



# Wreccsam Clarion



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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



Our banner this month shares the last weeks of Lent in the purple of repentance. However out of the purple we emerge through the white of the shroud which enwrapped the body of Jesus, into the bright gold of Easter and the Resurrection.

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**Have YOU something to say? Have YOUR say! Get it OFF your Chest! Share your THOUGHTS.**  
The 'Clarion' is the Diocesan Newsletter, and a means of COMMUNICATION around the Diocese. The Editor would love to have YOUR contributions. You can contribute anonymously (that is to say, you provide name and address, and request that it is not published). Unnamed articles will not normally be published. Share comments, parish news, and humour!

**Resurgam**  
After the Great Fire of London in 1666, Christopher Wren was employed as the architect to design a new one which took 35 years to complete. Searching through the rubble of the old Cathedral, Wren found a stone on which was written "Resurgam" – "I shall rise again"

**The Easter Bunny!**  
Have you ever wondered why the shops are full of Easter Bunnies, and Easter Eggs?  
Rabbits don't lay eggs, do they?

In the midst of recent negative news in the media about faith, religion and the Church, it was refreshing to read something positive and encouraging. It was an article in The Times newspaper (15<sup>th</sup> March) entitled ***Bible sales soar as spiritual Gen Z seeks some good news.*** The religious affairs correspondent Kaya Burgess of The Times wrote:

“Sales of the Bible are rocketing in Britain, figures show, with publishers crediting the increasing spirituality of Gen Z.

There was a growth of 87 percent between 2019 and 2024 – from £2.69m to £5.02m, according to figures compiled by SPCK Group, the Christian publishers, using Nielsen Book Data.

Nielsen said that sales of its ‘Bibles and Liturgy’ category had increased from £7m in 2019 to £8.1m in 2024, up from £5m in 2008. While generally, sales of fiction works are increasing, those of non-fiction books have been declining: Nielsen recorded a 6 percent fall from 2023 to 2024. However, books about religion are bucking the trend, Nielsen Book Data said, “Spending on religious books in total last year measured £25.2m, up 5 percent year on year.”

While it may be a small part of that overall increase, the period of measurement corresponds to the launch of the ‘God Who Speaks’ project of the Bishops’ Conference which has now become the ‘Biblical Apostolate’. It remains under the ‘God Who Speaks’ badge ([godwhospeaks.uk](http://godwhospeaks.uk)) of the Bishops and the Church in England and Wales and continues to put the Bible as the inspiration and foundation of pastoral activity (cf. Verbum Domini [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)).

It continues to produce articles, items of interest and resources for parish and schools as well as the basic task of encouraging the reading and praying of Scripture. The launch of the new Lectionary in December created a revived interest in reading the Bible in private for oneself, not just listening to it proclaimed in the Liturgy. The increased place of the Scriptures in the Religious Education curriculum has in recent years also introduced and renewed the desire to know what is in this book, it is the sort of discovery that is most valuable as wisdom is learned and prayer is made.

Are you a part of that new interest in the Bible? Or one of those who have contributed to the increase in sales of the bible for yourself or a family member? If not, then this might be the ideal time to start. It is not accidental that Jesus revived the hope and vision of the disciples on the road to Emmaus by opening to them the Scriptures about himself; or of how he lifted the dejection of the eleven and opened their minds to understand the Scriptures? We shall hear this again at the Easter Masses. With the use of the English Standard Version -Catholic Edition (ESV-CE) of the bible now being the one used in the Liturgy, more and more editions are being published.

I commend them to you.

Perhaps a starting point for your reading would be to accept the invitation to read the Gospel of Luke through Eastertide.

From Holy Week there will be a simple daily reading schedule, which I am currently preparing, for the fifty days until Ascension, and I invite you to read about a half a chapter a-day and spend a further five minutes reflecting upon what you have read. This sort of continual reading, particularly of the Gospels, begins to open up the full meaning of the word of God as we see new connections between one set of verses and the next. This meaning we so often lose in the fragmented reading over the Sundays. If you do that for seven weeks I am certain you’ll not stop, but begin to discover for yourself books of the Old and New Testaments which will absorb and inspire you.

Mark Woods of The Bible Society, which has partnered the Bishops’ work in the Biblical Apostolate said for the article in The Times, “the very clear increase in demand [for the Bible] seems to arise from a perception that the Bible has something to say to young people.” I would add, ‘not just for young people’. Give it a try and see what it says to you. With every good wish and the assurance of my continued prayer for you and the world through the penance of these last weeks of Lent transformed by the joy of Easter. Alleluia! May Easter be for you and your families a time of blessing, joy and peace, Pasg hapus i chi,

**† Peter.**

### CARLO ACUTIS

The Canonisation (formal ceremony of declaring him to be a saint) of Blessed Carlo Acutis will take place in Rome on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Carlo Acutis is heralded as the first millennial saint. A young man who died of leukaemia at the age of fifteen in October 2006, his short life’s story, quotations, prayers and resources can be found on [carloacutis.com/en/association](http://carloacutis.com/en/association)

### POPE FRANCIS

‘We continue to pray for the Holy Father for his continued recovery that 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.’

