



HOPE



# GOBEITH

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLWYN BAY, WALES, UK

Happy Christmas  
Nadolig Llawen



2023

Vol -2

## BISHOP PETER...



These days announcements are often made via social media or SMS; we receive more and more messages digitally. Two thousand years ago the announcement of the birth of the Son of God was made by angels; the message

of God's love for all humankind was given in the person of Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour of the World born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem. The subsequent life, death and resurrection of Jesus is the evidence to us of God's enduring love that causes us to return year by year to the celebration of the birth of the Christ-child as we do again in these days, this Christmas. The message of the angels to the shepherds in the hills – news of great joy for all peoples, the birth of the Saviour who is Christ the Lord – is accompanied by a great host of angels praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among all people with whom he is pleased.'

In our celebrations this Christmas whether we are gathered together with family and friends or are alone; at home, in a hotel or in church in those moments of giving our praise and thanks to God, seek to give not just a cheery greeting but the heartfelt message of joy that the presence of God in our world now will transform it with peace and the hope of future glory for all.

I take this opportunity to pray that our world will be flooded with the blessings of Jesus' love and that you and your loved ones may experience the fullness of joy, holiness and peace that his birth and presence among us brings, now and forever.

May you all have a very happy and blessed Christmas,

The Rt. Rev'd Peter M. Brignall, Bishop of Wrexham

## PROVINCIAL OLIVER...



Christmas is a time of great joy and hope. St. Joseph is a central figure in the story. He was entrusted with the care of Mary and the child Jesus.

'St. Joseph's parish continues the work of Joseph in its expression of care for those near and far. This Christmas in the land of Christ's birth there is much suffering, especially for the children and most vulnerable. May our prayer for peace over this Christmas period bring that cherished gift a little bit closer.

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Oliver Barry OMI

## DEAN FATHER INNOCENT...



This year has seen a blur of activity and it's time to look towards the joy of Christmas and the coming of the prince of peace.

I wish to congratulate the editorial Team of St. Joseph's Parish, for the production of this Christmas edition of your parish magazine. My special thanks to the pastoral team and indeed all parishioners for your continued collaboration and mutual encouragement towards becoming a community characterized by love, hope, simple joys, and the vibrancy that draws from the joy of Christian love and hope.

Christmas is a time for rejoicing and specifically to celebrate the birth of our Lord. However, before we rip open the Christmas gifts and sit down to the turkey and trimmings and generally make merry, let us pause for a moment in quiet contemplation to count our own blessings. Not everybody will feel like celebrating. Some people will feel alone (even if surrounded by others), some will have lost family members or friends, others may be ill or bed bound and some may have lost their homes due to financial problems or family breakdowns. Still others will be facing the loss of their liberty and will spend Christmas away from their families.

So, in this season of goodwill, let us be grateful for what we have and ask ourselves if we have been generous enough of spirit and in the giving of our time to try and make a difference amongst those less fortunate than ourselves.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Fr. Innocent Abonyi, MSP  
Dean, St. Asaph and Tudno, Wrexham Diocese

## PARISH PRIEST VIMAL...



Wishing you all a joyful and magical Christmas filled with love, laughter, and happiness.

Jesus was believed to be born two thousand years ago far away from the desert land.

He was recognised by poor shepherds and the respected wealthy magi as the redeemer of the universe. At that time, the whole world was waiting for a Messiah who would come and deliver them from the bondage of sin.

Jesus was born amidst all the problems of his day. Society then had extensive economic, political, social and spiritual turmoil and more at that time. He was born as a sign of hope to the whole world.

He was and is a contradiction. The people who had clear vision understood him and followed him. For some people, even now it is unimaginable that God became man.

We are believers who recognise him as 'Emmanuel' and celebrate every year that he is with us. For a true Christian, Jesus is born every day among us. It is our responsibility to search for him, recognise him and know that he is with us always.

Let us believe that Jesus is in us, Jesus is in our neighbour and Jesus is amongst us.

Let us Celebrate him.

