



Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 27
January 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

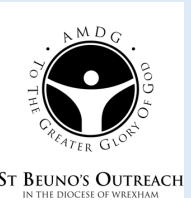


From the Baptism of the Lord, until the Presentation (February 2nd), the 40 days of the Christmas season continue, and yet liturgically it is 'Ordinary Time'. In the northern hemisphere it is winter, with white snow and ice. However, ice is not white. It is blue. As snow is compressed it turns blue, and can be caused by refraction of light. As icebergs reduce, and turn over, the ice from below the water is a strong blue colour.



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A new 'podcast'

All Kinds
of
Catholic
A Weekly Podcast

Back in October I wrote in this column about anniversaries as the first of the '80 year anniversaries' occurred and which related to the end of the Second World War. Since then we have had a number, including the one that is current at the moment, namely, the 'Battle of the Bulge' (from 16th December 1944 until 25th January 1945). As I wrote then, there will be more 'eightieth anniversaries' to come as this year 2025 proceeds.

Looking beyond 'eightieth' anniversaries to centenaries, we find other interesting and influential anniversaries. This year we may include in October 2025 the centenary of the moment the Scottish inventor John Logie Baird transmitted recognisable human features by television for the first time. I wonder what he would make of to-day's proliferation of screens (VDUs) for education, entertainment, mass observation, navigation, radar and all manner of technological uses, not to mention the multiplication of channels available on any one TV .

Another centenary is of the German industrial chemist Carl Bosch who invented the process for preparing hydrogen on a manufacturing scale. As we look to alternative and clean energy supplies for all manner of uses, from heating to transport, it is remarkable that Bosch's work now takes on a new significance in everyday life.

At the other end of the scale of centenaries we have the 17th centenary, (1700 years ago) of the first Church of the Nativity erected in Bethlehem. It was destroyed by fire some 200 years later, but more significantly it was in 325 that the Council of Nicaea took place. This Council settled the dispute about the nature of Jesus and decided against Arianism in favour of Athanasius. The Council formulated the Nicene Creed that is professed most Sundays of the year in our liturgical celebrations and is the normative profession of faith of the church.

This, first, ecumenical council was convoked at Nicaea by the Emperor Constantine the Great in 325. It was called to settle the dispute over the relationship between the First and Second Persons of the Blessed Trinity; it condemned the teaching of Arius. He was a priest of Alexandria who taught that the Son of God is not of one nature or substance with God the Father, nor equal to Him in dignity and not co-eternal. According to Arius, Christ was not God, for he did not share the divine nature; he was not man, for he did not

have a complete human nature, made up of soul and body, but only human flesh. Thus, he was a composite intermediary being - the Word made flesh - neither true God nor true man. He was not the mediator who unites God and man in his own person.

On the other side were the docetists who put forward a Gnostic heresy that Jesus was not real but only a phantom, denying the reality of Christ's material body and hence the Incarnation of the Word, the hard earthly life, the passion and death of Christ.

So, against Arius, the Council Fathers (318 bishops) affirm the strict divinity of the Son of God, "one in being with the Father". Against the docetists the Council stresses the reality and completeness of Christ's humanity: he "became flesh, was made man." All of this is succinctly drawn together in the Symbol of Faith of the Council of Nicaea; The complete document of the Council can be seen on the Papal Encyclicals website

<https://www.papalencyclicals.net//councils/ecum01.htm>

The story did not end there, as historically this caused a number of disputes over the teaching of the Church that were to rumble on for decades.

The place of a creed is in the rite of baptism but in the struggles against Arianism the Creed made its way into the Mass. It was in the midst of a later controversy that Charlemagne introduced the Constantinopolitan Creed into the Mass after the Gospel where, though not an element of worship or prayer, it remains to this day in the Roman Liturgy.

As we celebrate our human anniversaries, we keep in mind the greatest of them all: namely that the Son of God became man and lived among us and ' ... to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor the will of the flesh nor the will of man, but of God.' (John 1:12-13)

Please be assured of my continued prayer for you and your families throughout this Jubilee Year and that we may journey together as Pilgrims of Hope yearning for the treasures of heaven and bringing the peace and joy of our Redeemer to those whom we meet

f Peter.



Holocaust Memorial Day 'For a Better Future'

The theme marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

80 years after the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, antisemitism (anti-Jewish hatred) has increased significantly in the UK, and globally, following the 7th October attacks in Israel by Hamas and the war in Gaza.

