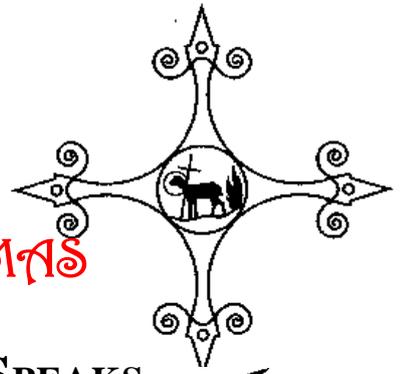




SAINT HELEN'S PARISH
ADVENT SUNDAY 4
 SEASON OF ADVENT ~CHRISTMAS
 'SEA SUNDAY'



THE YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS
 20th December 2020



LIVE STREAM

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/19KIrzHNkjbFWw-OnfWg-GjPKR5LP3gUkkbng4uZJ5tE/edit>

Let what you have said be done

THE WORD THIS WEEK

David suffers the temptation of all successful rulers, to leave a monument in stone, even if like many others it is also a temple to the Lord. But Nathan reminds him that God lives in human hearts and souls, in his holy People, not in in-animate buildings. This is what the angel reveals to Mary: You will conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus". Her "Yes" brings us "Jesus, the revelation of a mystery, now so clear it must be broadcast." God now lives in us, a mystery "now so clear, it must be broadcast".

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: (*Psalter: Week 4*)

Gathering Antiphon (6.30pm):

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
 and let the clouds rain down the just one;
 let the earth be opened and bring forth a saviour.

2 Samuel 7: 1 – 5, 8 – 12, 14, 16.

The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord.

Response: Psalm 88.

R/. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Romans 16: 25 – 27.

The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.

Acclamation for the Gospel:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia!

Luke 1: 26 – 38.

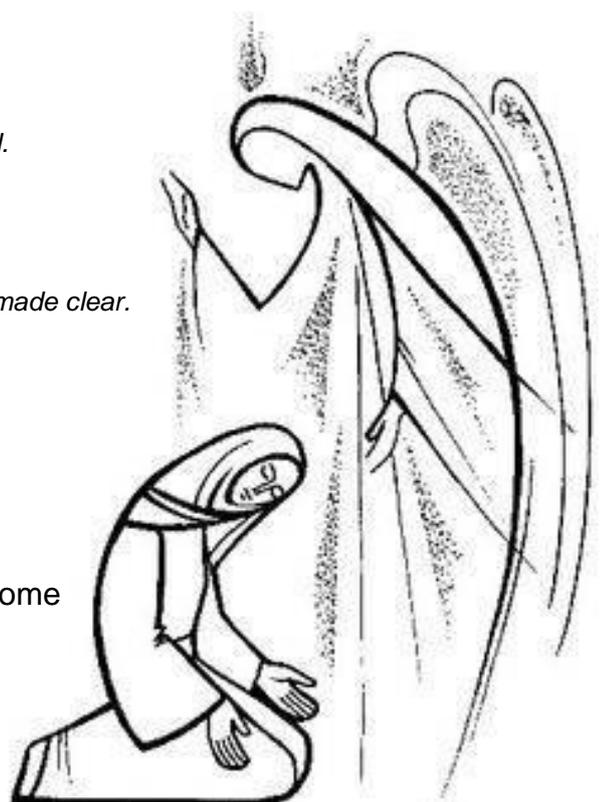
Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.

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

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

Communion Antiphon (6.30pm):

Behold, a virgin will conceive and bear a son,
 and his name will be called Emmanuel.





MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:



Sat 19 th December			4th Sunday of ADVENT
‘O Branch of Jesse’	6.30pm		for the People of the Parish (<i>Public Mass</i>)
Sun 20 th December	10.30am		for Our Mothers (<i>Public Mass</i>)
‘O Key of David’			
Mon 21 st December	9.45am		Morning Prayer of the Church
‘O Rising Sun’	10.00am		Carmel Thomas (TT)
Tues 22 nd December	9.45am		Morning Prayer of the Church
‘O King’	10.00am		Frederick + John Bond (P+PAJ)
Wed 23 rd December	9.45am		Morning Prayer of the Church
‘O Immanuel’	10.00am		Maureen Thomas
	2.00–4.00pm		Exposition + Adoration
Thurs 24 th December	9.45am		Morning Prayer of the Church
	10.00am		Colin Everson (S+TM)

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	(for the people of the Parish)
	11.30pm	Mass in the Night	(for Our Loved ones)
Fri 25th December	10.30am	Mass in the Day	(for the people of the Parish)



