

Holy Cross Abbey, Whitland 2019 News

Praying to Our Lady for Vocations

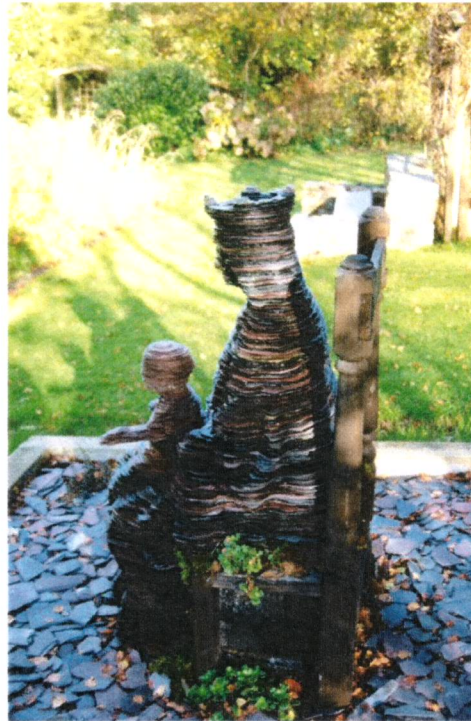


Y Forwyn a'r Plentyn Virgin & Child Sculpture By Dorian Wilshire Riby & Sue Diamond

Feast of St Bernard 2018 we started a novena to Our Lady for vocations and on the penultimate day we had an enquiry. A month later we decided that we should continue to pray for vocations which we have done. One person has entered and there have been a number of enquirers.

In the Spring tidy of the grounds we found that we had a lot of roofing slate, not in perfect condition. What to do with it? At this same time the idea of a statue of Our Lady in the garden was in several sisters' minds and so the two came together to create a work of art in slate in the Paradise Garden and we started a journey.

Sue our part-time gardener introduced us to Dorian who, having completed his degree in Sculpture, is looking to develop a career in the research of material and technique for sculpture. He took photos of Our Lady of Citeaux and processed them to make a computerised 3D model which was printed in plastic and templates created.



Prayer of Blessing

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. (PS 84:11-12)

Lord, we ask a blessing on Dorian & Sue, whose vision and artistry have brought this Welsh slate to life.

We ask a blessing on those who will visit this place, that they may find here what they seek.

And we ask a blessing on the Community who live here that they may faithfully witness to a life of prayer in union with Our Lady and Her Son. Amen

The community had several discussions and met with Dorian before a vote was taken to create the sculpture. The paper templates were printed, cut out and placed on each slate which was then cut to size and assembled. This was a painstaking process and the community were invited to participate. Several sister joined in the cutting of the slate and with a hammer chipping the slate into shape.

When the sculpture was in place we had a simple prayer and blessing.

This is an experimental technique which has never been used before in slate and is an unusual representation of the Virgin and Child. We have been amazed at the colour variation in the slate, the effect of the weather hail, rain and sunshine accentuating the colours

Facial definition working in this medium is not detailed and yet the profiles of are both striking and real.

Garden, Grounds & Preserves

Woodland Trust



Sr's Elsie & Edith, M. Chris, Dave, Sr's Usia & Jo with new saplings

Helped by the WI in 2018 we applied for 450 free saplings from the Woodland Trust, their Large Wildlife Pack (Hawthorn, Rowan, Blackthorn, Silver Birch, Hazel & Common Oak), which arrived in March and Luke planted them. We are replacing trees which over the years have come down and also those felled due to ash dieback. The need to fill the gaps was becoming more urgent to sustain the quality of the environment for the wild life and the pleasure for the sisters & guests who walk around the woods. The saplings have done very well and are growing, we have applied for another 350 saplings for another area of the woods.

Fruit & Veg

This year we have been enjoying a good growing season, with an early spring, vegetables were sown earlier than usual and got off to a flying start. In May we were able to sell the Charlottes (early potatoes) they went very well, followed by French beans, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Courgettes, & Marrows The Blackcurrants have yielded an excellent crop and are in the freezer for Jam & Jelly making, Sr's Edith & Usia are also making blackcurrant and apple juice.



Seville Marmalade



In 2018 we were unable to obtain any Seville Oranges for making marmalade which was sorely missed by our customers. This year Sevilles were purchased. Our Marmalade is the best selling preserve.

Honey

The bees has a good year and our three hives resulted in plenty of honey and wax for Sr Steffie's lip balm.



Visitors

Fr Denis

Fr Denis from MSB returned for the Easter Triduum. We thank MSB for his visits,. He is much appreciated.

Guests from Ireland & USA

This August we welcomed Sr Sarah from Glencairn Ireland & M. Maureen recently retired Abbess of Wrentham nr Boston USA and their newly elected Abbess M. Sophia. It was a gloriously sunny weekend.

