

FEDERATION OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CANADA
RESOURCES FOR
THE GLOBAL COORDINATING GROUP PRAYER CALENDAR

During the **FIRST** week of **JANUARY** we *listen to the heart of the world* and hold the Sisters of St. Joseph and the people of **WALES** in our prayer.



Wales is part of the United Kingdom and the island of Great Britain. It is bordered by England to the east, the Irish Sea to the north and west, and the Bristol Channel to the south. It had a population in 2011 of 3,063,456 with a total area of 20,779 km (8,023 sq mi). Wales has over 1,680 miles (2,700 km) of coastline and is largely mountainous, with its higher peaks in the north and central areas, including Snowdon, its highest summit. The country has a changeable, maritime climate.

Welsh national identity emerged after the Roman withdrawal from Britain in the 5th century, and Wales is regarded as one of the modern Celtic nations.

The whole of Wales was annexed by England and incorporated within the English legal system under the Laws in Wales Acts 1535 and 1542. Distinctive Welsh politics developed in the 19th century. Welsh liberalism, exemplified in the early 20th century by Lloyd George, was displaced by the growth of socialism and the Labour Party. Welsh national feeling grew over the century; *Plaid Cymru* was formed in 1925 and the Welsh Language Society in 1962. Established under the Government of Wales Act 1998, the National Assembly for Wales holds responsibility for a range of policies.



At the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, development of the mining and metallurgical industries transformed the country from an agricultural society into an industrial nation; the South Wales Coalfield's exploitation caused a rapid expansion of Wales' population. Two-thirds of the population live in South

Wales, including Cardiff, Swansea, Newport and the nearby valleys. Now that the country's traditional

extractive and heavy industries have gone or are in decline, Wales' economy depends on the public sector, light and service industries and tourism.

Although Wales closely shares its political and social history with the rest of Great Britain, and a majority of the population in most areas speaks English as a first language, the country has retained a distinct cultural identity and is officially bilingual. Over 560,000 Welsh language speakers live in Wales, and the language is spoken by a majority of the population in parts of the north and west. From the late 19th century onwards, Wales acquired its popular image as the "land of song", in part due to the *eisteddfod* tradition. At many international sporting events, such as the FIFA World Cup, Rugby World Cup and the Commonwealth Games, Wales has its own national teams, though at the Olympic Games, Welsh athletes compete as part of a Great Britain team. Rugby union is seen as a symbol of Welsh identity and an expression of national consciousness. (Information and graphics from Wikipedia)

Sisters of St. Joseph in Wales

There are 72 Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy in Wales, ministering in parish work, diocesan administration, catechesis, health care, hospice, chaplaincy, schools, university, prisons, and hospitals.

A link to their website: http://www.sistersofstjoseph.org.uk/alluvium_003.htm

Here is a taste of Welsh choir culture:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8jVrWQZmYs&index=2&list=RD9y8jhd68JZU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9y8jhd68JZU>

United in prayer, the Global Joseph Family, 11,000 sisters in 52 countries, listening to the heart of the world.

