



Wreccsam Clarion



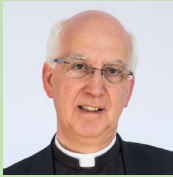
Issue no 28
February 2025

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 year, 2025, the whole of the month, February, is 'Ordinary Time'. Therefore the predominant colour of the liturgy is green. However there are other significant dates: the first weekend is the Presentation of the Lord, the end of the 40 days of the Christmas season, as well as Feast Days. The most popular is that of St Valentine. As the patron saint of happy marriage he is popular in secular terms as well. As a martyr, it would be appropriate to use red -but that ill fits the gentleness and femininity which marks this day. Thus the red is muted, and the white celebrates innocence, and purity.



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Retirement Mass - Canon Francis Doyle

Friday 14th February

Everyone is welcome.

To celebrate this special occasion and to thank Canon Francis for his service to his parishes and to the Diocese there will be a Mass on Friday 14th February at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Buckley at 7pm presided by Bishop Peter. Afterwards, everyone is invited to the church hall for refreshments to continue the celebration.

If you are able to attend please contact Anna via email at webmaster@buckleycatholicchurch.org.uk or by phone on 07961579979 together with the number of people from your Parish or group looking to attend. This is purely to give us some idea of numbers to help with the catering.

Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwxm.org.uk

Over the coming months children and young people in our parishes will be preparing to receive significant sacraments. Around the time of the Feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus the younger children will receive their First Holy Communion. Then close to the Feast of Pentecost, the teenagers will receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

These are, of course, important days in the journey of faith of our young people, but they are also important times in the lives of their parents, families and parishes. No sacrament is ever received in isolation and without an effect upon the whole community. St. Paul reminds the Corinthians and us too, *'But God has so composed the body, giving greater honour to the part that lacked it ... If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.'*

(1Cor. 12:24,26-27.ESV-CE)

When our children and people receive the sacraments or receive them for the first time the whole church rejoices and shares their and their family's joy and blessing.

To change the imagery from the human body to plants; we don't just push a seed into the ground and sit back and wait for it to produce its beauty and fruits. The ground has to be prepared, the tender plant protected and nourished as it grows; the more mature plant has to be trained, supported and pruned. So, too, do we in our growth in faith and the life of discipleship. The responsibility lies first and foremost with parents and families. After all it is they who, when asking for baptism for their child, have accepted for themselves 'the responsibility of training their child in the practice of the faith' and the 'duty to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour.' (cf. Rite of Baptism N.121)

Godparents, too, have affirmed that they will 'help the parents in their duty as Christian parents.' Through the generosity of parish catechists, parents and god-parents are not left to fulfil their commitments without help. The whole of the parish community and, where they exist, our Catholic Schools, gives its support by witness and

example to the children and holding them in their prayers, not just at this time but throughout the years during which they see these children grow into the love of God and take their place in the life of the whole community in worship and service. But it all hangs on parents who, in the words of a blessing of parents are reminded they are the 'first of teachers and the best of teachers to their children in the ways of the faith.'

Returning to the image of the body for a moment, children's sacramental preparation programmes are also an opportunity for parents to have a spiritual work-out and renew their own knowledge, spiritual practice and love of neighbour in good deeds. An easy opportunity to become a leaner, fitter, more robust disciple of Jesus.

There is one thing that is certain: the involvement of parents alongside their children through the time of sacramental instruction, preparation, and formation, makes that time one of pilgrimage and journeying together; itself a reminder that Jesus as brother and Saviour walks alongside us on our life's journey. (cf. Luke 24: 13-32)

The credibility of our individually proclaimed faith and the effective witness of the Church in the world is only a reality to the extent that each of us is prepared to pay in person for our fidelity to Christ in every circumstance difficult as it may be. St. Paul re-assures us, writing to the Romans, *"Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Rom.8:38-39)

As our children prepare to enter more deeply into that love, may we all, parents, families and parishioners, show our mettle as pilgrims with hope for the good and greater honour of the body of Christ as these younger members take their place alongside us in the single profession of faith in God.

