

## Recently died

Please pray for the eternal repose of the following:

**Mr Victor Camilleri R.I.P.** – The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 1.00pm.

**Mrs Maria Bernadette Andrews R.I.P.** – The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Holy Family on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am.

**Mrs Monica Jermyn R.I.P.** – The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am.

**Mr Terence Lord R.I.P.** – The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 11.30am.

**Mr David Watkins R.I.P.** - The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 12.15pm.

**Mr Gary Sutton R.I.P.** – The Funeral Service will be celebrated at Holy Family on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 11.15am.

**Mrs Nell Strugnell R.I.P.** - The Funeral Service will be celebrated at Thornhill Crematorium.



**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.**

## Pray for the Sick

**Holy Family:** David Rogers, Catherine Driscoll, Kay & Paul Parris, Sheila Ferriter, Bernard Perry, Collette Griffin, Vivian Miller, Valentine, Brian Webster, Henry Fernandez, Hanna Marengi, Mary Bodman, Susanna, Martin, Chris Collins, Louise Macpherson.

**St Mary's:** Fr Christopher Delaney, Bethan Williams, Jean Allen, Madison Lane, John & Marian Lamb, Jean Hayman, Nadasiri Ifada, Cecily Hughes, James Church, Anthony Jackson, Margaret Griffiths, Tom Hopkins, Joanne Coakley, Helen Ward, Doreen Utley, Carina Foster, Ben Foster, Maria Sullivan, Thomas Hyde (now living in Canada), Ivan Sadka, Mary D'Alpa, John Barry, Peter and Isabelle Nash, Mary Kelleher.

## Parish Contacts

The Priory 67 Talbot St. Canton, Cardiff  
tel: (029) 20 230 492

Parishes of St. Mary's and Holy Family  
new email address is: [canton@rcadc.org](mailto:canton@rcadc.org)

**Canon Peter Collins**

e-mail: [peter.collins@rcadc.org](mailto:peter.collins@rcadc.org)

**Fr Nick Williams**

e-mail: [nicholas.williams@rcadc.org](mailto:nicholas.williams@rcadc.org)

**Deacon Professor Maurice Scanlon**

e-mail: [maurice.scanlon@rcadc.org](mailto:maurice.scanlon@rcadc.org)

tel (029) 2021 2651

**Deacon Christian Mahoney**

Contact details to follow

Priest in residence at St Mary's:

**Fr Dwayne Bednar**

Retired Priest in Residence at Holy Family:

**Monsignor Canon John Maguire**

Website: [cardiffwestcatholics.org.uk](http://cardiffwestcatholics.org.uk)

Bank details for standing orders, which are directly linked to the respective parish accounts are as follows:

**Account name: Archdiocese of Cardiff**

**Sort code: 20-18-23 (for both)**

**St Mary's Acc No: 03285375**

**Holy Family Acc No: 63656861**

**St Mary's SVP contact number 07731847622.**

### Parish Safeguarding Reps

Mrs Ellery Hennessy (Holy Family)

Mr Jack Meggitt-Phillips (St Mary of the Angels)

### Primary Headteachers:

#### Holy Family

Mrs Louise Mills Tel: 20565354

#### St. Mary's

Miss Claire Russell Tel: 2022 5680

### Secondary Headteachers:

#### Corpus Christi

Mr Patrick Brunnock Tel: 20761893

#### Mary Immaculate

Mr Huw Powell Tel: 2059 3465

#### St David's 6th Form College

Mr Mark Leighfield Tel: 20498555

## WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2021

This year's White Flower Appeal in support of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children is arranged for the Masses this weekend in both parishes. For more information please consult [www.spuc.org.uk](http://www.spuc.org.uk)



# Holy Family & St Mary of the Angels

Keyston Rd, Fairwater CF5 3NP

Kings Rd, Canton CF11 9BX

14th-21st February 2021 Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle B