#### [Prayers for Pope Francis](#)

We all rejoiced to see Pope Francis impart his blessing from the window of his hospital suite before his journey home to the Vatican towards the end of March.

The Holy Father had been hospitalised since the 14<sup>th</sup> of February, and we have been told that there were two occasions when his life was in danger. The prayers of the faithful were answered.

The Holy Father himself expressed his thanks to the people for their prayerful support over the past weeks. You will be aware that the medical team has stated that the Holy Father requires two months of recuperation. We continue to pray for His Holiness as he regains stability and strength.

## 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.



'It is accomplished' by Michael Torevell  
Copyright © Michael Torevell. All Rights Reserved.  
Used by Permission of the Artist.  
<https://miketorevelldesigns.blogspot.com/>

During April, we continue our journey through Lent towards Holy Week, aware that the deep joy and hope of the resurrection awaits us once we reach Easter morning. This month's picture by Michael Torevell, 'It is accomplished' celebrates this theme. Mike is a practising Roman Catholic who lives near Preston, and his work merges styles and techniques from the renaissance with contemporary landscapes and portraiture. He works in a range of media: oils, watercolour, and digital artwork. His most recent work has been for Christian educational and Church settings, incorporating designs for Christmas, Easter and Sacramental occasions.

Our text takes verses from Psalm 68 (69), where a person in distress calls upon the Lord for help, confident of His compassion. Jesus himself will have known this psalm by heart from his youth and prayed it many times. Its words are quoted several times in the New Testament, especially in relation to the suffering of Jesus. They recall the mockery and scorn endured during his Passion, and the vinegar offered to him by the soldiers. But there is a striking change in mood in the final stanzas, reminding us that the glory of resurrection lies beyond the cross. Good Friday is always followed by Easter Day.

It is for you that I suffer taunts,  
that shame has covered my face.  
To my own kin I have become an outcast,  
a stranger to the children of my mother.  
Zeal for your house consumes me,  
and taunts against you fall on me.

Taunts have broken my heart; here I am in anguish.  
I looked for solace, but there was none;  
for consolers – not one could I find.  
For food they gave me gall;  
in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

As for me in my poverty and pain,  
let your salvation, O God, raise me up.  
Then I will praise God's name with a song;  
I will glorify him with thanksgiving.

The poor when they see it will be glad,  
and God-seeking hearts will revive;  
for the Lord listens to the needy,  
and does not spurn his own in their chains.

Psalm 68 (69)

Take time to study the picture, and then read the words of the psalm slowly and prayerfully. Is there anything that especially touches you? Rest here for a while.

Perhaps the psalmist's words of lament lead you to pray for someone whose life is particularly hard ... those around the world caught up in conflict, or persecuted for their faith, or exiled from their homes or families. Or perhaps the psalm speaks to your own situation in some way, or that of someone you love. Take a moment to notice your thoughts and feelings, and share them with the Lord as one friend to another. You may like to ask him to show you the way to healing and hope.

The last two stanzas strike a different note. Perhaps they bring to mind times when you felt that the Lord heard you, and your heart was revived. Who or what helped you at that time?

You may like to end your prayer by reflecting once more on the image of the empty cross in the picture, and echo the words: 'It is accomplished'. As you end your prayer, thank the Lord for all the suffering he endured for all of us, and for the joy and hope of the resurrection that Easter brings.

## Dates for your Diary

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 7-8.30 pm: Holy Week journey by Zoom**, on the theme of God's generosity. Please email [stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com](mailto:stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com) for the Zoom link. All are most welcome to attend this very prayerful occasion.

Go to [www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com](http://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*.





## Gospel Year of Luke

### AFTER EMMAUS

[The two disciples] rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you."

... Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

*Luke 24:33—36,44-48 ESV-CE*

### THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:

During Lent, we are invited to pray for these intentions: Candidates for the Sacraments (esp. on Sundays of Lent);

Women; Penitents and Wanderers.  
The Needy and Hungry of the World.

