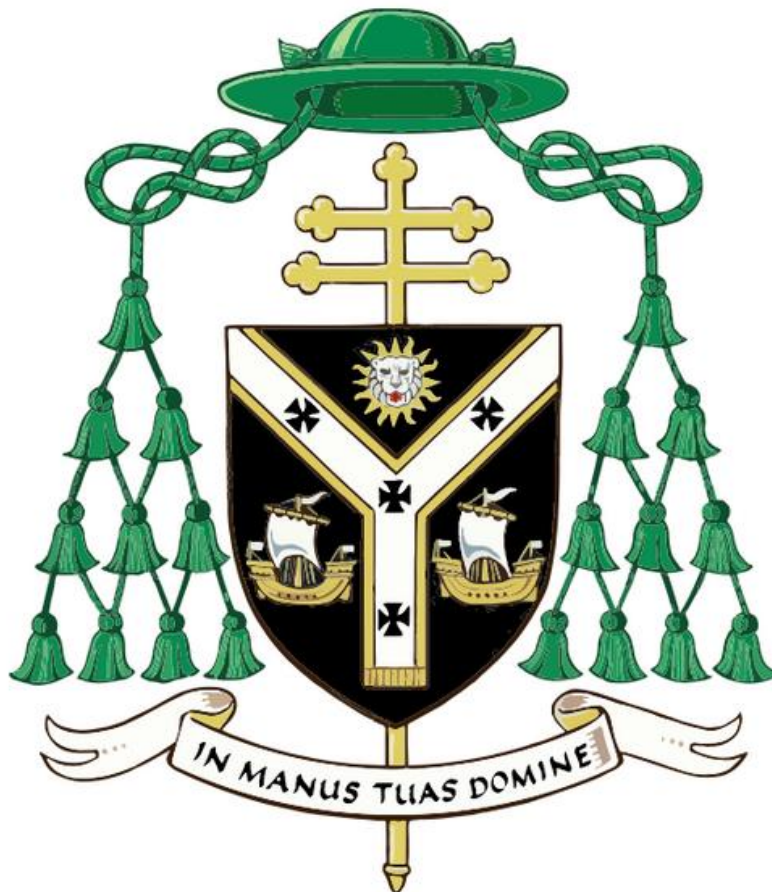


**ARCHDIOCESE OF  
CARDIFF-MENEVIA  
ARCHESGOBAETH  
CAERDYDD-MYNYW**



**Archbishop's Newsletter –  
JUNE 2026**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This *Ad Clerum* comes to you as we are about to embark, as an Archdiocese, on the three-week Mission, facilitated by CCO – Catholic Christian Outreach. Please do attend any of the events that you can, so that we can all grow in our ability to be accompanied in Mission, and to accompany others in this central task of our lives – to bring others to Jesus Christ. Thank you

## **CLERGY MATTERS**

### **WELCOME & APPOINTMENTS**

**The following appointments have been made recently:**

- ❖ Fr Daniel Stanton is appointed as Vocations Promoter, working with Fr Matt Roche-Saunders on Vocations, especially to the Priesthood and the Consecrated Life.
- ❖ Canon Benedict Koledoye has now been formally incardinated into the Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia.

#### **Chapter of Canons:**

- ❖ Canon John Griffiths has been appointed as Provost to the Chapter of Canons. We thank the outgoing Provost, Canon John Kelly, for his time as Provost to the Chapter.
- ❖ Canon Michael Doyle, Canon Timothy McGrath and Canon Cyril Thadathil were installed as Canons to the Chapter at St David's Metropolitan Cathedral on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026. Thank you also to the Emeritus Canons for their time on the Chapter.

I thank these priests for their generosity of service.

### **VOCATIONS**

Please continue to pray for Ashley McNally, who is coming to the end of his first year at the Beda College, Rome, in formation for the priesthood. Our congratulations are offered to John Osinkoya – Miskin Parish - who starts his formation for the priesthood at Allen Hall, in September. May the Lord bless him in this new beginning.

