

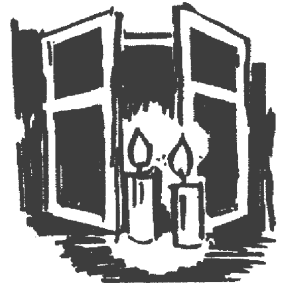
# 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT

## SAINT HELEN'S PARISH

### 'Bible Sunday'

(Year A – The 'Year of Matthew')

4<sup>th</sup> December 2016



## Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand

### THE WORD THIS WEEK

Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the End of Time, and the Second Coming of the Lord - not on the run up to Christmas (that only comes in the last week). If we view Advent as a Season preparing for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it was about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, becomes a confusing figure: his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Everything gets more specific today: what is being preached is not an event, but a person: Isaiah promises him, John welcomes him. Paul invites us to imitate him. We have here a thumbnail portrait of the Messiah useful to refer to when we get to Christmas and he is revealed as – a child in a manger!

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: (Psalter: Week 2)

#### **Isaiah 11: 1 – 10.**

*He judges the wretched with integrity.*

*Response: Psalm 71.*

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor.

May his name be blessed for ever  
and endure like the sun.  
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,  
all nations bless his name.

#### **Romans 15: 4 – 9.**

*Christ is the saviour of all men.*

*Acclamation for the Gospel:*

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,  
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

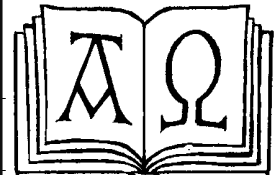
#### **Matthew 3: 1 – 12.**

*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

*Prayer of the Faithful: R/. O Lord, save the poor when they cry.*



## MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:



Bible Sunday

Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	6.30pm	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT</b> For the People of the Parish
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT</b> Josie Lewis (LA)
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> December	6.45pm 7.00pm	Evening Prayer of the Church Bridie Tolan (MJ+TL)
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> December	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Tyrone Carroll (TM)
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> December	9.45am 10.00am  6.00–7.00pm	<b>Saint Ambrose</b> , Bishop and Doctor of the Church Morning Prayer of the Church Desmond Jones (P+PJ) Adoration 2 to 4 pm & 6.00 to 8 pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> December	9.45am 10.00am	<b>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> Morning Prayer of the Church Mike Dacey (GD)
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> December	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Walsh + Hennebry Families (MJ+TL)
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> December	5.45 – 6.15pm  6.30pm	<b>Saint John Roberts</b> , priest + martyr The Sacrament of Reconciliation <b>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT (Gaudete)</b> For the People of the Parish
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT</b> Darren Bray (CB) <b>(Gaudete)</b>



AMBROSE



## THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

**Saturday 5.45pm to 6.15pm**, or at any time by arrangement.

**FOR ADVENT** there will also be confessions with a visiting confessor this Wednesday, 6 – 7pm; and on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 7 – 8pm.

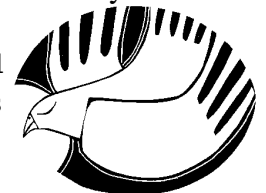
## CELEBRATING STEPS ALONG THE JOURNEY OF FAITH



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Clint Alleyne, Nancy Barrett, Hanna Boswell, Mollie Dacey, Maja Daleka, Alexandra Haines, Seren Kibble, Maksymilian Lewinski, Natalia Luczka, Emily Morgan, Dylan Murphy, Arabella Naparan, Karolina Palus, Emma Raven, Seren Smith, Erin Thomas, Philippa Trodd, and Zuzanna & Piotr Włodarczyk, who celebrated and shared the abundant mercy of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation for a first time this Saturday morning.

And congratulations to their parents, catechists, and teachers who have brought them to this day.

**PREPARING for CONFIRMATION:** The candidates enrol formally and commit themselves to the preparation at their usual Mass this weekend, then meet on Thursday, 6.45pm in the sacristy.

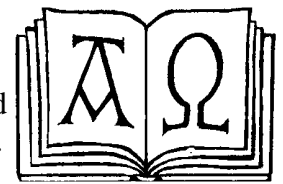


There will be a Sung Mass at Saint David's Cathedral on Thursday 8 December at 7pm in honour of Our Lady on the feast of her **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**. As patroness of the Archdiocese of Cardiff, it is fitting to honour her in this way, particularly as our celebrations marking the Centenary of the Archdiocese draw to a close. It will also be good at the conclusion of the Year of Mercy to intercede with Our Lady of Mercy during this celebration.

**ARCHDIOCESAN CENTENARY PILGRIMAGE OF PRAYER** ARCHDIOCESE of CARDIFF 1916-2016

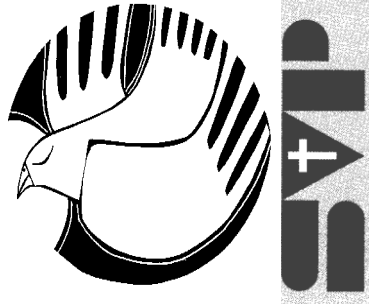
The Pilgrimage of prayer round the Diocese to mark our centenary moves to Saint Alban, Splott, one of the three great Rosminian Parishes in Cardiff, with its Parish Priest, Revd. Philip Scanlan, I.C.





Today is **BIBLE SUNDAY**, a reminder in this Advent Season that the Word of God is the great Christmas Gift of the God who comes to us and reveals himself to us in Jesus.

