

St Francis of Assisi, Llay

PARISH NEWS

Mid – June 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

Four of our young parishioners made their First Holy Communion on 2nd June, the Feast of Corpus Christi. The sun was shining on Sunday morning as families and friends gathered at the church to witness this special event in their children's lives.

As a parish we have been praying over the last weeks and months as they prepared for their holy communion, meeting on alternate Saturday mornings for instruction since September.

The children looked beautiful in their lovely clothes chosen especially for the day and it was so good to see the hall full of their families and friends celebrating with tea and a cake made for the occasion. We wish the children and their families many blessings as they continue on their faith journey.

TCC – GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES ACCOUNTABILITY MEETINGS

TCC supports local people taking action on the issues directly affecting their lives by meeting decision-makers to create change. It is non-party political and strives to build positive working relationships with elected representatives of all political parties.

With the general election almost upon us, TCC have organised online accountability meetings in the five constituencies in north east Wales, when candidates will be questioned about their views and policies, especially in respect of local issues; the meeting for the Wrexham constituency, which contains our parish, is on Tuesday 18th June between 7 and 9pm (Unfortunately clashing with our PAC meeting, see below); that for Alyn and Deeside constituency is on Friday 21st June at the same time.

As the parish is a full member of TCC, parishioners are encouraged to participate in their activities, and you would be welcome to join the accountability meetings to learn more about the candidates and their views about how they might influence both local and national issues.

If you'd like to attend, please e-mail elections@tcc-wales.org.uk and TCC will send you a meeting link.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Here's something you can do for your parish in June, and it won't cost you a penny - just an hour or so of your time. On Tuesday 18th June at 7 pm the evening, the Parish Advisory Council (PAC) will be meeting and everyone is welcome.

The PAC exists to support our parish priest and to discuss the practicalities of how the parish runs.

We hope also to discuss how the parish grows and here's a YouTube link to get us all thinking. Open YouTube and type in the search box "Bishop Barron 4 Ways to Grow the Church" - and all in under seven minutes! If you haven't yet discovered Bishop Barron's short videos on all aspects of the Faith, you have a treat coming.

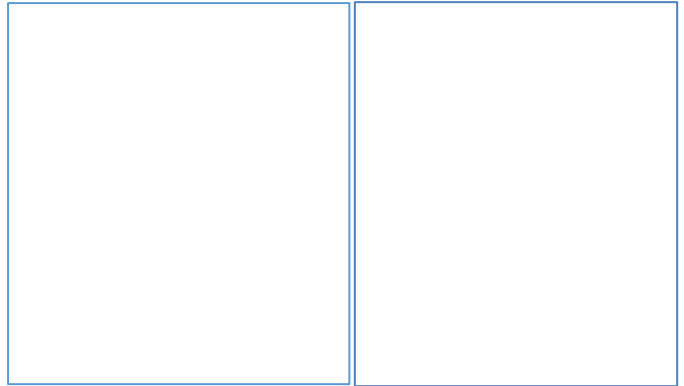
We hope to see you at the PAC meeting, your views are important and your contribution will be even more so, and if you're not at the TCC accountability meeting, please do come to the PAC.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Crowning our Lady- 'May is the Month of Mary'

During the month of May, our dedicated Messengers of Christ led the whole school assembly in honour of Jesus' mother and our heavenly mother, Mary. Following the assembly, our year 5 Messenger, led a procession to our prayer garden to crown Mary's statue with a beautiful crown of flowers. All classes participated in the procession and the Messengers of Christ representatives from each class laid flowers at Mary's feet.

It was a very special ceremony, which revived a St Mary's tradition that has been dormant for 30 years. We sang traditional hymns to Mary such as 'May is the Month of Mary' and 'Bring flowers of the fairest.' We encouraged the children to lay their own flowers, and pause and pray with their parents in our prayer garden during the month of May



Attending the Memorial Service to commemorate 80th anniversary of D-Day

Years three and four, and some representatives from Year five, attended the D-Day parade and memorial service in Wrexham city centre marking the special 80th year anniversary.

It was a very moving service and as always, our children were very respectful and their behaviour was exemplary. The children wore medals and ribbons, which they had made at school and took flags. The children met cadets and war veterans and were even invited to be a part of the wreath laying ceremony with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

It is so important that our future generations learn about their place in history and we take every opportunity to make their learning come to life. 'We will remember them.'

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC AND ANGLICAN HIGH SCHOOL

Year 9 Retreat Day St Joseph's High School.

The Sion Community, based in Brentwood in Essex, were invited to come to school to work with the Yr 9 pupils on their retreat day. The children were assembled in the school hall while the Community led prayers through song, drama and discussion. The Sion Community is a missionary community of laity and clergy who are inspired by the Holy Spirit in the work they do in the community. Throughout the day the pupils attended workshops devised and led by the various members of the group, these included praying through art, team building, drama and communicating prayer by "singing" and "signing" and a session directed at the boys in the year group to help them explore their roles as men in society and how Jesus is a role model for them.

The pupils always enjoy outside visitors coming to school and they responded very well, engaging in the workshops and discussions in an interested and mature way. Of course, we do not know the seeds we sow for the future, but we provide the opportunities where our pupils can discover and decide for themselves the directions of their lives.

CHURCH CLEANING

Many won't realise that church cleaning is a ministry that is very important to the liturgy. Having a clean church means that we are providing the right environment to enable good worship to take place. It shows respect and honour to the Lord. It would be good to have more volunteers to do this ministry – as they say "many hands make light work". Please let our Parish Secretary Anna know if you would be willing to help.