'Gobeith' means hope in Welsh. Let us have hope in our lives and walk with faith.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas filled with love and joy.

Vimal

## PARISH GROUPS/CONTACTS

**Safeguarding: Frank Bond: phone: 07772862680**

**Little Lights - Vicky Davila:**

email: [littlelights@stjosephsrcc.org.uk](mailto:littlelights@stjosephsrcc.org.uk)

**Mazenod Youth Group: - Julie Butcher:**

email: [mazenodyouth@stjosephsrcc.org.uk](mailto:mazenodyouth@stjosephsrcc.org.uk)

**Liturgy Committee: Chair: Shelagh Murray**

email: [liturgycommittee@stjosephsrcc.org.uk](mailto:liturgycommittee@stjosephsrcc.org.uk)

**Parish Council: Chair - Phil Mulholland**

email: [ppc@stjosephsrcc.org.uk](mailto:ppc@stjosephsrcc.org.uk)

**Finance Committee: Chair - John Baxendale.**

email: [finance@stjosephsrcc.org.uk](mailto:finance@stjosephsrcc.org.uk)

**Community Centre Trustees and Bookings**

Chair: Tom Maclean Bookings: Leanne Bell

email: [communitycentre@stjosephsrcc.org.uk](mailto:communitycentre@stjosephsrcc.org.uk)

**Altar Servers: David Davila**

email: [altarserver@stjosephsrcc.org.uk](mailto:altarserver@stjosephsrcc.org.uk)

**Children's Liturgy: Marie Breen -**

email: [childrensliturgy@stjosephsrcc.org.uk](mailto:childrensliturgy@stjosephsrcc.org.uk)

**Food Hub: Coordinators: Tom Maclean and Leanne Bell**

Phone: 07749273889 or

email: [foodhub@stjosephsrcc.org.uk](mailto:foodhub@stjosephsrcc.org.uk)

**Sacristans: 6pm Saturday Vigil - Jim McColl,**

9am Sunday Mass - Hamilton Grantham

11am Sunday Mass - June Craig and Julie Duggan.



# Sharing from our youth members - World Youth Day - Lisbon

**Four of our Mazenod youth members participated in the World Youth Day which took place in Lisbon. Here they share their experiences after participating in the event.**

It was a truly amazing experience, how generous and welcoming the people of Lisbon were to us. There were volunteers from the local parishes there to assist in any way they could, both in the village in which we were staying in, called Caneças, and all through the city. Not just the volunteers were showing their kindness but also the local people, how they managed to put up with the endless crowds and still keep a friendly smile on their face baffles me - but that's just the love and community spirit of world youth day shining through.

Pope Francis in his homily said 'Do not be afraid', and He wants every single one of us to fulfil our dreams and aspirations, despite any fears or doubts we may have - to go ahead and do not be afraid. He also said, 'todos todos todos', which in English means 'all of us, all of us, all of us'. He was saying how God loves all of us and there's space in the church for all of us no matter if we've made mistakes or had troubles with our faith, there will always be room for all of us. Another lesson I learnt whilst there is how we can always get on and be friends with people, even if we don't speak a word of the same language. Whether that be through a friendly smile, a helpful gesture, a shared song, a sign of peace or a dance. I have made many friends in Lisbon and for that I am grateful. Thank you for listening.

**Amy**



I really enjoyed my first time at World Youth Day as you get to share your faith with millions of other people from all over the world as well as learn about different cultures. I enjoyed meeting everyone from different countries from all over the world and made friends from group activities we did, as well as meeting new people from the Masses that we attended. Our group was amazing - we all supported and encouraged each other all the way through even on the days where it felt hard.

We faced some challenges but we all came together as a group and supported each other through until the end. The locals in Lisbon were so, so friendly and helpful and were always there if you needed help with anything. They made us feel very welcome! I would tell anyone thinking of going to the next World Youth Day that will be hosted in South Korea to just go for it! It is an experience you'll have for life to meet and make friends with people from all over the world and you'll never forget it!

