

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales Senedd Elections 2021



39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX, Registered Charity No. 1097482 Company No. 4734592

The Catholic Church in Wales comprises of the Diocese of Wrexham, the Diocese of Menevia and the Archdiocese of Cardiff. Their combined 181 parishes serve a Catholic population of around 200,000 making Catholicism one of the largest faiths in Wales. As part of [Bishops' Conference of England and Wales](#) and the wider global Catholic church, the Catholic community in Wales contributes greatly to the nation's proud heritage of religious, cultural and ethnic diversity. This document outlines the work of the Catholic Church in Wales as well as the Catholic community's main policy requests ahead of the Senedd elections.

Education

There are 85 [Catholic schools](#) in Wales educating more than 28,500 pupils and employing almost 1600 members of staff. Together, the Church in Wales and the Catholic Church are the nation's only providers of denominational schools, giving parents choice and creating a diverse education system. As a government partner in the provision of education, Catholic schools follow the national curriculum with the exception of Religious Education, which is set and inspected by the Church.

Policy Ask: To support the continued existence of Catholic schools in Wales and their ability to teach RE in line with their Trust Deeds.

Policy Ask: To ensure that Catholic schools are not penalised when it comes to the allocation of funding through the 21st Century Schools programme.

Life

Each person matters and the foundation of Catholic teaching is the respect for human life from conception to natural death.

In seeking to protect the fundamental dignity of human life, the Catholic Church has funded programmes such as West Wales Domestic Abuse Service and dementia training facilities. Likewise, though its global [Santa Marta](#) initiative, the Church has used its network of parishes in Wales to provide support for the victims of modern-day slavery.

Policy ask: To support policies that protect the dignity of human life at all stages. We seek better funding for palliative care and greater financial and housing support for those escaping violent households.

Historic Churches

There are 184 Catholic churches in Wales, of which 47 are listed. There are 52 churches in designated Conservation Areas where they contribute significant townscape value. The Church works to maintain its heritage in Wales and to promote it to the wider public. A project to review the architectural and historic importance of all Catholic churches in Wales was completed recently called [Taking Stock](#). The results showed that there was an urgent need for repairs to highly graded churches.

Policy Ask: To support the preservation of historic church buildings through Government funding.

Healthcare

The Church has, since earliest times, been committed to caring for those who are sick or in need.

Today, considerable numbers of lay Catholics work in the health service, in all disciplines and fields. Across Wales, over 50 Catholic hospital chaplains provide a vital ministry in spiritual health and wellbeing.

Policy ask: To support parity of esteem between health and mental health care, in particular funding the provision of mental health first aid training in schools and workplaces across Wales.

Environment

God has given us an abundant world in which to live of which we are the stewards. We are not the owners of this world, we are its custodians.

The [Catholic Church](#) in Wales has embarked on an ambitious plan to tackle the climate emergency looking at the environmental sustainability of its land and buildings. The Catholic Church seeks to be green-house gas net zero by 2050.

Policy ask: To support measures that ensure Wales becomes greenhouse gas net zero by 2050.

Cynhadledd Esgobion Catholig Cymru a Lloegr

Etholiadau'r Senedd 2021



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Mae'r Eglwys Gatholig yng Nghymru yn cynnwys Esgobaeth Wrecsam, Esgobaeth Mynyw ac Archesgobaeth Caerdydd. Mae eu 181 plwyf cyfun yn gwasanaethu poblogaeth Gatholig o tua 200,000 sy'n golygu bod Catholigiaeth yn un o'r crefyddau mwyaf yng Nghymru. Fel rhan o [Gynhadledd Esgobion Catholig Cymru a Lloegr](#) a'r Eglwys Gatholig fyd-eang ehangach, mae'r gymuned Gatholig yng Nghymru yn cyfrannu'n fawr at dreftadaeth falch y genedl o amrywiaeth crefyddol, diwylliannol ac ethnig. Mae'r ddogfen hon yn amlinellu gwaith yr Eglwys Gatholig yng Nghymru yn ogystal â phrif geisiadau polisi'r gymuned Gatholig cyn etholiadau'r Senedd.

