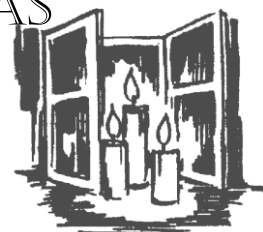


SAINT HELEN'S PARISH THE SEASON OF ADVENT+CHRISTMAS

ADVENT 3 'GAUDETE!' – REJOICE!

16th December 2018



What Must We Do?

THE WORD THIS WEEK

Gaudete – Rejoice! Half way through our Advent Journey, an excuse for a little blow-out in the 'joyful fast' of the season, or perhaps a spike in the growing excitement of the coming feast. How will we mark it? The Prophet offers confidence and joy at the presence and joy of the Lord who is in our midst; Paul wants us to be happy, and at peace; The Baptist callus to be content with what we have and who we are – once again integrity. He himself has the humility to know who he is, the warm-up act, not the saviour we all await.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: (Psalter: Week 3)

Zephaniah 3: 14 – 18.

The Lord will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

Response:

Isaiah 12: 2 – 6.

Truly, God is my salvation, //
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song, //
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord,
give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord //
for he has done glorious deeds.
Make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.



Philippians 4: 4 – 7.

The Lord is very near.

Acclamation for the Gospel:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Luke 3: 10 – 18.

What must we do?

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

O Wisdom O Leader of Israel O Branch of Jesse O Key of David O Rising Sun O King O Immanuel



The "O" Antiphons: The intensity of the Advent Season of Joy builds up even more in these last days 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 on Monday.



MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

Sat 15 th December	6.30pm	3rd SUNDAY of Advent ('Gaudete!') Rosemary + Michael Kelly (SW)
Sun 16 th December	10.30am	3rd SUNDAY of Advent ('Gaudete!') for the People of the Parish
Mon 17 th December "O Wisdom"	6.45pm 7.00pm	Evening Prayer of the Church Private Intention
Tues 18 th December "O Leader of Israel"	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Robert + Eithne Morgan (EM)
Wed 19 th December "O Branch of Jesse"	9.45am 10.00am 6.00 – 7.00pm	Morning Prayer of the Church Theresa Hanks (A) The Sacrament of Reconciliation Adoration 2 to 4 pm & 6 to 8 pm
Thurs 20 th December "O Key of David"	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Loi Sing Wong (YY)
Fri 21 st December "Rising Sun"	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Maria Rossi (GF)
Sat 22 nd December "O King"	5.45 – 6.15pm 6.30pm	The Sacrament of Reconciliation 4th SUNDAY of Advent for the People of the Parish
Sun 23 rd December "O Emmanuel"	10.30am	4th SUNDAY of Advent Carmel Thomas (TT)



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 5.45pm to 6.15pm, and Wednesday 6.00 – 7.00pm,
or at any time by arrangement with the priest.

CELEBRATING STEPS ALONG THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

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BAPTISM PREPARATION: To join in the next Parish Preparation for Parents, please take the (green) form 'Your Child and Baptism' available in the porch, fill it in and return it to Father. Thank you.

THE FAMILIES PLANNING TO PREPARE FOR COMMUNION

are invited to meet for a first time on Tuesday 15th January: Book the date!



CONFIRMATION next year? Please pick up an orange registration form from the porch.

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.

GOT YOU ALL-WALES YEARBOOK YET? On sale, £3, in the porch.



PILGRIMAGE TO PADUA AND VERONA, to visit Saint Anthony and the medieval followers of Saint Francis in Padua, and the early Christians (and Romeo and Juliet for the romantic) in Verona: 25th – 30th September 2019, £889. For details, and to book, please talk to Angela Jones or Father John.

"Today I thought of a title for my book – *The Duty of Delight*. I was thinking how, as one gets older we are tempted to sadness, knowing life as it is here on earth, the suffering, the cross. And how we must overcome it daily, growing in love, and the joy which goes with loving."

Dorothy Day, 1961.

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Bambinelli! Still time to place the baby Jesus from our cribs under the Jesse Tree (please mark yours with your name or other distinguishing feature, so as not to lose your baby!). Then at the end of Mass this 'Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday', the Bambinelli will be blessed for you to take home to place in your crib.

Prisoner of Conscience Christmas Cards:

Many thanks to everyone supporting the Christmas Card Appeal, prayerfully, practically and financially, Hopefully over 200 cards will be sent from St Helen's Parish. Please put any donations into the parish collection using the brown envelopes provided within the packs. Anyone who missed this week's free postage may still return their cards to the church next weekend (22nd / 23rd December) and leave them in the post boxes provided. Donations for postage and cards appreciated but not essential.