STEPHEN



Sat 26 th December	Am 11.00am pm	SAINT STEPHEN , the First Martyr The Ministers of the Altar THE HOLY FAMILY OF MARY, JOSEPH, AND JESUS for our Families (<i>Public Mass</i>)
Sun 27 th December	10.30am	for the People of the Parish (<i>Public Mass</i>)

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	Maura Coll
Sian Thomas	Winifred Benedict	Albert Carley	Mary Everson	
Eileen Morris				

PRAYER CYCLE FOR OUR DIOCESE: Please pray for the People and Parish of All Saints, Ebbw Vale, with their Priest Revd. Richard Aziati, and their care for Ysbyty'r tr Cwm, Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan, and All Saints Primary School.

THE YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS



“In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him.”

(John 1: 1-3)



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>

Today is 'SEA SUNDAY' (postpone from June). There are donation envelopes in the church porch, or you may contribute via www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate.



SING-ALONG-A-CHRISTMAS-CAROL!

VIRTUAL CAROL CONCERT

Please join in the this Sunday at 3pm, either on facebook or on the Parish web page: Brett and the Choir have recorded favourite carols, the words will (we hope) appear on your screens, and in the privacy of our own homes we can all enjoy singing along with them, with no-one to look askance at our duff notes or over-enthusiastic volumes. Reading the words may be easier on laptops or computers with bigger screens. Don't forget the mulled wine, mince pies, and silly hats.

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 only those who have booked places can be allowed to attend. The vigil Mass at 6.00pm is now fully booked, but there are still places at the Night Mass and the Day Mass – if you wish to book, please ring 20 883291 for the 11.30pm *only* or 20 868606 for the 10.30am *only*, between 10am and 12 noon *only* on Monday *only*. After that, appeal to Father John.



Saint Stephen's day ALTAR SERVERS' RENEWAL

will be at the (11.00 am) morning Mass on Saturday 26th. Please email the Parish office if you intend to be there to renew your commitment as an Altar Server and member of the Guild of Saint Stephen.

Saint Thomas Becket

was Martyred in Canterbury Cathedral 850 years ago on 29th December 1170. Sadly, we did not have enough voices to allow us to read 'Murder in the Cathedral' convincingly. However the text will be available to borrow from next week for anyone wishing to read through on their own: Please ask Father John.



IN THE MIDST OF THE CHURCH, MARY SHINES FORTH.

We are always struck by the strength of the young Mary's 'yes', the strength in those words 'be it done' that she spoke to the angel. This was no merely passive or resigned acceptance, or a faint 'yes', as if to say, 'well lets give it a try and see what happens'. Mary did not know the words 'lets see what happens.' She was determined, she knew what was at stake, and she said 'yes' without thinking twice. Hers was a 'yes' of someone prepared to be committed, someone willing to take a risk, ready to stake everything she had, with no more security than the certainty of knowing that she was the bearer of a promise. So I ask each one of you: do you see yourselves as bearers of a promise? What promise is present in my heart that I can take up? Mary's mission would undoubtedly be difficult, but the challenges that lay ahead were no reason to say 'no'. things would be complicated of course, but not in the same way as happens when cowardice paralyses us because things are not clear or sure in advance. Mary did not take out an insurance policy! She took the risk, and for this reason she is strong, she is an 'influencer', the 'influencer' of God. Her 'yes' and her desire to serve were stronger than any doubts or difficulties."

'Christus Vivit': Pope Francis, to Young People and to the entire People of God

SAINT HELEN'S VIRTUAL COMMUNITY:

Date	Time	Event
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>
Thur 24 th Dec	6.00pm 11.30pm	VIGIL MASS OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD MASS IN THE NIGHT OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
Fri 25 th Dec	10.30am	MASS IN THE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
Sat 26 th Dec	6.30pm	HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY MASS
Sun 27 th Dec	10.30am	HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY MASS

ACT NOW and ask your MP to OPPOSE introducing ASSISTED SUICIDE

The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide.

It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and reject their demands. Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link: <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>



Christmas isn't automatic; it can't be taken for granted. It began with Mary, but each of us is asked to make our own contribution to giving flesh to faith in the world.

Ronald Rolheiser

We are called to incarnate Christ in our lives, to clothe our lives with him, so that people can see him in us, touch him in us, recognise him in us.

Catherine de Huech Doherty

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

(155) In faith, the human intellect and will cooperate with divine grace: "Believing is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace" (*St. Thomas Aquinas, STh II-II,2,9; cf. Dei Filius 3:DS 3010*).

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 1992)

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

Website Additions: Website@sthelenscaerphilly.com

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



“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”