



Ceredigion. On 27 May 1956, it was carried to the little church of Our Lady of Sorrows. On 23 July 1970 Bishops Petit and Fox consecrated the new church of Our Lady of the Taper. Three days later the statue was carried there by pilgrims.

However, the original statue did not prove durable, and Mother Concordia OSB cast another one in bronze. This beautiful statue was blessed in Cardiff Cathedral in the presence of 4,500 pilgrims and brought around the parishes of Wales. On 18 May 1986, Pentecost Sunday, it was solemnly installed in the church of Our Lady of the Taper, which was designated the Welsh National Shrine of Our Lady by Pope Saint John Paul II. Her taper, blessed by the Holy Father, was placed in her hand and lit.

Father Jason Jones, a former rector of the shrine, explained the meaning of the taper:

Popular piety associates the image with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas ... Our Lady is the one who fully reflects the light of her glorified Son, and she embraces each pilgrim in the warmth of her love.

Contact information to arrange a pilgrimage:

Address: Our Lady of the Taper Church, North Rd, Cardigan, Ceredigion, SA43 1LT
Email: cardiganshrine@yahoo.com Tel: 01239 612615

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your
name.**

FIRST READING **Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46**

PSALM **Psalms 31**

RESPONSE **You are my refuge, O Lord;
you fill me with the joy of
salvation.**

- Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. **R.**
- But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: "I will confess
my offence to the Lord."
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin. **R.**

- Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart. **R.**

SECOND READING **1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds
for us.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL **Mark 1:40-45**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they
craved.**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Genesis 9:8-15
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15



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SUNDAY BULLETIN

OUR LADY OF CEREDIGION (CARDIGAN)



There is a beautiful legend that a statue of Our Lady was found on the banks of the River Teifi "with her sonne upon her lappe, and the taper berynge in her hande".

The original meaning of "legend" was the reading given to monks during their meals in the refectories of monasteries. Legends may not be historically accurate in detail but generally have a basis in an actual event. The story relates that the statue of Our Lady with her taper was placed in the parish church but would not remain there, returning three or four times to "the place where now is buylded the church of our Lady", the present St. Mary's. This reflects a decision to build a new church for the statue. In due course it became a parish church and a priory.

The Benedictines of Chertsey Abbey looked after it, and a monk sang Mass daily in honour of Our Lady for pilgrims. These lodged with the Knights Hospitallers of St. John, where the Angel Hotel now stands. Our Lady was deeply loved in Wales, and the devotion remains in many names like Llanfair (St Mary's) or Capel Mair (Chapel of Mary).

Our Lady of the Taper is a very rare title. There was another in Wales not far from Ceredigion in Haverfordwest. But the closest to Ceredigion's legend is in Sardinia, where in 1370 a Catalan ship foundered off Cagliari, and the sailors jettisoned a large crate to save themselves. The crate was opened on the shore and found to contain a large statue of Our Lady holding Jesus in her left hand and a candle in her right. She is known in Cagliari as Our Lady of Fair Winds (giving her name to Buenos Aires in Argentina). As at Ceredigion, a church was built to house her. In that period Catalonian sailors were thronging British waters. Did they perhaps come to Ceredigion, see the shrine and adopt the idea of Our Lady holding a candle?

Like all our shrines, Our Lady of the Taper was destroyed under the orders of Henry VIII, and the church of St Mary's became Anglican. Nothing remains of the shrine except that, on the old pilgrim route, there are the ruins of a building by a stream. It is called Capel Bach (Little Chapel); it may have been an oratory where travellers prayed before walking the last mile to the shrine.

Happily, the shrine was restored. A new statue, ordered by Bishop Petit, was blessed by Cardinal Griffin in Westminster Cathedral and then taken to every parish in the Diocese of Menevia before arriving in

Restored
Marian
Shrines



Fr Michael Rear concludes this series on restored Marian shrines in England and Wales with Our Lady of Ceredigion (Cardigan).

11 FEBRUARY 2024

6TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK II