

St Francis of Assisi, Llay

PARISH NEWS

Mid-May 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.

CHURCH PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Our Parish Property Group regularly inspects the church, hall, presbytery and grounds, and together with the reports from the diocesan four-yearly architect's inspections, identifies the repair and maintenance issues.

During the last year or so, the presbytery gate has been re-hung, some re-pointing has been done on the house and leaks have been identified and repaired in the hall. The only major items outstanding now are completing the presbytery re-pointing and installing a gutter to the repository roof.

If you'd like to join this maintenance group, please let our parish secretary Anna know.

SAMARITANS

When things are not going well and we could do with a listening ear for our troubles, how often do we hear "It'll be OK soon", "I had that, and I know how you feel", "Get a grip, there's many much worse than you" – all replies generated by not listening, by shutting the door on us and preventing us from opening up about what we're going through and how it's making us feel.

This is what Samaritans are there for, to listen with empathy, never judging, allowing us to talk through our thoughts and to explore the options that we think might help to bring some calmness back into our lives.

Samaritans engage closely with people who have been thinking of ending their lives, but are there for anyone in difficult or distressing circumstances who would like to talk things through and ease the pressures by sharing their thoughts and their emotions. They can be contacted on Freephone 116 123 or by email to jo@samaritans.org. The service is confidential except where a vulnerable person is at serious risk and has passed on their full contact details.

Last year across their 200+ branches in UK and Ireland, Samaritans responded to 3.3 million calls for emotional support, dealing with a range of concerns including mental health, illness, isolation, loneliness and financial, family and relationship problems.

Parishioners have been volunteers for Samaritans for over 30 years now, and if this is something that would suit you, do contact the nearest branch which is in Upper Northgate Street in Chester. Training is extremely thorough and your involvement long term would be a minimum of 3 to 4 hours every week.

LEAFLET POSTING

Last month a group of parishioners posted leaflets into every house in the nearby Fern Meadow Estate, letting the new residents know about our church and what we do, and providing information about other Christian faiths in our area.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Thursday 9th May, Father Nicholas and Deacon Michael attended school to celebrate Mass on the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. Some of our Year 6 pupils introduced the Mass and led the prayers of intercession, Year 4 pupils led the scripture readings and some of our Year 5 pupils brought up the offertory and served on the altar. As always, everyone participated with enthusiasm and reverence and all year groups behaved impeccably.

We sang many of our favourite hymns such as 'Be Still for the Presence of the Lord,' 'My Hands are Yours' (which we also signed) and 'On Eagles' Wings'. It is always such an uplifting experience to celebrate Mass as a whole school community, and we are always very grateful to Fr Nicholas and Deacon Michael for their wonderful guidance and support for our school.



This term, our whole school topic is 'A twist in time' and we are delving back into our school history books to find out more about the history of our wonderful school here in Wrexham. If you or any members of your family or friends attended St Mary's, or if you know of any past teachers or staff members, please share this information with them. We have shared the link via our social media platforms @stmaryswxm. Alternatively, you may wish to email the school at <mailto:mailbox@stmarys-wxm-pri.wrexham.sch.uk> We look forward to hearing from you. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Memories

Are you part of our St. Mary's Family?

Can you believe how time flies? We're feeling nostalgic and would love to take a trip down memory lane.

Share your fondest memories from your time at St. Mary's Catholic Primary in Wrexham!

Whether it's a funny classroom moment, a memorable school trip, a special teacher, or a heart-warming friendship, we want to hear it all!

Let's reminisce together and celebrate the cherished moments that made our school days unforgettable. Don't be shy, share yours!

Scan the QR or press and hold it to add your memories.

SCAN ME

#StMarysWrexhamMemories

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC AND ANGLICAN HIGH SCHOOL

Year 11 Leavers Service 2024

Although it doesn't seem like five minutes since our Year 11 pupils were in Yr 7, on the evening of Thursday 2nd May we held our Yr 11 Leavers Service. The school hall was transformed into a beautiful prayer space with soft lighting, pupils' art work and the cross which was adorned in school colours of purple and yellow. The service was a prayerful and joyful occasion, planned by the RE Dept and delivered by the pupils who sang, read, played their instruments, acted and prayed with confidence and humility. There was humour and a little teasing of their form teachers and the Headteacher by the drama group; a prayerful penitential reflection acknowledging that we are human and sometimes we get things wrong and need to ask for forgiveness; scripture readings, the psalm sung by the boys' choir and lively hymns to which pupils, staff and parents sang along with gusto!

When the young people joined us in Year 7 they were anointed during their Service of Welcome to signify that they belonged to this community, then during the evening they were anointed again in the hope that as they make their way in the world they will always carry the knowledge that they have been chosen by God.

The evening ended with a song from girls' choir who sang so beautifully about their potential and then the boys' group who chose a song that reminded them of their childhood.

Now the pupils are preparing for their GCSEs and a new start in either work, college or 6th form. We wish them all well.