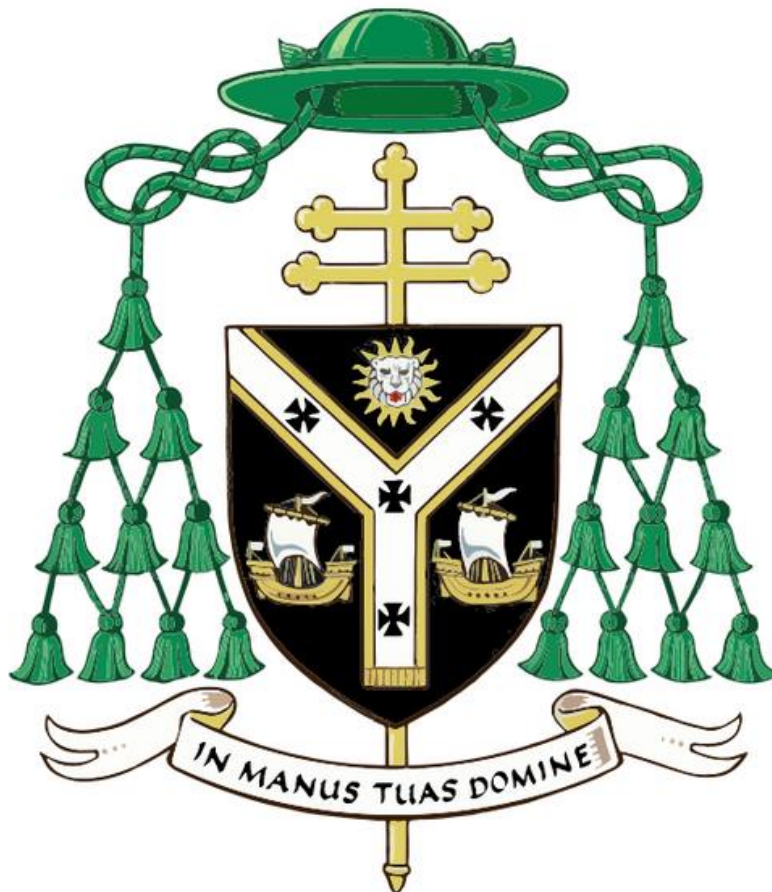


**ARCHDIOCESE OF
CARDIFF-MENEVIA
ARCHESGOBAETH
CAERDYDD-MYNYW**



**Archbishop's Newsletter
December 2024**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I want to thank so many of you for coming to the celebration for the *Proclamation* of the new Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia. It was day of great blessing. The process of drawing the two Trusts (Charities) together continues, and there is some information later on about this. I ask you to continue to pray for our new Archdiocese.

CLERGY MATTERS

WELCOME & APPOINTMENTS

We welcome Fr Celestine Okechukwu, from the Diocese of Enugu, Nigeria. Fr Celestine is here for some further studies, and will be assisting in the Parishes of Canton, Fairwater and Ely, residing in the presbytery of St Mary of the Angels, Canton.

We hope to soon welcome Fr Joseph Arthur from the Archdiocese of Accra, Ghana, and Fr Peter Okafor from the Diocese of Issele-Uku, Nigeria. Sometime in the near future, we also hope to welcome two more priests from the Society of St Eugene de Mazenod.

I thank these priests for their generosity of service.

PRAYERS

Your prayers are asked for Mgr Michael Lewis, Canon Michael Flook, Fr Kevin Paine and Deacon David O'Keefe, 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.

DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mgr John Maguire, Fr Brian Cuddihy, IC, Sr Margaret Canny, OSU (of the Ursuline Community in Swansea), Tal Harries, the father of Fr Phillip Harries, and Francis Aziati, the brother of Fr Richard Aziati, all of whom have died in the past few months. May they rest in peace and Rise in Glory.

SEMINARIANS

Please continue to pray for Ashley McNally, studying at the Royal English College, Valladolid, and for those discerning a call to the Priesthood and Religious life and do encourage prayer for priestly vocations for our Archdiocese.