And during Eastertide we are asked to pray for:

New Members of the Church;  
Human Work; Vocations;  
Survivors of Abuse;  
the Right Use of the Media;  
the Church;

### ALLELUIA

It is an unusual word that is not native to the English or even the Latin vocabulary: the word 'Alleluia.' As a matter of fact, it sounds less like a meaningful word than the babbling of a child, and when it is sung with many notes for the final vowel, this impression becomes even stronger.

'Alleluia' does of course have a meaning. It is Hebrew word, and down the centuries the church has brought it with her, untranslated (like 'Amen'), as a product of the Jewish soil from which she herself sprang and as a reminder of her earliest days. The word is a cry of jubilation meaning 'Praise the Lord,' and occurs frequently in the psalms. . . .

But the translation does not explain why the church chose and retained this word from the Hebrew language of prayer in order to express her Easter jubilation, even though in later centuries her own children did not understand the meaning. I think the church meant to say: 'In the presence of the mystery that we celebrate on easter, the mystery of our redemption, our usual intelligible vocabulary is inadequate; when faced with the super abundant mercy of God we can only stammer in amazement like children.'

That is how it is with us Christians: As we gaze at the Sun that has risen high over the darkness and cold of our Good Friday, all well-chosen words are useless. We can only stammer out our Alleluia of wonder and jubilation.

*Balthasar Fischer Signs, Words and Gestures. ©1981, Pueblo Publishing Co. Inc.*

### THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – April

For the use of the new technologies. Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships,

will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

For your interest and information please see the item **ANTIQUA ET NOVA** below.

## The Season of Lent



Pope Francis' [Message for Lent 2025](#) has as its theme,

"Let us journey together in hope".  
Lent began on Ash Wednesday and ends on 17 April, Holy Thursday.

The Holy Father's Message is inspired by the Jubilee 2025 theme "Pilgrims of Hope".

"This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year, I would like to propose a few reflections on what it means to *journey together in hope*, and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us, as individuals and as a community," Pope Francis writes.

In his Message, the Holy Father underlines that to journey "evokes the lengthy journey of the people of Israel

to the Promised Land" and adds that "a first call to conversion thus comes from the realisation that all of us are pilgrims in this life", as we reflected during [World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024](#).

Secondly, the Pope underlines that this journey is made together and explains that "Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travellers", it is necessary "to walk together, to be synodal" because "this is the vocation of the Church".

In conclusion, the Holy Father affirms that it is necessary "to journey together *in hope*, for we have been given a promise", in that "*hope does not disappoint*" (Rom 5:5). This is the third call to conversion, which is the central message of the Jubilee, "a call to hope, to trust in God and his great promise of eternal life". For this reason, the Pope encourages us so that hope "may be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter".

### 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 agency of the Pontifical Agency *Aid to the Church in Need (ACN-UK)*

<https://acnuk.org/syria-lebanon25> Registered Charity (England & Wales) No.1097984

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

### ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION – UPDATE

This week the Committee Stage of the ***Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*** concluded. The implementation of the Bill may be postponed until 2029, two years later than originally planned. The Committee voted in favour of an amendment by Sarah Olney MP (Lib Dem) Richmond Park, which will mean that the Senedd will have the final say whether assisted dying becomes legal in Wales, members of the Senedd have voted against assisted dying previously. There is still time to stop assisted suicide becoming law, [watch](#) an interview with Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues.

The important vote for all MPs on the assisted suicide legislation, is likely to take place on 25<sup>th</sup> April. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to allow people to contact their Member of Parliament and it only takes a few moments to submit a message to ask an MP to stop assisted dying being rushed into law. It can be accessed here: <https://righttolife.org.uk/asvote>.

Also, Right to Life is distributing postcards to parishes for people to send to their MPs on this subject.

### THE GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND:

**An invitation to solidarity with the Churches and people of the land of Jesus.**

The Good Friday Collection aims to promote love for the Lord's Land in the hearts of the faithful, so that the Church there will survive, feel cherished and sustained by every Christian, and continue to bear witness of faith in Him who was born, preached the Gospel, died and rose again in that Land. This initiative was born from the explicit will of the Supreme Pontiffs. Pope Paul V, in the Apostolic Brief *Coelestis Regis* of 22 January 1618, first invited the Universal Church to pray and to collect funds for the Catholic community that lives in the Holy Land and for the maintenance of the Places of the Redemption of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Benedict XIV confirmed this purpose for the Collection with the Apostolic Brief *In supremo militantis Ecclesiae* of 7 January 1746. The last pontifical document dedicated exclusively to the Holy Land and the Collection was the 1974 Apostolic Exhortation *Nobis in animo* (cf. AAS 56:177188) of Saint Paul VI, who was also the first successor of the Apostle Peter to make a pilgrimage to the Land from which Salvation came to us. On the purpose of the Collection and its concrete destination, he wrote, "Already Saint Paul took to heart the fate of the faithful of Palestine, and became a zealous promoter of a collection for those who, among the faithful of Jerusalem, were poor. The Churches of Macedonia and Achaia generously accepted his appeal. To the extent of their availability, each of the Christians decided to send relief to the brothers who resided in Judea. The communities that arose among the gentiles felt indebted to the members of that Church, from whom they had received the wealth of spiritual goods, which they reciprocated with the fruit of their charity. The Apostle himself brought relief to the Holy City, seeing in the collection a bond of unity between the new communities of believers and the original Church in Jerusalem" (*Nobis in animo* 17).

