

Lampeter It is a great joy to write this first 'family newsletter,' covering the parishes of Aberystwyth (Welsh Martyrs Church and Holy Cross Church) and Lampeter (Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church). This will be a moment of significant change for all of us, parishioners and priests – but for the way ahead we trust in the grace of God and the joy of the Risen Lord Jesus! Thank you in advance for your understanding as we learn a new way of operating in this larger pastoral area – please keep this moment of transition very much in your prayers. The two parishes remain separate in their administration, but are in a sense 'united' by the fact they now share a parish priest. It will take a while to settle into a timetable of weekday Masses, so please forgive any alterations from one week to another as we look for the best shape. We will also need to enter a period of discernment about Sunday Mass times. Ideally, the Sunday Masses should be timed so that they could all be covered by the same priest in the event of the other's holiday leave or another kind of absence. Currently the Masses on a Sunday morning overlap (at 10am), so that we need a supply priest when one or other of us is absent. Please pray with us to consider how the Sunday Masses might change to reflect our new situation.

Fr Keith Evans We hold Fr Keith in our prayers as he sets out on a new mission in the parish of St Philip Evans in Llanedeyrn, Cardiff. We give thanks to God for his many years of faithful service in this part of the world. We pray too for Fr Donatus Chukwuedo who becomes parish priest of Our Lady in Llandoverly, which had been served by Fr Keith. This is a perfect opportunity to pray for more vocations to the priesthood as we approach Good Shepherd Sunday!

Easter Many thanks to all those who contributed to such a beautiful celebration of the Paschal Triduum, in ways both visible and invisible. Many thanks too for your generosity to us in the Easter collection!

Easter breaks Fr Gregory has taken his Easter break this week just gone; Fr Matt will be away next weekend for a family event, and will then take his Easter break the following week. Unfortunately this means we need to have supply on two weekends in April – many thanks to Canon Michael Smith for stepping in to celebrate Masses in Lampeter and Aberaeron on the third and fifth Sundays of Easter.

Points of contact Please find contact details at the top of this newsletter for the parish clergy individually, and the parish office generally. The phone number for the presbytery in Lampeter is not included, as this number will now be checked very infrequently, and gradually wound down. Phone queries can be directed straight to the Aberystwyth number, either landline or mobile. Email queries can be sent either to an individual priest, or to the particular parish email address.

Deanery changes The parish of Lampeter has until now been in the deanery of St John Lloyd – it will now move to join the parish of Aberystwyth in the deanery of Our Lady of the Taper, Fr Liam Bradley being the local dean.

Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR) The PSR in Aberystwyth is Tess Truss, whose details are at the top of every newsletter. In addition to this, the parish of Aberystwyth has a Safeguarding Team, made up of the two parish clergy along with six parishioners, which has oversight for both safeguarding and health and safety provision. The members of the team are Tess Truss, Enid Brophy, Peter Leggett, Bob Bennett, Cris Lewis and Marie Woodling – any of these team members can be approached with queries about safeguarding or health and safety. We meet as a team every six weeks or so. At the moment, the parish of Lampeter is without a PSR – any queries relating to safeguarding or health and safety in Lampeter can be directed to Tess or any of the Aberystwyth team members, until a new PSR can be appointed.

Welsh History Talks We're delighted that James January-McCann has offered to share some of his research on the history of Catholicism in Wales, both before and after the Reformation. He will share his material over two separate events – the first, focusing on life before the Reformation, such as the cults of the saints and the role of religious poetry, will take place on **Tuesday 9th April** following the 6pm Mass at Welsh Martyrs. The talk will take place across the road in Neuadd Goffa. The second event will be in a couple of months' time.

Holy Places Many thanks for your generosity to support the Holy Places in the Holy Land, particularly suffering at this time of war – the totals raised were £457.09 (A) and £57.30 (L).

Offeren Padarn Sant The annual Mass for the feast of St Padarn takes place at 3pm next Saturday 13th April in Llanbadarn Church. We welcome Tad Allan Jones to celebrate the Mass and preach. Croeso i bawb – all welcome!

Chapel of Our Lady at Welsh Martyrs The new chapel (formerly a cupboard) is coming on bit by bit – the doors are now off, and the workers hope to complete the initial works this coming week. Please avoid the church on Tuesday to enable them to do this. We're hoping the chapel might be ready in time for or during Our Lady's month of May!

Hymn books Hymn books at Welsh Martyrs (English and Welsh) are now stored in the new cupboard in the porch. The welcomers will distribute them at Sunday Masses, but please help yourself if needed. This will make life easier for the cleaning team when polishing the pews, and stops the hymn books falling off as people walk through the pews!

Food trolley Does anyone have a spare wheeled shopping basket you could donate? It would make it easier to wheel surplus bread from the Hub to St Padarn's School for those who need it. Please contact Jacky if so (07554 118435).

Easter Eggstravaganza Many thanks to the Fundraising Team for their hard work on the wonderful stalls at last week's Easter event, and to the staff at St Padarn's School for their warm welcome. It was great to see so many families from the parish, the school and further afield. We raised a wonderful £712.86 for the parish's fundraising initiatives.

Polish Mass There are three opportunities to go to Mass in Polish in our family of parishes: the **first Sunday** of the month in Welsh Martyrs (4.30pm) and the **second and fourth Sundays** at Our Lady of Mount Carmel (6pm). Please share this opportunity with those you think might benefit. The Mass at Welsh Martyrs is a trial until July, and its continuation will depend on what the take-up has been.

Solemnity of the Annunciation This feast usually takes place on March 25th, but that date fell in Holy Week this year, so instead it's delayed to this Monday 8th April. It's not a holy day of obligation, but is a very beautiful feast – there is opportunity to attend Mass in Lampeter at 10am, or in Aberystwyth at 6pm. The church of Our Lady of Fatima in Bala is hosting a day retreat on the theme, '*Nothing is Impossible with God!*', from 12noon-4pm. Bring your own packed lunch.

Young Walkers A new youth group for those aged 10-16, outdoors! The first meet is on Saturday 20th April (11am-2pm) for a walk of about 3 or 4 miles – a nice chance to meet other young people and get plenty of fresh air! The group is aimed at those in Year 6 to Year 11 – but others around that age who'd like to come are welcome to let Fr Matt know. Please register your child's interest by emailing aberystwyth@menevia.org. They will be supervised on the walk by adults leaders with diocesan DBS checks – if that's you and you'd like to volunteer, please email the same address.

Youth Residential organised by the Youth Council of Menevia and Cardiff: July 24th-28th in St Davids, Pembrokeshire, £250 to cover everything – some days away walking, praying, eating, having fun, for teenagers aged 14-18 from across our dioceses. Fr Matt will be the chaplain for the event. If you'd like to go but don't have the funds, please get in touch.

National Pilgrimage The annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Taper in Cardigan takes place on Sunday 12th May, this year led by Bishop Peter Brignall of Wrexham Diocese. Please mark the date in your diaries and do your best to come along in support!

Donations If you'd like to donate to the mission of Aberystwyth parish, you can do so via the parish website or using this QR code. Many thanks for your generosity.



Food Bank Donations Collection points are in each church porch. Recent needs include:

Aberystwyth: tinned curry, micro rice/pasta in sauce/noodles, jam, tinned custard/rice pudding.

Aberaeron: grateful for whatever you can give.

Diolch yn fawr! Many thanks!