The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales
Senedd Election 2026

39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX, Registered Charity No. 1097482, Company No. 04734592

The Catholic Church in Wales comprises the Diocese of Wrexham and the Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia. Their combined 142 parishes serve a Catholic population of around 265,000 making Catholicism one of the largest faiths in Wales. As part of the 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 81 Catholic schools in Wales educating more than 28,500 pupils and employing over 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 more diverse education system. As a government partner in the provision of education, Catholic schools follow the national curriculum apart from Religious Education, which is set and inspected by the Church.

Policy Ask: Safeguard Catholic schools in Wales, including their right to teach RE in line with their Trust Deeds.

Policy Ask: Ensure Catholic schools are not disadvantaged in Sustainable Communities for Learning funding.

Life Issues

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

The Church works to uphold human dignity by supporting initiatives such as the West Wales Domestic Abuse Service, dementia training facilities and Caritas Cardiff-Menevia.

Policy Ask: To prevent policies that undermine the dignity of human life at any stage, including assisted suicide or abortion. Instead, we seek better support for vulnerable women and children, people with life-limiting conditions, and those nearing the end of life.

Historic Churches

There are 171 Catholic churches and chapels in Wales, of which 62 are listed. There are 23 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. With the closure of the national Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, which allowed historic churches to reclaim VAT on essential repairs, there is now more need than ever for proper funding to be provided by the Welsh Government to support capital repairs at historic churches in Wales.

Policy Ask: To provide capital funding for repairs at historic churches and chapels through Government funding.

Healthcare

The Church has, since earliest times, been committed to caring for those who are sick or dying. 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. Nazareth House Cardiff also offers high-quality physical, mental, and spiritual care for its residents.

Policy Ask: We seek increased access to high quality palliative care for those who need it. In addition, we would like to see investment in prenatal and postnatal care, to ensure better healthcare for every child and their parents.

Environment

God has entrusted to us the care of our common home and the duty to use resources responsibly and sustainably. Inaction on climate change and the failure to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity, is a betrayal of that sacred responsibility. The Catholic Church in Wales champions ‘integral ecology’, whereby care for the environment and other aspects of social justice are inseparable.

Policy Ask: Support measures that promote biodiversity and continue to commit to achieving net-zero carbon targets.

Cynhadledd Esgobion Catholig Cymru a Lloegr ar gyfer Etholiad Senedd Cymru 2026

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Mae'r Eglwys Gatholig yng Nghymru yn cynnwys Esgobaeth Wrecsam ac Archesgobaeth Caerdydd-Mynyw. Mae eu 142 o blwyfi cyfunol yn gwasanaethu poblogaeth Gatholig o tua 265,000 sy'n golygu bod y ffydd Gatholig yn un o'r mwyaf yng Nghymru. Fel rhan o Gynhadledd Esgobion Cymru a Lloegr a'r Eglwys Gatholig fyd-eang ehangach, mae'r gymuned Gatholig yng Nghymru yn cyfrannu'n sylweddol at dreftadaeth falch y genedl o amrywiaeth grefyddol, ddiwylliannol 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 81 o ysgolion Catholig yng Nghymru sy'n addysgu 28,500 a mwy o ddisgyblion ac yn cyflogi 1600 a mwy o aelodau 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 fwy amrywiol. Fel partner i'r llywodraeth o ran darpariaeth addysg, mae ysgolion Catholig yn dilyn y cwricwlwm cenedlaethol ar wahân i Addysg Grefyddol, sy'n cael ei osod a'i arolygu gan yr Eglwys.

Gofyniad Polisi: Diogelu ysgolion Catholig yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys eu hawl i addysgu AG yn unol â Gweithredoedd eu Hymddiriedolaeth.

Gofyniad Polisi: Sicrhau nad yw ysgolion Catholig o dan anfantais o ran y cyllid Cymunedau Dysgu Cynaliadwy.

