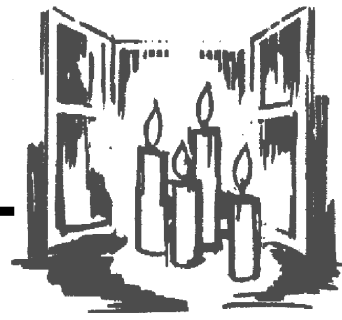


SAINT HELEN'S PARISH

4th SUNDAY of ADVENT

(Year A – The 'Year of Matthew')
18th December 2016



Emmanuel, 'God-is-with-us'

THE WORD THIS WEEK

Here we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the characters of Mary and Joseph, and hear of the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child Jesus, and the reaction of Joseph. This mystery springs from the House of David and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the promise that the Messiah would come from that line. The link between the First Reading and the Gospel is quite explicit today, since Matthew actually quotes Isaiah. Joseph, descendant of King David, is invited to take his place in the great story of God's relationship with the Chosen people. There is great sense of a timeless mystery reaching its focal point, as that which was promised long ago (Second Reading) now takes flesh in the womb of Mary.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: (Psalter: Week 4)

Isaiah 7: 10 – 14.

The maiden is with child.

Response: Psalm 23.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Romans 1: 1 – 7.

Jesus Christ, descended from David, Son of God.

Acclamation for the Gospel:
Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.
Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

Matthew 1: 18 – 24.

Jesus is born of Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.

Prayer of the Faithful: R/. Come Lord Jesus, come.



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears,
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to the, O Israel!



The "O" Antiphons: The intensity of the Advent Season of Joy is built up even more in this last week with the "O" Antiphons, a different title of the coming Messiah used in the Alleluia verse and as the Magnificat antiphon for Evening Prayer each day, starting this weekend.



MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:



Sat 17 th December 'O Wisdom'	6.30pm	4th SUNDAY of ADVENT For the People of the Parish
Sun 18 th December 'O Leader of Israel'	10.30am	4th SUNDAY of ADVENT Betty Shaughnessy (S.V.P.) and the Baptism of Gwylim Connick
Mon 19 th December 'O Branch of Jesse'	6.45pm 7.00pm	Evening Prayer of the Church Giuliana Noble and Audrey + Eddie Davies (L+JG)
Tues 20 th December 'O Key of David'	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Domenica + Giovanni Emanuelli (G+PE)
Wed 21 st December 'O Rising Sun'	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Eithne + Robert Morgan Adoration 2 to 4 pm & 6.00 to 8 pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation
Thurs 22 nd December 'O King'	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church De Thezy Family (DH)
Fri 23 rd December 'O Immanuel'	12.30pm	Bridie Tolan (LA)
Sat 24 th December	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church The Refugee Children

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ



	6.00pm	Carols	
	6.30pm	Vigil Mass	For the People of the Parish
	11.30pm	Carols	
	12 midnight	Mass	For our Families
Sun 25 th December	10.30am	Day Mass	For the Children of the Parish

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Wednesday from 7 – 8pm with a visiting priest for confessions.



THANK YOU & CONGRATULATIONS to Saint Helen's School for their rip-roaring Nativity on Monday evening: Congratulations to the Impresario, Ann Davies, thanks to the Head-teacher Mr Crosse and all the staff, who played their part, and special mention and commendation to the pupils whose reading, singing, music-making and acting were outstanding. Also a mention for the parents for their joining in and respectfulness – there were no complaints on Monday from the neighbours about inconsiderate parking, as there were following a concert on Tuesday.

The DIOCESAN YEARBOOK is on sale in the porch, £3.00. All you need to know about the Church in our Diocese, and throughout Wales: Parishes, Mass times, statistics, and the liturgical calendar (for those not now connected to the Parish website calendar). Get your copy today.

ARCHDIOCESAN CENTENARY PILGRIMAGE OF PRAYER ARCHDIOCESE of CARDIFF
The Pilgrimage of prayer round the Diocese to mark our centenary moves round to Saint Joseph, Heath, also cared for by the Rosminian Fathers. The Parish priest is Revd. Ambrose Maliakkal I.C. assisted by Brother Brian Butler I.C. and 1916-2016 Revd. Deacon Mark Howe. The Parish has responsibility for the Heath University Hospital, at which Brother Brian Butler I.C. is the Catholic Chaplain.



Please Help **PREPARE THE CHURCH** for the festival:

A general and thorough **CHURCH CLEANING** on Wednesday, 21st, from 10.30 on; the faithful band of regular cleaners would live your extra help on this day: Do come along! And the **FLOWER ARRANGERS** will work though Friday 23rd.

All hands on deck. please!



The MASS of CHRISTMAS will be at the usual weekend times of **6.30pm** on Saturday 24th and **10.30am** on Sunday 25th, along with the Christmas **Midnight Mass** (at midnight, before you ask!) There will be carols at 6.00pm before the 6.30 Vigil Mass and at 11.30pm before the Midnight Mass.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the porch for those who wish to make a gift to the priest at Christmas. As the feast falls on a weekend this year, the collection not in special envelopes will as usual be for the upkeep of the Parish.



ON YOUR OWN on Christmas day? Bored with all the Christmas repeats, and no-one to complain to? Why not come over to the Parish hall in the evening, where a **CRACKING CHRISTMAS DINNER** will be shared by all who have no-one to share a meal with at home. If you are going to be alone that day, please talk to Father or to Cliff Bray, and come to brighten our Christmas with your company.

THE CRIB OFFERINGS this year will be donated to Sister Ruth for her work with the refugees and asylum-seekers in Cardiff. (Please see the thank you on the notice board.)