With every good wish and the assurance of my continued prayer for the peace and prosperity of the Diocese whose strength is in your hands,

† Peter.

Feast of St Paul Miki and Companions

Paul Miki was born into a wealthy Japanese family. He was educated by the Jesuits in Azuchi and Takatsuki. He joined the Society and became a well known and successful preacher – gaining numerous converts to Catholicism. The ruler of Japan, began persecuting Catholics for fear of the Jesuits' influence and intentions, and possibly that of European visitors.

Miki was arrested and jailed with his fellow Catholics, and later forced to march 966 kilometres (600 miles) from Kyoto to Nagasaki; all the while singing the *Te Deum*. On arriving in Nagasaki (today the largest Catholic population in Japan) Miki had his chest pierced with a lance while tied to a cross on 5th February 1597.

St Blaise and the Blessing of Throats

Saint Blaise was bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the 4th century.. He may have been a physician before becoming a bishop. His cult spread in the Middle Ages because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. From the 8th century he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat. The use of candles for the blessing of throats stems from the candles that Blaise used while in prison. When an old woman's pig had been miraculously rescued from a wolf by Saint Blaise, she would visit him in prison, bringing him food and candles to bring him light in his dark cell.

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

The text for our prayer this month is taken from the Acts of the Apostles, where Peter and John cure a paralysed man.

A man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple.

Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, 'Look at us.' And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.

But Peter said, 'I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!' And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. (Acts 3: 2-8 ESV-CE)



(GSR photo/Elisabeth Auvillain)

Before you start praying, you may like to take a couple of deep breaths and find some inner quiet. Then read the passage slowly and reverently, perhaps several times. When you are really familiar with it, put the text aside and reflect on what you have read.

What feelings arise in you?

Is there a particular phrase which has a personal significance for you? If so, stay with it.

Perhaps the description triggers memories of some special event in your life?

Recall where you were and with whom. What happened? Maybe you were the one in need of help. How did you feel when someone came to support you?

Peter and John act 'in the name of Jesus Christ'.

All of us at some point have had occasion to help others, including those who are sick or in need of care.

In whose name did you act?

Take a few moments to speak to the Lord in your own words and explain how you feel just now. He knows, he understands.

February 11th is **World Day of the Sick**, instituted in 1992 by Pope St John Paul II, who chose this date to coincide with the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. This special day now offers us an invitation to remember all those who are unwell, to give thanks for the work of carers and healthcare professionals, and to consider how our Christian faith calls us to respond.

The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (instituted 1907) commemorates the eighteen apparitions of our Lady in 1858 to a young girl, Bernadette Soubirous, over a six-month period in Lourdes (southwest France). Since then, Lourdes has become one of the most visited sites in the Christian world, with up to 6 million visitors a year. Sick pilgrims come here to bathe, to pray for recovery, or simply to feel supported. People often say they have been cured from a disease after visiting the shrine, although 'official miracles' are rare, recognized only after a lengthy procedure involving medical doctors and serious consideration of the patient's condition beforehand.

The Church has now declared 71 miracles at Lourdes, the latest confirmed by Liverpool's Archbishop Malcolm McMahon last December. John Traynor (1883–1943), a Liverpool Royal Marine wounded during the First World War, subsequently became the first British person whose cure was officially recognised as miraculous.

Sick, wounded and disabled people are given priority everywhere at Lourdes, placed at the front of the crowd during celebrations and processions.

Before concluding your prayer, thank the Lord for being with you today. Like the man who was cured, praise God for his goodness to you.

A closing prayer for the sick

Bring strength to those who walk with the sick. Bring hope to all for whom the path to healing is long or may not end. Lord, let us never forget your special care for the sick, that they may also know they are precious and loved.

Amen.

Saturday 29 March, 10.30 am to 4 pm

Outreach Day of Prayer for Lent at St Beuno's, ending with Mass. Admission free (donations) Email stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com to book

Monday 14 April, 7pm

Lenten Journey with St Beuno's Outreach on Zoom. More details to follow soon.



