Sorrows (1857)
- Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday
- Sun 17<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Poor
- Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> #RedWednesday -For displaced and suffering  
young Christians
- Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Solemnity of Christ the King  
(last Sunday of the Church's Year)  
Youth Day

#### DECEMBER

- Sun 1<sup>st</sup> First Sunday of Advent  
Advent Family Day - Rhyl
- Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Migrants' Day
- Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Guild of St. Stephen Annual Mass for Altar  
Servers following the Feast of St. Stephen
- Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Opening of the Holy Year –  
St. Mary's Cathedral

### Marriage and Family Life Commission

## Advent Family Day

Sunday 1st December 2024

**Location:** Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church,  
119 Wellington Road, LL18 1LE, Rhyl, Denbighshire

Arrive from 12:00 noon

Please, bring a picnic lunch.  
Refreshments provided.



All are welcome to celebrate family  
and the beginning of Advent



**Craft and activities for all ages –  
make an Advent Wreath for your  
family and lots more to take home**

Concludes with Family Advent Service  
led by Bishop Peter.

**Followed by Hot Dogs and Mince Pies**



**Booking is essential by Sunday 17th November**



Contact Wioletta Trebska  
Marriage and Family Life Coordinator  
[mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk](mailto:mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk)  
or 07542 268728



### Reduced Rate Individually Guided Retreat January 2025

Loreto Spirituality Centre Llandudno

We are offering an opportunity for an individually guided retreat from January 20th to 29th 2025, allowing you to choose the number of days you wish to stay, at a reduced rate of £75 per night.

For the full 8-day retreat, the suggested offering is £675.

For additional information or to book, please contact us on 01492 878031 or via our website: [www.loretocentre.org.uk](http://www.loretocentre.org.uk)



### Humility in action

Years ago an American travelling on a bus in Sweden chatted to the man sitting next to him. Extolling the virtues of US democracy, he remarked, "Ordinary citizens may go to the White House, and discuss with the President". The man remarked "Oh, that is interesting. However, here in Sweden the King and the people travel on the same bus". The man alighted at the next stop, and other passengers turned to the American and informed him that he had been sitting with King Gustav Adolf VI.

### All Saints

The way of this world is to praise dead saints and persecute living ones.

If you think fishermen are the biggest fibbers in the world, ask a jogger how far he runs every morning (Larry Johnson)  
Clever is when you believe only half of what you hear.  
Brilliant is when you know which half. (Orben)  
The first step of wisdom is to know what is false. (Latin proverb)





## Ministry of Acolyte

**David Tarbrook**

On Friday 25th October, Bishop Peter conferred the ministry of Acolyte upon David Tarbrook, at a special Mass held at St Mary's Church Ruabon.

Clergy and parishioners from around the Diocese came to celebrate this joyful occasion.

In his sermon, the Bishop said:

'Dear son in Christ, you have been chosen for the Ministry of Acolyte, and will have a special role in the Church's ministry.

The summit and source of the Church's life is the Eucharist, which builds up the Christian community and makes it grow. It is your responsibility to assist priests and deacons in carrying out their ministry, and as special ministers to give holy communion to the faithful at the liturgy and to the sick. Because you are specially called to this ministry, you should strive to live more fully by the Lord's sacrifice and to be moulded more perfectly in its likeness.

You should seek to understand the deep spiritual meaning of what you do, so that you may offer yourself daily to God through Jesus Christ. In performing your ministry bear in mind that, as you share the one bread with your brothers and sisters, so you form one body with them.

Show a sincere love for Christ's Mystical Body, God's holy people, and especially for the weak and the sick.

Be obedient to the commandment which the Lord gave to his apostles at the Last Supper: "Love one another as I also have loved you."

In the final year of formation for the permanent diaconate, David is currently a parishioner at the Parish of St Richard Gwyn, comprising the churches of Ruabon, Llangollen and Chirk.

Acolyte is the final preparatory ministry conferred upon a candidate before ordination which for David is due in June 2025.

Please keep him in your prayers and pray that more young men may discern a vocation to the Priesthood and Diaconate

## Diocesan Appointments

Recent editions of the "Clarion" have sought recruits for voluntary and paid posts within the Diocese.

### Marriage and Family Life Co-ordinator

This post has now been taken by **Wioletta Trebska**.

The Advent Family Day will be the first event to be organised, and Wioletta looks forward to meeting everyone on that day.

Her contact is [mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk](mailto:mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk)

### Diocesan Archivist

Appointed in succession to Sue Copp as Archivist is **Joseph Kelly**. Well suited to the role, his name is well known to readers of the Catholic weekly, *The Universe* of which he was Editor for some years. Speaking to the Clergy, he invited requests for information about parishes and the churches.