We had a good discernment meeting with those contemplating a vocation to priesthood, on 30<sup>th</sup> May, following Vespers in the Cathedral and both Fr Matt and Fr Daniel are following up with those who attended. Please continue to pray for those discerning and encourage priestly vocations for our Archdiocese your parish community.

We offer our prayers for Alan de Ste Croix who has completed his formation for the Permanent Diaconate and who is due to be ordained deacon on 11<sup>th</sup> July at St Dyfrig's, Treforest. Remember him in your prayers. We congratulate Gaius Eze (St Cadoc's, Cardiff) and Tristan Griffin (Blaenavon) who have been formally accepted for formation for the diaconate and who will go regularly for weekends of formation at St Mary's, Oscott, from September. We pray for those discerning a call to the diaconate.

## **PRAYERS**

We remember with gratitude and deep affection, Canon Jason Jones, and we pray for the repose of his soul. His sudden death on 21<sup>st</sup> May has touched many and we remember his mother, brother, the Parish of Sacred Heart, Morryston and all who grieve his death. Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord.

Your prayers are asked for Fr Kevin Paine, Fr David O'Donnell and Fr Adrian Wiltshire, and all who are ill at this time. We remember, too, others who are ill, or suffering at this time and who carry those burdens in a hidden manner.

## **DIOCESAN MATTERS**

### **EMMAUS YOUTH EVENTS AND VOCATIONS**

Fr Matt Roche-Saunders, the Director for Youth Mission and Vocations, shares the following information about our work with Young People in the Archdiocese.

**Upcoming for teenagers:**

**July 18th 11am-5pm: Pilgrimage**

This is a rescheduled date - this pilgrimage was originally due to take place on May 30th but was postponed due to Canon Jason's death. The deadline for registration is July 6<sup>th</sup> and the cost is £15pp. A poster to advertise this is attached. (*Attachment 1*).

### **August 5th-9th: Summer Camp**

We've put together a new poster (*Attachment 2*) and we've reduced the price to £275pp, which is all inclusive. For many families, we're aware that this will still be out of reach, and especially if they wish to send more than one child - this price only covers the costs involved, and we're not yet in a position in Youth Mission to subsidise the cost significantly. Maybe your parish could sponsor or assist some of your young people to attend? Maybe there might be someone in your parish who might like to sponsor a young person to attend? For more information please get in touch using the email address below.

### **Youth**

- A monthly young adults group (18-30), designed to be an immersive experience of the Road to Emmaus - the pilot version will take place in Cardiff for the academic year 2026/27.
- A new Emmaus age range for Year 6s to Year 8s (covering the age of joining secondary school).
- An ongoing calendar of activities for secondary school age students, to be announced in the coming weeks.
- We are planning for the next World Youth Day taking place in Seoul in August 2027 - this will be open to a number of young adults (18+) who would like to be more involved themselves with the work of Youth Mission - if you have any young adults in your parish who might be interested, please invite them to get in touch with us at [youth@cardiffmenevia.org](mailto:youth@cardiffmenevia.org).
- Working alongside Canon Michael Doyle and Fr Bernard Sixtus, we are working to offer those currently working with young people around the diocese an opportunity to be formed through the 'Youth Ministry Track' from the Catechetical Institute at Steubenville University. This will probably be rolled out to a sample group of 4 or 5 to begin with, to see what approach will work best.

### **Vocations**

- The monthly discernment group continues on the second Friday of each month - once a man has met with Fr Matt or Fr Daniel for an initial sense of where he's at, we'll invite him to join these monthly meetings.
- Discernment walking pilgrimage to Our Lady of Penrhys during the month of August (date TBC)

- We've completed a round of 'First Friday for Vocations' events in each of our seven deaneries - these will begin again in the new academic year. Many thanks to Treforest, Llanelli, Morriston, Usk, Whitchurch, Hereford and Cardigan.

