

St Francis of Assisi, Llay

PARISH NEWS

Mid-January 2025



The content in this Parish News is in addition to that in the Parish Bulletin, the Parish Website and the Diocesan newsletter, The Wrexham Clarion. If you have news or opinions of interest that you'd like to share here, would you please let our parish secretary know of them.

INVOLVEMENT IN PARISH ACTIVITIES

Happy New Year to you all, and at a time of taking on resolutions for 2025, may we appeal for you to consider becoming more involved in the parishioners' activities.

The activities which would welcome your support are many, and include:

St Vincent de Paul Group	Church Cleaning
Prison Visiting	TCC Community Organising
Prego Group	Altar Servers
Parish Website	After-Mass Hall Refreshments
Church Readers	Samaritans
Parish Finances	Parish Advisory Council
Organists for Saturday Masses	

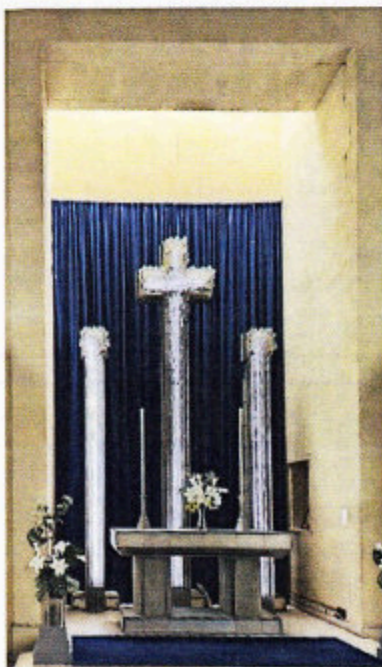
Please ask Canon or our Parish Secretary, Anna, for the person to contact for more information.

TCC - ANNUAL PLANNING DAY

TCC will be holding their Annual Planning Day for 2025 at the UareUK Hub, Unit B12, Eagles Meadow Shopping Centre LL13 8DG from 5:00pm to 9:00pm on Wednesday 5th February when the organisation's performance in 2024 will be reviewed and its agenda and strategy set out for 2025.

This is your opportunity to bring community issues that you care about for discussion with the other TCC groups, to share ideas, to set out goals for the year and outline how they will be achieved.

A REMARKABLE CHURCH VISITED BY PARISHIONERS

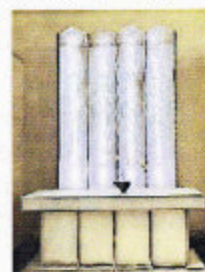


Derrick and Bridget Gwilliam were awe inspired when visiting St Matthew's church in Millbrook in Jersey which had been rebuilt in the 1930's in honour of Jesse Boot, the owner of Boots the chemist, by his widow who employed the foremost glassmaker of the age, René Lalique, to decorate the church.

The wooden entrance doors with inserts of glass angels lead into the church with its altar, screens and windows in Lalique glass, with a shining 3m high cross towering over the altar and with four illuminated crystalline angels in the Lady Chapel.

The font is a marvellous forged glass iconic Jersey lily, a motif of purity.

To the Greater Glory of God.



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



To mark the beginning of the new calendar year and the start of the Jubilee Year 2025, we held a whole school Mass in the junior school hall on Friday 10th January. The theme of our Mass was 'Hope' to tie in with the Jubilee theme 'Pilgrims of Hope', and all the readings, prayers and hymns were specially selected to help us focus on how we can be 'pilgrims of hope' this year.



The official launch of the Jubilee Year for children takes place on 24th January, and this will begin our year of striving to share Jesus' mission to spread peace, love and hope as a St Mary's family, through our words and actions. We plan to hold a red, yellow, green and blue dress-up day to represent the four corners of the world from the Jubilee Year logo coming together to spread the Word of God. In addition, all classes will create images of different 'Holy Doors' which will be used to create a 'Holy Doors' display on the doors that lead into our school hall- our special sacred gathering space. We also plan to go on a whole school pilgrimage walk and plan to take part in CAFOD's Lenten Walk.

We have many other wonderful plans to respond to Pope Francis's call for us to be signs of hope in our world by caring for our common home, and by supporting our brothers and sisters who are experiencing war, hunger or poverty. We look forward to sharing our activities with you this year.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC AND ANGLICAN HIGH SCHOOL

Our new term started on Tuesday 5th January for pupils, but the staff were in school doing training on Monday 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany. It has long been a tradition at St Joseph's that we, the staff, mark the doors of our classrooms and offices with sacred signs and symbols, asking God's blessing upon those who enter to work, to learn or to visit throughout the coming year.

It's called the "Chalking of the Doors" and reminds us of the story in the Book of Exodus when the Israelites marked their doors with blood of the lamb at Passover; we however mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we invite God's blessing and presence in our school.

We remember the names of the Magi, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar and so we use the first initials of their names C M B – which also stands for Christum Mansionem Benedicat meaning May Christ Bless This Dwelling. Everyone has a piece of black paper and some chalk to write the inscription. The letters are inscribed between the sign of the cross and the numbers of the year. **20 + C + M + B + 25**. These are taken to the classrooms and offices and put on the doors for the remainder of the year.

Together we say this prayer:

Come dwell in this place and in our hearts Lord
and may all who come here to work, to learn and to visit
throughout the year find Peace, Comfort, Joy, Hope, Salvation and Love;
we ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Are you interested in learning how to arrange flowers, and what is involved in preparing flower arrangements for the Altar? Currently a small number of people do this service, and they are looking for more volunteers to help with this ministry. Please let Canon know if you are interested, and he can put you in touch with them to find out more.