

The Catholic Parish of Aberystwyth

# Celebrating Saint Padarn in 2017

## Newsletter 1: March 2017



Logo: Ted Harrison

The Parish's working group, **Gweithgor Padarn Sant**, has planned a programme of events to celebrate the arrival of Padarn in Ceredigion in about AD 517.

One event was held in the Waunfawr Community Hall on January 19. This was a talk by the historian, teacher and author, Gerald Morgan. The event was a great success – every seat was taken – and it was reported in the *Cambrian News* (February 2) and in the 'Around the



Parishes' supplement of *The Catholic Universe* (February 3). It was mentioned on BBC Radio Cymru's popular *Rhaglen Dei Tomos* on January 29.

Padarn is the Welsh form of the Latin Christian name *Paternus*, which means 'fatherly'. Padarn came to Ceredigion, then a kingdom, around AD 517 and established three churches (built of wood). The first was, possibly, at Mynyw (in Latin, 'Menevia'; Mynyw is now called 'Hen Fynyw'), the second is known to have been near the river Clarach and was probably close to the early Christian cemetery discovered at Gogerddan, and the third is likely to have been where the present church of Llanbadarn Fawr stands.

Llanbadarn Fawr means 'the great church of Saint Padarn' and the village bearing this name pre-dates Aberystwyth town by many centuries.

It is said that Padarn, David and Teilo went together to Jerusalem and were ordained as bishops by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Padarn received two gifts at his ordination: a fine tunic and a crozier. Padarn's crozier is referred to as 'Cyrwen' in a Welsh verse written by Ieuan ap Sulien (d. 1137) who was a scribal artist at Llanbadarn. Cyrwen could be the origin of the place-name Llangorwen, near Clarach.

## Events in April



**APRIL 1** [Saturday, 2 p.m. – 5 p.m., at Llanbadarn Fawr Church]

### ***Padarn and the Saints of Wales***

Five short talks arranged by The University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWCS). The speakers will be:

- Gerald Morgan, Historian, teacher and author (talk in Welsh with simultaneous translation);
- Professor Paul Russell, Professor in the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, University of Cambridge;
- Dr David Parsons, Senior Fellow, Place-Names of Wales Project, CAWCS;
- Dr Martin Crampin, Research Fellow, The Cult of Saints in Wales Project, CAWCS;
- Peter Lord, Art Historian. Llanbadarn Church's 'Capel y Dre' was built in the 1980s to designs by Peter.

The Parish of St. Padarn will be serving refreshments in Llanbadarn Church Hall between the second and third talks.

Free admission. A warm welcome to all.

**APRIL 22** [Saturday, at Llanbadarn Fawr and at Gogerddan]

### ***Encil y Cylch Catholig – Retreat Day of Y Cylch Catholig, conducted in Welsh.***

*The Right Rev. Edwin Regan, Bishop Emeritus of Wrexham and Chairman of Y Cylch Catholig, extends a very warm welcome to Christians of other denominations to come to this retreat day.*

Draft programme:

- 09.45 Refreshments
- 10.30 Retreat (in Welsh) at Llanbadarn Fawr Church Hall
- 12.30 Buffet lunch (Black Lion, Llanbadarn Fawr)
- 14.00 A visit to the early Christian site at Gogerddan, led by Dr Richard Suggett of The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW), Daniel Huws and Iestyn Daniel
- 16.30 By kind permission of the Rev. Canon Andrew Loat, Vicar of Llanbadarn Fawr, a Mass in Welsh at the Church of St. Padarn, celebrated by the Right Rev. Edwin Regan, Bishop Emeritus of Wrexham, and others.

There will be simultaneous English translation of the Homily.

## Looking ahead



We hope that you will attend some of the events being planned. We are working closely with the Vicar and community of the Church of St Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, as well as with the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWCS), Dr Richard Suggett (RCAHMW), Y Cylch Catholig, and Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council.

**May 20** [Saturday, at Llanbadarn Fawr Church and at Gogerddan]

A one-day event organised by the Ceredigion Historical Society and RCAHMW. The results will be released of a recent geophysical survey of the Gogerddan site, where early Christian burials lie close to several Bronze Age barrows.

**July 30 – September 15**



The official logo of our programme of celebrations was designed by Dr. Ted Harrison who is a distinguished Christian artist (and a former broadcaster). Ted is holding an exhibition entitled 'Scenes from the life of St. Padarn' in Morlan, Aberystwyth, in the summer. He will have 16 etchings on Penrhyn slate on show, illustrating some of the legends associated with the life of St Padarn. We hope to organise some special events around this exhibition.

Part of a scene etched on slate  
Ted Harrison

## Events of interest (independently organised)

### *Chwedlau'r Seintiau – Stories of the Saints*

**18 February – 10 June:** An exhibition at the National Library of Wales that demonstrates the survival of medieval traditions about the holy men and women who represent an important part of Wales' cultural inheritance.

### *Cyrwen (Saint Padarn's Crozier)*

**17 April (Easter Monday):** 11 a.m. at Llanbadarn Fawr Church (following the 10 a.m. Eucharist), Coffee and a Short Bilingual Talk by Marged Haycock on a piece of early poetry that speaks about Cyrwen.

## Gweithgor Padarn Sant



Gweithgor Padarn Sant is established as a community business, financially independent of the parish. The members of the *Gweithgor* (working group) are:

Dafydd Pritchard (Chair)  
David Greaney (Vice-Chair and Treasurer)  
Lucy Huws (Secretary)  
Anne Uruska  
Daniel Huws  
Iestyn Daniel



Daniel Huws and Gerald Morgan discussing the 'Vita'  
(the 'Life' of St. Padarn)

Please contact one of them for further information about the programme of events or see our Facebook page: [@padarnsant2017](https://www.facebook.com/padarnsant2017)

We are grateful for the help of many others including Laurie Wright, James McCann, Ted and Helen Harrison, Caroline Maybury, and Fr. Paul Joseph.

### Grant

We are most grateful to Aberystwyth Town Council for awarding us a grant of £200 in 2016 to support the programme of events for 2017.

### Donations

Donations to help us host these events would be most welcome (we have costs such as postage, publicity, refreshments, and room hire). Cheques should be made payable to "Gweithgor Padarn Sant".

*Celebrating St Padarn  
who came to Ceredigion  
around AD 517.*

*Feast Day – April 15*

