



# ST. JOHN KEMBLE DEANERY

## NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2026

### NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF MENEVIA – GREETINGS FROM ARCHBISHOP MARK

Archbishop Mark sends greetings from Oregon in the Pacific Northwest of the US, where he's taking part in a retreat organised by the Vatican's Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, alongside bishops, priests and lay theologians. Here is his message:

"Greetings from Oregon in the Pacific Northwest of the US. I'm here on a retreat organised by the Vatican's Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, with some bishops, priests and lay theologians, reflecting on Liturgical Formation and how it is central to our encounter with Jesus and our communication of the faith. We are staying in the beautiful Benedictine monastery of Mount Angel Abbey. In the Stations of the Cross, the titles are in German, a poignant reminder of those monks from German-speaking Switzerland, who founded the Abbey in 1882. I am remembering 'home' here and praying for our local Church; I ask your prayers for me and our work, too." +Mark



Please keep Archbishop Mark in your prayers.

#### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HEREFORD

I have been forwarded the Churches Together in Hereford newsletter which you may be interested in reading. This can be found at <https://ctih.org/newsletter/> There are many ecumenical events organised during September. This newsletter strives to share a wide range of ecumenical news and opinions.

#### CAMINO PILGRIMAGE EVENING



**Many thanks** to all the fantastic helpers and head chef Madeleine, who served up a veritable tapas feast at the recent Camino pilgrimage evening at SFX.

Abbot Brendan, Fr. James and Andy Milne all gave an insightful first-hand account of undertaking this famous pilgrimage. The evening raised close on £500 for parish funds.

Thank you.

#### SCHOOL FOR SYNODALITY

The Rome Synod Assembly concluded with Pope Francis writing, "I now hand over to the whole Church all that is contained in the Final Document as an authoritative orientation for the Church's life and mission."

As we move into the implementation phase, sharing what we learn – our successes and our mistakes – becomes urgent. Synodality has the potential to transform every area of Catholic life and mission, but it looks different everywhere: transforming seminary formation in one place and sacramental preparation in another; renewing pastoral councils here, deepening mission to the margins there.

From 2027, we are invited to begin sharing these gifts collectively. Every diocese has been invited to hold an Assembly in the first half of 2027, followed by national and continental gatherings, ahead of the [Ecclesial Assembly in Rome in October 2028](#).

The School for Synodality team sees great potential for renewal in this process: many more people experiencing deep listening and discernment, sharing prayerfully together in the Holy Spirit. While diocesan and national processes will be organised by synodal teams, the work of gathering the learning will involve everyone, especially those who have been working quietly away on the ground.

To read more about the School for Synodality and how their training and courses can help please click on the following link: <https://mailchi.mp/schoolforsynodality/update-17299538?e=db8a9a4e38>

## PARISH NEWS

### FROM LEOMINSTER

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August we kept the feast of our own martyr, Blessed Roger Cadwallador, martyred savagely at Leominster on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1610 at the beginning of the reign of James I. Born at Stretton Sugwas to a Catholic farming family, Roger was a native Welsh speaker. He was also a man of great learning, knowing both Latin and Greek. Until his martyrdom at the age of 44, he served Catholics all over northern Herefordshire and the Welsh borders. We kept his feast on 26<sup>th</sup> as the day of his martyrdom is the feast of St Monica, the mother of St Augustine of Hippo. There is a relic of Blessed Roger venerated at Belmont Abbey, some teeth and a piece of his jawbone. This was given me by the Oratorians at Oxford and remains at Belmont for safekeeping. Should we perhaps follow the example of our brethren at Monmouth and their devotion to St John Kemble and hold an annual event at Leominster to commemorate Blessed Roger? And what of Blessed Nicholas Wheeler (alias Woodfen), born at Leominster in 1550 and martyred at Tyburn on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1586, aged just 35?

### FROM WEOBLEY

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August, the statue of Our Lady of the Wye arrived (by car!) for Vespers at the church of St. Thomas of Hereford in Weobley, accompanied by pilgrims from a variety of churches. After a short service, we were delighted to meet the pilgrims and share tea and cake with them.



## COMPANIONS OF THE ORDER OF MALTA



A group of Herefordshire Volunteers, known as Companions of the Order of Malta, are setting up a fun Afternoon Tea Party with entertainment once a month starting in October at Almeley Village Hall, and catering for those living mainly in the Weobley and Kington areas.

Our purpose is to offer companionship, as our name suggests. We would welcome anyone, including from local nursing and residential homes, who would like to meet others for a chat and a get together in a friendly setting. Sandwiches, tea, coffee, soft drinks, cake and biscuits will be on offer, and we are planning entertainment including games, a quiz and a sing along to old favourites.

