

St Francis of Assisi, Llay

PARISH NEWS

Mid-October 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.

THE FERNEES WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



On September 17th this year John and Judy Fernee celebrated their Diamond Jubilee with morning Mass concelebrated by Canon Bernard and Fr Pius of Mold, after their considerable contribution to parish life here over the past sixty years.

John was the first chairman of the Parish Advisory committee in 1972 which prepared the way for the new presbytery beside the Llay church, and he subsequently looked after the maintenance of premises and gardens in both churches until recently. Additionally, he was treasurer to the parish SVP Conference for many years, and his connections to the Catholic church in Sumy Ukraine led to many exchange visits, with their soup suppers and Valentina's cake stall creating funds to be sent to Sumy. Judy supported John's efforts throughout, co-ordinating the Rossett church cleaning rota, with lovely coffee mornings at their house for all who helped.



May they have many happy years to come!

PILGRIMAGE

Pope Francis has often referred to life as a journey and has designated the year of Jubilee 2025 as a special year of grace and pilgrimage. His thoughts about pilgrimages include:

- Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event, an aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life
- Pilgrimage is a symbol of life, it makes us think that life is walking, as a path.
- Making a pilgrimage to shrines is one of the most eloquent expressions of the faith of God's people with the pilgrims carrying their own history and faith and the lights and shadows of their own lives.

Being on a pilgrimage, even in a group, provides hours for inner reflection, allowing us to explore our spirituality, our values and our ambitions in ways impossible when dealing with the mundane demands of our everyday lives.

The major European walking pilgrimages, the Camino to Santiago de Compostela and the Via Francigena to Rome, are wonderful experiences, but there are many routes in these isles with three of particular interest - to the shrine of Our Lady at Little Walsingham and to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Knock in Ireland, for both of which there are several companies making travel arrangements, and the North Wales Pilgrims Way from Holywell to Bardsey Island for which you would have to make your own travel arrangements, although the route is well defined in descriptions and mapping on the internet.

Of course, walking the whole route isn't necessary, and short sections should be in most parishioners' reach. If you're looking for a one-day journey, consideration might be given to walking to the shrine of our own Saint Richard Gwyn, one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales who were canonised in 1970, which is in a side chapel in St Mary's Cathedral in Wrexham.

Do think about the possibility of doing a pilgrimage in the Jubilee Year, and if you've been on a pilgrimage, please tell us how it turned out and what it was like for you.

TRANSPORT TO CHURCH SERVICES

As many of you are aware, an increasing number of our parishioners are having to rely on lifts to church and SVP are considering a WhatsApp group to coordinate these needs. If you would be willing to become part of such a group and able to offer lifts, not necessarily on a regular basis, or if you know a better way this service might be managed, or of someone needing this support, please contact Kathy on 07925 153059

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Whole school Mass to start the new school year

On Friday 13th September, the whole school gathered together in the school hall for our annual start of year Mass. Mass was celebrated by Fr Nicholas and Deacon Michael and our newly appointed Messengers of Christ led the readings and Prayers of Intercession. After Mass, the children were presented with olive wood crosses that had been blessed by Father. Each year, 'Messengers of Christ' are nominated by their peers for being an example of Jesus Christ in our school family, and work in collaboration with Mrs Wilkinson to enhance the religious and prayer life of our school. What an honour it is for these children to be recognised as shining lights in our school community- we are very proud of them all.

90th Anniversary of Gresford Mining Disaster – Opera performance in St Giles' church



On Friday 27th September, a group of Year 5 and 6 pupils represented the school at a special community opera held in St Giles' Church, based on the Gresford mining disaster story to mark its 90th anniversary. The performance captivated the children and they were visibly moved by the live performances provided by NEW Sinfonia (professional orchestra), NEW Voices (community choir) and a cast of professional singers. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the tragic events of the disaster and its impact on the local community, but also an opportunity to experience the feeling of hope for the future generations of Wrexham.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC AND ANGLICAN HIGH SCHOOL

Year 7 Service of Welcome

We held our Service of Welcome for our new Year 7 pupils and their families to officially welcome them all into the school community and this year the service took place on Monday 30th September evening.

During the previous week in their RE lessons, the pupils had been reflecting on the theme of angels and thinking how, by sharing their gifts and talents in this their new community, they could be angels for one another. Throughout the service children shared their many gifts by taking part in reflections and sketches, readings and bidding prayers and offering the gift of the work they had produced that showed their understanding of community. The evening began and ended with hymns that the pupils had learned on their retreat day at Pantasaph Friary earlier in the term; it was wonderful to see the parents joining in with the actions to the songs, the atmosphere was joyful.

The school Chaplains led the pupils and their parents in prayer and then they anointed the pupils' hands as a symbol that they are set apart and have a special purpose in the life of this community. The pupils at St Joseph's are anointed twice during their life at school, once in Year 7 as they begin their St Joseph's journey and again just before they leave school in Yr 11 and go out to share their gifts with the wider world.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Advisory Council meeting will be held on Monday 28th October at 6:30pm in the church hall, for discussions about the practicalities of how the parish is run and to support our parish priest as best as we can.

As always, you'll be very welcome to come and join in, to be involved and to contribute your views.