

SAINT HELEN'S PARISH THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

13th January 2019



Heaven Opened.

THE WORD THIS WEEK

A week after Mary shows the baby to the Wise Men, and Jesus is already fully grown, being Baptised by John. But this is not history – it is another Epiphany: This time it is the Dove of the Holy Spirit and the Voice from Heaven telling us, and Jesus himself, who this Jesus is: “My Beloved Son”.

Which also tells us who the Father is, for us: Saint Paul points out that this revelation makes us heirs too, waiting for the ‘great Epiphany’, when the Lord ‘comes in power’ as the Prophet tells, to console his people and gather us, his lambs and mother ewes, into his embrace. Heaven, and the Way to Heaven, Opened!

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

Isaiah 40: 1 – 5, 9 – 11.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it.

Response: **Psalm 103.**

Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers //
and flashing fire your servants.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea vast and wide //
with its moving swarms past counting //
living things great and small.

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill.

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.



Titus 2: 11 – 14, 3: 4 – 7.

He saved us by the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit.

Acclamation for the Gospel:

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

Someone is coming said John, someone greater than I.

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

Luke 3: 15 – 16. 21 – 22.

While Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened.

Prayer of the Faithful:

R/. Lord, renew the face of the earth

MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

Sat 12 th January	6.30pm	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD For the People of the Parish
Sun 13 th January	10.30am	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Thanksgiving (VT)
Mon 14 th January	6.45pm 7.00pm	Evening Prayer of the Church Celeste Cavaciuti (LA)
Tues 15 th January	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Alan Watt (GJ)
Wed 16 th January	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Barbara Burns (AH + MM) Adoration 2 to 4 pm & 6 to 8 pm
Thurs 17 th January	10.00am	Saint Anthony , Abbot Morning Prayer with Word and Communion
Fri 18 th January	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church For Christian Unity
Sat 19 th January	6.30pm	2nd SUNDAY of the Year For the Unity of Christians
Sun 20 th January	10.30am	2nd SUNDAY of the Year For Peace



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

No Reconciliation on Saturday: Only by arrangement with the priest.

CELEBRATING STEPS ALONG THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

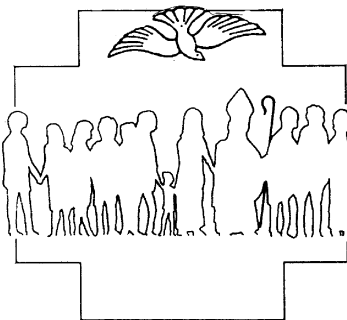
CATECHESIS



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 **this** Tuesday, 15th January:



CONFIRMATION this 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, why not come along to the Hall every second Thursday for 'Catholicism, an introduction'. Next session **this** Thursday 17th 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.

SHARING FAITH



“While Jesus after his own baptism *was at prayer*,
heaven opened,
and the Holy Spirit descended on him *in bodily form*, like a dove.”

Luke 3: 21.

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.



For today's feast of **THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**, the Families who have had their own child Baptised during the past year have been asked to come to celebrate the feast and join in prayer for all our new Christian children. They have also been promised 'refreshments' in the hall after Mass, Saturday evening and Sunday morning – we are all invited to join them in "wetting the babies' heads".



We will also have a retiring collection for **S.P.U.C.**, the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, as we leave Mass this weekend. SPUC is currently campaigning to stop the decriminalisation of abortion

which means taking abortion outside the law, the most dangerous threat to unborn children and their mothers in decades.



Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

THE PARENTS AND TODDLERS GROUP resume this week, Mondays and Wednesdays, 9.30 – 11.30: a lively fun morning open to all (including several grand-parents).

THE FAMILIES PLANNING TO PREPARE FOR COMMUNION

set out together, parents and children, this Tuesday evening, 6.30pm in the hall. Please pray for all our families.