## Readings for the 6th Sunday of the Year

**Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46.**

We are still held in the grip of a global pandemic, an experience that has forced us to acknowledge our fragility and vulnerability. The COVID-19 Coronavirus is not a conscious entity, yet we inevitably speak of it as if it possessed a plan to perpetrate a 'persecution' of humanity. The virus is biologically/chemically 'driven' to survive and so it has the capacity to adapt to circumstance. Variants have evolved in order to facilitate its survival and spread. Though we are armed with a breadth of scientific knowledge unimagined in previous generations that enables us to confront the threat, we are rightly humbled by our experiences over the past year. The ancient world had no concept of viruses, no concept of bacteria, yet its inhabitants were perhaps more aware than we of the dangers of disease that could severely limit life expectancy. In our reading from the Book of Leviticus we hear of the procedures outlined by the law regarding the diagnosis of leprosy and the imposition of precautions to limit its spread. The point of reference given is Aaron and the priestly cast for the only pathways of medication were defined by faith. However, the notion of isolating those who were suffering disease was well established as the only possible response in the absence of any direct treatment. Contemporary experience, not only within the context of the present pandemic, provides examples of how those who suffer disease can be demonised as we push them away whilst crying out "unclean, unclean". Although leprosy can now be in great part prevented and effectively treated, the very mention of leprosy still has the capacity to provoke concern and unease because it is a disease that literally consumes and deforms the flesh. As we give thanks for the fruits of our scientific progress may we maintain a deep sense of humility in the face of our on-going fragility, vulnerability and ultimate mortality.

**Psalm 31.**

You are my hiding place, O Lord; you surround me with cries of deliverance.

**I Corinthians 10:16 – 11:1.**

As he addresses the community of faith in Corinth Saint Paul rightly rejoices that we are set free from the false constraints of the Law. However, because we must live now in communion with Christ then everything we do must be done "for the glory of God." Our freedom in Christ is not defined but any kind of relativism. Freedom is not to become a slogan for indulgence. The bestowal of the Holy Spirit provides our rule of conduct. True freedom is the decision to renounce the slavery of sin. Self-advantage is to be rejected for the common good. Paul offers himself as an exemplar: "Take me for your model, as I take Christ." Paul is not indulging in self-aggrandisement or complacency but is rather drawing his listeners to the understanding that the liberty of our creation must be mediated through our redemption in Christ. Liberty is emptied of meaning by sin. Love is the rule that eradicates selfishness and is the only means of properly crafting our liberty in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Mark 1:40-45.**

Mark's Gospel reveals the humanity of Jesus more clearly than the other gospel accounts. "A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.'" The leper makes the most direct approach and speaks in the most direct manner possible. Only Mark's Gospel mentions that Jesus feels sorry for the leper and it is only Mark's Gospel that says "Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him." During the pandemic we have all lamented the loss of simple human touch as an expression of compassion and support, the simple gestures of kindness or sympathy. The leper was shunned and despised by the wider community for his disease defined his identity in terms of threat. As we have seen in our extracts from the Gospel over recent weeks, Jesus is concerned that he himself is not merely defined as some kind of wonder-worker. Having healed the man of his leprosy, Jesus instructs him so say nothing to anyone. To ensure that the miracle is not broadcast, which would risk misinterpretation, Jesus demands that only the minimum legal requirement as prescribed by Moses is observed. Because the man who was healed tells his story everywhere, Jesus can no longer enter the towns and must stay outside in places where nobody lived. We are once again reminded by this event that Jesus has come to proclaim the Kingdom of God and all that he does should be interpreted within that context. Human beings, however, easily lose sight of the long-term context and implications of events by becoming obsessed with short term considerations and immediate satisfactions.

## Holy Family Masses

**6th Sunday of Ordinary Time (14th February)**

6pm Vigil Mass Dec'd members Clifford Family  
11.00 Maurice Ferriter

**Tuesday (16th February)**

10am Funeral Mass for Mrs Maria Bernadette Andrews

**Wednesday (17th February) Ash Wednesday**

6.30pm - 7.30pm Distribution of Ashes (see note)

**1st Sunday of Lent (21st February)**

6pm Vigil Mass Mrs Nell Strugnell RIP  
11.00 Jo Webber

## St Mary's Masses

**Sunday: 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time (14th Feb.)**

10am Maisie Molloy

12pm Michael Lynch RIP

6pm People of the Parish

**Monday: (15th February)**

9.30am Sue & Jim Donovan & family

1pm Funeral Mass for Mr Victor Camilleri

**Tuesday: (16th February)**

9.30am Susan Mihoque

**No 12.15pm Mass due to a funeral at Holy Family**

7-8pm Adoration & Benediction

**Wednesday: Ash Wednesday (17th February)**

9.30am Coulson Family Intentions

12pm-1pm Distribution of Ashes (see note)

6.30pm - 7.30pm Distribution of Ashes (see note)