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him

to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, ‘Every male who first opened the womb shall be called holy to the Lord’) and to offer sacrifice according to the Law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons.’

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him.

Luke 2:22-24, 39-40 ESV-CE

Diocesan Year Books

and “Ordo”

Publication of the Year Book has been delayed by the amalgamation of the Dioceses of Cardiff and Menevia.

It is hoped to be available as soon as possible. For the calendar, go to [Liturgical Calendar | January 2025 - Liturgy Office](#)

In Blaenau-Ffestiniog a Service for Peace

In early January, members of St David's Church-in-Wales parish, and St Mary Magdalene Catholic parish came together to pray for an end to war and violence in 2025



Above, before, and right, during the Service for peace

Rev. Roland presided and Fr Ian Dalgleish offered a reflection taking this passage from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as his starting-point:

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.”

Eternal God, born a tiny child,
you were presented in the temple in the arms of Mary,
and proclaimed by Simeon
as light of nations and glory of your people Israel.

Through the hands of Mary, our sister,
we present you once again, to-day, to your Father.

Make your light rise
like a joyous dawn upon all those
who do not know your name.

Be the glory of Israel, your people according to the flesh
who still have not recognised you.

And when the evening of our life arrives,
give us a share in Simeon’s joy
at being able to see you in the peace of eternity.

Lucien Deiss, CSSp. Biblical Prayers
©1976 Lucien Deiss. World Library Publ.. Ohio

Fr Ian writes: We hope that this format of a short service of prayer on a particular theme, with reflection and discussion, will take place twice monthly and part of our aim is to draw in some people who don't usually attend any church.

<https://ffestiniogfaithforum.blogspot.com/2025/01/a-new-year-service-of-prayer-for-peace.html>



Ffestiniog Faith Forum

Open exploration of all aspects of faith and spirituality today. Sponsored by the Anglican and Catholic communities of Bro Ffestiniog.

About the Forum

The Ffestiniog Faith Forum is a place to discuss, debate, question and explore all aspects of religion, faith and spirituality. Please contribute your views, opinions and ideas - and please be generous and polite in your comments!

THE MISSIONARIES OF ST. PAUL (MSPs) CELEBRATION

Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

Fr. Mark Odion, the MSP Regional Superior, the MSP priests working in the Diocese, and other priest guests joined Bishop Peter to concelebrate a special Mass on 26th January at Our Lady of the Assumption (St. Mary's), Rhyl. A church full to overflowing made up the congregation.

The MSP UK Region exists within the MSP Society of Apostolic Life founded by Dominic, Cardinal Ekandem. It was established by the episcopal conference of Nigeria, in 1976. Next year, in 2026, the Society will celebrate even more joyfully as they celebrate their Golden Jubilee of foundation. The foundation was the response of the Nigerian Church to the call of Pope Paul VI that Africans should become missionaries to themselves. The first group of candidates arrived for the start of their formation in 1977. Priests of St. Patrick Missionary Society, (Kiltegan Fathers) assisted this new Society in its establishment and priestly formation, the first ordinations took place in 1985.

The motto of the Society is "We are Ambassadors for Christ" (2 Cor. 5:20). These are the exact words of St. Paul their Patron saint. Like St. Paul members are driven by the love of Christ (2 Cor 5:14) to be "all things to all peoples" (1 Cor 9:22). The task of this missionary body is to wake up the world, following the instruction of Pope Francis. Their vision is faithfully to carry out the missionary mandate of Jesus.

It was Fr. Cosmas Ikirodah and Fr. Addison Okpeh who were the 'pioneers' to Great Britain arriving in 2000. Since then, priests have come at the invitation of bishops across the whole of the UK. Now, through a wide spectrum of parish-based apostolate, schools, and chaplaincies the MSP UK Region strives to offer hope to the young especially by their engagement in various parish based apostolates. Also, the Fathers are involved in the active ministry to refugees, migrants, ethnic minority groups, care for those trafficked, helping to stop further trafficking, and other apostolates and ministries.