Extremists are exploiting the situation to stir up anti-Muslim hatred in the UK. Many UK communities are feeling vulnerable, with hostility and suspicion of others rising. The hope is that HMD 2025 can be an opportunity for people to

come together, learn both from and about the past, and take actions to make a better future for all. **We can;**

i. **Learn for a better future** – discover about the Holocaust and more recent genocides and about the processes that lead to genocide ([10 stages of genocide](#));

ii. **Remember for a Better Future** – let the stories, lives and deaths of the victims of genocide not be forgotten;

iii. **Take Action for a Better Future** – do not let distortion, denial or trivialisation of genocide take hold. Stand up against hate crime and do not let others suffer from prejudice or persecution because of their faith, ethnicity or other characteristic. ([Take Action for a Better Future](#))

Further information and resources are available on the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust website, hmd.org.uk



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH
IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

Praying with St Beuno's Outreach: 'As one friend to another ...'

In this monthly reflection, St Beuno's Outreach invites you to pray with an image and a verse of Scripture or other material. 2025 brings the Jubilee Year of Hope, and we are encouraged to step into this new year as Pilgrims of Hope.

The text we have chosen for prayer this month offers words of hope from Fr James Keller (1900-1977), a Maryknoll Father sometimes called 'Father of Hope'. (Click [here](#) to find out more about him.) Fr Keller founded 'the [Christophers](#)', whose title comes from the Greek words for 'Christ-bearer'. Their mission is to encourage people of all ages and from all walks of life to use their God-given talents to make a positive difference in the world, showing love to both God and neighbour. In this way, we can all be hopeful 'Christophers' or 'Christ-bearers' to our family, friends and community.

The motto of the Christophers is an old Chinese proverb:
It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.



Spend some time reflecting on this phrase and on the image, letting whatever resonates with your own life and with our world come to the surface. You may be struck by how the action of lighting one candle can join with other single candles.



Assisted Suicide – Sanctity of Life

For World Peace Day (see p.8) the Pope spoke on the value of life and his opposition to those threats to life in the womb through to old age in sickness and infirmity. He spoke of the inhuman treatment of migrants, of environmental decay and wilfully created disinformation. He asks we care for wounded lives, to restore dignity to the lives of everyone "born of woman", for this is the basis for building a culture of peace. "I ask for a firm commitment to respect for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, so that each person

When you are ready, begin your prayer by becoming aware of being in God's presence, and ask for his help to put aside any other concerns just for now. Breathe deeply and relax under God's loving gaze.

Then read James Keller's text through slowly, a couple of times.

Hope looks for the good in people instead of harping on the worst.

Hope opens doors where despair closes them.

Hope discovers what can be done instead of grumbling about what cannot.

Hope draws its power from a deep trust in God and the basic goodness of human nature.

Hope 'lights a candle' instead of 'cursing the darkness'.

Hope regards problems, small or large, as opportunities.

Hope cherishes no illusions, nor does it yield to cynicism.

Hope sets big goals and is not frustrated by repeated difficulties or setbacks.

Hope pushes ahead when it would be easy to quit.

Hope puts up with modest gains, realising that 'the longest journey starts with one step'.

Hope accepts misunderstandings as the price for serving the greater good of others.

Hope is a good loser because it has the divine assurance of final victory.

Maybe there is a particular phrase here that catches your attention? Or perhaps there is a line that suggests an event in your own life, past or present?

Stay with this awhile and speak to the Lord, as one friend to another, about its particular meaning for you at this time.

In general, are you a hopeful kind of person?

How often do you use words like 'hopeless' or 'hopefully'?

Ponder this for a moment, then notice how you feel.

Perhaps you are inwardly accepting of your situation?

Or maybe you sense a new determination to look at the world in a more positive, hopeful way in this Jubilee Year of Hope?

Whatever your response, thank the Lord for being with you in your prayer - listening, supporting, gently guiding as you reflect.

As you conclude your prayer, you may like to take with you into the new year these words of hope spoken by Jesus:

'In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world!' (John 16:33)

You can download our prayer resources for the Sunday Scripture readings as the weekly Prego and Prego Plus at <https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/>.

may cherish his or her own life and may look with hope to the future".