**Lucy**

My World Youth Day experiences were getting to share my faith and beliefs, with other people from different parts of the world. What made the trip a success was the support and generosity of each other in the group and good leadership. The locals were very supportive, friendly and made us feel very welcome, as if we were part of their own community. For my first World Youth Day, it was great to see other Catholics from Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and other groups praise the Lord in their own language and culture. It also gave me the chance to make new friends, through masses and other activities. The best thing about it was that nobody from a different group made you feel like a stranger.

**Chike**



My time at World Youth Day was definitely one to remember. There of course were ups and downs but the ups definitely outweighed the downs. As well as making amazing friends within the group we were travelling with, who I will be visiting in Ireland later this year, I also made some great friends with other young people from Canada and America - mainly Michigan, California and Idaho. My favourite part of World Youth Day was definitely the catechesis in the mornings. They were a great way for us to meet others and get to know each other better whilst also deepening our faith through talks given to us by bishops or other pilgrims from all over the world.

**Evie**

# BEHIND THE LENS

# COMMUNICATION IS KEY



At the end of July, Jenny, from the Oblate Communications Team came to Colwyn Bay to run a photography workshop for some of our young people. The workshop introduced the group to some basic photography terminology and techniques that can help transform photos from pictures to art. Fr Vimal kindly lent the group his camera so they could practice trying out the different modes and understand how lighting can change the atmosphere of an image. **Taking a look at how you can use photos to positively tell the story of St Joseph's parish** - was the challenge set for the group. Photos can help the community come together, even when everyone cannot be in the same room they can still be part of the story.



The group were sent out to capture the church and grounds through new eyes. Taking special care to notice the rule of thirds and background blur. See their images above. .

"It was great to have an enthusiastic group in the workshop today, asking questions and getting stuck in. Photography really is a great way we can spread the good news and stay in communion with one another. Proving that actions really do speak louder than words, especially when we can capture a special moment in the parish that can then be passed on, spreading the joy. I want to thank the St Joseph's Youth group for your time and I really look forward to seeing more of your photography!"

Jenny Forti, Communications Officer



Recently, two members of the Oblate Communications team were invited to come to Saint Joseph's, Colwyn Bay to meet the parishes' newly established communications team.

I, along with Jenny Forti, the newest addition to our team, having just started in her new role as Communications Officer on June 1st, were delighted to accept this invitation and so we travelled from Crewe (via Ireland and Anglesey) on June 11th to meet with this group and to have a discussion and sharing of knowledge as to how we can work together to both build our online faith communities and leverage social media and online platforms to aid us in our mission of sharing the gospel and reaching out to the poor and those on the margins. We shared about how engaging with Social Media and the online world is an area of mission for our church in its own right, and a discussion around how we can now view social media as a "place" where we can encounter with those whom we "meet" there.

We highlighted how we can also be present in this place and use the platforms available to us to share the Good News and draw people to an encounter with the Lord through our own experiences and those of others, as well as seeing our presence in the digital world as an opportunity for mission, reaching out to the poor with their many faces. Together we brainstormed around some ideas as to how the parish team can engaged and be creative in their content for social media and how they can optimise all the great work that they were currently engaged with via the parish website, social media pages, and publications. We all agreed that collaboration is key, and that sharing of stories and experiences engages with people in an online context. Members of the parish team, Vicky, Leanne, Tom, Gemma, Fr Vimal, and Br Michael were all very interested and eager to engage with this workshop. It was wonderful to hear their enthusiasm and commitment to grow and outreach in this area, and since the meeting they have made great efforts and had some wonderful examples of how to do so effectively displayed on the parish website and platforms. If you are not already connected with St Joseph's on social media, don't hesitate to get involved and join the discussion. Social media is a great way to reach many people in our own wider communities with a faith message or with an invitation to engage in some way with our online community. Both Jenny and I really enjoyed our day in Colwyn Bay, which included a visit to the beach, a wonderful lunch prepared by June, and a tour of the Great Orme - we both hope to make another visit in the near future!