**Thursday: (18th February)**

9.30am DWA & DR Utley

11am Funeral Mass for Mrs Monica Jermyn

7-8pm Adoration & Benediction

**Friday: (19th February)**

9.30am Paulette Flynn (illness)

11.30am Funeral Mass for Mr Terence Lord

**Saturday: (20th February)**

12.15pm Yvonne Best

**Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent (21st February)**

10am Michael, Ruby & Peter Walsh

12pm People of the Parish

6pm Intentions of the Thomas Family

**Angelus and Prayer During the Day live-streamed at 12pm daily. Evening Prayer live-streamed at 7pm daily except Sundays. Tuesday & Thursday 7-8pm Adoration & Benediction (including Evening Prayer). Confessions on Saturdays 10-11am. Access to the children's liturgy room via the side gate.**

## Season of Lent

The Season of Lent is a penitential pilgrimage that enables the Church to prepare worthily for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery that is the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. The palm and olive branches that were used last year during the Procession on Palm Sunday are burnt to produce the ash that is distributed.

“The cross, with which the ashes are traced upon us, is the sign of Christ’s victory over death. The words ”Remember that thou art dust and that to dust thou shall return” are not to be taken as the quasi-form of a kind of ‘sacrament of death’ (as if such a thing were possible). It might be good stoicism to receive a mere reminder of our condemnation to die, but it is not Christianity.” Thomas Merton, famous Cistercian Monk and Author.

MEMENTO, HOMO, QUIA PULVIS ES, ET IN PULVERUM REVERTERIS.  
REMEMBER, MAN, THAT THOU ART DUST, AND UNTO DUST THOU SHALT RETURN.

Due to pandemic restrictions, the distribution of ashes will be conducted differently this year. In place of imprinting a cross upon the forehead with the ash, the ashes will be sprinkled on the crown of the head.

## ASH WEDNESDAY TIMETABLE

Just one Mass will be celebrated and live-streamed from St Mary’s at 9.30am. There will be an opportunity to gain access to the churches to receive the ashes, as follows:

St Mary’s-12pm until 1pm and 6.30pm until 7.30pm

Holy Family-6.30pm until 7.30pm

There will be no stewards in operation so access will be by individuals or family bubbles. You may arrive at any point during the allotted times. Please be patient if there are large numbers arriving at the same time.

## ACTS OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

A Prayer by St Alphonsus Liguori.

My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

A Prayer by St Thomas More.

Give me, good Lord, a longing to be with You ... give me warmth, delight and quickness in thinking upon You. And give me Your grace to long for Your holy sacraments, and specially to rejoice in the presence of Your blessed Body, Sweet Saviour Christ, in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

## PRAYER FOR WALES

O Almighty God, who in your infinite goodness have sent your only-begotten Son into this world to open once more the gates of heaven, and to teach us how to know, love and serve you, have mercy on your people who dwell in Wales. Grant to them the precious gift of faith, and unite them in the one true Church founded by your divine Son: that, acknowledging her authority and obeying her voice, they may serve you, love you, and worship you as you desire in this world, and obtain for themselves everlasting happiness in the world to come. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady, Help of Christians, pray for Wales.

Saint David, pray for Wales.

Saint Winefride, pray for Wales.

## PRAYER OF SORROW / ACT OF CONTRITION

Wash me from my guilt and cleanse me of my sin. I acknowledge my offence; my sin is before me always. Psalm 50:4-5.

Father, I have sinned against you and am not worthy to be called your son. Be merciful to me, a sinner. Luke 15:18; 18:13.

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and with the help of your grace I will not sin again.

LET US DAILY OPEN OUR HEARTS IN CONTRITION TO ALMIGHTY GOD AND  
REMINDE OURSELVES HOW ESSENTIAL IT IS TO GRANT MERCY IF WE EVER EXPECT  
TO RECEIVE MERCY.

## THE ANGELUS

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary, ... .

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

R. Be it done unto me according to your word. Hail Mary, ... .

V. And the Word was made flesh:

R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary, ... .

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE MAGNIFICAT

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her lowliness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. He puts forth his arm in strength and scatters the proud-hearted. He casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy, the mercy promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his sons for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## Mass Intentions

There are a number of Mass intentions available at the moment, particularly for weekday Masses. In addition, please note that when a Mass is said in either parish for the People of the Parish, this refers to the members of both parishes.

