

SAINT HELEN'S PARISH *THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD*

10th January 2021

LIVE STREAM

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



You are my Son, the Beloved

THE WORD THIS WEEK

“Listen” “Seek the Lord” “Give thanks” “Sing psalms to the Lord”. As we come to the end of our celebrations of the birth and revelation of Our Lord, Nativity and Epiphany, we are reminded that there are things to do. Unless we now live differently as a result of these celebrations and liturgies, they will have been mere show. “This is what loving God is – keeping his commandments.”

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

Gathering Antiphon:

After the Lord had been baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Isaiah 55: 1 – 11.

Response: **Isaiah 12: 2 – 6.**

Truly, God is my salvation, /

I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song, /

he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water

from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples,
declare the greatness of his name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord /

for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

1 John 5: 1 – 9.

Acclamation for the Gospel:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

John saw Jesus coming towards him, and he said:

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Mark 1: 7 – 11.

Prayer of the Faithful: R/. Lord, do glorious deeds!

Preface: of the Baptism of the Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer: ii.



Communion Antiphon:

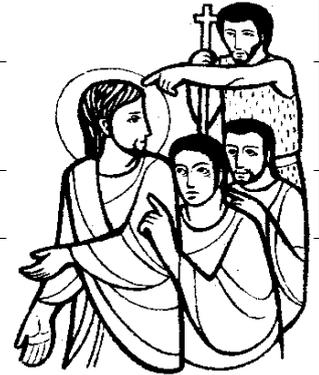
Behold, the one of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.



MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Sat 9 th January | 6.30pm | The BAPTISM of the LORD for the People of both Parishes |
| Sun 10 th January | 10.30am | for Those Baptised in the past Year |
| Mon 11 th January | 9.45am 10.00am | Morning Prayer of the Church Margaret Kelly Intention |
| Tues 12 th January | 9.45am 10.00am | Morning Prayer of the Church Szymczak Family Intention |
| Wed 13 th January | 9.45am 10.00am | Morning Prayer of the Church Luigi + Elena Antoniazi (LA) |
| Thurs 14 th January | 12.00 noon | Requiem for Colin Everson |
| Fri 15 th January | 6.45pm 7.00pm | Evening Prayer of the Church Mary Clare Price (JW) |
| Sat 16 th January | 6.30pm | 2nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Peace Sunday for Doctors, Nurses, and Carers |
| Sun 17 th January | 10.30am 2.30pm | for the People of both Parishes Baptism of Anastasia Whitfield |



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

PRAYER CYCLE FOR OUR DIOCESE: Please pray for the People and Parish of our neighbours, Our Lady of Peace, Newbridge, and their clergy, Rev Kevin Payne and Rev. Deacon Patrick Maloney.

THE YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

“The Lord’s voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.”

(Psalm 28: 9-10)

*The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books
for the benefit of a privileged few.*

*It belongs above all to those called to hear its message and to recognize
themselves in its words.*

*The Bible is the book of the Lord’s people, who, in listening to it, move from
dispersion and division towards unity.*

The word of God unites believers and makes them one people.

Pope Francis

THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

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WHAT BETTER WAY TO START THE YEAR than introducing family and friends to Jesus? And what easier way than inviting them on an Alpha course?

ALPHA ONLINE starts next **Tuesday 12th at 8pm**. The first session is an introduction which gives more idea of what the course is about before the course proper starts the following week. Everyone is welcome – and the great thing about being online is it doesn't matter where you live. We hope everyone coming to the first evening will see the course through, but there's no obligation.

Here's a clip you can share that says a bit more about what Alpha online is about (1 minute long):

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/417956226>

And another one that gives a feel for what an Alpha film is like:

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/181494383> (just under 3 minutes)

Preparing for the Sacraments of **RECONCILIATION AND COMMUNION**: The Parish accompaniment of parents wanting to bring their children to share in the Sacraments will begin with a zoom meeting for parents on Tuesday 19th January. If this is for you, please be sure to register your names (parents and child) with address and contact details, and details of the child's baptism and present school. Thank you.



'EPIPHANY' = 'REVELATION' = 'UNVEILING'

“unveiling” is as a sort of “recognition event,” where something we thought we knew reveals itself to be radically different than our long-held assumptions. When people are attuned and awake, reality is often “unveiled” for them. This might be a necessary step for all Christians in the twenty-first century. We’ve become so used to the “story” of our faith that a veil has been pulled over our eyes and we no longer experience its power to change our lives.

Perhaps the most deadening aspect of our Christianity . . . is that we live it with twenty-twenty hindsight. We know the story. We know how the plot comes out. We know who the winners are. . . . The Bible contains the complete and divinely authorized biography of Jesus and furnishes the complete guide to what [we] should do to become his disciple. Everything needed for [our] personal salvation is right there. . . .