By your generosity this Good Friday you have the opportunity to continue that work of bringing relief to the Holy City. The very existence of Christian communities in many parts of the Holy Land is greatly at risk for political, cultural and social, economic, and religious pressures, in addition to your prayerful support you can make a practical difference in the contribution you make to this day's collection.

<https://www.orientchurch.va/colletta-pro-terra-santa/roaco-cco-2.html>

(continued) A range of further resources on opposing assisted suicide is available here:

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

The Bishops of England and Wales have prepared individually and collectively Pastoral Letters for this weekend the 5<sup>th</sup>/ 6<sup>th</sup> April. Printed copies will be available in your parish and it will also be on the Diocesan website from Sunday evening.



## Tour of the Relics of “Saints of Scotland”

### St Margaret of Scotland

(Feast Day 10<sup>th</sup> June)

### St Columba of Iona

(Feast Day 9<sup>th</sup> June)

### St Andrew the Apostle

(Feast Day 30<sup>th</sup> November)

# In the Spotlight

## National Relic Tour of 2025

The Knights of St Columba are hosting the National Relic Tour of 2025, with the Relics of St Columba, St Andrew and St Margaret visiting churches across England Scotland and Wales.

The Relics will be at the 9am Mass on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April St Mary's Cathedral, Wrexham until 11.30am, then to the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Flint for 12.30pm.

### St Margaret of Scotland 1045-1093



St. Margareths Chapel, Edinburgh  
Kjetil Bjørnsrud New York  
Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Generic

St Margaret was born in 1045 in Hungary, daughter of Edward the Exile, of the Anglo-Saxon house of Wessex, and Agatha.

In 1070 she married Malcolm III King of Scotland.

She was regarded as extremely pious, privately and publicly, reading religious texts to her husband, rumoured as a 'civilising' influence on him.

Her charitable acts include:

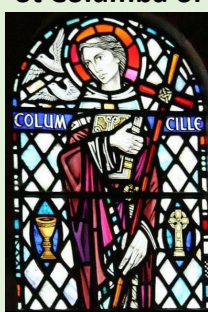
- Sponsoring a ferry for pilgrims to reach St Andrews (*North & South Queensferry*);
- Serving orphans and the poor every day, before she ate;
- Washing the feet of the poor in imitation of Christ;
- Rising at midnight to attend the liturgy;
- Inviting the Benedictine Order to establish a monastery in Dunfermline;
- Instigating the restoration of Iona Abbey;
- Interceding for the release of English exiles after the Conquest.

She spent much of her time in prayer, devotional reading and ecclesiastical embroidery, and influenced changes to church practices.

With Malcolm she had six sons and two daughters: Edward, Edmund, Ethelred (Abbot of Dunkeld), Edgar (King of Scotland), Alexander (King of Scotland), Edith (renamed Matilda, Queen of England) Mary (countess of Boulogne), David I, King of Scotland).

She died of grief, in 1093 three days after hearing of the death of Malcolm and her eldest son, Edward

### St Columba of Iona 521 – 597



Also known as Colmcille, Columba is Latin for 'Dove'. Born in Gartan, in County Donegal to aristocratic parents, he is said to be from the 'High Kings of Ireland'.

He is regarded as one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland.

In 563 he left Ireland (perhaps as expiation) with 12 companions in a 'currach', a small boat covered with leather and landed on the Kintyre peninsula. Still in sight of Ireland he moved north to Iona.

Stories of miracles abound, including an encounter with an unidentified animal which may be the origin of the Loch Ness monster.

He was a renowned man of letters, wrote hymns, transcribed over 300 books. He founded many abbeys, and revitalised monasticism.

A 14<sup>th</sup> century prayer begins 'O Columba spes Sotorum' (O Columba, hope of the Scots).

He is venerated equally in Scotland and in Ireland, where he remains known as Colmcille, and one of the three patron saints after Patrick and Brigid.

He is honoured also in the Anglican and Episcopalian communion.