Noddfa 2019

'A Unifying Principle for Initial Formation: The Spirituality of Communion A workshop with M. Maureen.' Sr Jo went it was a very good week, an excellent speaker and wide ranging discussions. The Contemplative Novice Directors meet every 2 years to be recommended

School Children Visiting Two First Holy Communion Classes visited to see how altar breads are made. First Fr Paul Brophy with Year 3 children from St Thérèse's Primary School Port Talbot. A few weeks later Helen Townsend, Fr Matt and 30, 7-8 yr olds from Mary Immaculate Primary School Haverfford West. Everyone enjoyed tasting the altar breads. At the end the children joined us for Sext before having a picnic lunch and coach home. In October 12 children from Nant-y Cwm Steiner School visited to see how we live and helped in the polytunnels picking tomatoes & carrots many were eaten. The children have been learning about the virtues and saints, who hard work and lived virtuous lives.

Courses

OCSO Region of the Isles Junior's Seminar 2019

Mount Melleray Abbey Ireland hosted this year's course. Speaker M. Maureen 'Our Cistercian Mothers & Fathers: How Can We Apply Their Lives & Teachings to Our Own Monastic Lives' Sr's Elsie & Usia attended, the course was very good and there was a Pilgrimage to Glendalough, tour of the monastery and walks . Thank you to Sr Sarah for organizing it all and to Dom Richard & community for their welcoming hospitality

Whitland Abbey Ruins

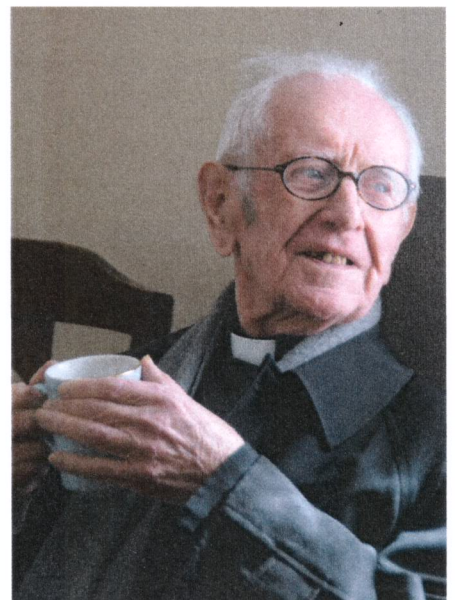
Whitland Council are raising the profile of the importance of the Abbey during medieval times. They have taken over the lease of the site. A number of sisters & locals attended a talk by Ken Murphy in the grounds it was very interesting.

Menevia Diocese

11 July 2019 Bishop Thomas Matthew Burns retired and Archbishop George Stack has become the Apostolic Administrator.

Our friend, Emeritus Bishop Daniel Mullins died peacefully on the feast of All Saints. RIP

Local News



Thank you
Fr Michael
for your
priestly
ministry and
friendship as



our part time chaplain. We also thank
Fr Owen for his services and generous
support.

Abbey Bakery

We thank all our altar bread customers
for supporting us. The Abbey Bakery is
our main source of income.

Email hcaaltarbreads@gmail.com

For the Guest House

Email visithca@gmail.com

Jenny's 80th Birthday

Jenny visited and we celebrated her 80th
Birthday we also toasted Fr Michael, Sr's
Stephanie & Elizabeth's recent birthdays



New Member of the Community

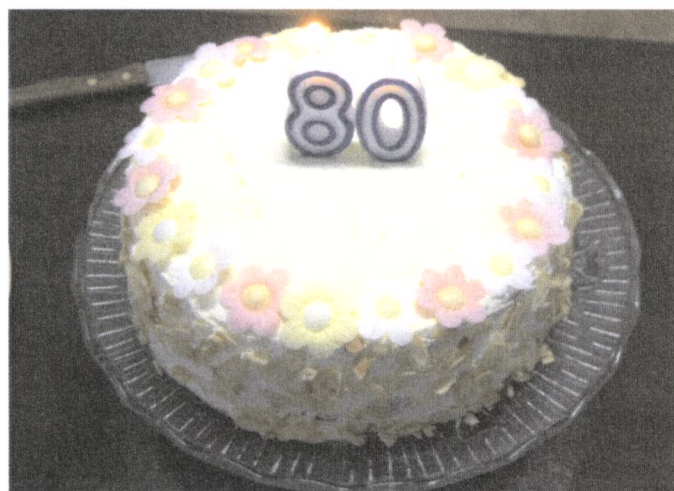
Sarah entered 16th September 2019 and
we pray that all will go well

Celebrating Sr Jean's 80th Birthday



We celebrated Sr
Jean's 80th birth-
day with Mass,
cards, presents, a
festive lunch
(menu chosen by
Jean). A very
happy celebra-
tion.....

Ad multos annos



Thank you

We thank Dave, Julian & Jan, Clem and Suzanne
for all their work and support. .

We thank our volunteers Eleanor, Euan and
Hanne a working retreatant

Thank you to Luke & team for looking after
the woodlands and to Sue & Crew for garden-
ing.

Thank you to Rev Dr David Williams for contin-
uing to catalogue the library

We wish you a very blessed 2020