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2025/documents/20250101-omelia-madredidio-pace.html>

As MPs consider the Bill in Committee, you can keep up to date with CBCEW and Catholic Union websites, and [Prospect Magazine](#) focuses on MPs on the Committee. "People listen to witnesses more than teachers -and if they listen to teachers it is because they are witnesses." (Pope Paul VI). You are encouraged to write and witness statements are the most powerful.

Gospel Year of Luke



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Now when all the people were baptised
and when Jesus also had been baptised and was
praying,
the heavens opened,
and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form,
like a dove; and a voice came from heaven,
'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'

Luke 3:21-22 ESV-CE

We are urged to move quickly beyond the intimate scene of Jesus' birth towards the more challenging vision of his baptism. In short, we are asked to move in the direction of life itself: from concern for intimacy to concern for community.

A Christian parish becomes its best when it accepts the challenge of community. The parish community, as the real expression of a local church, cannot limit its attention to the search for justice and intimacy among its own members; it must be prepared to take up the cross, standing against evil and injustice wherever they exist in the world. This may seem like a harsh message for the Christmas season, but in fact it is the church's message at all times, in all seasons. There is, ultimately, *only one mystery* Christians celebrate: the paschal mystery, Jesus' dying and rising in a new human community called "church".

Nathan Mitchell

Liturgy, vol.1, No2. ©1980 The
Liturgical Conference, Washington DC

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

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



The icon interprets Jesus' teaching of healing and liberation in the Synagogue in Luke 4:16-21, which refers to Isaiah 61:1-2. This passage is particularly relevant to the Jubilee given its emphasis on bringing good news to those who are poor, and liberty to those who are captive or oppressed.

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, he declares that he has come to fulfil this Scripture.

Source: cafod.org.uk

Jubilee Icon prayer cards are available in your parishes.

CRIB OFFERINGS

Our commitment to support the work of the three adult and one children's hospice in the Diocese continues, and Crib Offerings will be divided between Nightingale House Hospice, Wrexham, St. David's Hospice, Llandudno and St. Kentigern's Hospice, St. Asaph, and Hope House Tŷ Gobaith Children's Hospice, Conwy

THE CATHOLIC UNION

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

SYNOD – FINAL DOCUMENT

In mid-December, Mario Cardinal Grech, the Secretary General of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops notified the bishops of the world that the *Final Document*, has been published.

The document can be read on the Synod website www.synod.va where a whole host of synod related information, documents, interviews and resources helping to give the fullest of narratives of the synod process and its meaning for the Church can be found. The *Final Document* consists of the Document itself, and the Accompanying Notes which Pope. Francis signed on 24th November last, approving it and ordering its publication.

“As such, the *Final Document* is part of the ordinary Magisterium of the Successor of Peter. In approving it the Holy Father recalled that, although there would not be a subsequent post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation which is the normal follow-up papal document following a synod, ‘this does not mean that it does not commit the Churches from now on to make choices consistent with what is stated in it.’”

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.

“For this reason, to the Document that represents the fruit of the discernment of the entire synodal process carried out so far, the inaugural and final greetings that the Holy Father addressed to the assembly have been added as appendices because they are particularly significant.”

It is recommended therefore that these four elements should be kept together and cross referenced as necessary. Cardinal Grech concludes, “The synodal journey is not concluded, but entrusted to the creativity of the local churches.” In this time, to Mary who welcomed the Word in her womb, we are to entrust “the implementation phase of the synodal process so that the holy people of God may be ever missionary disciples and pilgrims of hope.”

OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – 18th– 25th JANUARY ‘Do you believe this?’

This year’s theme is inspired by the words from St. John’s Gospel (Jn.11:26) taken from the dialogue between Jesus and Martha when Jesus visited the home of Martha and Mary in Bethany following the death of their brother Lazarus. (Jn.11:17-27)

The virtue of belief figures highly in 2025 as it is the 1700th Anniversary year marking the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, near Constantinople in 325 AD. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on, and celebrate, the common faith of Christians, as expressed in the Creed formulated during this Council. It is the symbol of faith which we proclaim most weeks of the year in our Sunday Liturgy.

In many of the towns across the Diocese local ecumenical and CYTUN groups will be holding united services to which we are encouraged to participate. Please check with your own parish.