He died in Iona and was buried by his monks in the abbey. Later his remains were divided between Ireland and Scotland

### St Andrew the Apostle d. 60 AD



St Andrew, by Peter Paul Rubens

Born 5/10 AD, in Bethsaida, he was baptised by John. The elder brother of Simon (Peter) he was called as a 'fisher of men' and became an Apostle

Having been with Jesus at the most significant moments (Mount of Olives; feeding the 5000; Last Supper) he preached in Scythia, around the Black Sea and Greece, and the Crimea. He founded the Bishopric of Byzantium.

He is said to have been martyred at Patras in Achaea. Early texts suggest he was bound, not nailed to a cross. Legend reports that he refused to be on a traditional cross, unworthy to be crucified as Jesus was. The iconography develops that he was bound to a saltire cross (X-shaped - crux decussata), although this develops in the later Middle Ages.

Relics are said to be in Patras, and other places including St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. Legend says they were brought by Regulus, who was shipwrecked off Fife. Probably brought in the Augustinian mission of 597, and then by Bp Acca of Hexham to Fife in 732. He founded the see of St Andrews, still known by that name. St Andrew is patron saint of Barbados, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Ukraine. In 832 a white saltire of cloud appeared in the sky, and an inferior army of Picts and Scots overcame the Angles. White on blue - the Scottish flag



## Around and About in the Diocese



### THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS (ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL)

As a result of extensive and expensive repair works due to be carried out from mid-June, for many months, the Cathedral will be closed and not able to be used. Times and dates are, at this stage, still uncertain because of grant applications, availability of contractors and many other factors.

It does mean that some of the Diocesan celebrations will take place in other churches of the diocese.

While grants may help, and no matter how much is raised in that way, a substantial contribution will need to be paid by the Diocese. That means all the parishioners across North Wales will contribute in support of the 'mother church'.

It is twenty years since such major works have been necessary, but now they are essential.

The Diocese will be grateful to hear of any funders or donors who would be willing to assist, and contributions are also welcome from members of the diocese to help preserve this historic and culturally important church.

In this case, please contact the Cathedral Dean, Fr. Nicholas Enzama: c/o Secretary Wrexham Cathedral

[secretarywrexhamcathedral@rcdwxm.org.uk](mailto:secretarywrexhamcathedral@rcdwxm.org.uk)

### MASS OF THE CHRISM

#### St. Mary's Cathedral – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April -7.00pm

In a special invitation in this Jubilee Year, Bishop Peter extends a warm welcome to everyone to join with him and the priests in this principal Mass of the Church. The Oils to be used throughout the Diocese in the coming twelve months are blessed and the Oil of Chrism consecrated. This occasion with the consecration of the Oil of Chrism is a demonstration of the unity of the Church of Wrexham as well as being an opportunity to us all to pray with and for our priests as they renew again their priestly promises.

#### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April Deacons' Renewal

This year the Deacons will renew their diaconal promises at a Mass on Saturday of the Octave Week of Easter at 12 noon in St Mary's Cathedral.

#### INTERNATIONAL MASS Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

On the Saturday nearest to the Feast of St Joseph the Worker (1<sup>st</sup> May, and a special 'Bank Holiday' in many European countries), Bishop Peter will celebrate a Mass with and for all those who have come to Wales to make a home, to study, or earn a living.

In sharing a common faith, it is an opportunity also to share culture, and Bp Peter invites those attending to express themselves in their National Costume.

The Mass is at 12 noon in St Mary's Cathedral, and there will be refreshments in the hall, afterwards.

### Events and Invitations

#### LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS

##### APRIL

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday  
Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Mass of the Holy Chrism.

##### The. Sacred Triduum

Thur 17<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday  
Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Good Friday  
Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Easter Vigil  
Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Easter Day  
Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Deacons' Renewal of Promises

##### MAY

Thur 1<sup>st</sup> Feast - St. Joseph the Worker  
Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Mass for Workers from Overseas.  
Thur 8<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of VE Day 1945  
Sun 11<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer for Vocations  
Tue 20<sup>th</sup> Day of Prayer for Victims of Abuse.  
Thur 29<sup>th</sup> Ascension of the Lord

### CATECHUMENS AND

#### CANDIDATES FOR THE RITE OF RECEPTION

Once again, Bishop Peter confirms that having formally welcomed them on the First Sunday of Lent, Catechumens will again be celebrating the rites of initiation at the Vigil - Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

Having made the decision to join the Catholic Church, it becomes the responsibility of the local communion to welcome them.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> June, a Mass will be celebrated for these new members sharing unity with the Bishop, and priestly, diaconal, religious and lay members of the Diocese.

