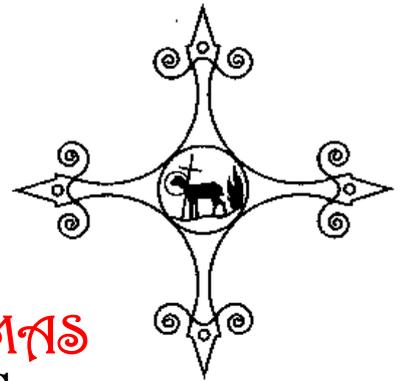




SAINT HELEN'S PARISH
ADVENT SUNDAY 3
 "Gaudete!"



SEASON OF ADVENT ~ CHRISTMAS

THE YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS
 13th December 2020



LIVE STREAM



<https://sthelenscaerphilly.com/st-helens-live-stream/>

Children's Liturgy of the Word

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1P6dKKGKsy9NoYLNaiXs4ugVB4djy7JRaES1ENXI325ZE/edit>

REJOICE!

THE WORD THIS WEEK

"Be happy at all times, ... pray, ... give thanks": Not quite the picture we get of John the Baptist from the Gospel today, as he carefully turns attention from himself to the 'one coming after' him. Rather it is picked up by the one "wrapped in the cloak of integrity, like a bride adorned in her jewels", Mary who, though not mentioned, in her Magnificat gives us (the Church) the words to respond: "My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God".

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: (Psalter: Week 3)

Gathering Antiphon (6.30pm):

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice!
 Indeed, the Lord is near.

Isaiah 61: 1 – 2, 10 – 11.

I exalt for joy in the Lord.

Response: Luke 1: 46 – 50, 53 – 54.

R/. My soul rejoices in my God.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 24.

May you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the Lord.

Acclamation for the Gospel:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

John 1: 6 – 8, 19 – 28.

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

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

Preface: i of Advent . **Eucharistic Prayer:** iii

Communion Antiphon (6.30pm):

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
 Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

REJOICE
 IN
 THE
 LORD
 ALWAYS,
 AND
 AGAIN
 IN
 SAY
 REJOICE

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



The "O" Antiphons: In the last week of Advent our looking and longing for the One Who Is To Come turns to joy as we remember in the Magnificat Antiphon at evening prayer for each day the many names, titles, and prophecies by which we seek and find him.

MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:



REJOICE!

Sat 12 th December	6.30pm	3rd Sunday of ADVENT (Gaudete!) Charlie + Iolanda Rossi (LA) (Public Mass)
Sun 13 th December	10.30am	for the People of the Parish (Public Mass)
Mon 14 th December	9.45am 10.00am	Saint John of Cross , Priest + Doctor of the Church Morning Prayer of the Church Peggy Pastina (SVP)
Tues 15 th December	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Rosemary + Michael Kelly (SW) (Public Mass)
Wed 16 th December	9.45am 10.00am 2.00 – 4.00pm	Morning Prayer of the Church Anthony Boyce (SVP) Exposition + Adoration
Thurs 17 th December 'O Wisdom'	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Greg Verver Intention
Fri 18 th December 'O Ruler of Israel'	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Holy Souls (VT)(Public Mass)
Sat 19 th December 'O Branch of Jesse'	6.30pm	4th Sunday of ADVENT for the People of the Parish (Public Mass)
Sun 20 th December 'O Key of David'	10.30am 2.00pm 3.00pm	for all Mothers (Public Mass) Baptism of Harvey Pithian Virtual Carol Concert



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

At any time by prior arrangement with the priest.