For more information and expressions of interest please contact:

Virginia Taylor: [virginia@virginiataylor.co.uk](mailto:virginia@virginiataylor.co.uk) ~ 07771 711718

The Companions of the Order of Malta is the key volunteer force for delivering the charitable work of the Order of Malta in Great Britain. <https://www.orderofmalta.org.uk>

Our main focus is to combat isolation. This includes welcoming those who would value meeting others in a safe and friendly setting or who may be lonely for whatever reason; offering support to the elderly and disabled in whatever way, including on pilgrimages; volunteering in the Order's care homes around the country and working with the homeless. <https://www.orderofmalta.org.uk/companions/>

## EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

### CAFOD Day of Creation

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September from 10.15am**

**Belmont Abbey**

The day begins with a Mass for the Care of Creation at 10.15am in the Abbey Church. At 11.30am we celebrate the beginning of the Season of Creation with a meditative walk around the Abbey gardens. Starting from the Parish Centre, there will be prayers, readings and reflections, pausing at beautiful visual displays designed to explore the theme of living water. This will be followed by a light lunch.

### The Bible: Myth or History?

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2.00pm – 400pm**

**Belmont Abbey**

A free illustrated lecture series in Biblical Archaeology with David Rohl. Session 7 - In Search of Eden: The geography of Paradise and its fabled garden. Free parking, free entry. Monthly lectures on the second Saturday of each month.



### Seeking God?

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

**Belmont Abbey**

Have you ever wondered whether God might be calling you to a deeper life of prayer, community, and service? Would you like to experience the rhythm of monastic life from the inside? Belmont Abbey invites men who are exploring their vocation to spend a weekend living alongside the monks and sharing in the great Benedictine tradition.

Experience:

- The beauty of the Divine Office and the Eucharist
- The silence and prayer of the monastery
- Community life with the monks

- Personal conversations and pastoral guidance
- The wisdom of the Rule of St. Benedict

Whether you are actively discerning a monastic vocation or just curious about the monastic life and open to God's call, this weekend offers an opportunity to step away from the pressures of daily life and listen more attentively to the voice of Christ.

“Listen carefully, my son, to the master’s instructions, and attend to them with the ear of your heart.”  
— Rule of St. Benedict

**The weekend is open to men aged 18 to 45.** It begins on the Friday with departures after lunch on Sunday or Monday morning.

To find out more please contact: Dom Andrew Berry: [brandrew@belmontabbey.org.uk](mailto:brandrew@belmontabbey.org.uk)

### Deanery Mass

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm**

**Belmont Abbey**

#### **SPECIAL DEANERY MASS: Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham**

All are warmly invited to a special Deanery Mass celebrating the Beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, taking place that day in St Louis, Missouri.

One of the great Catholic communicators of the twentieth century, Archbishop Sheen brought the faith into millions of homes through his pioneering radio and television ministry. May his example inspire us in the work of evangelisation today.

There is a special connection with Belmont. In 1969, Pope Paul VI appointed Sheen Titular Bishop of Newport. Belmont Abbey Church had served as the pro-cathedral of the Diocese of Newport and Menevia, and Sheen himself preached at Belmont in 1969.

Preacher: Revd Dom Thomas Regan OSB. All welcome

### Deanery Advisory Parish Council

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September @ 7.00pm**

**Most Holy Trinity, Ledbury**

Please contact your Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson by 19<sup>th</sup> September if there is anything you wish to see included as topics for discussion. The meeting will be held in the parish room.



**Don't Forget:** Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Hereford hold a Coffee Morning on the second Tuesday of every month starting at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome!

# FUTURE EVENTS

## LOVE WAS HIS MEANING: JULIAN OF NORWICH

A retreat on Dame Julian of Norwich led by Abbot Brendan Thomas OSB with Dr. Sheila Newman.  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October from 4.00pm to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2.00pm.

## WHAT DOES HOLINESS LOOK LIKE?

The Saints in Christian Art led by Abbot Brendan Thomas OSB.  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October from 5.30pm to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2.00pm.

## THE ADVENT RETREAT: WHEN GOD DRAWS NEAR

2026 Advent Retreat led by Abbot Brendan Thomas and Dom Alexander Kenyon.  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November from 4.00pm to Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2.00pm.

<https://www.belmontabbey.org.uk/#RetreatsandEvents>



"Almighty and eternal God, give us the grace and strength to carry out the work entrusted to us in this diocese. Bless our families and our parishes. Open our hearts to the prompting of the Holy Spirit so that, strengthened in faith, growing in hope, and living in charity, we may be missionary disciples making your name known and loved. Guide our Bishop and Clergy and grant us all things necessary for our common life, that we may be of one heart and mind within your holy Church. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

***NOTE: If you wish to advertise anything in the Deanery Newsletter, please ensure it is with your Parish Priest or Chair of your Parish Pastoral Council so that it can be submitted to Tricia Carter ([triciacarter2691@gmail.com](mailto:triciacarter2691@gmail.com)) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.***