Sponsors, families and parish members are warmly invited to this celebration, formally known as the *Mystagogia*

### LENT STATION SERVICES AND 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)

The last of the Stational Jubilee services of Reconciliation this Lent will be held on

**Wednesday at 6.30pm. 9<sup>th</sup> April**

**Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Church, Dolgellau**

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

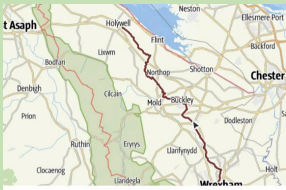
Both St. Mary's Cathedral and St. Winefride's, Holywell are designated Jubilee holy sites of pilgrimage at which the gift of plenary indulgence can be received.

## PILGRIMAGES



**Crosswalk Pilgrimages in Lent**  
**The CrossWalk initiative mission is to walk in faith together. Praying for peace and acting for peace.**

CrossWalk aims to unite people and promote peace by walking together. Walks take place throughout North Wales and everyone is invited to join at any point along the route, for any portion of the walk. Participants can also share intentions or prayers to be included in the CrossWalks. They are organised by Julie and Garth Butcher (not the Diocese) and more information may be found at <https://www.pilgrimways.org.uk/crosswalk-pilgrims>



### Coedpoeth to Holywell Pilgrimage Walk, 22<sup>nd</sup> June

Dermot Ryan and Steve Davies from the Cathedral Parish will be walking from Coedpoeth to Holywell for the St Winefride Procession and Mass on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June as a Pilgrimage. In this Jubilee year of Pilgrims of Hope, they invite you to join them.

The Pilgrimage will start in the car park of Holy Family Church in Coedpoeth. The walk is around 22 miles and a pace of around 3 miles an hour will be maintained so it requires a good level of fitness. The Pilgrims will leave the car park of the Church no later than 6 am. There will be a stop for lunch but you will need to bring your own lunch and drinks. There are no shops on the way but there are cafés in Holywell when we arrive.

**Please note, Dermot and Steve are only the guides to show the route, they are not leading the Pilgrimage and are not responsible for the safety of participants. You are responsible for your own safety.**

For anyone who does not feel up to tackling the whole pilgrimage, we can arrange a joining point around 5 miles out from Holywell but please note, the Pilgrims will still need to maintain the pace from there (around 3 miles an hour).

Anyone who is interested in joining Dermot and Steve, please register your interest before the **17<sup>th</sup> April (Maundy Thursday)** by emailing Dominique (the Bishop's PA) on [pa@rcdwxm.org.uk](mailto:pa@rcdwxm.org.uk) with your name and contact details (the Diocesan Data Protection Policy can be accessed here: [DATA PROTECTION POLICY](#)). When contacting Dominique, can you also indicate whether you intend to complete the whole walk or would like to join closer to Holywell.

We will arrange a meeting to go through practicalities and the recommended kit list sometime in early May and you will be notified of the date, time and venue of that meeting nearer the time.

**Dermot and Steve look forward to you joining them in June**

## ANTIQUA ET NOVA

In a Note on the relationship between artificial intelligence and human intelligence, the Dicasteries for the Doctrine of the Faith and for Culture and Education highlight the potential and the challenges of artificial intelligence in the areas of education, the economy, labour, health, human and international relations, and war.

**By Salvatore Cernuzio**

The Pope's warnings about Artificial Intelligence in recent years provide the outline for "[Antiqua et Nova](#)," the "Note on the relationship between artificial intelligence and human intelligence," that offers the results of a mutual reflection between the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Dicastery for Culture and Education. The new document is addressed especially to "those entrusted with transmitting the faith," but also to "those who share the conviction that scientific and technological advances should be directed toward serving the human person and the common good" [5].

In 117 paragraphs, "Antiqua et Nova" highlights challenges and opportunities of the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the fields of education, economy, work, health, relationships, and warfare. In the latter sphere, for instance, the document warns of the AI's potential to increase "the instruments of war well beyond the scope of human oversight and precipitating a destabilizing arms race, with catastrophic consequences for human rights" [99].

Summary in Vatican Press

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2025-01/new-vatican-document-examines-potential-and-risks-of-ai.html>

## Living Theology 2025

A Summer School in Christian Faith



Loreto Spirituality Centre, Abbey Road, Llandudno LL30 2EL

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July

The Living Theology Summer School provides opportunities to deepen our understanding of our Christian faith and personal reflection on Christian living. No prior theological knowledge is required; just an open mind and a willingness to engage.

**Keynote Speaker:**

Chris Thomas

How Jesus used the Jewish Scriptures to reveal an Image of God that is always loving and affirming.