Fr. Moses Amune and Fr. Francis Eyo in 2011 were the first priests of the Society to come to Wrexham Diocese.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:

During Ordinary Time (Winter) we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God;
 Christian Unity; the Unemployed;
 the Sick and those who have care for Them;
 Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat It



**JubileeYear
2025**

**Pilgrims
Of
Hope**

An extensive range of articles and resources is available on the Bishops' Conference website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025/>

The CAFOD Jubilee Icon



The artist:

Mulugeta Araya, 30, is an artist and an engineer who studied at St Mary's College, Wukro, in Ethiopia, which is supported by CAFOD.

St Mary's offers vocational training for young people in agriculture, IT and accounting as well as the arts. The college also takes part in programmes to improve food security, the supply of water, and emergency response in the area.

The message of the icon:

In this passage, Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah as follows:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Luke 4:18-19

As Jesus finishes teaching, and rolls the scroll away, he declares that he has come to fulfil this Scripture.

The CAFOD Jubilee icon will be in the Diocese:

From 9th to 18th February, the icon will be in St Mary's Cathedral in Wrexham.

It will return to the Diocese in June to coincide with the National Pilgrimage to St Winefride's Well & Shrine from 17th to 23rd June.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – February

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



V. Rev. Canon Francis Doyle

**Parish Priest
Our Lady of the Rosary,
Buckley**



Areas of service

Parish Priest to the people of Saltney and Buckley
 Celebrant of The Latin Mass
 Diocesan Treasurer and Trustee to the Diocese of Wrexham
 Scribe to the Priests Council
 Chair of the Trustees to St. Winefride's Well National Shrine
 Spiritual Father to the Bridgettine Sisters, Holywell
 Governor of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School
 Regular Celebrant of Mass at HMP Berwyn

Diocesan Service

Canon Francis continues to serve the Diocese of Wrexham in a number of roles. He is a Trustee of the Diocese, and served for some years as the Diocesan Treasurer. He has served for a number of years on the Board of Governors for St. Richard Gwyn R.C. High School. His commitment to evangelisation by nourishing the faith of all ages and supporting the personal growth of individuals can be seen through his appearance on the [Shalom World TV](#) spreading the word of God far and wide.

We take this opportunity to recognise the work of Canon Francis and thank him for his service. We reflect on the impact his presence has had on us. It is a privilege to be among those to whom he has ministered.

We are grateful that Canon Francis will continue his work throughout the Diocese in various roles as we strive to follow his example of nurturing our parish communities as one family in Christ.

This tribute has been prepared by parishioners of Our Lady of the Rosary. Our thanks to Anna Moss and her team -Ed

This month marks the retirement of Canon Francis Doyle as the popular and esteemed Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Rosary, Buckley. 'In the Spotlight' is pleased to take this opportunity to recognise his unfailing devotion to the Parishes he has served and to the Diocese to which he continues to impart his faithful dedication.

Parish Priest

Within the Diocese, Canon Francis has been a highly regarded Parish Priest to the Churches of St. Anthony of Padua, Saltney and Our Lady of the Rosary, Buckley. His warm welcome is always shown to parishioners and visitors alike. Canon Francis is known for his keenness to listen, inspire and guide those in need. His ability to create and maintain a warm and encouraging community whilst reaching out and including organisations in need of support has generated a legacy to be proud of.



Canon Doyle was installed as Canon of the Cathedral Chapter in 2016

The Latin Mass Society



Canon Francis has been a regular celebrant of the Latin Mass showing his dedication to the ancient liturgy with monthly masses.

St. Winefride's Well

As Chair to the Trustees of the National Shrine Canon Francis continues with his devotion to the people and visitors of Holywell through his knowledge and willingness to inform others about the history and importance of St. Winefride's Well. This commitment includes an appearance on the [BBC Bargain Hunt](#) to spread the legend of St. Winefride and the history of Pilgrimage to this sacred place. Canon Francis' work at St. Winefride's Well and shrine includes a loyalty to the wellbeing and practices of the Bridgettine Sisters. Canon Francis celebrates Holy Mass twice a week for the Community.