Further information and resources are available <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources> and <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity/2025/>

SANTO NIÑO

In the CLARION editions of January (issue 15) and December 2024 (issue 25) there were short items about the statue, devotion and blessing of Santo Niño de Cebu’. (These issues are still available to view on the Diocesan website)

At the 10.30 Mass on Sunday 19th January the installation of the Santo Niño statue in St. Mary’s Cathedral will take place, accompanied by the blessing of children. The statue (and celebration) is a gift to us from the Filipino community as they share their faith and spirituality to the Child Jesus with us.

Among other things they also celebrate the 25th anniversary of coming to Wrexham in 2000 when the NHS specifically recruited nurses from the Philippines to staff our hospitals and to whom we are immensely grateful.

Looking Ahead

JANUARY 2025

Sun 12th	The Baptism of the Lord
18 th – 25 th	Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. Theme: “Do you believe this?” (John 11:26).
Sun 19 th	2 nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
	Peace Day
	Santo Niño Blessing
Sun 26 th	Sunday of the Word of God
Mon 27 th	Holocaust Memorial Day

FEBRUARY

Sun 2 nd	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
	World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
Sat 8 th	St. Josephine Bakhita
	Day of Special Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking and Those Working to Combat it.

Events and Invitations

7 th to 14 th	Marriage Week https://marriage-week.org.uk/
Tue 11 th	World Day for the Sick (Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes)
Sat 15 th	Diocesan Mass for the Sick and Infirm
Sun 16 th	Racial Justice Day
Sat 22 nd	Diocesan Celebration of Marriage “Marriage Mass”

MARCH

Sat 1 st	St. David, Patron of Wales. Patron of the Diocese of Wrexham
Wed 5 th	Ash Wednesday
Sun 9 th	1 st Sunday of Lent Rite of Election in St. Mary’s Cathedral

Gardens And Gardening

This 'Spotlight' is inspired by a contribution from a Clarion reader looking at 'The Flowers in Mary's Garden'.

More information can be found at "[A Garden for Our Lady](http://www.gracewing.co.uk)" by Felicity Surridge, illustrated by Malcolm Surridge [gracewing.co.uk](http://www.gracewing.co.uk)

Eden to Gethsemane and beyond

Genesis suggests that God created Man and Woman to live in the Garden of Eden - a paradise of growth and fruitfulness. After the Fall, it was Christ who saved mankind taking the route from Gethsemane to Calvary.

After the Resurrection, Mary Magdalen meets Jesus and thinks he is the gardener!

Gardens therefore have a very full and beautiful place in theology. Little wonder that keen gardeners find great spirituality in gardening. St Benedict created a garden for prayer. Most Abbeys and Monasteries have gardens and cloisters in which the Spirit of God is found in the growth and fruitfulness.

For those of us who may find gardening a 'chore', then we can always blame Adam, and see the weeds and their constant appearance as the work of the devil! On the other hand "weeds are merely flowers in the wrong place"!

On reflection, it is worth considering the influence of gardens, fields, and growth on theology. Jesus used mustard seeds, vines and vineyards as his analogies. He strode through a field of wheat on the Sabbath. In fact, all images are based on agriculture, pastoral and arable farming, fishing, and wine growing – these represent the experiences of his listeners.

So, why gardens? Because they represent growth, transformation and fruitful relationships. God as a gardener gives growth, transforms his plants (us), and builds us into fruitful relationships. That same relationship a plant (unspeaking) has with the gardener!

Plants and flowers in Liturgy

Surely it is an undisputed fact that the nuns in enclosed convents were traditionally the finest seamstresses?

A glance at traditional vestments, Roman chasubles in particular offer an insight into the power of love and fine craft skills. Today's more popular 'Gothic' style is simpler and with less decoration, apart from some orpheries. And yet, flowers are still the main decoration.

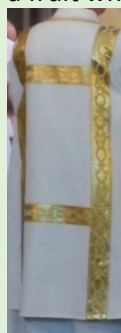


The altar frontal above was made by every pupil in St David's school, including Reception classes. In liturgical colour, all the symbols found in each season are represented. From nails, thorns, to lilies, pomegranates, and roses.



The vestment (left) is an 18th century silver leaf now tarnished) in the Canon James Webb collection. Look at the cornucopiae, flowers and motifs.

A popular motif is the pomegranate – a fruit which is full of seeds.