**Plus a choice of workshops on:**

- Scenes from the Gospel of John - Josette Zammit IBVM
- Grace - Michael Barnes SJ
- Heaven and Earth in the Psalms - Karen Eliassen
- Prophets for our Day too - Chris Thomas

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

[www.loretocentre.org.uk](http://www.loretocentre.org.uk) [info@loretocentre.org.uk](mailto:info@loretocentre.org.uk) 01492 878031



## JUBILEE YEAR 2025

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

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



# SYNOD

## For a Synodal Church – Communion, Participation, Mission

(Bishop Peter shares with you a letter from Cardinal Grech)

In a letter last month from Mario Cardinal Grech *Secretary General* of the Synod *For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission* to the bishops of the church the announcement was given of the beginning of the accompaniment and evaluation process prior to the Implementation Phase of the Synod which will begin in May this year.

### Cardinal Grech writes:

‘On 11 March, the Holy Father definitively approved the start of a process of accompaniment and evaluation of the implementation phase by the General Secretariat of the Synod. This process calls upon Dioceses and Eparchies, Episcopal Conferences, and the hierarchical structures of the Eastern Catholic Churches, as well as their continental groupings. They will be responsible for engaging institutes of consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, lay associations, ecclesial movements, and new communities present in their territories. It will ultimately culminate in the celebration of an ecclesial assembly in the Vatican in October 2028. For now, therefore, a new Synod will not be convened; instead, the focus will be on consolidating the path taken so far.

‘In the Accompanying Note to the *Final Document* [English](#) of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, the Holy Father had already specified that it «*is part of the ordinary magisterium of the Successor of Peter*» and, as such, must be received accordingly.

He went on to explain that it is not strictly normative but nonetheless calls on the Churches to make consistent choices. In particular, «*the local Churches and groupings of Churches are now called upon to implement, in their different contexts, the authoritative proposals contained in the Document through the processes of discernment and decision-making provided for by law and by the Document itself*».

On **Page 1** you are invited to contribute any items of interest, parish news, comments on the state of the world (!) and HUMOUR! Here are two contributions from a valued and regular contributor. (Thank you, Neil!)

‘In light of these indications, therefore, the implementation phase of the Synod should be understood not as merely the “application” of directives from above, but rather as a process of “reception” of the orientations expressed in the *Final Document*, adapted appropriately to local cultures and the needs of communities. At the same time, it is essential to move forward together as the whole Church, harmonizing this reception across different ecclesial contexts. This is the reason for the process of accompaniment and evaluation, which in no way diminishes the responsibility of each Church.

‘In line with the indications of the *Final Document*, [English](#) the aim is to concretely realise the perspective of the exchange of gifts between Churches and within the whole Church concrete (cf. nn. 120-121).

Along the way, everyone will be able to benefit from the richness and creativity of the paths taken by local Churches, gathering the fruits in their territorial groupings (Provinces, Episcopal Conferences, International Meetings of Episcopal Conferences, etc.). The process will also be an opportunity to evaluate together the choices made at the local level and recognize the progress made in terms of synodality (cf. n. 9).

Thanks to this process, the Holy Father will be able to listen to and confirm the orientations deemed valid for the whole Church (cf. nn. 12 and 131).

Finally, this process provides the framework within which to place the many and diverse initiatives for implementing the orientations of the Synod, particularly the results of the work of the Study Groups and the contributions of the Canonical Commission.

### “I can see clearly now!”

Meeting an old friend after a few months, I asked him how he was.

“Great!”, he said, “I have just spent £2000 on a new hearing aid. It is marvellous”.

“What kind is it?” I asked  
“12.30” he replied

‘It is of fundamental importance to ensure that the implementation phase serves as an opportunity to re-engage the people who have contributed and to present the fruits gathered from listening to all the Churches and the discernment of the Pastors in the Synodal Assembly: thus, the dialogue already initiated in the listening phase will continue. The process will rely on the work of synodal teams composed of priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, laymen and laywomen, accompanied by their bishop: these are fundamental tools for accompanying the ordinary synodal life of local Churches.

For this reason, existing teams should be valued and possibly renewed, idle teams should be reactivated and appropriately integrated. This process will also offer Dioceses that have invested less in the synodal path an opportunity to recover the steps not yet taken and to form their own synodal teams. ...

‘In this context, the announcement of the Jubilee of synodal teams and participatory bodies to be held on **24-26 October 2025**, takes on particular significance, thus placing the commitment to building a Church that is increasingly synodal within the horizon of the hope that does not disappoint, which we celebrate in the Jubilee.

The journey that will lead the whole Church to the celebration of the ecclesial assembly in **October 2028** will be structured in such a way as to offer adequate and sustainable times for the implementation of the Synod’s indications, while also providing for some significant moments of evaluation.’

