

## PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST DAVID, CWMBRAN

The Presbytery,  
Oak Street,  
Cwmbran  
Torfaen  
NP44 3LT  
Tel: 01633 482346  
Email: cwmbbran@rcadc.org

4th September 2021

Dear Parishioner,

### CHERISHING OUR HERITAGE

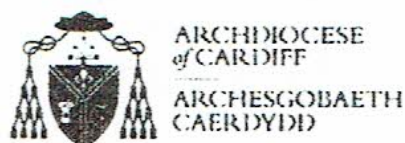
Our parish is privileged to have a rich Catholic heritage, with the gathering together of people for the celebration of Mass and the other sacraments dating back centuries. We claim, in our parish treasury, the influence of the Cistercian monks, who occupied Llantarnam Abbey from 1179 until 1536. The celebration of Mass continued, even during times of persecution. Our very own St. David Lewis was captured outside the blacksmiths shop opposite Llantarnam Church in 1679, before being put to death at Usk. Our rich heritage continues into more recent times, through the Industrial Revolution, and the migration of people looking for work opportunities. These key moments of history are part of our very identity; it's what makes us who we are. We are an essential part of this rich heritage. We have a duty to cherish our heritage as we continue to build for the future.

An essential element of being able to 'cherish our heritage' involves the ongoing maintenance of the buildings which we have stewardship over. The buildings within our parish form part of the physical structure of our very mission of going to the peripheries and "making disciples of all the nations". Over the past couple of years, some essential work has been carried out, to ensure that our churches and presbyteries are safe places.

Here is a brief summary of some of the essential works which have already been carried out in the parish, or which are in the process of being actioned:

At St. David's:

- Upgrading the Presbytery at St. David's so that it conforms to the appropriate safety standards, at a cost of £40,000.
- Installing the accessible toilet.
- Installation of a total new heating system.
- Installation of a new fire and smoke alarm system.
- The removal of the old heaters from St. David's Church, and repairing the walls.



Registered Charity Number 1177272

At Our Lady's:

- The project to build a new toilet and kitchen complex was successful.
- Installation of a new fire and smoke alarm system.
- Due to water ingress, the west wall (near the organ) has been hacked back to allow the stonework chance to dry off. This needs to be re-rendered with the appropriate material.
- Essential repairs have been scheduled for Our Lady's. These repairs include fixing the slipped tiles from the roof of the Church, fixing the rotten fascia boards on the church and presbytery.
- Our Lady's Church is looking in particular need of freshening up. As you may have noticed when you have been to Mass, paint is peeling from the walls in many areas, and there are marks elsewhere. I have asked for estimated costing to re-render the west wall, to remove the old impervious paint system and apply new breathable paint, as well as upgrade the lighting system. This estimated at around £20,000.

At the Parish Hall:

- Installation of a new boiler for the heating system.
- Renewal of rainwater pipes.
- Repair of the hall floor.

These essential works do not include the ongoing maintenance of the sites, nor account for any unplanned issues which may arise. This is something which is ongoing.

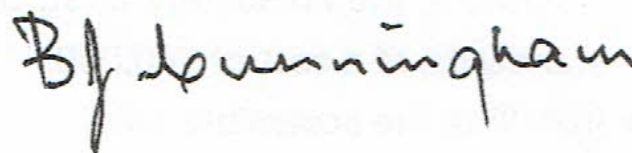
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing contribution to cherishing the heritage of our churches. The purpose of the parish *Building and Maintenance Fund* is to support these essential works, and to enable us to build for the future, thus safeguarding our rich Catholic heritage here in this area for the next generation. If you would like to support the parish Building and Maintenance Fund, please consider placing an offering in the envelopes.

Thank you for your generosity.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Daniel Stanton  
Parish Priest



Mr. John Cunningham  
Chair: Parish Building Committee