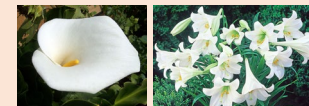
Chi-Ro, Alpha et Omega, and IHS are popular, with lambs, sheep, and pelicans as the common animal designs usually in iconic orpheries. Modern designs are simpler, such as this diaconal dalmatic.

"Our Lady's Garden"

Plants associated with Our Lady, would run to several hundred. However, for the small plots which most of us cultivate, gardeners must choose those best adapted to the home garden.

Soil, available sunlight, types of plants annuals, perennials and shrubs, must be considered first. Here are some easy to grow plants to start an "Our Lady's Garden"

- Lily-of-the-valley (Our Lady's Tears)
- Cyclamen (Our Lady's Little Ladies)
- Morning-glories (Our Lady's Mantle)
- Spearmint (Mary's Mint)
- Rosemary (Rose of Mary)
- Pansies (Our Lady's Delight)
- Roses (the Mystical Rose Emblem of Mary)
- English daisies (Mary-loves)
- Forget-me-nots (Eyes of Mary)
- Marigolds (Mary's Gold)
- Canterbury bells (Our Lady's Night Cap)
- Scabiosa (Mary's Pincushion)
- Sweet William (Mary's Tuft)
- Columbine (Our Lady's Shoes)
- Foxgloves (Our Lady's Gloves)
- Meadow rue (Our Lady of the Meadow)
- Peonies (Mary's Rose)
- White Plantain Lily (Assumption Lily)
- Fuchsia (Our Lady's Eardrops)
- Hollyhock (St. Joseph's Staff)
- Petunias (Our Lady's Praises)
- Periwinkle (Virgin Flower)
- Iris (Sword Lily)



Two Marian Lilies

Calla Lily. Lily Longiflorum

Good Gardening!

Advertisement for a vacant post within the Diocese

Visitor Centre Manager at St. Winefride's Well and Shrine, Holywell, CH8 7PN



An opportunity now arises for the right person to show their skills in managing, contributing effectively to the operation of the Visitor Centre, and ensuring a good experience for all visitors/pilgrims to this ancient religious site of St Winefride's Well and Shrine in the care of the Roman Catholic Church's Diocese of Wrexham (Registered Charity No.700426).

Visitors to this historic Well, Chapel and grounds are served by a Visitor Centre that includes an Interpretative Centre, Museum, Exhibition and a Shop/Repository.

The Trustees are seeking a **Full-time Manager of the Centre** who is open to flexible working, can work alternate weekends and cover holidays, is highly motivated, and self-driven for this 'hands-on' role. The postholder, when on duty, would normally be the first point of contact for visitors to St Winefride's Well and Shrine.

Applications are invited from those with good customer service and management skills, including retail knowledge or experience; who are interested in the religious and historical features of this delightful heritage site; and who can promote and develop the retail, heritage and spiritual experience.

Summary: The postholder will:

- manage the Visitor Centre, with support of a small customer services team, motivating and developing staff, including in their historical and spiritual knowledge of the Well and Shrine.
- deputise for the Facilities Administration Manager when necessary.
- create a welcoming atmosphere and great 'one to one' visitor experience, engaging at all given opportunities.
- employ the necessary skills to develop the Centre's promotional materials and
- create the right atmosphere to maximise visitor involvement and the making of kind donations when desired.

Essential Requirements:

- + Ability to communicate well with people at all levels of society and in the diverse communities and visitors served.
- + Ability to work autonomously and deal calmly with all issues that may arise.
- + Retail and Customer Service experience, Stock Control, Purchasing, tills & PDQ, cash handling and associated procedures.
- + Be experienced with all aspects of Office 365.
- + Be prepared to make presentations to, and guide, individuals and groups, enjoying and being motivated by this aspect of the role.
- + A Catholic with a good knowledge of the Christian faith and motivated and enthusiastic to increase knowledge of the Cult of St Winefride, the Well and Shrine, and the related historical tradition.

Desirable:

- = Welsh Speaker
- = Readiness for full time working alternate weekends on a Rota Basis, holiday cover
- = The right candidate will be flexible and adaptable to last minute changes.