Editor's note – In 2026 Canon Francis will celebrate his Silver Jubilee of ordination. This will be another occasion to celebrate in thanksgiving for his careers in public service, family life, and the priesthood.

Diocese of Wrexham
Marriage and Family Life Commission

Annual Mass in Celebration of Marriage and Married Life

All are welcome

Saturday 15th February 2025
at 12 midday

in The Cathedral Church of Our Lady of Sorrows,
Regent Street, Wrexham, LL11 1RB


- All are welcome to take part in the annual renewal of vows with Bishop Peter
- Special blessing for engaged couples due to be married in 2025 from Bishop Peter
- Buffet lunch afterwards

Please let us know by 23rd January if you are celebrating a special anniversary this year: 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th plus, or getting married in 2025, as even if you are unable to attend this Celebration Mass, you will still be kept in our prayers on that day.

Contact: Wioletta Trebska at mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk
or 07542 268728

Esgobaeth Wrecsam Diocese of Wrexham

World Day for the Sick



Mass for the Sick

Saint Mary's Cathedral Wrexham
Saturday 8th February 2025
12noon

Principal Celebrant and Preacher
The Right Reverend Peter Brignall,
Bishop of Wrexham

Wrexham Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 700428

UNDERSTANDING OUR EVERYDAY BELIEFS

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full!
(John 10:10)

LORETO SPIRITUALITY CENTRE, LLANDUDNO
Abbey Road, Llandudno LL30 2EL
Wednesday 12th – Saturday 15th March 2025

The Lenten Season calls us to reflect on our relationship with God and to a deeper understanding of our faith. These days offer an opportunity for an exploration of some aspects of our beliefs in a prayerful context. They will include talks and plenty of time for discussion and questions. There will be an opportunity for daily Mass.


Topics covered will be:

- The Sacraments and Sacramentality
Sr Nuala Gannon IBVM
- The Passion according to St John
Sr Joseette Zammit-Mangion IBVM
- The Church and the Work of Jesus Christ
Fr Michael Smith SJ

These courses may be attended on a residential or non-residential basis.

For further information:
www.loretocentre.org.uk 01492 878031 loretocentre@yahoo.co.uk

St Josephine Bakhita Feast Day
8th February



St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of modern slavery and human trafficking; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking; let them look at you as an example of hope and faith.

Santa Marta Group
santamartagroup.org

[@santamartagroup](https://twitter.com/santamartagroup) [@santamartagroup](https://facebook.com/santamartagroup)

St Josephine Bakhita


is the patron saint of victims of human trafficking. Born in Sudan in 1869, St Bakhita was kidnapped age nine and sold into slavery. She was repeatedly bought and sold, enduring routine violence, torture and humiliation.

She was eventually brought to Italy, where she was entrusted to the Canossian Sisters in Venice. It was there that she was liberated and came to know and experience God's love.

In 1890, Bakhita asked to be baptised, receiving the name Josephine, and in 1896 she took her vows as a Canossian Sister. She lived the next 50 years serving the community, known for her kindness to children, and to all those suffering. She was canonised in 2000.


Today, modern slavery has **50 million victims** globally, and **130,000** in the UK. Pope Francis describes this as a **"crime against humanity"**, and we are all called to combat it.

SMG



santamartagroup.org/st-bakhita-day

If you suspect modern slavery, call:
0999 0800 555 111



To keep up to date with the interface between religious life and faith, and public life and politics, the weekly briefing from the Catholic Union of Great Britain might be considered as a source of news and items currently in the public forum and about which we might wish to be informed:
info@catholicunion.org.uk

JESUIT INSTITUTE - WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER

Online Retreat in Daily Life for Former Prisoners - Week of Guided Prayer

A retreat 9th to 14th March, which forms part of the Jesuit Institute's Prisons Project and supports those now trying to make their way in the world.

