



Dolen Mynyw Menevia News

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PAPAL AWARDS

... to Carmarthen parishioners

Two Carmarthen parishioners were completely surprised when Bishop Tom Burns SM presented them with Papal Awards, during a Mass for Healing at St Mary's Church Carmarthen on the 8th October 2009.

Olive Schelewa and Teresa Thomas were joined by their families (who were in on the secret), friends and parishioners of St Mary's Church to celebrate the presentation of their Papal Awards by Bishop Tom.



Olive Schelewa and family

Olive Schelewa was presented with the **Bene Merenti Medal** for many years working tirelessly to support a growing number of charities, including Youth to Lourdes, Ty Cymorth, and various Cancer Charities. This work continues, despite Olive's declining health, which means she is housebound.

Teresa Thomas was presented with the **Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice** for her lifetime commitment to the Church. In the early 1960's, Teresa helped establish the **Young Christian Workers (YCW)** organisation in Carmarthen and in several neighbouring parishes. For more than 20 years, from the mid 1970's, Teresa undertook voluntary work each weekend at **St Non's Retreat Centre**, Pembrokeshire, until the running of the Centre was transferred to the Religious Sisters. She has worked tirelessly for the St Mary's Parish in a whole range of roles including that of school governor, and as secretary to various parish groups. For many years Teresa has been secretary of the Parish Advisory Committee and continues in that role.



Bishop Tom at Carmarthen



Teresa Thomas (second left) with sisters Pat and Margaret, and brother Steffan

... and to a parishioner of St. Benedict's, Sketty

Pope Benedict XVI has awarded the **Bene Merenti Medal** to Mrs Elaine Clement of St Benedict's, Sketty in recognition of all the work she has done for so many years in the parish.



Elaine with Bishop Tom, Fr Neil and members of St Benedict's U.C.M

Elaine was presented with the medal on October 4th by Bishop Tom after the celebration of the Harvest Family Mass. The congregation included members of **Elaine's Family** and the UCM of which Elaine is president.

The full details of this presentation were a closely guarded secret, and everyone knew of the award except Elaine, who was shocked to find herself the focal point of such an occasion!

Elaine has been a member of St Benedict's for over 40 years, and was the **first secretary of the UCM** when it became independent from England, and has become acting **secretary of the Diocesan UCM**. She is also **Secretary of St Benedict's SVP**, and this is one of the many charities to benefit from her fundraising.

Over the years Elaine's contribution to the Parish has included running a highly successful **Youth Club** whose members benefited from her direction in helping older members of the parish. She continues to help and organise all functions at St Benedict's, including **First Holy Communion and Confirmation**.

The Mass was followed by a buffet in the Church Hall, where the UCM presented Elaine with a special celebratory cake.



Elaine following receipt of her award, with the Bishop, Fr Neil P.P. and Fr Eric



Bishop Tom, Fr Neil, Fr Eric and Parishioners at St Benedict's were delighted to be at such a happy occasion, and offer Elaine their warm congratulations for receiving such a well and deserved award.