

SAINT HELEN'S PARISH
SEASON OF ADVENT~CHRISTMAS

**THE HOLY FAMILY
OF MARY, JOSEPH, AND JESUS**

27th December 2020

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to the prevalence and increased risk of catching the new strain of the virus, public Mass will cease after Christmas day.



The Child Grew

THE WORD THIS WEEK

“The child grew to maturity”. A strange set of readings for this 'Year B' line up the family of Abraham and Sarah with that of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus: Neither family fits into the tidy picture of 'proper' Family Life. But for both, their listening to and acceptance of God's will in the reality of complicated relations helps them grow individually and as a family. We too move on from the settled, pretty, crib scene, and are called to grow, and allow the Christ to grow in us.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: (Psalter: Week 1)

Gathering Antiphon:

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger.

Genesis 15: 1 – 6. 21: 1 – 3.

Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood.

Response: Psalm 104.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works!

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

Hebrews 11: 8. 11 – 12. 18 – 19.

The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac.

Acclamation for the Gospel:

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

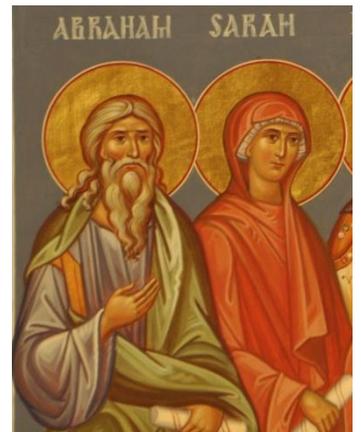
At various times in the past and in various different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
but in our own time, the last days,
he has spoken to us through his Son.
Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

Luke 2: 22 – 40.

The child grew, filled with wisdom.

Prayer of the Faithful:

R/. Lord, give us your peace.



Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose.

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.



Preface: of the Nativity of the Lord iii .

Eucharistic Prayer: i.

Communion Antiphon:

Our God has appeared on earth, and lived among us.



MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

Sat 26 th December	6.30pm	THE HOLY FAMILY OF MARY, JOSEPH AND JESUS for our Families (<i>Live-stream Mass</i>)
Sun 27 th December	10.30am 3.00pm	for the People of the Parish (<i>Live-stream Mass</i>) A (<i>better?</i>) Carol Concert
Mon 28 th December	9.45am 10.00am	THE HOLY INNOCENTS , Martyrs Morning Prayer of the Church Hubert + Margaret Kovczok (SK)
Tues 29 th December	9.45am 10.00am	Fifth day within the Octave of Christmas Morning Prayer of the Church Sylvester Pereira (TT)
Wed 30 th December	9.45am 10.00am	Sixth day within the Octave of Christmas Morning Prayer of the Church David Balch (SVP)
Thurs 31 st December	9.45am 10.00am	Seventh day within the Octave of Christmas Morning Prayer of the Church Colin Everson (S+TM)
Fri 1 st January	9.45am 10.00am	MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD Morning Prayer of the Church for New Beginnings
Sat 2 nd January	Am pm 6.30pm	Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church 2nd SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY Pat Lewis (SW)
Sun 3 rd January	10.30am	for the People of the Parish



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:

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|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 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 Saint Mary and Saint Michael, Llanarth, with their clergy, Rev Dom Matthew Carney and Rev Deacon Anthony Mulcahy.

THE YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

“The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is His as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

(John 1: 14)

LIVE STREAM

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





SING-ALONG-A-littlelouder-CHRISTMAS-CAROL! Another go at the **VIRTUAL CAROL CONCERT**, this Sunday (again) at 3pm, on facebook, but with a bit more volume. Banish the quiet of this Christmas and ‘suppressed’ holiday by another go at some favourite carols, this time (*fingers crossed!*) with a bit more volume.

The OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS gives us eight days of celebrating the joy and wonder of the Incarnation, **God become man** (so that man may become divine). As it is also quite a quiet time, Father John plans to do practically nothing apart from saying the daily Mass. However he will still be available for emergencies. **Happy** (twelve days of) **Christmas!**



Tuesday is the feast of **Saint Thomas Becket** (in England – not marked in Wales) who was martyred on this day in 1170, 850 years ago. His shrine in Canterbury became a huge pilgrimage site until destroyed by Thomas Cromwell, though he could not quite kill off the devotion, as told by Hilary Mantel in her trilogy (which tried to destroy the reputation and devotion to Saint Thomas Moore, also not entirely successfully).