The PARISH PRAYER LIST: Among all those we pray for in this time, we continue to remember all suffering from the virus and its effects. We remember also:

Teresa Meade	John Maguire	Graham Jenkins	Sandra Bray	Lloyd Jones
Cecelia Mawby	David Mabey	Isobel Cummins	Pauline Richards	Margaret Jones
Carol Morrissey	Claris Howell	Anne Morgan	Pat Starynski	Yvonne Grandon
Martyn Western	Marjorie Gurney	Carmen Agius	Lowela Teves	Joe Marengi
Pamela and Keith Griffiths	Pat + Pino Emanuelli	Mary & Wilson Brown	Katrin Merry	
Sian Thomas	Winifred Benedict	Albert Carley	Mary Everson	Maura Coll

Of your charity, **PLEASE PRAY** for **Colin Everson**, who died in hospital on Thursday morning. We offer our condolence to Mary, and to Donna and the family. May he rest in peace.

PRAYER CYCLE FOR OUR DIOCESE: Please pray for the People and Parish of Our Lady of the Angels, Cwmbran, with their Priest Revd. Canon John Griffiths V.F., and their care for the Convent of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Annecy, Llantarnam Abbey, and Our Lady of the Angels Primary School.

THE YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

“The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to give the good news to the poor.”

(Luke 4: 18)

Looking for a little extra inspiration? Listen to Bishop Robert Barron on Christmas:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUW-A2qZzWY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcmGmao-TJA>



CHRISTMASS MASS will be celebrated in Saint Helen at 6pm on Christmas Eve, the Vigil Mass; the Mass in the Night at 11.30pm, and the Day Mass at 10.30am on Christmas morning. Saint Peter, Bargoed will celebrate the Mass in the Night at 8pm. Due to restrictions we will have to book places, with a caveat that we will not all be able to fit in to those times. We are therefore reminded that Christmas has an Octave – a week in which every day and every Mass is a celebration of Christ being born for us and amongst us. So we can spread ourselves through those quiet Christmas days, and even enjoy several Christmas celebrations!



TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:

Please ring the appropriate number below on **Wednesday** (16th December) **after 10am**, and **before 7pm**. Please respect the parishioners who have taken on this task by *not ringing outside these times*, and by *remaining polite* if they have to disappoint you because there are no longer any places left available.



To join in the celebration of the **6.00pm** Vigil Mass please ring **02920 861930**.

To join in the celebration of the **11.30pm** Mass in the Night please ring **02920 883291**.

To join in the celebration of the **10.30am** Mass in the Day please ring **02920 868606**.

SING-ALONG-A-CHRISTMAS-CAROL! Christmas will be different this year – and how!



Not just covid, but also Saint Mark's Gospel: He just tells us *that* Christ has come, without any of the stories and poetry about *how* he comes that Luke and Matthew give us, and certainly none of the snow and jingle bells and other bits we add on on top. So to indulge ourselves we will have a **VIRTUAL CAROL CONCERT**

next Sunday (20th) at 3pm: Brett and the Choir have recorded favourite carols, the words will (we hope) appear on your screens via facebook and on the website – reading them may be easier on laptops or computers with bigger screens – and we can all sing along at home. Don't forget the mulled wine, mince pies, and silly hats.

Saint Thomas Becket was Martyred in Canterbury Cathedral 850 years ago on 29th December 1170. To commemorate the anniversary, we will have an online reading of the play 'Murder in the Cathedral'. That is, if we can get enough volunteers to read! We need 9 men and a chorus of women – Interested? Please talk to Father, or email Caerphilly@rcadc.org. Thank you,



CONGRATULATIONS to budding historian Gavin Batenga, from Saint Helen's Primary School, for winning the Caerphilly Borough Black History Month competition for an essay on 'Mother' Mary Seacole, nurse and heroine of the Crimean War.

Have you been missing your monthly **CARDIFF PEOPLE?** Mourn no more!