REBECCA ROUGHNEEN  
OBLATE COMMUNICATIONS, INCHICORE



# Lourde's Pilgrimage

Father Vimal has asked a few of us who accompanied him to Lourdes from our parish, to give a short reflection on our time spent with Our Blessed Lady, our thoughts, feelings and what we brought back with us from Lourdes.

In August I went to Lourdes on pilgrimage with my youngest son, daughter-in-law and their two children and my grandchildren. It was a wonderful experience and we all gained a lot from it. However, it appears Our Blessed Lady hadn't finished with me, Mother Mary kept pecking my head to go again in September with our Oblate parish.

I cannot explain clearly what draws me to Lourdes, all I know is, Our Blessed Lady seems to be calling me back each time. When I leave Lourdes, I feel homesick for Mother Mary. From the first time I went to Lourdes until my last occasion I feel Mother Mary's presence. This time with the Oblates, it seemed to be extra special.

The Oblate youth Service were wonderful in helping to care and transport the assisted pilgrims, backwards and forwards to Our Blessed Lady's Grotto. it was a true joy watching them fulfil their Baptismal roll with total dedication to those in need and to Our Blessed Lady whom I'm sure, was smiling down on those beautiful young people

The organisers, the planning of the pilgrimage, the prayers, the theme of Hope, the assisted pilgrims, the medical team, the volunteers, our ten Oblate Fathers and brothers led Spiritually by Bishop Eamonn Walsh, they all served us remarkably well during our time in Lourdes. Together, we were over 400 pilgrims from the UK and Ireland.

The whole combination was a joy filled with happiness, spirituality and Hope. But more than anything this time round, I saw in full view, the Word of God, alive!

What I brought back with me from Lourdes on this occasion was, the need to go again with the Oblate's of Mary Immaculate next year and, to encourage as many people as possible to join me from the Oblate parish of Saint Joseph's Colwyn Bay.



Our Blessed Lady is calling us to drink the waters and to process as she asked Bernadette to tell the world and to do penance, penance, penance both for themselves and for others and to pray for sinners.

Please watch this space as we gather more information re: next years Pilgrimage. Sept 15 -20 2024. We are aiming for all ages, all abilities especially, the youth of our parish over the age of 18 who would be willing to work with the assisted pilgrims. Training would be given of course.

Wendy

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

There are 24 Ministers of the Eucharist in St Joseph's and of those approximately 8-10 take Holy Communion to people in their own homes or those living in Care Homes. Obviously, we can only share our own approach to this vital ministry which involves visiting three people in two different Care Homes. We always feel it is important to allow enough time to share a proper visit with each individual, depending on their particular state of health at the time, as well as sharing the Eucharist with them.

The importance of this is so evident in their appreciation and their keenness to talk as much as they are able. We never fail to find these visits really prayerful encounters and feel privileged to be able to help take the Church in some small way to parishioners not able to come to Mass.

Mary & Frank Bond

# Oblate Mission Partners

## "Pilgrims of Hope: Working Together as the Oblate Family"

A couple of weeks ago both Julie and I attended a "Chapter"/conference held over 4 days titled as above at the Oblate House in Crewe aimed at looking at and increasing the role of the Laity within the Oblate family – the need for this had been discussed previously and the aim was **"Looking for new ways of being, that will support Oblates mission to the world"**

We began the conference by looking at all the areas where the Oblate "mission" was currently involved in the UK – it is amazing how many things they are part of. Despite St. Joseph's being an Oblate parish, many of us know little more about the Oblates other than they supply our priest and support us here in Colwyn Bay. There are so many organisations that the Oblates organise or are a part of organisations like Friends of St Eugene, Oblates – Lourdes Hospitalité, Oblate projects helping the poor and marginalised – and those "in need" in a number of ways.