Materion Bywyd

Mae pob person yn bwysig, ac mae parch tuag at fywyd dynol o'r pwynt cenhedlu hyd at farwolaeth naturiol yn sylfaen i'r ddysgeidiaeth Gatholig. Mae'r Eglwys yn gweithio i gynnal urddas dynol drwy gefnogi mentrau fel Gwasanaeth Cam-drin Domestig Gorllewin Cymru, a Caritas, cyfleusterau hyfforddi dementia Caerdydd-Mynyw.

Gofyniad Polisi: Atal polisïau sy'n tanseilio urddas bywyd dynol ar unrhyw adeg, gan gynnwys hunanladdiad â chymorth neu erthyliad. Yn hytrach, rydym yn ceisio gwell cefnogaeth i fenywod a phlant agored i niwed, pobl â chyflyrau sy'n cyfyngu ar fywyd, a'r rhai sy'n nesáu at ddiwedd eu hoes.

Eglwysi Hanesyddol

Mae 171 o eglwysi a chapeli Catholig yng Nghymru, ac mae 62 ohonynt wedi'u rhestru. Mae 23 eglwys mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth dynodedig ac yn cyfrannu gwerth sylweddol at y treflun.

Mae'r Eglwys yn gweithio i gynnal ei threftadaeth yng Nghymru a'i hyrwyddo i'r cyhoedd ehangach. Gyda'r Cynllun Grant Mannau Addoli Rhestredig cenedlaethol wedi dod i ben, sef cynllun a oedd yn caniatáu i eglwysi hanesyddol adhawlio TAW ar atgyweiriadau hanfodol, mae mwy o angen nag erioed nawr i Lywodraeth Cymru ddarparu cyllid priodol i gefnogi gwaith atgyweirio cyfalaf mewn eglwysi hanesyddol yng Nghymru.

Gofyniad Polisi: Darparu cyllid cyfalaf ar gyfer atgyweiriadau mewn eglwysi a chapeli hanesyddol trwy gyllid y Llywodraeth.

Gofal Iechyd

Mae'r Eglwys, o'i dyddiau cynnar, wedi ymrwymo i ofalu am y rhai sy'n sâl neu'n marw. Heddiw, mae nifer sylweddol o Gatholigion lleyg yn gweithio yn y gwasanaeth iechyd, ym mhob disgyblaeth a maes. Ledled Cymru, mae 50 a mwy o gaplaniaid Catholig mewn ysbytai sy'n darparu gweinidogaeth hanfodol, o ran iechyd a llesiant ysbrydol. Mae Tŷ Nasareth Caerdydd yn cynnig gofal corfforol, meddyliol ac ysbrydol o ansawdd uchel i'w breswylwyr hefyd.

Gofyniad Polisi: Rydym yn ceisio mwy o fynediad at ofal lliniarol o ansawdd uchel i'r rhai sydd ei angen. Yn ogystal, hoffem weld buddsoddiad mewn gofal cynenedigol ac ôl-enedigol, er mwyn sicrhau gwell gofal iechyd i bob plentyn a'i rieni.

Yr amgylchedd

Mae Duw wedi ymddiried i'n gofal ein cartref cyffredin a'r ddyletswydd i ddefnyddio adnoddau yn gyfrifol ac yn gynaliadwy. Mae diffyg gweithredu ar newid yn yr hinsawdd a'r methiant i ddiogelu'r amgylchedd naturiol, gan gynnwys bioamrywiaeth, yn frad o'r cyfrifoldeb sanctaidd hwnnw. Mae'r Eglwys Gatholig yng Nghymru yn hyrwyddo 'ecoleg gyfannol', lle na ellir gwahanu gofal am yr amgylchedd ac agweddau eraill ar gyfiawnder cymdeithasol.

Gofyniad Polisi: Cefnogi mesurau sy'n hyrwyddo bioamrywiaeth a pharhau i ymrwymo i gyflawni targedau carbon sero net.