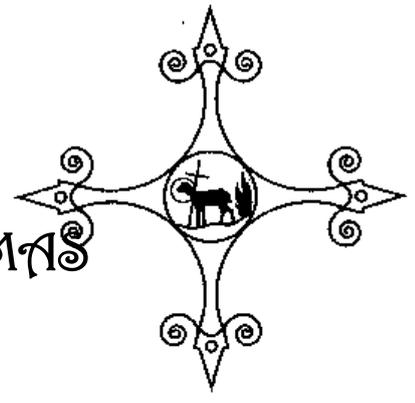




SAINT HELEN'S PARISH
 ADVENT SUNDAY 4
 SEASON OF ADVENT ~ CHRISTMAS



24th December 2017

Take this spark, let it blaze,
 Mary's called, girl amazed,
 now says Yes, God be praised.
 In the womb of woman
 God's Word now is human.

*Shine O candle, shine,
 burn with love divine,
 to the night
 comes the light
 of the Father's glory.*

"Let It Happen To Me According To Your Word."

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. We turn our focus to Mary, and hear of the angel Gabriel inviting her to take her part in the mystery of the Incarnation, the revelation of the mystery kept secret for endless ages. This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing in the first reading how David is to establish that house: He wishes to build a 'house for the Lord'; through the prophet he is told it is not a bricks-and-mortar house that he will build, but the House which is his line. Eventually, in Mary (betrothed to Joseph) the House of David does itself become the house of the Lord, the womb wherein he has a dwelling place.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: (*Psalter: Week 4*)

Samuel 7: 1 – 5, 8 – 12, 14, 16.

The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord.

Response: Psalm 88.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
 through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
 Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
 that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
 I have sworn to David my servant:
 I will establish your dynasty for ever
 and set up your throne through all ages."

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
 my God, the rock who saves me.'
 I will keep my love for him always;
 for him my covenant shall endure.

Romans 16: 25 – 27.

The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.

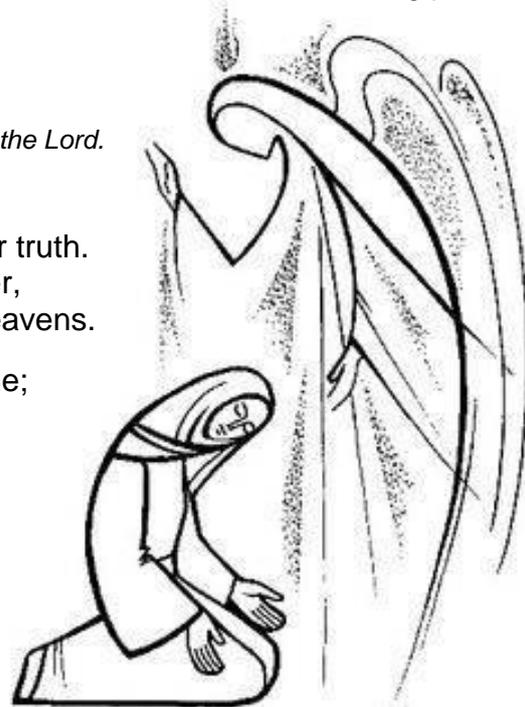
Acclamation for the Gospel:

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!
 I am the handmaid of the Lord:
 let what you have said be done to me.
 Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

Luke 1: 26 – 38.

Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.

