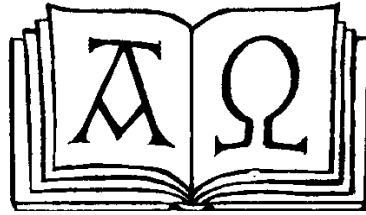


SAINT HELEN'S PARISH
THE SEASON OF ADVENT + CHRISTMAS
ADVENT 2 - BIBLE SUNDAY

9th December 2018



What Marvels the Lord Works for us!

THE WORD THIS WEEK

The Coming of the Christ is still the focus of our Advent season, but now it becomes a double approach. John the Baptist is introduced as the voice in the wilderness who calls us to prepare the way for the Lord to come to us; at the same time the prophet Baruch tells us God is preparing the whole of nature to open up the way for us to approach God (with our friend 'integrity' for escort). Saint Paul also sees this as a double movement, a growth of love, and integrity, on both sides. What marvels the Lord works for us – indeed we are glad.

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

Baruch 5: 1 – 9.

God means to show your splendour to every nation,

Response: Psalm 125.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said, 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears
carrying seed for the sowing:
They come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

Philippians 1: 3 – 6, 8 – 11.

Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

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!

Luke 3: 1 – 6.

All mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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



MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

Sat 8 th December	6.30pm	2 nd SUNDAY of Advent Ted Rogers (Walsh Family)		
Sun 9 th December	10.30am	2 nd SUNDAY of Advent People of the Parish		
Mon 10 th December	6.45pm 7.00pm	Evening Prayer of the Church Frederick Onudu (JG)		
Tues 11 th December	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Darren Bray (S+CB)		
Wed 12 th December	9.45am 10.00am 6.00 – 7.00pm	Morning Prayer of the Church Luigi Antoniazzi (LA) The Sacrament of Reconciliation Adoration 2 to 4 pm & 6 to 8 pm		
Thurs 13 th December	9.45am 10.00am	Saint Lucy, Virgin + Martyr Morning Prayer of the Church Mary Walsh Intention (CMcG)		
Fri 14 th December	9.45am 10.00am	Saint John of the Cross, Priest + Doctor of the Church Morning Prayer of the Church Allan Watt (C)		
Sat 15 th December	5.45 – 6.15pm 6.30pm	The Sacrament of Reconciliation 3 rd SUNDAY of Advent ('Gaudete!') Rosemary and Michael Kelly (SW)		
Sun 16 th December	10.30am	Gaudete Sunday 3 rd SUNDAY of Advent ('Gaudete!') For the People of the Parish		

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

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.

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.

Christmas is fast approaching and you may already have bought your Christmas presents. However, if you have more to buy, and if you intend to buy from Amazon, please think of visiting our website (www.sthelenscaerphilly.com) first, to click on the Amazon link (down on the right-hand side) and then start buying. This ensures that the church receives around 5.5% of the asking price for each purchase.

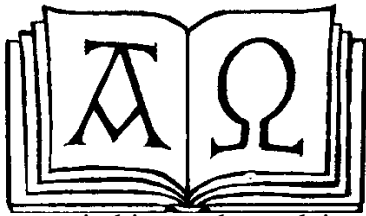
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CATECHESIS

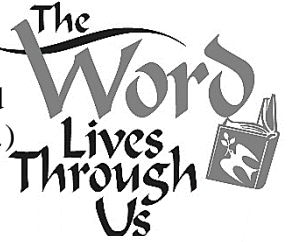


'SPRING GATHERING' On Saturday 18th May we will host the Society of Saint Gregory 'Spring Gathering', a Liturgy Day for all involved in preparing and celebrating the Mass (that's all of us!). For details (and registration) go to the 'SSG' website, or talk to Father John. The Parish will cover the cost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

"Teach me to seek you, and reveal yourself to me as I seek, because I can neither seek you if you do not teach me how, nor find you unless you reveal yourself. Let me seek you in desiring you; let me desire you in seeking you; let me find you in loving you; let me love you in finding you." (Saint Anselm :: Prosligion)



THE MINISTERS OF THE WORD (Readers, and Catechists for the Children's Liturgy of the Word) will be commissioned at Mass this weekend, Bible Sunday. "When the sacred Scriptures are read in church, God himself speaks to his People, and Christ, in his word, proclaims the Good News. Therefore, the readings from the Word of God are to be listened to reverently by everyone." (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 29.)



