

## Church Anniversary

St. Mary's church will celebrate its 200th Anniversary on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2026, marking two centuries of worship, faith and community. To commemorate this special milestone, a bicentennial celebration Mass will be held at 6:30 on Friday 10th July at which our Bishop, Mark Davies will be the main Celebrant.

During July we will be holding a parish Family Mass of celebration and historical talks on our parish history supported by displays and a planned booklet building on the published 'History of St. Mary's Church 1826 – 2001'. Full details of our planned events will be announced during the lead up to July, in the parish newsletter and on our Facebook page.

Our first event, in February, will be a bingo evening in the parish centre to help raise funds to support the July celebrations. For now, we are requesting donations of gifts for prizes for that evening, valued at £5 & £10, to enable the funds raised to support our celebrations.

In addition, we are requesting help from parishioners who have some skills to: help design the invitation card for our guests of honour to our bicentennial celebration. Anyone with an interest in photography or graphic design willing to assist in the recording and presentation of our church's history. If you would like to help in any way, please speak to a member of the parish team or leave your name and contact details in the Sacristy.

We hope as many of you as possible will offer your help in making this year's celebration a real parish led event.