## The Twofold Truthful Tale of St Winefride

Fair Gwenffréwi, born of royal blood  
That straddled Cymru's inner hinterland,  
Discerned a cloistered life enclosed by vow  
And spurned Carádog's courtship for her hand.

Enraged, Carádog took his sword and smote  
Gwenffréwi's neck a devastating blow.  
That rent her head from body in one stroke  
And sent it tumbling on the turf below.

St Beuno, hearing of his niece's fate,  
Gwenffréwi's bifurcated body took  
To his own abbey where his Lord He pled,  
His grace and love and mercy to invoke.

And gently placing head on fairest nape,  
Her wound angelic surgeons knitted tight.  
Gwenffréwi's life restored by Sainly faith  
In Love that conquers death with endless might.

Meanwhile from divot dented in the turf  
Where fell her head when it was cleaved asunder  
Sprang forth a well of healing water, fresh,  
That pilgrims travelled days to submerge under.

And Beuno turned to see Carádog stand  
Defiant, sword in hand, with haughty yawn.  
The Saint called Heaven's wrath down from above  
To carve the ground and swallow Satan's pawn.

In modern times when tales of resurrection  
Are laughable to most enlightened folk,  
A mindful metaphor of mental anguish  
More sympathy is likely to invoke.

Beheading healed? That surely could not be!  
More likely it was post-traumatic stress.  
And Beuno, offering refuge to his niece,  
Took her into his home to convalesce.

If healing came  
to body or to mind,  
Deep Truth abounds in each  
of these two tales.  
Truth of a Love that heals  
a world in pain  
Is captured in this legend  
of North Wales

*Gwenffréwi Sant –  
gweddiwch drosom ni  
Beuno Sant –  
gweddiwch drosom ni*

Andy Jones  
Neu Beuno y Bardd  
5th September 2024



## THE BACK PAGE

### Bishop's Engagements, and a 'gallimaufry of serendipity'

#### BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

##### November

01	12noon	All Saints	Cathedral
02	12noon	All Souls	Cathedral
03	10.30am	St. Winefride – Expired Foundation Mass Intentions	Cathedral
07	12noon	Dedication of the Cathedral	Cathedral
	6.30pm	Confirmations	Welshpool
08	1.00pm	Installation of the Bishop of Plymouth	Plymouth
10	11.00am	Remembrance Sunday Service	Wrexham
10-14		Bishops' Conference Autumn Plenary	Leeds
21	12noon	Overseas Priests Meeting	Tywyn
28	11.00am	Mass for Deceased Clergy	Cathedral
		Clergy Lunch	tbc
29-01/12		Advent Retreat	Old Colwyn

##### December

01		Advent Family Day	Rhyl
10		Board of Trustees' Meeting	Bp's House

#### The Remembrance Poem

The poem is recited every evening at the Menin Gate in Ypres. Ex-soldiers, cadets, or young people are often invited to read it. This follows the playing of the Last Post.

It is used in many countries, of the Commonwealth and in particular, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Generally the last line of stanza 4 "We will remember them" is repeated by the audience or congregation.

However, in Australia, the phrase "Lest we forget" is said. This phrase is common on war memorials and figures of soldiers. While it is a fitting phrase, it is not a reference to the First World War. It is a poem by Rudyard Kipling, written in the form of a hymn, "Recessional" and written for the Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897



Laurence Binyon, 1898, drypoint by William Strang

#### Preparing to Read at Mass

The story is told of the great actor, Sir Alec Guinness who was appearing in the theatre in London. He was sitting in the congregation at St James', Spanish Place, when the priest realised that the reader had not arrived. He approached Sir Alec and asked him to read. Sir Alec replied "Oh definitely not. I have not rehearsed"

#### Remembrance Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup>

*The verse written by Lawrence Binyon (1869-1943) is well known. Perhaps the whole poem deserves more recognition. Binyon wrote this in September 1914 on the cliffs at Portreath in Cornwall after the withdrawal of the British Expeditionary Force. This is the poem in full:*

#### "Ode to the Fallen"

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
England mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,  
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted:  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.**

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.

#### Analysis:

Stanza 1 - the UK is mother, and soldiers her 'children', and cause of the free as the reason for the war.

Stanza 2 – echoes the solemn beat of a drum:

Stanza 3 - refers to the Battle of the Marne, Sept 6-10 1914

Stanza 4 – written first, and the essence of the poem

Stanza 5 - poignant in mourning and loss. Beyond the foam is overseas, now recognised in the Cemeteries in France

Stanza 6 – the soldiers are in a state of transcendence

Stanza 7 – their immortality is recorded as stars

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