Addysg

Mae 85 o [ysgolion Catholig](#) yng Nghymru, sy'n addysgu mwy na 28,500 o ddisgyblion ac yn cyflogi bron i 1,600 o staff. Gyda'i gilydd, yr Eglwys yng Nghymru a'r Eglwys Gatholig yw unig ddarparwyr ysgolion enwadol y genedl, gan roi dewis i rieni a chreu system addysg amrywiol. Fel partner i'r llywodraeth o ran darparu addysg, mae ysgolion Catholig yn dilyn y cwrwclwm cenedlaethol ac eithrio ym maes Addysg Grefyddol, sy'n cael ei phennu a'i harolygu gan yr Eglwys.

Cais Polisi: Cefnogi bodolaeth barhaus ysgolion Catholig yng Nghymru a'u gallu i addysgu Addysg Grefyddol yn unol â'u Gweithredoedd Ymddiriedolaeth.

Cais Polisi: Sicrhau nad yw ysgolion Catholig yn cael eu cosbi wrth ddyrannu cyllid drwy'r rhaglen Ysgolion ar gyfer yr 21ain Ganrif.

Bywyd

Mae pob unigolyn yn bwysig, a sylfaen addysgu Catholig yw'r parch at fywyd dynol o feichiogi i farwolaeth naturiol. Wrth geisio diogelu urddas sylfaenol bywyd dynol, mae'r Eglwys Gatholig wedi ariannu rhaglenni fel Gwasanaeth Cam-drin Domestig Gorllewin Cymru a chyfleusterau hyfforddi dementia. Yn yr un modd, drwy ei menter [Santa Marta](#) fyd-eang, mae'r Eglwys wedi defnyddio ei rhwydwaith o blwyfi yng Nghymru i ddarparu cymorth i ddioddefwyr caethwasiaeth fodern.

Cais Polisi: Cefnogi polisiâu sy'n diogelu urddas bywyd dynol ar bob cam. Rydym yn ceisio gwell cyllid ar gyfer gofal lliniarol a mwy o gymorth ariannol a thai i'r rheini sy'n dianc rhag aelwydydd treisgar.

Eglwysi Hanesyddol

Mae 184 o eglwysi Catholig yng Nghymru, 47 ohonynt yn rhestredig. Mae 52 o eglwysi mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth dynodedig, lle maen nhw'n cyfrannu gwerth sylweddol i'r treflun. Mae'r Eglwys yn gweithio i gynnal ei threftadaeth yng Nghymru ac i'w hyrwyddo i'r cyhoedd yn ehangach. Yn ddiweddar, cwblhawyd prosiect o'r enw [Taking Stock](#) i adolygu pwysigrwydd pensaernïol a hanesyddol pob eglwys Gatholig yng Nghymru. Dangosodd y canlyniadau fod angen gwaith atgyweirio brys ar rai eglwysi gradd uchel.

Cais Polisi: Cefnogi'r gwaith o ddiogelu adeiladau eglwysig hanesyddol drwy gyllid gan y Llywodraeth.

Gofal Iechyd

Ers y cyfnod cynharaf, mae'r Eglwys wedi ymrwymo i ofalu am y rhai sy'n sâl neu mewn angen. Heddiw, mae nifer sylweddol o Gatholigion lleig yn gweithio yn y gwasanaeth iechyd, ym mhob disgyblaeth a maes. Ledled Cymru, mae dros 50 o gaplani-aid ysbytai Catholig yn darparu gweinidogaeth iechyd a lles ysbrydol hanfodol.

Cais Polisi: Cefnogi parch cydradd tuag at iechyd a gofal iechyd meddwl, yn enwedig ariannu'r ddarpariaeth o hyfforddiant cymorth cyntaf iechyd meddwl mewn ysgolion a gweithleoedd ledled Cymru.

Yr Amgylchedd

Mae Duw wedi rhoi byd toreithiog i ni fyw ynddo, a gofalu amdano. Nid ni yw perchnogion y byd hwn, ond yn hytrach ni yw ei geidwaid. Mae'r [Eglwys Gatholig](#) yng Nghymru wedi cychwyn ar gynllun uchelgeisiol i fynd i'r afael â'r argyfwng hinsawdd drwy edrych ar gynaliadwyedd amgylcheddol ei thir a'i hadeiladau. Mae'r Eglwys Gatholig yn ceisio cyrraedd statws sero-net o ran nwyon tŷ gwydr erbyn 2050.

Cais Polisi: Cefnogi mesurau sy'n sicrhau bod Cymru'n cyrraedd statws sero-net o ran nwyon tŷ gwydr erbyn 2050.