The December issue is now available via: <https://rcadc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Catholic-People-December-2020.pdf>

SAINT HELEN'S VIRTUAL COMMUNITY:

Date	Time	Event
Sat 12 th Dec	6.30pm	SUNDAY MASS: https://sthelenscaerphilly.com/st-helens-live-stream/
Sun 13 th Dec	10.30am 11.30am	SUNDAY MASS: https://sthelenscaerphilly.com/st-helens-live-stream/ 'Coffee Morning': <i>Via Saint Helen's Facebook</i>
Thur 17 th Dec	7.30pm	Scripture Study
Sat 19 th Dec	6.30pm	SUNDAY MASS: https://sthelenscaerphilly.com/st-helens-live-stream/
Sun 20 th Dec	10.30am 11.30am 3.00pm	SUNDAY MASS: https://sthelenscaerphilly.com/st-helens-live-stream/ 'Coffee Morning': <i>Via Saint Helen's Facebook</i> Virtual Carol Concert: <i>Via Saint Helen's Facebook</i>

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Part One: **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH.** Section One: 'I Believe' – 'We Believe'

Chapter 3: **Man's Response to God.** Article 1: **I Believe.**

III: The Characteristics of Faith Faith is a Human Act

(154) Believing is possible only by grace and the interior helps of the Holy Spirit. But it is no less true that believing is an authentically human act. Trusting in God and cleaving to the truths he has revealed is contrary neither to human freedom nor to human reason. Even in human relations it is not contrary to our dignity to believe what other persons tell us about themselves and their intentions, or to trust their promises (for example, when a man and a woman marry) to share a communion of life with one another. If this is so, still less is it contrary to our dignity to "yield by faith the full submission of. . . intellect and will to God who reveals" (*Dei Filius* 3:DS 3008), and to share in an interior communion with him.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 1992)



Who really was John the Baptist? John himself told the scribes and Pharisees he was a voice crying in the wilderness, he was preaching about another who was yet to come. The meaning of his life was to prepare the way for another. In all this lies "the mystery of John" who "never makes the word his own". Saint John is the one who points to him, who teaches, the voice that indicates Another. In sum, he is "a voice, not a word, a light but not his own. John seems to be nothing". This is John's "vocation". When we contemplate the life of this man, so great, so powerful — everyone believed he was the Messiah — when we think of how this life was annihilated, his last days spent in a dark prison, we discover a mystery. We only know that his head ended on a platter as a great gift from a dancer to an adulteress. I believe it is impossible to sink any lower, to annihilate oneself. The model we are offered today is John, the model of "a Church ever at the service of the Word." Pray for the grace to imitate John, to be solely a Church-voice which points to the Word, even to martyrdom.

Pope Francis

Parish Directory

Priest: Revd. John Kelly 20 883192

Safeguarding Officer: 20864112

Music: 07971848734.

Cafod: 20861930

Saint Helen's School: 20852532

Newsletter items: 20883192

caerphilly@rcadc.org

Chair of Parish Council:

SVP: 20883462

Bereavement support: 20863450

Hall Bookings: 20883192

Piety shop: 20862998

Marriage Care: appointments@marriagecare.co.uk

Cardinal Newman School: 01443 494110

Calendar Additions: calendar@sthelenscaerphilly.com

www.sthelenscaerphilly.com

Website Additions: Website@sthelenscaerphilly.com



“Despite the challenges presented by Covid-19 Marriage Care, in partnership with The Cardiff Archdiocese, continues to provide support to local couples at all stages of their relationship. By moving both their **Counselling & Marriage Preparation Services** to webcam delivery Marriage Care have been able to continue providing both services, in a timely manner, without having to worry about lockdowns or social distancing.

“Their **marriage preparation** and support service enable couples to nurture faithful and fruitful marriages that last, as they draw on Catholic teaching and contemporary research to help couples focus on the quality of their relationship with each other.

“Through their **relationship counselling service**, they accompany, with compassion and practical wisdom, couples who find themselves in need of support on their journey. Recognising that the coronavirus pandemic has both increased stress and can lead to financial difficulties they remain unique in asking couples who come for counselling only to pay what they can afford, reflecting their commitment to support those most in need.

“If you need to make use of, or want to know more about, either of these services please visit Marriage Care’s website at www.marriagecare.org.uk”