**The CANDIDATES for CONFIRMATION** will ask us to help them prepare for this next step in their growth and development in the Christian life at Mass today. They will meet with their catechists again on Thursday 6.45pm to continue their preparation.



**The S.V. P. (Society of Saint Vincent de Paul)** will take a retiring collection after Mass next weekend, for hampers and other helps for struggling families over Christmas.

Please keep them all in your prayers.

**The Parish LITURGY GROUP** meets on Wednesday at 7.30pm in the small meeting room.

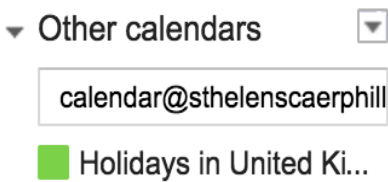
**'THE NATIVITY'**, just what we need to prepare for Christmas! At 7.30pm on Thursday, in the hall, the 'enquirers' asking to join us in the church will be watching it. Why not come to enjoy the film and share the journey of people asking to join our family.



**The SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH** is on Saturday, in Saint Helen's School. Once again many thanks to Cliff and Lorraine and their generous team of cooks, servers, bottle-washers, porters, drivers, etc, and to the school for the use of their hall and kitchen. (see opposite →, and feel safe!)

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Saint Helen's School on being awarded Healthy Schools Local Re-accreditation with a gold certificate.

**Launch of the New PARISH CALENDAR:** We have just launched a new **parish calendar** to help organising things within the parish. This calendar will show all key liturgical and other activities within the parish so you can see what is coming up in the future, and plan. We have made the calendar easily available on the parish website <https://sthelenscaerphilly.com/st-helens-parish/parish-calendar/>. You can also use google calendar to add the calendar to your calendar. To do this open your own google calendar and add [calendar@sthelenscaerphilly.com](mailto:calendar@sthelenscaerphilly.com) under "Other Calendars", viz:



If you have any events that you would like added to the calendar, then please email details to [calendar@sthelenscaerphilly.com](mailto:calendar@sthelenscaerphilly.com)

Christmas is fast approaching and you may already be buying Christmas presents. This is not an advert, nor encouragement to spend extravagantly, nor to buy more than you need and can afford. However, if you intend to buy from Amazon this year, could you please ensure that you visit the Parish website first, click on the Amazon link (on the right-hand side) and then start buying. This ensures that the church receives around 5.5% for each purchase.



**PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND**, six days from 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017, £675.00 all inclusive: Please pay your initial deposit (£200.00) by Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>, to ensure your place.

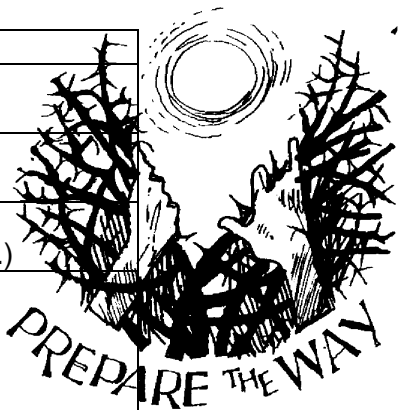


**PARISH PRAYER LIST:** In our prayers we are asked to pray for all who are sick or housebound, and those who care for them, including:

- |                  |                        |                |                       |                  |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 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      |
| Mandy Lovell     | Christine + Jimmy Parr |                | Mary + Bill Morrissey |                  |

## SAINT HELEN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE – THIS WEEK:

Date	Time	Event
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am 7.30pm	Parents & Toddlers S.V.P. (s.m.r)
Tue 6 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 – 12.30 2.00 – 4.00pm	Music Appreciation History Group
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am 7.30pm	Parents & Toddlers Liturgy Group (s.m.r.)
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am 2.00pm – 4.00pm 6.15pm 6.45pm 7.30pm	Parents & Toddlers Sunshine Club Youth Club Confirmation Catholicism
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> December	1.0 – 3.00pm 1.30pm – 3.30pm 7.00pm – 9.30pm	History Group Welsh School Carol Concert practice 'School of Faith'
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am – 12.30pm 12.30pm	Dance Party
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> December	11.30am 6.00pm	Tea, Coffee, & Biscuits The Night Shelter



OFFERTORY COLLECTION	27 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
Gift Aid Weekly	£ 146.25
Non Gift Aid Weekly	£ 108.56
Gift Aid Standing Orders	£ 502.04
Non Gift Aid Standing Orders	£ 65.00
Loose	£ 342.94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1164.79</b>
	<i>Many thanks</i>



**LOTTERY BONUS BALL CONGRATULATIONS** to Gabrielle Dacey, Janet Mabey, and Pam Griffiths, the winners of the Bonus Ball no. 22. A total of £61.00 was made for parish funds. **TRY YOUR LUCK AGAIN THIS WEEK.**

**PARISH 200 CLUB DRAW** for the month of November. 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £25.00 (No. 134) Mr R. Fecci; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of £20.00 (No. 107) Mr P. McInerney; and the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of £15.00 (No. 24) Mr N. Trodd. Congratulations to all of the winners.

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

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

(2777) When we say 'our' Father, we recognize first that all his promises of love announced by the prophets are fulfilled in the *new and eternal covenant* in his Christ: we have become 'his' people and he is henceforth 'our' God. This new relationship is the purely gratuitous gift of belonging to each other: we are to respond to 'grace and truth' given us in Jesus Christ with love and faithfulness. (*John 1:17; cf. Hos 2:21-22; 6: 1-6.*)

*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.*