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



*I am the handmaid of the Lord:
 let what you have said be done to me.*

MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

Sat 23 rd December	6.30pm	4th Sunday of ADVENT For the People of the Parish	
Sun 24 th December	10.30am	4th Sunday of ADVENT Children of the Parish	
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ			
	6.00pm	Carols	
	6.30pm	Vigil Mass (The people of the Parish)	
	11.30pm	Carols	
	12midnight	Midnight Mass (Our Loved ones)	
Mon 25 th December	10.30am	Day Mass (The people of the Parish)	
Tues 26 th December	9.45am 10.00am	SAINT STEPHEN , The First Martyr Morning Prayer of the Church Alter Servers	
Wed 27 th December	10.00am	SAINT JOHN , Apostle and Evangelist Service of the Word with Communion Adoration 2 to 4 pm & 6 to 8 pm	
Thurs 28 th December	10.00am	THE HOLY INNOCENTS , Martyrs Service of the Word with Communion	
Fri 29 th December	10.00am	Saint Thomas Beckett , Bishop and Martyr Service of the Word with Communion	
Sat 30 th December	5.45 – 6.15pm 6.30pm	The Sacrament of Reconciliation THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH Thanksgiving	
Sun 31 st December	10.30am	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH Our Families	

STEPHEN



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 5.45pm to 6.15pm, or at any time by arrangement with the priest.



CELEBRATING STEPS ALONG THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

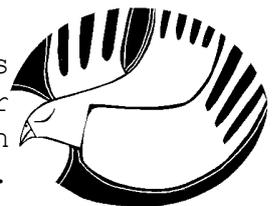
A CHILD FOR BAPTISM? The Parish **PREPARATION** for **BAPTISM** continues on Wednesday evening. If you have missed this series, please take the (green) form 'Your Child and Baptism' available in the porch, fill it in and return it to book in to the next Preparation.



Preparing for COMMUNION: Parents and Children who celebrated Reconciliation for a first time on the Saturday before Advent are now invited to think about the call to Communion. We will start on Tuesday 16th January, 6.30pm in the Hall. Meanwhile we pray for all our children and families to respond to their baptismal call into the Communion of the Church with the readiness of the virgin Mary. Particular thanks to the 'Prayer Partners' keeping the children before God.



PREPARING for CONFIRMATION: The Parish Preparation starts up again on Thursday 18th January. We continue to pray for our young people as they work to discern and take on their Christian vocation. May the young virgin Mary inspire their 'Yes' to God.



JOINING THE CHURCH AS AN ADULT: To learn more about the Catholic Faith, please come along to the Hall every second Wednesday at 7.30pm for '**Catholicism, an introduction**'. The next gathering will be on January 3rd, in the hall. Come and see.

MARRIAGE At least **6 months notice (preferably 12 months)** must be given, by Church law. **Before making any arrangements please see the priest to avoid any disappointments.**

Thanks and Congratulations to all who brought their '**BAMBINELLI**' to Mass to be blessed last Sunday. We hope they are now safely tucked away on top of all the other Christmas presents under the tree, waiting to bring blessings to your celebrations when they take pride of place in family cribs.



Congratulations also to the intrepid worshippers who made it to the '**RORATE MASS**' to mark the turning of the year and the growing of the light

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

The Vigil Mass of Christmas Eve (with Blessing of the Crib and the Readings of the Mass in the Night) will be at **6.30pm**, with Carols before starting at **6.00pm**. Please arrive in good time so as not to disturb the carols and prayer. If you come in after 6pm, please do so quietly and respectfully.



The Midnight Mass of Christmas (with Readings of the Mass in the Night) will be at **12 Midnight**, with Carols before starting at **11.30pm**. Come to share the wonder.



The Morning Mass of Christmas (with its own Readings) will be at **10.30am**. What better way to start the dawn and new day of our salvation.

THE LION'S ROAR

Are you looking for something for you and your family to do on a Saturday in those dark afternoons after Christmas? Well look no further. On **Saturday 27th January** we will be running an afternoon for all the family. There will be workshops looking at the **Lion's Roar: Mark's Gospel**. The afternoon starts at **2pm and ends at 5:15pm**. There will be sessions for small children up to age 9; a youth drama session for young people from 10 to 16 and two separate workshops for adults. There's something for everyone even refreshments! Put the date in your diary and keep watching this space. There will be announcements giving more details at Mass in the coming weeks.