## FINANCE & PROPERTY

Parish Offertory Collection at St Mary's:  
7th February - £ 409.57  
St Mary's Standing Orders per week amount to £ 600.00

Parish Offertory Collection at Holy Family:  
7th February - £222.30  
Holy Family Standing Orders per week amount to £ 250.00

### WHY NOT GIFT-AID ALL YOUR PARISH DONATIONS?

COPIES OF 'THE UNIVERSE' ARE ON SALE AND AVAILABLE FOR £2.40

COPIES OF THE LENT EDITION OF 'BIBLE ALIVE' ARE ON SALE FOR £3

## Contributions via Virgin Money

I am very grateful to those who have contributed to parish funds through the use of the Virgin Money donate button on the website. This mechanism is an excellent way of making your one-off donations.

If you intend to make a sequence of donations over the coming months, then the establishment of a standing order remains the most efficient method of contributing regular payments.

All our parish details (St Mary of the Angels and Holy Family) that are required by your bank in order to set up a standing order can be found in the Parish Contacts section of the newsletter.

**N.B. All sums donated via Virgin Money will be considered as contributions to the parish-es. Do not use this mechanism to contribute to any separate purpose, for example, the Reaching Out scheme or Clergy Offerings at Christmas and Easter.**

## Newly established Standing Orders

Our indomitable Parish Secretary has brought to my attention that a significant number of parishioners have recently established Standing Orders for their weekly/monthly donations to the parishes. This has obviously been prompted by the disruption to attendance as a result of the pandemic. I am very grateful for such thoughtfulness in the present circumstances.

May I encourage all parishioners who are taxpayers to consider completing a Gift Aid Declaration that would enable an increase to their contributions of 25%. Please contact Canon Collins or Fr Nicholas directly or contact the Parish Office on any Friday when Pat is at her desk. The telephone number is 029 2023 0492.

## ADVANCE NOTICE – LENTEN FAMILY FAST DAY

We will be celebrating our Lenten Family Fast Day on

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February.**

Donations to CAFOD will then be offered at the Masses on

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February.**

## WHITE FLOWER APPEAL

We are hosting our annual White Flower Appeal in support of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children this weekend Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February in both parishes. S.P.U.C. is currently campaigning to stop 'remote' or 'home' abortion. Assessment is conducted remotely, via telephone or video connection. The drugs used to induce a chemical abortion are posted and then self-administered, therefore without the presence of medical supervision.

Please consult the S.P.U.C. website for more detailed information.

Donations can be made directly to S.P.U.C. via [www.spuc.org.uk/donate](http://www.spuc.org.uk/donate)

The Welsh Government are conducting a consultation on the issue which ends on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Please go to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns?Wales-DIY-Abortion-Consultation>

## A NOTE FROM DEACON MAURICE

**'REACHING OUT':** Many thanks to all who have made donations over the last few weeks and to all our volunteers who have enabled us to provide food parcels, hampers, children's toys and food vouchers to around 100 families in need across West Cardiff over the Christmas period. We are now continuing this weekly food distribution programme for which we need ongoing funding of around £500 monthly so please continue to help if you can with money or food donations or both. Perhaps you may be able to make a regular weekly or monthly donation of £5, £10 or £20 - or more or less, by Standing Order? If you are willing and able to contribute with a one-off donation or on a more regular basis please contact me on 07747038274 or email: [mfscanlon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mfscanlon@hotmail.co.uk) or Neil O'Toole on 07860647367 or email: [neilgot@me.com](mailto:neilgot@me.com) Thanks for your ongoing generosity in these troubled times. God bless you all and keep safe and patient for just a few more months!



## Contributing to the Reaching Out Project

In order to facilitate the best possible accounting process, we would encourage you to direct all your contributions to the Reaching Out Project to the Holy Family parish account. I have had a meeting with Deacon Maurice on this matter and in order that the parish secretary can maintain an effective scrutiny of the funds being contributed, then the above suggestion provides the simplest remedy.

## NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Owen Collins and his team have facilitated the raising of over £1,250,000 from various sources over the past year. These funds will be used by the Archdiocese to support 21 listed buildings. £127,667 has been granted to the Archdiocese by the Welsh Government Cultural Recovery Fund to assist with core costs to the charity during periods of lockdown. The first round of the Archbishop's Food Voucher Scheme distributed £51,160 to 27 parishes and 40 schools across the archdiocese. Deacon Maurice is preparing to apply for funds within the second round of allocations that will soon be forthcoming. We thank Owen for all his hard work on behalf of the archdiocesan charity.

