

St Francis of Assisi, Llay

PARISH NEWS

Mid – July 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.

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (PAC AGM) - 18th JUNE 2024

At the PAC AGM Christopher Graffius and Helen Zammit-Willson were confirmed as chair and vice-chair for the year.

The property group is looking into provision of disabled spaces in the car park and on painting the front of the church, and progress reports are being ascertained.

A parish finances statement was distributed and the standing of the church funds was seen to be satisfactory.

A survey is to be carried out to establish if parishioners wanted Communion under both kinds to be re-introduced, and a rota for Eucharistic Ministers will be drawn up if required.

The meeting agreed that Christopher should ask Fr Paul at St Werburgh's Chester about the recently completed parish renewal/evangelisation programme to learn of aspects we might consider adopting.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd October 2024 at 6:30pm.

THE CARMELITE MONASTERY DOLGELLAU – DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

Our parish has a link with the monastery as Canon visits regularly to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the community of Carmelite nuns.

There are 11 nuns in the community, of whom three are novices, and they devote their lives to the service of God in prayer, separated from the world outside. The prayerful and solitary atmosphere, which is the hallmark of the Carmel, is fostered by silence. St Teresa wanted her sisters to be hermits living in community. She also understood the importance of having recreation so that the sisters could relax and joyfully communicate with one another.

The Sisters gather in Choir seven times a day before the Blessed Sacrament to pray the Divine Office and time is given daily for spiritual reading and the study of Scripture to nourish the soul. There are two separate hours for quiet personal prayer. The remaining time is spent in various works and activities of the monastery, through which they try to remain prayerfully connected to God.

When the first group of nuns came in 1929 to start this Carmel, they were greeted on the railway platform by an aggressive group of townsfolk objecting to the "Catholic invasion", and some accounts even record that stones were thrown! But the community soon settled in and now form a treasured place in the town.

The monastery's website is <https://www.carmel-dolgellau.uk/>. The nuns would be very interested in hearing from those who feel they might have a vocation and would like to know about what that involves.

SVP NATIONAL MEETING 2024

Some of our parishioners who are SVP members attended this year's SVP National Meeting, whose theme was "Past, Present, Future", in celebration of the 180-year anniversary of SVP in England and Wales.

It covered topics ranging from asylum support to Vincentian heritage with a range of eminent speakers.

A real highlight was a talk from Gulwali Passarlay on the topic "Poverty Today – Asylum". He spoke of his journey from Afghanistan when in 2007 he and his brother were sent away for their safety and to avoid being radicalised by the Taliban. The harrowing and uplifting tale of his 12-month journey across ten countries saw him imprisoned twice and badly treated but also receiving immense kindness along the way.

On arrival in Britain, he struggled to convince the authorities that he was only 13. However, he was eventually fostered and went on to achieve a degree and a masters. He is now an author and inspirational speaker. His book is "The Lightless Sky, My journey to safety as a child refugee".

SVP is a membership-led international organisation with the aim of "Turning concern into action". In this parish SVP members visit people in care homes and their own homes. They give lifts to Mass and to medical appointments, carry out shopping and attend Mass at HMP Berwyn where they socialise with the men over coffee. "No act of charity is foreign to the society of St Vincent de Paul". If you want to know more, speak to one of our members or contact Eileen Evans on 07989 616872.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Whole School Mass to celebrate our children who made their First Holy Communion

On Friday 5th July, Father Jasper celebrated a very special Mass in school for all of our children who have made their First Holy Communion in their own parishes this year.

It is important that we mark the children receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time by gathering together in prayer as a whole school family. It was lovely to see all of the children together in Mass and they all looked wonderful dressed in their First Holy Communion clothes. The children participated in the Mass by leading the readings, offertory and prayers and did so with such reverence and confidence. In the afternoon, the children had a little party with a special cake to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

We ask all parishioners to keep the children and their families in your prayers.



Year 6 Residential Visit to Cardiff - June 28th - July 1st

Last weekend, 54 year six pupils and 5 teachers visited Cardiff for our final school residential visit.

We left school at approximately 8am and arrived at Big Pit around midday. We all ventured underground to explore the award winning National Coal Museum and designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. We were given guided tours by former coal miners who shared the history of the pit in a very engaging and awe-inspiring manner.

The next day, the children toured the very picturesque Cardiff castle and zoomed around Cardiff Bay in speedboats! Building sandcastles, paddling in the sea and playing games on Barry Island beach was the highlight of the following day, followed by a delicious evening meal at Pizza Express and a walk around Cardiff Bay.

Our final excursion before heading back to Wrexham, was a visit to the 'Senedd', Welsh Parliament building where we were given a very interesting and informative tour and were treated to a special visit by Lesley Griffiths MS.

The children behaved impeccably and were complimented about their wonderful behaviour, conduct and good manners on more than one occasion by members of the public.

We would like to thank the SVP who supported a number of children to enable them to participate.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC AND ANGLICAN HIGH SCHOOL

Transition Week at St Joseph's

During the last week in June St Joseph's held their annual "Rocket Week".

Year 6 pupils from St Mary's Catholic Primary School, St Anne's Catholic Primary School and pupils from several other primary schools around Wrexham who have chosen to attend St Joseph's, came to spend a week of transition from Primary to Secondary.

Rocket Week is a week full of activities for the children, it's a chance for them to attend various lessons in specialist classrooms and see where they're located, to meet their teachers, to get to know the other children who will be in their form class and generally to get to know what their new school is like.

In our school hall on Monday morning around 140 very excited and very nervous children were greeted by the Head Teacher, the Head of Year 7 and the school chaplains, their day began with welcome and prayer.

Some Year 9 pupils took them on a tour of the school, introducing them to members of staff and showing them the different departments, the chapel, the dining room and very importantly the play areas outside.

On one day during the week the pupils were taught by our Year 10 pupils who prepared and delivered a lesson with the guidance of their teachers - all the children really enjoyed that experience!

We will be delighted to welcome these new pupils, in their purple St Joseph's jumpers, to become "Joeys" in September.