Matters discussed were "harmonising ways of belonging" or "sharing ideas that work well" and we then progressed to working in groups on developing a plan for four areas:

- 1) **Formation in Charism** – Finding out about the founder of the Friends of St Eugene and the Oblates, the feast days and meeting with others – laity and Oblates
- 2) **Communication/Connectedness** – we need to look at our media and how we are best able to connect and share, or connect with other parts of the community.
- 3) **Formation in Communion** – bringing people together within the church community.
- 4) **Formation for Mission** – helping/giving people the skills and understanding best needed for their roles.

The Oblates want to be more of a part of the communities where they are. Teams have been established to work on these four areas of development following the conference.



The communications team will be responsible for communicating the progress and updates in these areas on the steps to be taken. They want Oblates and Laity to work alongside each other and they are taking practical steps and organising groups to work in each area to plan and implement these strategies making genuine change.

Aside from all the hard work discussing and planning and strategising and thinking, the Oblate house where we did the Congress was a lovely comfortable place to stay, with excellent food. There was a friendly atmosphere with the opportunity to connect with individuals from different regions and backgrounds all there to help with the same purpose. I know there will be other events and retreats held regularly there and I would recommend the centre's hospitality.

Wendy Tayler

### Children who participate in the Sunday Liturgy, speak

'I like it because we listen to stories about God, do colouring and I help my little brother'

We do colouring and other tasks.  
Someone reads a story about God'

It is all about the Gospel. We talk about what Jesus says and we get to light the candles'



## ST. JOSEPH'S FOOD BANK

Since 2020, St. Joseph's food hub has been providing emergency food parcel support for: homeless men and women, families in emergency accommodation, individuals, couples and families, young people, victims of abuse, military veterans. and people living in their cars who need to choose to either heat or eat but cannot do both. We are increasingly seeing working people in and around Colwyn Bay needing a food parcel because their wages just cannot sustain them. We open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10:30am to 12:30pm. To request a food parcel phone : 07749 273889



Our volunteers make it possible. Our Donors make it happen. Without our volunteers donating their TIME freely there could be no food hub. Without regular food donations there would be no food hub. St. Joseph is the patron saint of families. St. Eugene's inspiration and the Oblates mission to help the poorest, the marginalised and the excluded in our world energises and drives us onwards and we never rest in our mission to help all who need us. We thank everyone for your support, kindness and prayers.



We are truly blessed. We have wonderful people coming to us who need a little help and we are able to help them. We wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas - God Bless,  
The Food Hub Team



# LITTLE *Lights*

Little Lights is the St Joseph's toddler group which is held in the community centre every Tuesday morning during term time. Run by a wonderful team of volunteers from the parish who generously give up their spare time to make the group possible, we offer hot drinks and toast, age appropriate crafts and a weekly song time to finish the session.



We have at our heart our mission statement "We aim to provide a warm, safe and welcoming environment every week, where families can bring their babies and toddlers to play, have fun, find support and share Christian values" and the group continues to go from strength to strength.

We are bustling every week and are so thankful to everyone who helps make our group such a success. The Little Lights Christmas party is a highlight on our calendar and we can't wait to celebrate the festive season with our families.



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

### SOCIETY

The Saint Vincent De Paul Society is today active in befriending those who may be living alone, the longterm sick and those living with a disability amongst others we help. All our members are DBS compliant .

Offering support, furniture, carpets, white goods, etc to those in need. The SVP have conferences (local groups) across the UK. Through our "Twinning" programme our conference assists with a SVP conference in Sudan and a SVP conference in India.

For decades now the SVP has had a conference associated with St .Joseph's parish community. We meet once a month at St. Joseph's Community Centre and our members do home visits, run events and assist in the community.

The SVP's retail arm has a community store in the Bayview Shopping Centre in Colwyn Bay. They always need donations of good quality clothing, shoes, bric a brac, etc. To find out more about the SVP or to express an interest in joining or if you or someone you know needs us do not hesitate to get in touch. Email: [svpcolwynbay@gmail.com](mailto:svpcolwynbay@gmail.com) or phone: 07902854421. All is confidential.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank our members, donors and supporters for all your help. Our thanks to Fr.Vimal and our parish community.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas.