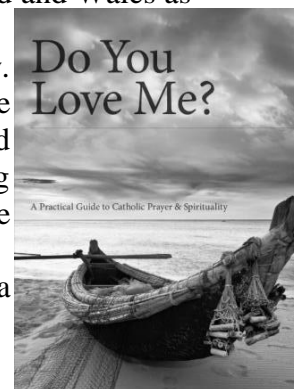
POLAND 2017; Interested in joining the Parish pilgrimage to Krakow and Our Lady of Czestochowa in September? This weekend is the deadline for registering: Please talk to Angela Jones (20 865717) for details, booking forms, etc.



“DO YOU LOVE ME?” – You are invited on a ‘Spiritual Tour’ exploring the new book of spiritual reflections called “Do You Love Me?”, published by the Bishops of England and Wales as an invitation to all of us to explore the many different kinds and ways of prayer.

Kathryn Turner, one of the authors, will be visiting the Archdiocese in February. She will offer a taster session on how the book can be used to deepen our prayer. She will also show recent research on why committed Catholics become committed Catholics, with suggestions on how this can help shape what we offer our young people; there will also be an invitation to everyone offering spiritual activities in the Archdiocese to come and share something about their work.

For dates and details please see the poster in the porch, and then ask father for a booking form.



PARISH PRAYER LIST: In our prayers we are asked to pray for all who are sick or housebound, and those who care for them, including:

Pamela Griffiths	Teresa Meade	Sheila Harris	Gerry Phenis	Graham Jenkins
Sandra Bray	Jean Kerrigan	Lloyd Jones	John Maguire	Cecelia Mawby
Pat Emanuelli	David Mabey	Isobel Cummins	Pauline Richards	Dorothy Warmsley
Valerie Donovan	Paul Costigan	Margaret Jones	Carol Morrissey	Claris Howell
Tess Thomas	Grace Donovan	Mary Canwell	Wilson Brown	Nick Davies
Rosa Channon	Christine + Jimmy Parr	Mary + Bill Morrissey		

In Your Prayers please remember also

Chriss Leatheren, former Teacher in Saint Helen’s School, who died just over a week ago; And **Peter Llewellyn**, Vilma’s son, who died on holiday in Spain.

We offer our sympathy to their bereaved families, and to all who remember loved ones at this time.

SAINT HELEN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE – THIS WEEK:

Date	Time	Event
Mon 19 th December	10.30am – 2.30pm 7.30pm	'Action for Children' party S.V.P. (s.m.r)
Sat 24 th December		
Sun 25 th December	6.00pm 7.00pm	The Night Shelter The Parish Christmas Dinner

OFFERTORY COLLECTION	11 th December 2016
Gift Aid Weekly	£ 147.50
Non Gift Aid Weekly	£ 117.75
Gift Aid Standing Orders	£ 502.04
Non Gift Aid Standing Orders	£ 65.00
Loose	£ 252.74
TOTAL	£1085.03 Many thanks



LOTTERY BONUS BALL CONGRATULATIONS to Glenys Moloney and Christina Watt, the winners of the Bonus Ball no. 36. There was no winner on sheet three this week. A total of £73.00 was made for parish funds. **TRY YOUR LUCK AGAIN THIS WEEK.**

PENSIONERS' PARTY

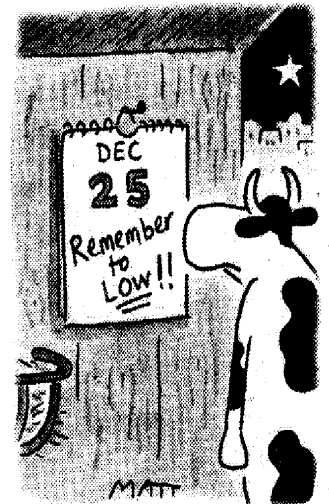
Another 'Thank you' to Saint Helen's – how the time's flown by!
As we extol our Saviour's birth with roast beef, puddings and pie.

We pensioners of Saint Helen enjoying the largesse
of a wonderfully caring parish which Our Lord has sought to bless.

With a church that's all-embracing to catch us if we fall
and a school that is dedicated to the benefit of all.

So! – once again I say a thank you to the teachers, helpers and staff,
the cabaret and the children and those who made the 'oldies' laugh.

A great start to the Christmas celebration. Thank You. A.H.



CHRISTIAN PRAYER. Section Two: The Lord's Prayer: 'Our Father'

Article 2: **'Our Father Who Art In Heaven: III. 'Our' Father!**

(2789) When we pray to 'our' Father, we personally address the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By doing so we do not divide the Godhead, since the Father is its 'source and origin', but rather confess that the Son is eternally begotten by him and the Holy Spirit proceeds from him. We are not confusing the persons, for we confess that our communion is with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ, in their one Holy Spirit. The *Holy Trinity* is consubstantial and indivisible. When we pray to the Father, we adore and glorify him together with the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1992

Parish Directory

Priest: Revd. John Kelly 20883192;

Chair of Parish Council: Graham Taylor 20860919

Hall: 20883192

Saint Helen's School: 20852532

Cardinal Newman School: 01443 494110

SVP: 20866838

Safeguarding Officer: 20864112

Bereavement support: 07895092009

Music: Brett Pugh 07971848734.

Cafod: 20861930

Marriage Care: appointments@marriagecare.co.uk

Newsletter items: 20883192

Website Additions: Website@sthelenscaerphilly.com

Parish@sthelenscaerphilly.com

www.sthelenscaerphilly.com



Saint Helen is a Parish of the Archdiocese of Cardiff, a Registered Charity.