SONIA D'ANTONI

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, I had the great joy of presiding at the Mass during which Sonia D'Antoni made her lifelong commitment to the Order of Consecrated Virgins. Please pray for her as she begins to live out this new chapter in her dedication to the Lord.

DIOCESAN MATTERS

JUBILEE YEAR

We begin the Jubilee Year on the Feast of the Holy Family, 29th December. I will celebrate Mass at St David's Cathedral, Cardiff (at 11am), to open the Year in our Archdiocese, and Archbishop George will celebrate Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral, Swansea (10am). The list of 'Jubilee Churches/Places' in the Archdiocese is on the website – do try make a pilgrimage to them during the Jubilee Year.

A list of the Jubilee events in the Archdiocese is available via [this link](#). Please do feel consider attending some of these events – especially those which may have some particular relevance to you, and please keep our celebration of the Year here in the Archdiocese in your prayers.

Teenagers' and Young Adults' Jubilee Pilgrimages

In addition to the Diocesan Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome in June, the Youth Council are organising two pilgrimages for our young people for the Jubilee Year. I have been asked to pass on the following information:

- *Teenagers' pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi – 24th-27th April 2025:*

An exciting opportunity for young people aged 12-17 to participate in a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi for the Canonisation of Bl Carlo Acutis. We hope that representatives from across the Archdiocese can be invited from amongst our deaneries.

The group will depart from Heathrow on April 24th and return on April 27th, with the following key highlights:

- The Holy Doors of the four Papal basilicas in Rome;
- Basilicas of St Francis, St Clare, & St Mary of the Angels in Assisi;
- Veneration of the relics of Bl. Carlo Acutis;
- Mass with the Holy Father for the Canonisation of Bl. Carlo Acutis

A full itinerary is available via [this link](#).

The Archdiocese has secured two spaces per deanery for teenagers to join this spiritual journey. The cost of the pilgrimage is £949 per person. If you would be interested, please speak to your Parish Priest.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our young people to deepen their faith and witness this historic moment. Your support in encouraging and selecting participants is greatly appreciated.

You can contact the organising team via Fr Dale Cutlan: dale.cutlan@rcadc.org

- *Young adults' pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi – 28th July-4th August 2025:*

Including the canonisation of Bl Pier Giorgio Frassati – price TBC.

Please contact the Youth Council on youth@rcadc.org for more details.

CRIB COLLECTIONS

A reminder that the Crib Collections this Advent and Christmas will go towards the following causes:

Abroad: Aid to the Holy Land, through the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre and Friends of the Holy Land

Home: Youth Ministry in the Archdiocese.

DIOCESAN UNIFICATION

In order to oversee the process to unify the two charities that currently exist in relation to the former Diocese of Menevia and Archdiocese of Cardiff to reflect the new

Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia, a 'Shadow Board' comprising Trustees from Menevia and Cardiff has been established.

They have been generously working away to ensure that the important legal steps are taken in regard to Finance, Property, Health and Safety, Education, Safeguarding, and also including Curial employment.

I am pleased to let you know that David Evans has been appointed as the COO/ Finance Secretary for the Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia David Evans. We offer David our congratulations, and thank him for agreeing to take on the role. I know he has the support of us all.

I do not doubt the hard work that bringing the two Trusts together entails, and I fully expect we will encounter some bumps along the road. I thank all who are assisting with this process.

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

We say farewell to Antony Jones, the Finance Secretary of the Diocese of Menevia, who has decided, following a period of reflection, that now would be a good time to step down from the role and take Voluntary Redundancy. We thank Antony for the service he gave to the Diocese of Menevia these past seven years.

EVENTS

In addition to the events below, please see the Jubilee Year events, available via [this link](#).

VISIT OF THE RELICS OF BL CARLO ACUTIS – 13TH – 17TH FEBRUARY 2025

The relics of Bl Carlo Acutis, who will be canonised in April, will visit our Archdiocese in February. Over the course of the visit, the relics will be made available for veneration at both cathedrals, as well as Belmont Abbey and Bl Carlo Acutis School, Merthyr. A more detailed timetable will follow in due course.