Gemma MacLean

President - St.Joseph's SVP conference

**Thanks to the communication team;**

**Tom, Gemma, Leanne, Vicky and Fr. Vimal**

## Knights of St. Columba



The Knights of St Columba are a Fraternal Organisation of Catholic men.

Formed in 1919 in Glasgow it now has Thousands of Members from a wide range of Nationalities, Backgrounds and Ages. It is dedicated to the service of the Church and its core principles are Faith-Family-Fraternity. Becoming a Knight could transform your Spiritual and Social life. By serving your Parish and Diocese. As a practicing Catholic man by helping those less fortunate, developing your faith and being part of a Brotherhood of like minded Catholic friends.

If you are keen to deepen your own Spirituality through prayer, good works and friendship the Knights could be ideal for you!!

### ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



We have decided that we are going to make this the best Christmas ever in St Joseph's school. The world seems a dark place for many and we need the light of Christmas more than ever.

We started with our crib being set up by the front entrance. This was a wonderful activity for all the children and staff. Then we will lit up the hall, garden and corridors with Christmas lights. As we approach the end of term, there will be Christmas music playing throughout the school.

The other highlights were a visit from Father Christmas, a Class Christmas Tree competition with parent/carers invited to come and see, a Year 1 and 2 Christmas Concert, a Carol Service, Christmas Mass, Whole School Christmas Dinner and class Christmas parties. It was very exciting just thinking about all these activities All the time we spent talking about getting ready and making sure we were all prepared for the gift of Jesus at Christmas.

# MAZENOD YOUTH GROUP



The Mazenod Youth Group, led by Father Vimal and named after St. Eugene de Mazenod, focuses on the values and mission of St. Eugene.

With the help of volunteers, the group organizes social activities for young adults (15-25 years old) from our Church community and beyond.

We discuss topics like fellowship, community, social justice, peace, and the environment. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month during term time, providing a friendly setting for prayer, following the Catholic calendar, sharing meals, and enjoying time together.

This year's highlights included fundraising for World Youth Day in Lisbon through events like a Cake Bake Sale and Sponsored Car Wash, raising over £4500. We engaged in various social activities like badminton, beach sports, and spiritual walks. Our members also contributed to Mass readings and assisted in fundraising together with the St Joseph's School Christmas and summer fairs.

Our festive coffee morning on 17 December was a great success and we thank those all who came.

Our aim is to connect with other parish and community groups, to seek volunteers to foster greater engagement. New members are always welcome. For more information, please contact Father Vimal or our Youth Coordinator.

Julie Butcher - Volunteer

## ALTAR

## *Servers*

Altar servers play an important role during Holy Mass. They become part and parcel of the liturgy, and for this reason, they are invited after their first communion to be trained to serve at the altar. In our parish, we have twenty-one wonderful altar servers. They gather twice a month in our church for training and spiritual formation. They are very much appreciated by our parishioners.



David, Hamilton, and Lindsey are the volunteer leaders who look after and guide our altar servers. We thank and appreciate them for their selfless service.



Those who are interested in serving at the altar, please contact Fr. Vimal or one of the team.





**Immaculate Conception Feast.**



**Bro. Carl Meets the Altar Servers**



**Altar Servers**



**Bro. Michael Prepares Eucharistic Ministers**



**Lectio Devina**



**Anne (HR) meets with our parishioners**



**With the communication team**



**Youth are trained in photography**





நத்தார் வாழ்த்துக்கள்

NADOLIG

Happy  
Christmas

Llawen

Buon  
Natale

Feliz Navidad

Nollaig  
Chridheil

GIÁNG SINH VUI VẺ

Ekene

EKERESIMESI

IDARA USORO  
emana Christi

GOD JUL

MALIGAYANG  
PASKO

കരിന്തുമസ് ആശംസകൾ

WESOŁYCH ŚWIĄT

Nollaig  
Shona duit

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