For more information, contact [youth@cardiffmenevia.org](mailto:youth@cardiffmenevia.org) (youth events) or [vocations@cardiffmenevia.org](mailto:vocations@cardiffmenevia.org) (vocations events).

## PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE AT FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY STEUBENVILLE

The Archdiocese has entered a partnership with the Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University, Steubenville. Canon Michael Doyle who, together with Fr Bernard Sixtus are spearheading our efforts in this area notes:

- ❖ Every parish, school, chaplaincy and Mission within the Archdiocese have now been registered with the institute and loaded into the system.
- ❖ An initial 29 people from across the diocese have been invited to be Mentors who will accompany our people as they take part in the various formation tracks we have created.
- ❖ We are hoping for a wider launch of the CI system in the diocese in September/October.

## CCO MISSION

The CCO Mission will begin in the Diocese on 19<sup>th</sup> June and conclude on 5<sup>th</sup> July. Please find attached (*Attachment 3*) the finalised programme for the CCO Mission in the Diocese. It contains the day, event type and location, 'audience' and a very brief description of what this event is, plus the name of a 'local point of contact'. Please see the link below for more information.

<https://rcadc.org/a-mission-for-the-whole-diocese-cco-comes-to-cardiff-menevia/>

Above all please pray for the Mission, that these coming weeks may bear rich fruit in the lives of those who come and/or lead events, and for the life of our Diocese as a whole.

## HEART SPEAKS TO HEART – A SIX-WEEK PROGRAMME LED BY ARCHBISHOP MARK

Thank you to those parishes and communities that have used the online Videos for the course on the Pastoral Message, *Heart speaks to Heart*. The programme is flexible enough to suit parish pastoral councils, prayer groups, school staff days, RCIA groups, youth meetings, retreats, and more - it can be used at any time of the year. I hope that the sessions will prove fruitful.

Find out more, watch the videos, and download the notes at <https://rcadc.org/heart-speaks-to-heart-a-six-week-study-programme>

## DIOCESAN PASTORAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on **17<sup>th</sup> October 2026 at 10.30am**, at All Hallows, Miskin. It would be good if every parish could be represented.

## CURIAL STAFF UPDATE

I wish to update you on some of the recent changes to staffing in the Curia.

- ❖ Sarah-Jane Bailey has left her role as Safeguarding Co-Ordinator. We thank Sarah-Jane for her work in Safeguarding, and we wish her well for the future.
- ❖ Eileen Morrison has recently joined the Safeguarding department as the Safeguarding Case Worker. We warmly welcome Eileen among us, and hope that she will enjoy working for the Archdiocese.

## GENERAL

### The Catholic Medical Association

The Catholic Medical Association are inviting medical professionals to come together to grow in fellowship, prayer and formation together. Please see attached information. (*attachment 4*).

### SEA SUNDAY – JULY 2026

Please note that Sea Sunday will be on 12<sup>th</sup> July this year. Please support by way of prayer and financial contributions to support the work of Stella Maris (formerly, the Apostleship of the Sea), the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church. This

mandatory second collection is vital for the future of Stella Maris and its support of seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world.

## ADOREMUS

Two posters are attached (*attachments 5 & 6*) for the forthcoming Adoremus National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress. The first poster is for the event itself and the second one is for schools, to promote a Christian art competition for children and young people.

## KINGDOM OVER NATION

Churches Together in England has developed a new resource entitled *Kingdom over Nation*, also applicable to Wales, to help churches engage with the rise in Christian nationalism, and the growing challenges surrounding identity, discipleship, and public life. This resource has emerged from conversations across the ecumenical movement about discernment, division, political polarisation, and what it means to remain faithful to the Kingdom of God in this moment. Through eight Bible studies and theological reflections, *Kingdom Over Nation* explores themes of empire, justice, ideology, nationhood, discipleship, discernment and Christian witness. A copy can be downloaded at <https://cte.org.uk/working-together/kingdom-over-nation/>.