ONE RACE • THE HUMAN RACE

carj
Catholic Association for Racial Justice

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY
- 16TH FEBRUARY

The text for 2025 is
'Love one another as I have loved you'

The ecumenical celebration is on 9th of February with the theme 'Coat of Many Colours', reflecting the increasing diversity that exists in the churches in Britain and Ireland. CARJ'S tradition is to celebrate Racial justice week, starting with the ecumenical celebration and ending with the celebration in the Catholic Community.

For further information: <https://www.carj.org.uk/>
CARJ is a registered Charity Incorporated Organisation

The feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of victims of human trafficking and modern slavery, takes place on February 8. There are 50 million victims of human trafficking across the world and as many as 130,000 in the UK, hidden in plain sight in your neighbourhood. Pope Francis describes human trafficking as "blood money" and a "crime against humanity". We are all called to combat this evil trade. To find out more and what you can do, go to santamartagroup.org/resources.

FATHER ABRAHAM VARGIS, CMI

After recent concerns about his health, Fr. Abraham returned home to his community at the end of January. We are most grateful to him for his years of service in the Diocese especially in Saltney parish and more recently in Hawarden, too. We wish him a peaceful, healthy and happy retirement.

Around and About in the Diocese

CELEBRATION OF MARRIED LIFE

All married couples are invited by Bishop Peter to a celebration Mass on Saturday 15th February at 12 noon in St. Mary's Cathedral. Especially welcome will be those who have a significant (10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th +) anniversary this year as well as those engaged couples who are to be married in 2025.

Even if you are not able to attend the Mass you are warmly invited to send names, anniversary/wedding date and contact details in order that you may be included in prayer. Please send details to the Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Coordinator Wioleta Trebska as soon as possible, c/o Bishop's House or direct by e-mail to mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk

Light Refreshments will be available in St. Mary's Cathedral Hall after the Mass

Marriage Week celebrates the vibrancy of marriage as the basis for family life.

Marriage is a beautiful and brilliant institution that the whole of society should celebrate. Hence Marriage Week is a time to say "**Wake up. Marriage is a great idea**". Since a healthy marriage is a skill, let's learn some new skills to turn our marriages from good to very good! <https://marriage-week.org.uk/>

DIOCESAN MASS FOR THE SICK

On Saturday 8th February at 12 noon in St. Mary's Cathedral Bishop Peter will celebrate Mass to recognise the World Day for the Sick, nearest to the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. A special and personal invitation is made to the sick of the Diocese, all who care for them, as well as pilgrims who have been to Lourdes in the past. Bishop Peter hopes guests will join him in this celebration which will include the celebration of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

To assist the logistics of anointing a number of faithful, please ensure that you are in the Cathedral in good time. Light Refreshments will be available in the Cathedral Hall after Mass.

The Pope has written: "*How can we be strong when our bodies are prey to severe, debilitating illnesses that require costly treatment that we may not be able to afford? How can we show strength when, in addition to our own sufferings, we see those of our loved ones who support us yet feel powerless to help us?*"

Although true hope "*does not disappoint,*" and in fact "*strengthens us in times of trial,*" this confidence can often prove perplexing in real situations of suffering. "*In these situations, we sense our need for a strength greater than our own. We realise that we need God's help, His grace, His Providence, and the strength that is the gift of His Spirit.*"

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

FEBRUARY

***PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGES BELOW and APOLOGIES FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE CAUSED**

- Sun 2nd Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
- Tue 4th International Day for Human Fraternity
- Sat 8th St. Josephine Bakhita
Day of Special Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking and Those Working to Combat it.
*Diocesan Mass for the Sick and Infirm
- 7th -14th Marriage Week
<https://marriage-week.org.uk/>
- Tue 11th World Day for the Sick
(Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes)
- Sat 15th *Diocesan Celebration of Marriage
"Marriage Mass"
- Sun 16th Racial Justice Day

MARCH

- Sat 1st St. David, Patron of Wales.
Patron of the Diocese of Wrexham
- Sun 2nd Day for the Unemployed
- Wed 5th Ash Wednesday
- Fri 7th Women's World Day of Prayer
- Sun 9th 1st Sunday of Lent
Rite of Election in St. Mary's Cathedral
- Fri 14th Lent Fast Day
- Tue 19th Meeting of the Diocesan Trustees.

CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES FOR THE RITE OF RECEPTION

The community of the Church is encouraged to support and pray for those who choose to become members of the Catholic Church. Adults make a very personal choice to do so, and should be welcomed by the whole community. To express that support a formal Rite of Election takes place on the First Sunday of Lent, and it marks the final preparation before reception into the Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

As in past years there will be a celebration on Saturday 18th May of a Mass for New Christians (Mystagogia Mass). It is an opportunity for those 'new' Catholics in the Diocese of Wrexham to share the faith they have in communion with the Bishop, priests, deacons, religious and lay people of the Diocese.

Bishop Peter invites all catechumens and those preparing for Reception into the Catholic Church together with their sponsors and families to all these celebrations in the Cathedral.

The Rite of Election which forms a crucial part of their preparation will take place within the solemn celebration of Evening Prayer of the Church on Sunday 9th March at 3.00p.m. (the First Sunday of Lent)

Bishop Peter's Engagements

February

07	6.30pm	Confirmation	Flint
08	12 noon	Mass for the Sick	Cathedral
11	12 noon	Chapter Mass	Cathedral
12	6.00pm	Induction of Fr John Bosco Bukomba, AJ	Abergele
13	6.30pm	Induction of Fr Jasper Tobby Omongo, AJ	Ruabon
14	7.00pm	Retirement Mass for Cn Francis Doyle	Buckley
15	12 noon	Mass for Marriage	Cathedral

March

01	12 noon	St. David's Day	Cathedral
05	12 noon	Ash Wednesday	Cathedral
09	3.00pm	Rite of Election	Cathedral

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step"

This popular saying originated from a Chinese proverb. It can be referenced in a range of ways: A little boy called at the house of a retired gentleman and offered some picture postcards for sale at 10p each. "What are you going to do with the money" he asked. "I am raising one million pounds for famine relief" the boy answered, gravely. He was so small, and the sum so large that the gentleman had to laugh. "One million pounds?" he cried. "Do you expect to raise it all by yourself?" "No, sir", he replied seriously. "There's another little boy helping me"

On Married Love (and with tongue in cheek)

The best way to compliment your wife is frequently (Anon)
 A successful marriage is an edifice that must be rebuilt every day. (André Maurois)
Bride: How can I keep my wedding ring clean?"
Mother: Soak gently in dishwasher three times a day! (Anon)
 "How come you never married?"
 "It was like this: I kept looking for an ideal woman"
 "And you never found her?"
 "Oh, sure! But just my luck -she was looking for the ideal man" (Anon)
 Problems in marriage often arise because a man shows his worst side to his better half. (Anon)
 Advice from a golden jubilarian: "When your wife isn't speaking to you, don't interrupt"

Can History repeat itself? A Tale of Our Times Noah's Ark 2020's

In the years of the 2020's, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now residing in the UK and said, "Once again the earth has become wicked and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing, along with a few good humans".

God gave Noah the CAD drawings, saying, "you have six months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for forty days and forty nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard - but no Ark. "Noah" He roared, " I am about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me, Lord" begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed Buildings Regulations Approval because the Ark was over 30m². My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is development of the site even though, in my view, it is a temporary structure, but the roof is too high. We had to go to appeal to the Secretary of State for a decision."

"Getting the wood was another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them, and we live in a site of Special Scientific Interest set up in order to protect the Brown-Spot Owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I need the wood to save the owls—but no go!"

"When I started gathering the animals, the RSPCA sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued that the accommodation was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space. Then the County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they had conducted an environment impact study on your proposed flood.

"I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission on how many BMEs I'm supposed to hire for my building team. The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Construction Skills Certification Scheme accredited workers with Ark-building experience.

"To make matter worse, Customs and Excise seized all my assets, claiming that I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species. So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least ten years for me to finish this Ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked;

"You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No", said the Lord, "the government beat me to it."

