

SAINT HELEN'S PARISH
THE SEASON OF ADVENT + CHRISTMAS
THE HOLY FAMILY of
JESUS, MARY, + JOSEPH

30th December 2018

We are Called God's Children,
and That is Who We Are.



THE WORD THIS WEEK

Fifteen years ago our Bishops launched a programme called "Home is a Holy Place". Saint John declares that 'we know that God lives with us by the Spirit that he has given us'. The Book of Samuel reminds us that the People of God knew that this means home is the place where we first learn to know God, to pray, and to be prepared to be dedicated to God. Mary and Joseph did this for Jesus, but then also learnt the hardest work of parents: They have to let their child go and begin to discover for himself the world as his home, to bring his relationship with the Father into that more complex place and work out his response and care for it.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: (*Psalter: Week 1*)

Samuel 1: 20 – 22, 24 – 28.

Samuel is made over to the Lord for the whole of his life.

Response: **Psalm 83.**

How lovely is your dwelling place, //
Lord God of hosts.
My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
my heart and my soul ring out their joy //
to God, the living God.

They are happy who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
They are happy whose strength is in you;
they walk with ever growing strength.

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed.

1 John 3: 1 – 2, 21 – 24.

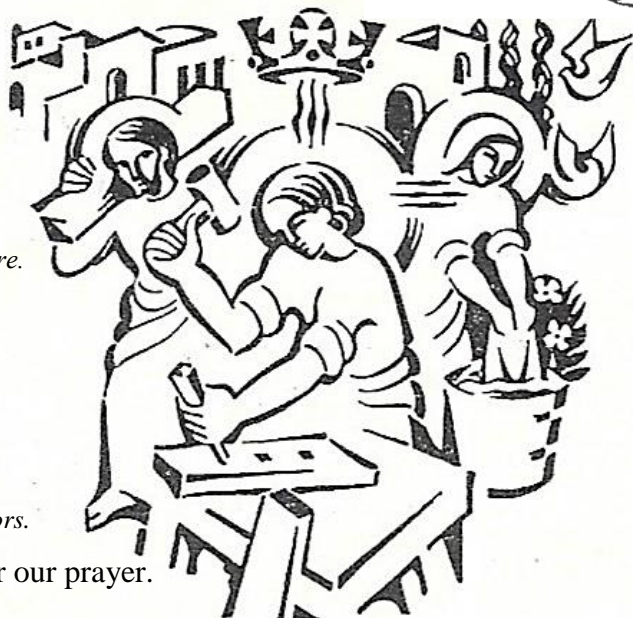
We are called God's children and that is what we are.

Acclamation for the Gospel:
Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

Luke 2: 41 – 52.

Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the doctors.

Prayer of the Faithful: R/. O Lord, hear our prayer.



MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

Sat 29 th December	6.30pm	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH For the People of the Parish
Sun 30 th December	10.30am 2.00pm	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH Renee + Peter Kelly (FK) Baptism of Senan Austin and Lily Franklin
Mon 31 st December	6.45pm 7.00pm	7th day in the Octave of Christmas Evening Prayer of the Church Iolanda + Charlie Rossi (LA)
Tues 1 st January	10.45am 11.00am	MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD Morning Prayer of the Church Paul + Joan Quinn (FK)
Wed 2 nd January	9.45am 10.00am	Saint Basil the Great + Saint Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church Morning Prayer of the Church Dorothy Wooding Adoration 2 to 4 pm & 6 to 8 pm
Thurs 3 rd January	10.00am	Weekdays before the Epiphany Morning Prayer with Word and Communion
Fri 4 th January	9.45am 10.00am	The Most Holy Name of Jesus Morning Prayer of the Church Jill Goldsith (GG)
Sat 5 th January	5.45 – 6.15pm 6.30pm	The Sacrament of Reconciliation THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD For the People of the Parish
Sun 6 th January	10.30am	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Renee Kelly



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

CATECHESIS

SHARING FAITH

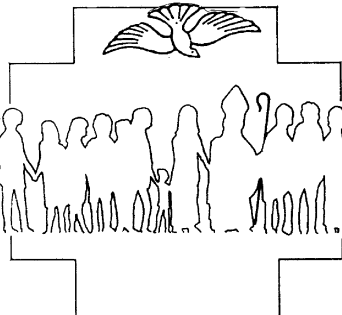


BAPTISM PREPARATION: To join in the next **Parish Preparation for Parents**, please take the (green) form 'Your Child and Baptism' available in the porch, fill it in and return it to Father. Thank you.



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 and bring your parents to the introduction to preparing on Wednesday 30th January 7.00pm

JOINING THE CHURCH AS AN ADULT: To learn more about the Catholic Faith, please come along to the Hall every second Thursday for '**Catholicism, an introduction**'. Next session this Thursday 3rd January. **Come and See**

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.