FLAME 2025 – 15TH MARCH 2025

I hope to accompany a group of young people from the Archdiocese for this national youth event at the OVO Arena, Wembley. Further details will be circulated in due course.

CHRISM MASS – 15TH APRIL 2025

There will be one Chrism Mass this year, on Tuesday of Holy Week at 11.30am at St Joseph's Cathedral.

JUBILEE TEENAGERS' PILGRIMAGE TO ROME – 24TH – 27TH APRIL 2025

Please see the *DIOCESAN MATTERS* section above for more details.

MENS' SPIRITUAL EXERCISES – 31ST MARCH – 5TH APRIL 2025

A 5-day version of the Ignatian Exercises offered specifically for men (whether lay or ordained), this retreat will be preached by the Benedictine Monks of St Joseph's Abbey, France. Founded in 1988, this community has retained its charism of a specific apostolate to men and of engaging them through a shortened version of the Ignatian Exercises. One-to-one direction will be offered alongside the talks. Priests are welcome to attend and concelebrate or celebrate their own Mass.

For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-spiritual-exercises/>

JUBILEE YEAR DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO ROME – 16TH – 20TH JUNE 2025

I will be leading an Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year. The pilgrimage has proved very popular, and therefore, unfortunately, is now fully booked, but there is a waiting list. For more information, or to register for the waiting list, please contact *Pilgrimage People* on office@pilgrimagepeople.org or 0800 612 3423.

WEBELIEVE FESTIVAL – 25TH – 28TH JULY 2025

Taking place at St Mary's Seminary, Oscott and centred on the Eucharist with families in mind, this festival offers a feast of invitation for each step of the faith journey, in a unique experience of the universal Church. For more information, please visit <https://www.webeliefestival.com>

JUBILEE YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME/ASSISI – 28TH JULY – 4TH AUGUST 2025

Please see the *DIOCESAN MATTERS* section above for more details.

GENERAL

FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

The Final Document of the Synod has now been published and is available on the Synod website: <https://www.synod.va/en/news/final-document-of-the-xvi-assembly.html>. In approving this *Document*, the Holy Father said 'The local Churches and groupings of Churches are now called upon to implement, in their different contexts, the authoritative proposals contained in the *Document* through the processes of discernment and decision-making provided for by law and the *Document* itself'.

One of the ways we have been seeking to implement the synodal pathway is through the re-invigoration of Deanery Pastoral Councils. We are moving closer to establishing these, and I thank all those involved in the process of doing so.

NEW SUNDAY MISSAL BY HODDER & STOUGHTON

Hodder & Stoughton (as well as CTS) are advertising their Sunday Missal with the new translation of the readings. As well as the Mass readings, features include the Mass Propers and extra devotional material such as a Rosary, Stations of the Cross, a short form of Morning and Night Prayer, and catechetical pieces about the Divine Office, our role in evangelisation, an introduction to the Creed and the Sacraments, and others. It is currently available for £18.99. For more information, or to order, please contact the publishers on missals@hodder.co.uk or 020 3122 6074.

FROM THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

New Lectionary and Scripture Formation Resources

Fleur Dorrell, the Bishops' Conference Biblical Apostolate Manager, has asked that new Lectionary and Scripture Formation Resources be circulated. They can be found here:

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/lectionary-scripture-formation-resource/>

At the Foot of the Cross

The 24th episode of *At the Foot of the Cross* is now available from the Bishops' Conference, and can be listened to via the link below. The podcast this month focusses on the issue of Assisted Suicide.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/podcast/assisted-suicide-episode-24/>

IN CONCLUSION

I wish you all the many blessings of the Christmas season. May the Christ Child be close to you and those whom you love. I hope that Christmas gives you precious opportunities to be with family and loved ones.

Pray for me.



Archbishop of Cardiff-Menevia