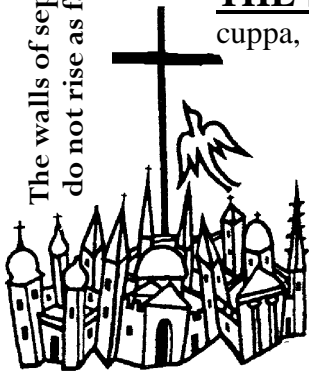
The JOURNEY OF FAITH

for adults seeking to deepen and develop their faith in the Catholic Church, this Thursday, 7.30pm in the small meeting room.

THE SUNSHINE CLUB is back on Thursday afternoons, for all 'seniors' game for a cuppa, a chat, and friends.

THE OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY starts this Friday, the 18th. The main service will be next Sunday, 20th, at 6.00pm in Wesley. We are invited to pray each day to strengthen our hunger and work for the unity and communion of all the Baptised in Christ's Body the Church. To access the prayer for each day, on this year's theme '**Only Justice**', go to: ctbi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/WPCU-2019-English-pamphlet.pdf.

The walls of separation do not rise as far as heaven



Next weekend we also celebrate **PEACE SUNDAY**, with the theme: 'Good politics serves peace', which ties in well with the week of prayer for Unity on the theme of 'Only Justice', and with our prayer for our country this week.



Banish the winter gloom! Come to see '**My Shadow and Me**', a vocal duo, in the hall on Friday 8th February: Tickets on sale from today, £6: Bar and bingo, but bring your own nibbles.

A PLACE AT NURSERY: To claim yours at Saint Helen's School, contact 02920 852532 asap.

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:

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|-------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Pamela Griffiths | Teresa Meade | Sheila Harris | Graham Jenkins | Sandra Bray |
| Lloyd Jones | John Maguire | Cecelia Mawby | Pat Emanuelli | David Mabey |
| Dorothy Warmesley | Isobel Cummins | Pauline Richards | Margaret Jones | Claris Howell |
| Carol Morrissey | Tess Thomas | Martyn Western | Bill Morrissey | Bob Walton |
| Yvonne Grandon | Annette Thompson | Gordon Clinch | Barbara Jones | Nick Erwin |
| Margaret Morgan | | | | |

PRAYER CYCLE FOR OUR DIOCESE: This week we are asked to pray for the People of Our Lady and Saint Illtyd, Llantwit Major, with Saint Cadoc, Cowbridge, and their priest, Revd. Mark Rowles, who is also chaplain to Atlantic College, Saint Donat's Castle.

SAINT HELEN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE – THIS WEEK:

Date	Time	Event
Mon 14 th January	9.30am 1.15 – 3.15pm	Parents & Toddlers Little Voices
Tues 15 th January	10.30am 6.30pm	Music Appreciation Communion Children and Parents
Wed 16 th January	9.30am	Parents & Toddlers
Thurs 17 th January	2.00pm – 4.00pm 7.30pm	Sunshine Club Journey of Faith (s.m.r.)
Fri 18 th January	1.00pm	History Group
Sat 19 th January	9.30am – 12.30pm	Dance
Sun 20 th January	11.30am 6.00pm	Tea, Coffee, & Biscuits Night Shelter



OFFERTORY COLLECTION	6 th January 2019
Gift Aid Weekly	£ 115.00
Non Gift Aid Weekly	£ 100.23
Gift Aid Standing Orders (69)	£ 502.04
Non Gift Aid Standing Orders (10)	£ 65.00
Loose	£ 164.10
TOTAL	£ 946.37 <i>Many thanks</i>



LOTTERY BONUS BALL CONGRATULATIONS to Margaret Jones, Christine Roberts, and Nick Erwin, the winners of the Bonus Ball no. 18. A total of £55.00 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'

IV. How Can We Speak About God?

(39) In defending the ability of human reason to know God, the Church is expressing her confidence in the possibility of speaking about him to all men and women, and with all men and women, and, therefore, of dialogue with other religions, with philosophy and science, as well as with unbelievers and atheists.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1992

"The story as told by Luke today is not so much the Baptism of Jesus as the Coming of the Spirit ...
"The early Church was full of the consciousness of the presence of the Spirit among them. Saint Paul writes so frequently of the transforming power of the Spirit in the community, making it the Body of Christ, in which every member has a special part to play."
Henry Wansbrough OSB

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