THANK YOU!

A huge THANK YOU from us all to: - The church Cleaners, who did such a sterling Sunday afternoon job in preparation for Christmas, and to the Flower arrangers for their magnificent display; Thanks also to Brett and his many marvellous Musicians and Singers for all their preparation insuring three joy filled celebrations; Thanks to the Welcomers and the Altar Servers, the Sacristans, and the Ministers of the Word and of Communion; and to all who prepared, participated and joyfully celebrated the Feast.



A(n equally) **BIG THANK YOU** from Father John for the very generous Christmas offerings, the many thoughtful and generous presents, and the forest of cards received this Christmas. Many thanks!

And Thank You again from the **Prisoner of Conscience Christmas Card Campaign** to everyone who took packs and sent messages to 'Prisoners of Conscience' around the world. The response was wonderful: 210 cards were distributed and 82 returned for free postage, plus additional cards posted directly to prisoners by parishioners. Please remember these individuals and many like them in your prayers. Many, many thanks.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS at 7.00pm, a chance to thank God for the year passed (or for surviving it) and to pray and prepare for the year to come.



The Solemnity of MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD (a.k.a. 'New Year's Day) Mass at 11.00am, for a chance to start the year as we mean to go on.

CRIB OFFERINGS: "The Syrian Refugee Family projects" being supported by the Diocese and parishes. Four homes have now been made available in the Diocese for which the refugees and the Local Authorities are extremely grateful.

Next weekend is the **EPIPHANY**, the end of the 12 days of Christmas: Get your chalk ready for chalking!

'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).



PILGRIMAGE TO PADUA AND VERONA, to visit Saint Anthony and the medieval Friars 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.

Sussex Carol

On Christmas night all Christian sing,
to hear the news the angels bring –
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sins he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the new-born king.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
'Glory to God and peace to men,
now and for evermore, Amen!'

Traditional

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		

SAINT HELEN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE – THIS WEEK:

Date	Time	Event
Thurs 3 rd January	7.00pm 7.30pm	Night Shelter Meeting Journey of Faith
Fri 4 th January	1.00pm	History Group
Sun 6 th January	11.30am 6.00pm	Tea, Coffee, & Biscuits Night Shelter



OFFERTORY COLLECTION	23 rd December 2018
Gift Aid Weekly	£ 81.00
Non Gift Aid Weekly	£ 126.57
Gift Aid Standing Orders (69)	£ 502.04
Non Gift Aid Standing Orders (10)	£ 65.00
Loose	£ 221.78
TOTAL	£ 996.39 <i>Many thanks</i>

LOTTERY BONUS BALL CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the Bonus Ball no.1, Terry Wilson and Margaret Warren. A total of £ 84.00 was made for parish funds. Two weeks next weekend: **TRY YOUR LUCK AGAIN for two WEEKS.**

200 CLUB DRAW for December: The winners are: 1st prize £200 (No. 114) Lyn Morris (AVMUC); 2nd prize £100 (No. 24) Nick Trodd; and 3rd prize £50 (No 52) Dawn Owen.

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

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

Section One: 'I Believe' – 'We Believe'

III. The Knowledge of God According to the Church

(37) In the historical conditions in which he finds himself, however, man experiences many difficulties in coming to know God by the light of reason alone:

Though human reason is, strictly speaking, truly capable by its own natural power and light of attaining to a true and certain knowledge of the one personal God, who watches over and controls the world by his providence, and of the natural law written in our hearts by the Creator; yet there are many obstacles which prevent reason from the effective and fruitful use of this inborn faculty. For the truths that concern the relations between God and man wholly transcend the visible order of things, and, if they are translated into human action and influence it, they call for self-surrender and abnegation. The human mind, in its turn, is hampered in the attaining of such truths, not only by the impact of the senses and the imagination, but also by disordered appetites which are the consequences of original sin. So it happens that men in such matters easily persuade themselves that what they would not like to be true is false or at least doubtful. (Pius XII, *Humani generis* 561; DS 3875.)

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1992

Parish Directory

Priest: Revd. John Kelly 20883192;

Safeguarding Officer: 20864112

Music: 07971848734.

Cafod: 20861930

Saint Helen's School: 20852532

Newsletter items: 20883192

Parish@sthelenscaerphilly.com

Website Additions: Website@sthelenscaerphilly.com

Chair of Parish Council: 20860919

SVP: 20883462

Hall: 20883192

Marriage Care: appointments@marriagecare.co.uk

Cardinal Newman School: 01443 494110

Calendar Additions: calendar@sthelenscaerphilly.com

www.sthelenscaerphilly.com

Bereavement support: 20863450

Piety shop: 20862998