## THE SELECTION OF BISHOPS AND THE HANDLING OF EMERGING DOCTRINAL, PASTORAL AND ETHICAL QUESTIONS

The General Secretariat of the Synod has published the first part – concerning the criteria for the selection of candidates to the episcopacy – of the Final Report of Study Group No. 7 on *Some aspects of the person and ministry of the Bishop (in particular: criteria for selecting candidates to the episcopacy, the judicial function of the Bishops, the nature and structure of ad limina Apostolorum visits) from a missionary synodal perspective, together with the Final Report of Study Group No. 9 on Theological criteria and synodal methodologies for shared discernment of emerging doctrinal, pastoral, and ethical issues.*

The Final Reports, together with a brief summary in five languages, are available on the website of the General Secretariat of the Synod: [www.synod.va](http://www.synod.va): [www.synod.va](http://www.synod.va)

## EVENTS

### WELSH NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026

**Dates:** 20th to 24th July 2026    **Price:** £830pp

A full religious programme, full board 4\* Hotel, flights and transfers in France, as well as insurance and Lourdes Levy included. **For enquiries and Booking contact:**

[welshnationalpilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:welshnationalpilgrimage@gmail.com)

### PILGRIMAGE FOR LIFE

The pilgrimage for reparation and prayer for the sanctity of life will be taking place on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2026 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. There is more information at: <https://prolifepilgrimage.org/> The pilgrimage will commence with the 12.00noon Pilgrim Mass, celebrated by Bishop Peter Collins. The remaining outline of the day includes Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Litany of Life and Benediction. A poster is attached (*attachment 7*). Coaches leave from various parts of the country.

### 2026 ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO AND ASSISI

This Pilgrimage takes place from the 28th September – 2nd October, 2026.

The cost is £1,275 per person sharing a twin/double room on a half-board basis. A limited number of single rooms are available at a supplement of £175.

To book, and for further information, please visit <https://rcadc.org/pilgrimage-to-san-giovanni-rotondo-and-assisi/>.

### CARITAS DAY- 'THE BURNING HEART OF THE CHURCH'S MISSION'

Pope Leo's letter '*Dilexi Te*' reminds us of our Christian mandate to love the poorest of our sisters and brothers.

*Caritas Cardiff-Menevia* are hosting an event to help us enter into this truth more deeply. This event will take place at St. Mary's Church, Bridgend on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October from 9:30am-3:30am with two keynote speakers. The first speaker will open up the treasury of Catholic Social Teaching, with an emphasis on *Dilexi Te*, but referring also to the question of AI and human dignity that Pope Leo XIV addresses in *Magnifica Humanitas*.

Based on this, the role of the second speaker will be to suggest and encourage ways of supporting those in the greatest need in the South Wales/Herefordshire setting. For more information please contact [caritas@cardiffmenevia.org](mailto:caritas@cardiffmenevia.org).

## VISIT OF THE PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA TO ST DAVID'S CATHEDRAL

The Jubilee Cathedral visitations take place across the country, showcasing the beauty and significance of our Lady's message at Fatima. The visitation to St David's Cathedral, Cardiff, on 10<sup>th</sup> October will begin at 9:40am with the arrival, procession and reception of the relics followed by Holy Mass celebrated by Archbishop Mark at 10:10am. The full programme for the day will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

## IN CONCLUSION

I am finishing this message on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, and have been reading again some passages of *Dilexit Nos*, Pope Francis meditation on this truth of Our Lord. Just a couple of sentences that struck me:

"Whenever we feel that everyone ignores us, that no one cares what becomes of us, that we are of no importance to anyone, He remains concerned for us" (No. 40).

"Christ asks you never to be ashamed to tell others, with all due discretion and respect, about your friendship with him. He asks that you dare to tell others how good and beautiful it is that you found him" (No. 211).

Something to give us all hope and courage! Pray for me.



Archbishop of Cardiff-Menevia