Friday is ‘WORLD DAY FOR PEACE’ everywhere in the world except Britain. However, we pray as we do every day for peace in all its forms. The Pope’s theme for this year is **‘A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace’** reminding us that true peace will include peace with and care and culture of the earth, the natural world, and the ecology. We will keep Peace Sunday on January 17th.



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>

Light looked down and saw darkness.
 “I will go there” said light.
 Peace looked down and saw war.
 “I will go there” said peace.
 Love looked down and saw hatred.
 “I will go there” said love.



So he,
 the Lord of Light,
 the Prince of Peace,
 the King of Love,
 came down
 and crept in beside us.
John Bell.

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY:

Date	Time	Event
Sat 26 th Dec	6.30pm	HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY MASS
Sun 27 th Dec	10.30am 11.30am 3.00pm	HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY MASS ‘Coffee Morning’: <i>Via Saint Helen’s Facebook</i> Virtual Carol Concert: <i>Via Saint Helen’s Facebook</i>
Sat 26 th Dec	6.30pm	SUNDAY MASS
Sun 27 th Dec	10.30am	SUNDAY MASS

We must move beyond a merely sentimental understanding of Christmas as “waiting for the baby Jesus” to an adult and communal appreciation of the message of the incarnation of God in Christ.

The celebration of Christmas is not merely a sentimental waiting for a baby to be born. It is much more *an asking for history to be born!* Creation groans in its birth pains, waiting for our participation with God in its renewal (see Romans 8:20–23). We do the Gospel no favour when we make Jesus, the Eternal Christ, into a perpetual baby, who asks little or no adult response from us. One even wonders what kind of mind would want to keep Jesus a baby. Maybe only one that is content with “baby Christianity.”

Any spirituality that makes too much of the baby Jesus is perhaps not yet ready for “prime-time” life. God clearly wants friends and partners to be images of divinity, if we are to believe the biblical texts. God, it seems, wants mature religion and a thoughtful, free response from us.

The Christ we are asking and waiting for includes our own full birth and the further birth of history and creation. The Christ includes the whole sweep of creation and history joined with him—and each of us, too. This is the Universal (or Cosmic) Christ. We ourselves are members of the Body of Christ and the Universal Christ, even though we are not the historical Jesus. So we very rightly believe in “Jesus Christ,” and both words are essential.

Richard Rohr

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 and Understanding

(156) What moves us to believe is not the fact that revealed truths appear as true and intelligible in the light of our natural reason: we believe "because of the authority of God himself who reveals them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived" (*Dei Filius 3:DS 3008*). So "that the submission of our faith might nevertheless be in accordance with reason, God willed that external proofs of his Revelation should be joined to the internal helps of the Holy Spirit." (*Dei Filius 3:DS 3009*). Thus the miracles of Christ and the saints, prophecies, the Church's growth and holiness, and her fruitfulness and stability "are the most certain signs of divine Revelation, adapted to the intelligence of all"; they are "motives of credibility", which show that the assent of faith is "by no means a blind impulse of the mind" (*Dei Filius 3:DS 3008-3010; Cf. Mk 16 20; Heb 2:4*).
(Catechism of the Catholic Church 1992)

“Christian joy is that strange thing; not an emotion, but a deep peace which remains even in the midst of great opposition and difficulty. This will always be part of the christian life.”

Parish Directory

Priest: Revd. John Kelly 20 883192

Safeguarding Officer: 20864112

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Cafod: 20861930

Saint Helen’s School: 20852532

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caerphilly@rcadc.org

Website Additions: Website@sthelenscaerphilly.com

Chair of Parish Council:

SVP: 20883462

Hall Bookings: 20883192

Marriage Care: appointments@marriagecare.co.uk

Cardinal Newman School: 01443 494110

Calendar Additions: calendar@sthelenscaerphilly.com

www.sthelenscaerphilly.com