.....oh, and by the way
it's **FREE**



*Concerning the Divine Word:
With the divinest Word
the Virgin made pregnant
down the road comes walking,
if you'll grant her a room in your abode.*

Saint John of the Cross.

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	Dorothy Warmsley	Isobel Cummins	Pauline Richards	David Mabey
Valerie Donovan	Paul Costigan	Margaret Jones	Carol Morrissey	Claris Howell
Tess Thomas	Grace Donovan	Mary Camwell	Wilson Brown	Alice Jones
David Warmsley	Mary + Bill Morrissey			

Bereaved? BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT provides a safe place to enable you to come to terms with your grief. One-to-one and group support available. For details contact 02920 863450.

SAINT HELEN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE – THIS WEEK:

Date	Time	Event
Sat 30 th December	12.30pm – 3.00pm	Party
Sun 31 st December	11.30am 6.00pm	Tea, Coffee, & Biscuits The Night Shelter

OFFERTORY COLLECTION	17 th December 2017
Gift Aid Weekly	£ 170.00
Non Gift Aid Weekly	£ 159.67
Gift Aid Standing Orders	£ 502.04
Non Gift Aid Standing Orders	£ 65.00
Loose	£ 244.67
TOTAL	£1141.38 <i>Many thanks</i>



LOTTERY BONUS BALL CONGRATULATIONS to Louise Antoniazzi, Chris McGowan, and Jeanette Thomas, the winners of the Bonus Ball no.16. A total of £55.00 was made for parish funds. **TRY YOUR LUCK AGAIN THIS WEEK.**

PARISH 200 CLUB DRAW – First prize £200.00 (No. 138) Mr K.T. Griffiths; Second prize £100.00 (No. 111) Stuart Davidson; and Third prize £50.00 (No. 74) Simon Williams.

Attention all Gift Aiders! We now have the letters from the Archdiocese regarding your contribution for 2016-17. If you would like yours, for tax or other purposes, please email veronica_simmonds1@hotmail.com or leave a message with Canon John.

CHRISTIAN PRAYER.

Section Two: **The Lord's Prayer: 'Our Father'** Article 3: **The Seven Petitions.**
 V. 'And Forgive Us Our Trespases As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us'.
 And forgive us our trespases....

(2840) Now – and this is daunting – this outpouring of mercy cannot penetrate our hearts as long as we have not forgiven those who have trespassed against us. Love, like the Body of Christ, is indivisible; we cannot love the God we cannot see if we do not love the brother or sister we do see. (Cf. 1 John 4: 20.) In refusing to forgive our brothers and sisters, our hearts are closed and their hardness makes them impervious to the Father's merciful love; but in confessing our sins, our hearts are opened to his grace.
Catechism of the Catholic Church 1992

“Wake up, O man – it is for you that God was made man! Awake, O Sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light. For you, I say was God made man. Eternal death would have awaited you had he not been born in time. Never would you be freed from sinful flesh, had he not taken to himself the likeness of sinful flesh. Everlasting would be your misery, had he not performed this act of mercy. You would not have come to life again, had he not come to die your death. You would have broken down. had he not come to lift you. You would have perished, had he not come.”
From a sermon of Saint Augustine of Hippo

Parish Directory

Priest: Revd. John Kelly 20883192; **Chair of Parish Council:** Graham Taylor 20860919
Church Student: Elliot Hanson: 20883192; **Safeguarding Officer:** 20864112 **SVP:** 20866838
Bereavement support: 20863450 **Cafod:** 20861930 **Marriage Care:** appointments@marriagecare.co.uk
Music: Brett Pugh 07971848734. **Hall:** 20883192 **Piety shop:** Norma Bromily 20862998
Saint Helen's School: 20852532 **Cardinal Newman School:** 01443 494110
Newsletter items: 20883192 **Calendar Additions:** calendar@sthelenscaerphilly.com
Parish@sthelenscaerphilly.com **www.sthelenscaerphilly.com**
Website Additions: Website@sthelenscaerphilly.com