THE LANTERN PROCESSION will be on Thursday, starting at 6.30pm from the station and finishing outside Connect Life and the Methodist Church. To prepare your lantern there will be a workshop on Sunday, 10am – 5pm, in Caerphilly Leisure Centre.



“What Time Is Midnight Mass?”

Christmas Mass will be at:

6.30pm on the 24th, the Evening Mass of Christmas, with carols from 6pm;
12 midnight, the Christmas Mass in the Night, with carols and readings from 11.30pm;
 and **10.30am** on the 25th, Christmas Day Mass.



WELCOMERS and READERS for CHRISTMAS: Please indicate *Today* on the lists in the porch at which Mass you would be ready to minister. Thank you.



Last Minute Preparations! A final sweep through to prepare your heart and soul for 'the dear Lord to enter in': **The Sacrament of Forgiveness / Reconciliation / Confession** is available on Wednesday (19th) from 6pm.



AND A THOROUGH CLEAN THROUGH OF THE CHURCH: All Church Cleaners and as many one-off volunteers as possible next Sunday, 23rd, from 1pm on, please.

What Shall We Do in those long and empty days of Christmas? The Family Groups invite you to **THE CHRISTMAS TRIVIA QUIZ**, Friday 28th December, 7 for 7pm in the hall, with food to share, drinks as required – wine will be provided – and lots of pointless Christmassy nonsense to enjoy.

'SPRING GATHERING' On Saturday 18th May we will host the Society of Saint Gregory 'Spring Gathering', a Liturgy Day for all involved in preparing and celebrating the Mass (that's all of us!). For details (and registration) go to the 'SSG' website, or talk to Father John. The Parish will cover the cost (just £10).



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 | Graham Jenkins | Sandra Bray |
| Lloyd Jones | John Maguire | Cecelia Mawby | Pat Emanuelli | David Mabey |
| Dorothy Warmsley | Isobel Cummins | Pauline Richards | Margaret Jones | Claris Howell |
| Carol Morrissey | Tess Thomas | Martyn Western | Bill Morrissey | Bob Walton |
| Yvonne Grandon | Annette Thompson | Gordon Clinch | Sandra Andrews | Frank Doherty |
| Nick Erwin | | | | |

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SAINT HELEN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE – THIS WEEK:

Date	Time	Event
Mon 17 th December	9.30 – 12 noon 7.30pm	Welsh School (in hall + church) S.V.P. (s.m.r.)
Tues 18 th December	1.15 – 7.00pm	Welsh School (in hall + church)
Wed 19 th December		
Thurs 20 th December	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Sunshine Club
Fri 21 st December		
Sat 22 nd December	2.00 – 6.00pm	Party
Sun 23 rd December	11.30am	Tea, Coffee, & Biscuits

OFFERTORY COLLECTION	7 th /8 th December 2018
Gift Aid Weekly	£ 102.00
Non Gift Aid Weekly	£ 93.90
Gift Aid Standing Orders (69)	£ 502.04
Non Gift Aid Standing Orders (10)	£ 65.00
Loose	£ 282.06
TOTAL	£ 1,045.00 <i>Many thanks</i>



BONUS BALL CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the Bonus Ball no. 53, Anita Jackson and Cecelia Mawbey. A total of £ 73.00 was made for parish funds. **TRY YOUR LUCK AGAIN THIS WEEK.**

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH
Part One: **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH.**

Section One: 'I Believe' – 'We Believe' **II. Ways of Coming to Know God**

(35) Man's faculties make him capable of coming to a knowledge of the existence of a personal God. But for man to be able to enter into real intimacy with him, God willed both to reveal himself to man, and to give him the grace of being able to welcome this revelation in faith. The proofs of God's existence, however, can predispose one to faith and help one to see that faith is not opposed to reason.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1992

"Rejoice and be glad" (Matthew 5: 12) Jesus tells those persecuted or humiliated for his sake. The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints and not settle for a bland and mediocre existence. The call to holiness is present in various ways from the very first pages of the Bible.

The Father's plan is Christ, and us in Him.

'Gaudete et Exultate', Pope Francis 2018.

Parish Directory

Priest: Revd. John Kelly 20883192; **Chair of Parish Council:** 20860919
Safeguarding Officer: 20864112 **SVP:** 20883462 **Bereavement support:** 20863450
Music: 07971848734. **Hall:** 20883192 **Piety shop:** 20862998
Cafod: 20861930 **Marriage Care:** appointments@marriagecare.co.uk
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



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

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