## REVEREND RAYMOND O'SHEA R.I.P.

It is with sadness that I announce that Fr Ray died peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February. He had been suffering from a combination of chronic illnesses over a number of years. He contracted the Covid-19 virus and gradually deteriorated and to alleviate his symptoms was placed into an induced coma. We entrust him to God's grace and mercy and we extend to his one surviving sister in Galway our prayerful condolences. Fr O'Shea was born within the boundaries of St Clare's Parish here in Cardiff to Irish parents, the only son amongst four daughters. His father was a local G.P. When Fr Ray was still quite young, his father decided to move back to Ireland following the foundation of the N.H.S. The family had its roots in County Galway and it was in Galway City that a new home was established. As a means of combating the effects of a sequence of significant illnesses that weakened his chest, the young Raymond was encouraged to swim in the sea regularly. He took to this vigorous exercise like 'a duck to water'. He was later sent to a boarding school, Blackrock College near Dublin. Following his schooling, he decided to explore a vocation to the diocesan priesthood. He became a seminarian at Carlow College and was adopted as a candidate for the Archdiocese of Cardiff. He was ordained in 1962. He served in a number of parishes as an Assisting Priest, including Hereford and Penarth. He served as Parish Priest in St Mary's Abertillery, St Cuthbert's Cardiff, St Mary's Dinas Powys, St Mary's Bridgend, St Joseph's Aberdare and finally in Christ the King Cardiff. He retired through ill health at the age of 65 in 2002. He will be remembered not only for his parish ministry but also for his dedication as a Hospital Chaplain (especially at Llandough) and for fostering a vibrant youth ministry (especially at Dinas Powys and Bridgend). Whilst at Bridgend he was commissioned into the Territorial Army (as a Captain with a later promotion to Major), serving as a Chaplain to the Wales Field Hospital. In the role of Chaplain he joined the Order of St John of Jerusalem and the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem. He was also called to join the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, becoming a Chaplain with the rank of Knight Commander.

I was first introduced to Fr Ray at the end of my fifth year of seminary formation when I was appointed to Dinas Powys as a Deacon for two months during the summer of 1983. In January 1986, having served eighteen months as Assisting Priest at the Cathedral, I was told by Archbishop Ward that Fr Ray had asked for me to join him following his appointment as Parish Priest at Bridgend. I was with him there for two years which included the celebration of his Silver Jubilee. I left in January 1988 to undertake further study in advance of my appointment as Vice-Rector of the Royal English College, Valladolid. In the summer of 1994, I accompanied Fr Ray for a holiday to visit his family across the West of Ireland. In 2002 Fr Ray sought to retire from full-time parish ministry as a result of a worsening heart condition. I was already Cathedral Dean by this point and Fr Ray asked if he could take up residence with me. He remained with me for the next ten years. During his time at the Cathedral, he grasped many opportunities to serve as a Chaplain aboard cruise ships. He took to this like 'a duck to water'. It was during a Cunard World Cruise that he suffered a serious heart attack. Providentially it happened while the ship was harboured in Hong Kong. He underwent what proved to be a most successful triple-bypass operation, receiving excellent treatment at the best possible hospital. Fr Ray was famous for being a 'gadgets' man and for being somewhat untidy. As I like a well-regulated and orderly presbytery, I spent a great deal of time and effort restricting potential overflow from his 'chaotic' suite of rooms. I eventually gave up in the kitchen, simply because I acknowledged him to be a good cook. In 2012, at the age of 75 and following the celebration of his Golden Jubilee, Fr Ray moved to a house in Whitchurch that was provided by the Archdiocese. He continued to supply for fellow priests, and we make particular reference to his service at Holy Family. He was a very sensitive man and characterised by his many and varied enthusiasms. We give thanks for his priestly ministry in our midst whilst entrusting him to God's great mercy. May he rest in peace.

## Celebrating First Holy Communion

Please pray for Justice and Savannah, who will celebrate their First Holy Communion at the 10.00am Mass at St Mary's and for Antonio, Louise and Nizia, who will celebrate their First Holy Communion at the 12.00pm Mass.

Please pray for Sofia who will celebrate her First Holy Communion during the 11.00am Mass at Holy Family.

I ask you all to keep the entire cohort of children at the heart of your prayers over the coming weeks.



