



Dolen Mynyw Menevia News

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Closure of the 'Year of the Priest'

Mass was celebrated in the cathedral on Monday, 21st June, to mark the end of the 'Year of the Priest.' It was well attended by most of our priests, and approximately two hundred people from around the diocese - the main celebrant was Bishop Tom.

The intercessions, after the bishop's homily, took the form of a '**renewal of commitment**' as at the Chrism Mass. Three questions were put to both priests and people. Here are two of them...

The priests were asked: "First of all my brothers, I address you, as we mark the end of the Year of the Priest. Are you ready to renew the promises you made at your ordination in the presence of your bishop and God's holy people?" And the priests answered: "I am."

Then one of the questions put to the people was: "Are you ready to hear God's call to dedicate your lives to him and to live out your vocation faithfully in the world?" And they replied: "I am."

Then the bishop concluded with these words: "Almighty and Eternal God, we, your priests and people commit ourselves to you. We are mindful that, without Jesus, the Eternal High Priest, we can do nothing good and that only through him, with him and in him we will be instruments of salvation for the world. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen."

The people and priests were then invited to say the 'Vocations Prayer.'



Bishop Tom receives his 'gift' after the Mass



The 'surprise gift' handed to each of the priests after the Mass

As the priests left the cathedral, after Mass, they received a surprise gift from a group of people and religious sisters. It was a red rose together with a card showing, on the front, a picture of St. John Vianney, patron of priests. It was addressed to Bishop Tom and all the priests of the Menevia Diocese, and inside these words: "*Thank you Father, for your ministry to the Church, to the Diocese of Menevia, and our parishes. We love you.*"

A rather moving end to our celebration of Mass - and the 'Year of the Priest.'

See back page 12 for more photos of some of our priests as they left the cathedral and received their 'surprise gifts'

The New St. David's Diocesan Medal

Bishop Tom has announced that a 'New Diocesan Medal' has been instituted - called '**The St David's Diocesan Medal**', it is similar to the '**Bene Merenti** ('well merited') **Medal**' which is awarded by the Holy Father for services to the Church. The 'St David's Diocesan Medal' is an additional award available to the Diocese of Menevia so that service to the Diocese in general, or to a Parish in particular, can be recognized as quickly as possible. The Medal was introduced by Bishop Tom Burns in June 2010.



The first recipient of the Medal was **Mr Jack Kenny of the Burry Port & Kidwelly Parish**. The Parish Priest, Father Thomas Kochalumchuvattil MSFS, nominated Jack because - "He has been doing the grass mowing for 31 years."

Jack originally undertook this task at the request of Rev Fr Howard, the priest who built both the churches in the Parish. The grounds at Kidwelly are plagued by moles which added to the workload when mowing. Jack promised the late Fr Howard that he would not get the moles exterminated - a promise he has kept. Jack has never taken a penny in all this time. In fact when the late Fr C Higham SJ tried to recompense him, he put the money back in the collection on the following Sunday.

The St David's Diocesan Medal was presented to Jack Kenny by Bishop Tom during Mass in the church of 'Our Lady and St Cadoc' at Kidwelly on Friday 25 June 2010. The packed church, which included members of Jack's family from Ireland, showed its approval of the award with smiles and applause.



The bishop making the award, with Fr Thomas at his side

Bishop Tom thanked Jack for his dedicated and selfless service for all these years, during which he expected nothing in return. In expressing his gratitude to Jack for preserving the moles unharmed, Bishop Tom wondered if the next time he came to Kidwelly Jack might lead an 'All-Male Mole Choir' on the beautifully kept lawn outside!