Boss of Ryanair Michael O’Leary went into a pub in Dublin and ordered a pint of Guinness.

“5 Euros, please”, said the barman.

“That’s very reasonable indeed for a pint of Guinness in the heart of Dublin”, said Michael O’Leary.

“Would you like it in a glass?” asked the barman

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

**BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS**

**April**

|            |  |                   |
|------------|--|-------------------|
| 02-04      | Visitation   | Carmel, Dolgellau |
| 09 6.30pm  | Lenten Station   | Dolgellau         |
| 11 6.00pm  | Lent Penitential Service   | Cathedral         |
| 12 12 Noon | Marriage & Family Life Lent Family Day and Stations of the Cross | Pantasaph Friary  |
| 13         | Palm Sunday  |                   |
| 16 7.00pm  | Chrism Mass  | Cathedral         |
| 17 7.30pm  | Mass of the Lord's Supper  | Cathedral         |
| 18 3.00pm  | Passion of the Lord  | Cathedral         |
| 19 9.00pm  | Easter Vigil   | Cathedral         |
| 20         | Easter Sunday  |                   |
| 7.00pm     | Ecumenical Service   | Pwllheli          |
| 26 12Noon  | Deacons' Renewal Mass  | Cathedral         |

**May**

|           |                         |                |
|-----------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 03 12Noon | International Mass      | Cathedral      |
| 04-08     | Bishops' Spring Plenary | Buckfast Abbey |

**Reflect awhile!**

The Gospels do not explain the Resurrection; the Resurrection explains the Gospels. Belief in the Resurrection is not an appendage to the Christian faith; it is the Christian faith.

*(J.S. Whale)*

**And smile:**

Satan called a meeting of the Board of Directors of Hell. "I am concerned", he said, "Business is not increasing".

One demon offered, "I'll go back and convince people there is no heaven" he said.

"We've tried that, and it doesn't work", replied Satan.

"Well, I'll go and convince them there is no Hell", said another "No, that doesn't work either", said Satan.

A long time resident said "If you let me go back, I will fill this place. I'll just convince them there is no hurry"

An elderly man was driving on the motorway, when his mobile phone rang. It was his wife. "Arnold", she said, "I have just heard on the news that there is a car going the wrong way on the motorway. Please be careful".

"Hell's bells", exclaimed Arnold, "it's not just one, it's hundreds of them"

The Old Bull asked his sons what they planned to do in the future. The first said he would go to Rome to be a Papal Bull. The second wanted to go to the city and be a bull on the Stock Exchange. The third bull wanted to be a bull in a china shop. The Old Bull turned to the youngest and said, "What about you, Son?" "I want to stay here with you, Dad, for heifer, and heifer, and heifer"

Remember the adage "Old age and cunning will always outwit youth and enthusiasm"

**CATHOLIC DIRECTORY**

The Official Catholic Directory is the 'book of record' for the Catholic Church in England & Wales – which has been in print since the 1830s. It is the centrepiece of an ongoing communications mission to the Catholic community. Compiling the directory every year involves months of work in updating, amending and collating more than 900 pages of the latest information concerning our Catholic community and its many and varied activities.

The Directory project is entirely self-funded and relies on advertising and copy sales to cover its significant annual production and distribution costs. By purchasing the Catholic Directory customers are providing vital support to the work of providing a useful source of current information as well as helping to create the archive of the Church in England and Wales for the future.

The small team also supports the print publication online with its two websites –

[www.thecatholicdirectory.co.uk](http://www.thecatholicdirectory.co.uk)

[www.thecatholicnetwork.co.uk](http://www.thecatholicnetwork.co.uk)

Both these portals highlight Catholic news and commentaries, and support key Catholic organisations in their mission. Circulated from the same house are digital news mailers, which are well known for their up-to-the-minute response to the important topics and political issues that affect our Catholic community

Follow the link above If you would like to know about this [FREE](#) service, or purchase a copy of the Catholic Directory 2025.

**Prayer of St Columba of Iona**

Alone with none but Thee, my God,  
I journey on my way.  
What need I fear when Thou art near,  
O King of night and day?  
More safe am I within Thy hand,  
than if a host around me stand.

**Christ the Light of the World**

Years ago, lamplighters were employed to light and extinguish the gas lights in the streets. A reporter asked one if he never got tired of extinguishing the lights in the dark and cold. "Never sam I cheerless", the old man replied. "There is always a light ahead of me, to lead me on". "But what do you do to cheer yourself when you put out the last one?" asked the reporter. "Then comes the dawn", replied the old man.

A kindergarten child came back from a lesson about Easter. He understood who Jesus was but was confused about the rose.

He asked his mother "Why was Jesus a rose?"