## Forthcoming Papal Pilgrimage to Iraq

I ask you to keep Pope Francis in your prayers over the coming weeks as he prepares for his Apostolic Pilgrimage to Iraq, which will take place from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. The Vatican has only recently published details of the schedule due to security concerns together with issues connected to the pandemic. Cardinal Louis Sako of Baghdad, Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church (Chaldean Rite), has confirmed that His Holiness will meet Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, leader of Iraq's Shi'ite Muslim majority. There will be an interreligious meeting with other Christians, Muslims and Yazidis on the Plain of Ur, recognised as the homeland of the Patriarch Abraham. The Pope will also celebrate at the Syriac Rite Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady of Deliverance in Baghdad which was the site of a massacre in 2010 perpetrated by the so called 'Islamic State' – two priests and fifty-eight parishioners were killed. The Pope will also visit the Autonomous Region of Iraqi Kurdistan.

## New Archbishop of Dublin

Following the retirement of Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop Dermot Farrell takes up his responsibilities as the Pastor of the largest diocese in Ireland. As the Church in Ireland faces the many challenges arising from historical abuse together with a deepening and expanding secularisation of society, we pray for Archbishop Farrell as he begins his service in Dublin.

## Another Resident for the Priory

On Sunday we will welcome Gwyn Jones to the Priory. Gwyn was accepted as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Cardiff in 2020 and was sent to the Royal English College, Valladolid, Spain to engage with the mandatory propaedeutic year. Due to pandemic restrictions, the U.K. students have been unable to return to the College following their Christmas break. The Archdiocese has provided our three seminarians with an accommodation base for use during vacations, the former presbytery in the Parish of St John Lloyd. Gwyn has been in residence there over past weeks but now it is necessary to further direct and support his formation through close proximity to the Archdiocesan Director of Vocations, he being Fr Nicholas. Please keep Gwyn in your prayers as he settles into the Priory.

## MARY IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL

We have impending vacancies for a Local Authority Governor and a Parent Governor at Mary Immaculate High School. Could those interested in undertaking such a role please contact Deacon Maurice (Chair of Governors) on 07747038274 to discuss further or email:

## MORE STEWARDS NEEDED

The need for more stewards remains. If you in a position to assist, please contact us by telephone or email. The parish telephone number is 029 2023 0492. The parish email address is [canton@rcadc.org](mailto:canton@rcadc.org)

### A Statement from the Catholic Education Service



The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill currently before the Senedd will effectively remove the rights of parents as the first educators of their children. It will threaten the nature and purpose of Catholic schools as well as being an affront to devout Jews, Christians, Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims in Wales.

In the provisions concerning Human and Sex Education, the responsibility and privilege of parents to choose the right moment and language to discuss love and human sexuality with their children will be overridden by the imposition of a curriculum not in conformity with Christian teaching and that of many other faiths. The right of parents to remove their children from such classes will be removed.

The implications of this Bill places the right of the State before that of the parents of a child in such an important part of life. Should this ideologically driven Bill become law, it will remove the ancient freedoms and duties of parents in the education of their children. It would restrict freedom of conscience, freedom of expression, freedom of worship and conscientious objection. These are fundamental human rights which should be respected in a pluralistic society. They are not being upheld by this proposed legislation.

The assertion of power by Welsh Government in the lives of its citizens is not always malicious, but it cannot go unchallenged. The responses to the consultation on this Bill have been largely ignored. The First Minister of Wales and the Members of the Senedd need to be reminded very clearly that they were elected by us in order to represent us. We do not elect members of the Senedd to usurp our role as parents, grandparents and families. The rights and duties of parents are more significant than party view and politics. This abuse of government power cannot go unchallenged. If we remain silent, there will be no appeal.

**ACT NOW AND URGE YOUR LOCAL MS TO REJECT THE CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT (WALES) BILL BY USING THE LINK BELOW:**

<http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/welshparents?tmpl=component&print=1>

This link will take you to a pro forma from the Catholic Education Service, they will provide you with details of your local MS on the basis of your postcode. Individual letters registering your objection to this proposed legislation are better than copied circulars.

I have been made aware that the Welsh Government has accepted a number of amendments to their proposals. This acknowledgement of the problems we have been highlighting is most welcome. I would still encourage you to contribute to the Consultation as outlined in the statement from the CES. Their website will provide you with all necessary information regarding the Church's concerns.