Benefits of being a member of the team for Wrexham Diocese:

- Flexible working where possible
- Free parking
- NEST pension scheme
- Real Living Wage employer
- Attractive Salary
- Uniform provided

CLOSING DATE 24TH JANUARY 2025

Application Information and full Job Description available by email - businessmanager@rcdwxm.org.uk

JESUIT INSTITUTE - WEEKS OF GUIDED PRAYER

[An Online Week of Guided Prayer for those affected by Clergy Abuse in the Church - Week of Guided Prayer](#) 26th to 31st January with a team of experienced Spiritual Directors.

this retreat is carefully prepared with the Safeguarding officer to ensure protocols and support exist for those who take part.

[Online Retreat in Daily Life for Former Prisoners - Week of Guided Prayer](#) 9th to 14th March, the Jesuit Prisons Project to support those now trying to make their way in the world.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION - January

Pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, will always be respected.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER: Ordinary Time (Winter)

we pray for: Peace on Earth; the Unemployed
Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity;
the sick and those who have care for them;
Victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it

Around and About in the Diocese

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



PEACE DAY – SUNDAY 19TH JANUARY

“Forgive us our offences: grant us your peace.”

Pope Francis’ message focuses on s current issues and offers **three** concrete proposals for the new year:

the cancellation of foreign debt,
the abolition of the death penalty and
the creation of a global fund to eradicate hunger..

<https://www.exaudi.org/>

Message of hope and peace

Pope Francis wishes peace to all people, especially those who feel overwhelmed by their situation. 2025 will be a Jubilee Year dedicated to hope and God’s mercy, a time to renew faith and solidarity.

The Jubilee of 2025

Filling us with hope, the Jubilee has its roots in an ancient Jewish tradition of proclaiming a year of mercy and liberation every 49 years. This modern Jubilee seeks to restore God’s justice, promoting equality and support for those most in need.

Global responsibility

We have a shared responsibility in protecting our “common home”. The Pope criticises the exploitation and injustice which persist in the world, and calls for a cultural change recognising the bond between us all as children of the same Father.

Concrete proposals Three key actions:

He suggests to restore human dignity and foster hope:

1. **Forgiveness of external debt:** forgive the external debts of the poorest countries, recognising an ecological debt that rich countries must settle.
2. **Abolition of the death penalty:** elimination of the death penalty worldwide,- it destroys the hope of redemption and violates the inviolability of life.
3. **World fund against hunger:** allocate a part of the global arms budget to eradicate hunger and promote sustainable development in the poorest countries.

Peace and disarmament of the heart

The Pope stresses that true peace is achieved when hearts are disarmed, promoting gestures of friendship and solidarity. Finally, Pope Francis invokes God for peace for all and exhorts world leaders and people of good will to work together for a more just and fraternal future. He makes an urgent call to global action to build a more just and peaceful world, where everyone can live with dignity and hope.

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20241208-messaggio-58giornatamondiale-pace2025.html>

An optional retiring collection may be made on Sunday 19th in support of Pax Christi.

EVANGELISING SISTERS OF MARY



L to r Sr AnnLydia Tukamuheba (Uganda)
Sr Triphosa Karugara
Sr Jacqueline Yopongi (Kenya)

Arriving from Nairobi on the feast of St. Stephen, Sisters **Jacqueline** and **AnnLydia** of the Missionary Congregation of the Evangelising Sisters of Mary (MC-ESM) joined Sister Triphosa to complete the newly established community in Ruthin. After settling in, they will continue to develop the pioneering work begun by Sister Triphosa in Ruthin and the Cathedral.

The Archconfraternity of St Stephen



On Saturday 28th December Bishop Peter had the privilege and pleasure of presenting Archconfraternity Silver Medals to **Jordan Bone** (Rhyl) and **Bartosz Dodzyninski** (Cathedral) in recognition of ten years of regular serving.

A further eleven young people from Rhyl and the Vale of Clwyd (Denbigh) Parish were enrolled into the Guild of St. Stephen. They, along with other servers from across the Diocese, renewed their promises and commitment to serve regularly, with reverence and understanding for the glory of God and the service of the Church.

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

January

09 th - 17 th	Bishop Peter on leave	
19 10.30am	Mass with Santo Niño Blessing	Cathedral
26 th 2.00pm	25 th Anniversary Mass for MSPs in the UK	Rhyl
28 th 5.15pm	Mass for the Feast of St Thomas Aquinas	Bangor Chaplaincy

Theresa Alessandro, previously worked with the Prison Charity PACT, and has set up a podcast. Here she tells us about it, and invites you to listen and get involved:

Podcast Gift to the Church

"I'm forever bumping into people who just feel very isolated. So something like this makes you feel part of a community, even if it's unseen...an absolute gift to the church." (A recent podcast guest.)