Prisoner of Conscience Christmas Cards



A card can mean so much to anyone in Prison reminding them that they are not forgotten, and putting a little light into a prisoner's life. The level of support demonstrated by the thousands of cards received sends a clear message to police, prison staff and political authorities that the world is watching what they do and can result in improved prison conditions, in a new investigation leading to a retrial and, on occasion, to freedom.

Cards to send, and information, will be offered to you as you leave church today. Free postage if returned to the church next weekend (15th / 16th December) and left in the post boxes provided.

Donations for postage and cards appreciated but not essential.

Many thanks to everyone supporting the Christmas Card Appeal, prayerfully, practically and financially.

The ALL-WALES CATHOLIC YEARBOOK is on sale in the porch, £3. A good read!

The CATHOLIC PEOPLE is also available, free. A better read?



Cardinal Newman School CAROL SERVICE this Tuesday, 11th December, at 6pm in the School: The School extends a warm invitation to us all to join them.

The PARENTS AND TODDLERS have their last sessions of the year this Monday and Wednesday, and an end of year get-together in the Red Kite on Wednesday evening.



THE LANTERN PROCESSION will be on December 20th, finishing outside Connect Life and the Methodist Church. To prepare your lantern, there will be workshops on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th, 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 on the lists in the porch at which Mass you would be ready to minister. Thank you.

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 |

“If we are called by God to holiness of life, and if holiness is beyond our natural power to achieve (which it certainly is) then it follows that God himself must give us the light, the strength, and the courage to fulfil the task.”
 (Thomas Merton : ‘Life and Holiness’)



ADVENT



SAINT HELEN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE – THIS WEEK:

Date	Time	Event
Mon 10 th December	9.30am	Parents & Toddlers
Tues 11 th December	10.30am	Music Appreciation
Wed 12 th December	9.30am	Parents & Toddlers
Thurs 13 th December	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Sunshine Club
Sat 15 th December	9.30am – 12.30pm	Dance
Sun 16 th December	11.30am	Tea, Coffee, & Biscuits

OFFERTORY COLLECTION	2 nd December 2018
Gift Aid Weekly	£ 125.00
Non Gift Aid Weekly	£ 87.25
Gift Aid Standing Orders (69)	£ 502.04
Non Gift Aid Standing Orders (10)	£ 65.00
Loose	£ 162.76
TOTAL	£ 942.05 <i>Many thanks</i>



LOTTERY BONUS BALL CONGRATULATIONS to Mary Bailey, the sole winner of the Bonus Ball no. 41. A total of £103.00 was made for parish funds. **TRY YOUR LUCK AGAIN THIS WEEK.**

PARISH 200 CLUB NOVEMBER DRAW: 1st prize £25.00 (No. 180) C. Boswell; 2nd prize £20.00 (No. 13) Mr P Emanuelli; and 3rd prize £15.00 (No. 118) Mr. T. Morris.

S.V.P. – Saint Vincent de Paul Society – The retiring collection last weekend realised £492.55. Thank you very much for your kind generosity.

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

(34) The world, and man, attest that they contain within themselves neither their first principle nor their final end, but rather that they participate in Being itself, which alone is without origin or end. Thus, in different ways, man can come to know that there exists a reality which is the first cause and final end of all things, a reality "that everyone calls God". (Saint Thomas Aquinas, *STh* 1, 2, 3.) *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

Piety shop: 20862998

Bereavement support: 20863450

