

St Francis of Assisi, Llay

PARISH NEWS

Mid-March 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.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC AND ANGLICAN HIGH SCHOOL

I will never forget all the sights and sounds of India, it is one of the most colourful, busy, noisy and welcoming places I have ever had the pleasure of travelling to! - by Parishioner Michelle Woodward.

During February half term break with other teachers from St Joseph's, I had the privilege of visiting our Year 11 charity "Reaching the Unreached" in Tamil Nadu, India to see the work they do. This charity was started in 1974 by Bro James Kimpton, (the uncle of some in our group) who was a De La Salle brother originally from Chester. The charity helps the poorest of the poor in southern rural India and aims to empower destitute and marginalised people. Since 1974 when Bro James opened a road-side clinic to treat the medical needs of the people, the charity has built four children's villages, a Nursery, a Primary and a Secondary School, they've sunk 2,493 bore wells to provide clean water for people, built 9,016 houses for people with no homes, set up self-help groups for women who have no income, they feed over 2,000 adults and children a day and provide pensions for the elderly who receive no help from the government.

The extent of the work that Bro James started and that is now carried on by the people of the local area is immense, it is hard to put into words; the work has simply transformed the lives of people who in reality have nothing, but still we were made so welcome into their villages and their homes when we visited that we were humbled by these experiences.

This Lent, St Joseph's School are going to help the charity in a very real way and plan to fund the building of a simple house that would house a foster mother and eight children. We are aiming to raise £12,000 by asking people to buy a £1 brick for the house and instead of giving something up for Lent, we have asked our pupils to give something to help this project.

To buy a brick click the this link <https://www.rtu.org.uk/fundraisers/build-a-house-for-lent> and to see the inspiring work the charity does - <https://www.rtu.org.uk/welcome-to-reaching-the-unreached>



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The role of our Messengers of Christ At the start of each academic year, pupils in each year group are nominated by their peers to be 'Messengers of Christ' to act as role models sharing the message of Christ within our school community. They lead our school in prayer, reflection and actively support and strengthen the Catholic life of the school through acts of service, outreach and mission within our school family and wider community.

Outdoor Lenten Reflection Station During this season of Lent, the Messengers of Christ have been working very hard to lead our journey of repentance and reflection as we prepare for the great celebration of Easter. They have created a beautiful sacred space in Our Lady's prayer garden and have invited children, teachers and parents to spend a short time in quiet reflection and tie a purple ribbon to our Lenten cross to represent their Lenten promises and prayers. We are very grateful to our Messengers of Christ for providing this lovely opportunity in the outdoors for us all.



Cafod Big Lent Walk Our 'Messengers of Christ' are also leading our involvement in the Big Lent Walk organised by CAFOD. During a whole school assembly, the Messengers challenged all classes to walk laps of the playground in P.E. lessons and break times and asked children to bring in small change to put into their CAFOD boxes to support this appeal during Lent.



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH - PREGO

St Beuno's Outreach is based in [St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre](#) in the hills of North Wales, in the Diocese of Wrexham. The Outreach began in 1989, with the idea of helping people develop and maintain a personal relationship with God through Christ by praying the Word of God in the Sunday liturgy. From a prayerful awareness of the Spirit working in and through us will come a sense of mission, a desire to join Christ in his mission.

To this end, the St Beuno's Outreach team, led by Father Damian Jackson SJ, has been producing a weekly prayer leaflet called [PREGO](#), which offers reflections on the Sunday readings, for group and individual use. An additional page called PREGO PLUS provides simple background material on the two Scripture texts. It is usually better to pray the texts first and then refer to PREGO PLUS if necessary. These leaflets have been found to be of great use to many people in different pastoral situations all over the world and are available online.

Some people find that meeting together in a quiet, prayerful, non-judgmental environment is beneficial to their understanding of the readings for the coming Sunday. Prego is not essentially a discussion group; sharing of thoughts is welcome but there is no obligation to do so. All are welcome.