Have you discovered the **All Kinds of Catholic** podcast? In each weekly episode, podcast creator Theresa Alessandro is in conversation with a different Catholic guest, exploring how they live their faith in the world today. Guests will often be people who are not in the public eye. Taken together, their stories illustrate the image Pope Francis uses in *Evangelii Gaudium*, of a 'chaotic...genuine experience of fraternity, a caravan of solidarity, a sacred pilgrimage' experienced by Catholic people 'stepping into this floodtide' of life.

Theresa says, 'The final document of the Synod encourages us to 'nurture what binds us together' and I believe the podcast is one way to do that. These are *real* conversations with *ordinary* Catholic people, whose words can encourage us in our everyday lives and in our faith.'

You can find Kinds of Catholic on all the podcast platforms, or listen here <https://kindsofcatholic.buzzsprout.com>

All Kinds of Catholic

A Weekly Podcast

This is the beginning of a new venture for Theresa and she is discerning the steps a few at a time. She would be happy to chat further about the podcast and more
theresa@KindsofCatholic.co.uk
<https://kindsofcatholic.buzzsprout.com>
 Fb Twitter/X BlueSky Instagram
 @KindsofCatholic

Fr John was hearing confessions. A man walked in: "Bless me, Father, it is many years since my last confession. I have been the manager of a timber yard for the last thirty years, and there has not been a day when I have not taken home a piece of sawn timber"

"Oh, that is very serious" replied Fr John. "I shall have to give you a significant penance. Do you know how to make a Novena?"

"No, Father. But if you give me the design, I have the wood"

The Philosophy of Gallus Domesticus

One of the deepest questions of our time is: ----

"Why did the chicken cross the road?"

You may have your answer -here are some famous people's

DESCARTES /RUSSELL; To get to the other side

PLATO For its own good -the other side is TRUTH

ARISTOTLE – It is in the nature of chickens to cross roads

KARL MARX It was historically and socially inevitable

HIPPOCRATES The result of an excess of pancreatic secretion

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR I have a vision of a world in which chickens will be free to cross the road without having to justify their action.

MOSES God came down from heaven and said to the chicken: "You must cross the road", and the chicken crossed the road, and God saw that it was good.

TRUMP "The chicken never crossed the road.

I REPEAT:The chicken did NOT cross the road."

SIGMUND FREUD "The fact that you are preoccupied with the idea that the chicken crossed the road reveals your strong feeling of latent sexual insecurity"

BILL GATES "We have just completed the new 'Chicken Office 2025' which will not only make it possible for your chickens to cross the road, but will also assist them to lay eggs, classified by shape and size"

GALILEO GALILEI Nevertheless, it **DID** cross the road

SCIENTOLOGY The reason the chicken crossed the road is within you, but you do not yet know it. At £1000 per session, a psychological analysis will allow you to discover it.

EINSTEIN The fact that whether it was the chicken which crossed the road, or it was the road which moved under the chicken depends completely on your relative position.

PIERS MORGAN "I have beside me the extraordinary chicken which successfully completed the formidable exploit of crossing this fantastic road: "Why did you cross the road?" Chicken: "Cluck. Cluck"

Morgan: "There you have it. He says he is extremely proud of having completed this adventure, this challenge, this exploit of crossing on his own, this super multi carriageway highway."

BRADLEY WIGGINS Wasn't it a rabbit?

FORREST GUMP "Run, chicken, run"

STALIN "The chicken must be shot on the spot, as well as the witnesses of this act, and ten others at random for not having prevented this subversive act"

SYLVESTER STALLONE The chicken; the road; he crosses it because he knows he crosses it - you see, it is his life and his death. The road is God, all the potential of his life, and me, superstar, when the lorry comes at me, I think of the chicken and God, and I mix all the potential of life and the road. It is beautiful!

GOVERNMENT MINISTER Because the chicken found work
ANYONE OVER 70; To retrace its steps in order to remember why it had crossed the road originally

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For further information and contributions please contact the Editor, Mark J. Philpot at clarion@rcdwxm.org.uk

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