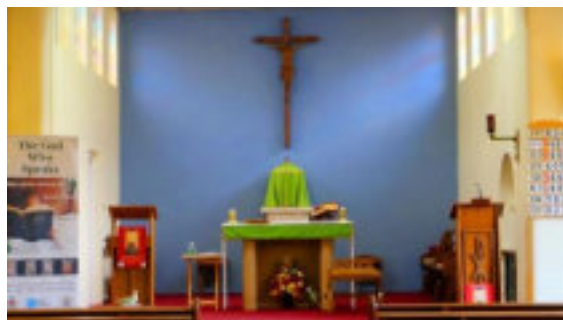


St Francis of Assisi, Llay

PARISH NEWS

Mid-February 2024



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.

LITURGY GROUP - LENT

Now that we are in Lent, preparing with prayer, fasting and almsgiving for the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord, please be mindful that the Stations of the Cross will be held on Wednesdays at 2:15pm and Fridays at 7:00pm, and the Silent Hour of Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is from 3:00pm every Sunday and Wednesday.

S V P

Our parish group continues to visit and support vulnerable and lonely people with companionship and practical help.

Can we tell you about Sarah (not her real name as confidentiality is very important to us). In her 90s, Sarah was living in her own home and managing with carers coming in daily. Her family visited regularly but Sarah told her practice nurse that the afternoons dragged. The nurse asked if she would like to be referred to SVP. After initially turning down the offer Sarah changed her mind. A few years on we are still visiting Sarah, now 98, in the care home in which she has been living since she had a fall at home. On most visits Sarah tells us it was one of the best decisions of her life, although I don't know who enjoys the visits more - Sarah or members of SVP. She is such a delightful lady, with wonderful stories of her family and days gone by. It is such a privilege to be a part of the lives of people like Sarah.

If you have an hour or two a week to spare, please consider joining the St Vincent de Paul Society. Not only do we help people in need, membership enriches our lives too. We know most folk lead busy lives today and some say they will consider joining when they are retired but the sooner you join, the more you have to gain. Please contact a member of the SVP if you'd like to learn more.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

The PAC met on 30th January 2024 to review and advise on matters which might assist Canon in managing the parish.

Among subjects under discussion were the present balance of the parish accounts, the possibility of returning to Holy Communion under both kinds, the SVP recommencing the food collections for the Wrexham Food Bank and consideration of options for increasing attendance at church services.

The next meeting will be at 7:00pm on 18th June 2024 and you are all welcome to attend.

S V P – FOOD BANK

Following the discussions at the PAC meeting, next weekend SVP will recommence collecting and forwarding the parish collections to the Wrexham Food Bank.

Please leave your donations into the box provided by the SVP in the church porch area.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

It's been a busy half term at St Mary's. Here are a few of the highlights that we shared this month:

Nursery Open Day On 23rd January, we held our annual open morning and welcomed prospective new nursery families to the school. As usual, our Year 6 children offered guided tours of the school and shared first-hand knowledge and experiences with our guests. The children were wonderful ambassadors for the school and were complimented on their excellent communication skills, their confidence and pride in our diverse and inclusive school.

Dosbarth Dyfrdwy (Year 6) and Dosbarth Conwy (Year 3 & 4) Class Assemblies What wonderful thought-provoking assemblies were performed by our Key Stage 2 children, helping us all consider the impact of climate change on God's wonderful world. Using poetry, songs and 'raps', drama and quizzes, each class provided many examples of how we can all make small changes in our daily lives to help reduce our carbon footprint and protect the world for generations to come. As always, parents and family members were invited to watch the assemblies in the afternoon, and we are very grateful for their continued support for our school.

Children's Mental Health Week- 5th-11th February 2024 Our Pupil Voice coordinators, together with the Eco team and School Council planned an action-packed week of activities to celebrate Children's Mental Health Week based on the theme-'Your Voice Matters.' The children participated in a range of games and activities using their voices to communicate their feelings and emotions. The children particularly enjoyed 'Express Yourself' day where they could dress creatively to express themselves and 'Break the Rules' day where they could pay 20p to express themselves by 'breaking' school rules! It was a joy to see the children empowered to use their voices to make a positive impact on those around them.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC AND ANGLICAN HIGH SCHOOL

Every day begins with prayer for all the pupils, either in morning worship in their form class or in a year group assembly. The prayers for each week are prepared around a theme for the week and the themes for this term so far, have been, Epiphany, Christian Unity, Remembering the Holocaust, Peace, Ash Wednesday, Lent – prayer, sacrifice and almsgiving, St David and Justice. In this way the whole school is focussed on a single theme, sharing the same messages about God's love for them and for the world and helping pupils to explore their faith.

A "Prayer for the Day" is prepared by the school chaplains and this prayer is recorded and distributed to all form teachers who use it on one day; the form tutor prepares and leads prayers on two days of the week; on one of the days a whole year group is together for an assembly and on the remaining day the pupils themselves prepare to lead their class in prayer.

Staff prayer, prepared and led by the Chaplains takes place every Friday morning in our chapel. All staff who wish to come along to spend a few moments in reflection and prayer at the end of a busy week are welcome!



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH

Lent Day of Prayer with St Beuno's Outreach

A time of quiet reflection, ending with Mass

Saturday 9th March 2024 10:30am to 4pm

New Conference Room, St Beuno's LL17 0AS

Admission Free: all are most welcome

Book through stbeunosoutreach@beunos.com