We're living in an era right now which some would call a major paradigm shift, where there's an opportunity as perhaps there hasn't been before to really open up the core questions again and ask, “What is it that we mean by ‘Christianity’? What is this filter [or veil] that we're looking through? Who is this Master that we profess and confess in our life as we call ourselves Christian?” . . .

When we approach the [Jesus] story with the attitude, “I've heard that already, I know what that means,” we fall asleep rather than allowing ourselves to be shocked awake. . . . For all such spiritual sleepwalking bypasses that crucial first step, that moment when the heart has to find its way not through external conditioning but through a raw immediacy of presence. Only there—in “the cave of the heart,” as the mystics are fond of calling it—does a person come in contact with his or her own direct knowingness. And only out of this direct knowingness is sovereignty born, one's own inner authority.

(Extracts from Richard Rhor's Daily Meditations, via 'Center for Action and Contemplation Meditations@cac.org')

Respond to Welsh Government's consultation to stop home abortions!

The Welsh Government is holding a consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send dangerous abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. We need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Welsh Government's questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. SPUC has prepared a briefing which gives a step by step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire. Please go to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/Wales-DIY-Abortion-Consultation> The consultation ends on 23 February 2021.

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY:

| Date | Time | Event |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Sat 9 th Jan | 6.30pm | Sunday Mass |
| Sun 10 th Jan | 10.30am 11.30am | Sunday Mass 'Coffee Morning': <i>Via Saint Helen's Facebook</i> |
| Thurs 14 th Jan | 12 Noon 7.30pm | Requiem for Colin Everson Scripture Study: <i>Via Saint Helen's Facebook</i> |
| Sat 16 th Jan | 6.30pm | Sunday Mass |
| Sun 17 th Jan | 10.30am | Sunday Mass |

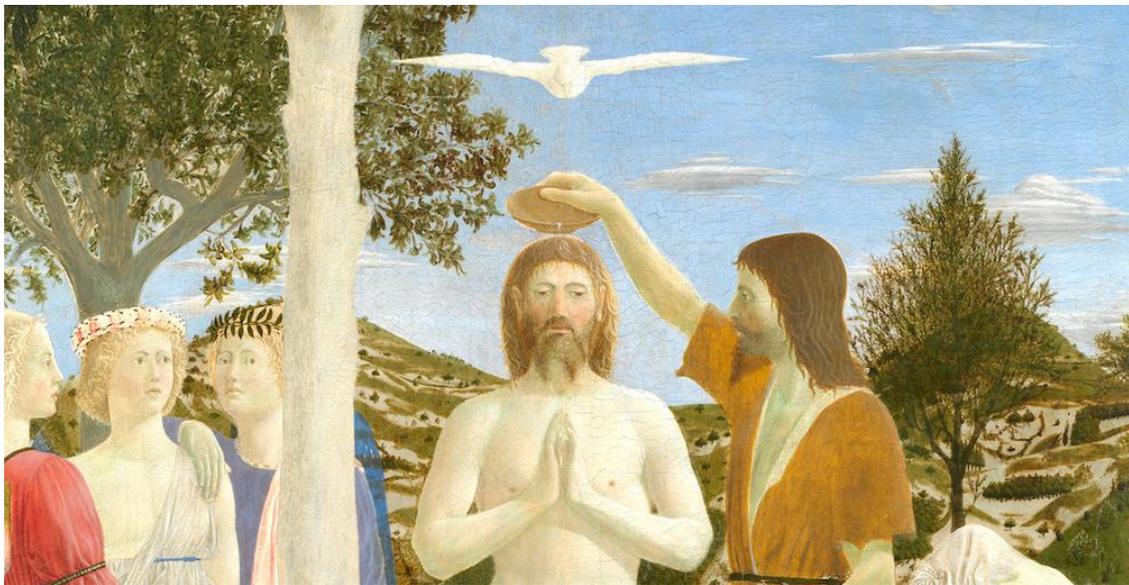
THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

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

(158) "Faith *seeks understanding*" (*St. Anselm, Prosl. prooem.:PL 153,225A*): it is intrinsic to faith that a believer desires to know better the One in whom he has put his faith, and to understand better what He has revealed; a more penetrating knowledge will in turn call forth a greater faith, increasingly set afire by love. The grace of faith opens "the eyes of your hearts" (*Eph 1:18*) to a lively understanding of the contents of Revelation: that is, of the totality of God's plan and the mysteries of faith, of their connection with each other and with Christ, the centre of the revealed mystery. "The same Holy Spirit constantly perfects faith by his gifts, so that Revelation may be more and more profoundly understood" (*DV. 5*). In the words of Saint Augustine, "I believe, in order to understand; and I understand, the better to believe" (*St. Augustine, Sermo 43,7,9:PL 38,257-258*). (*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

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





“WHOSE CHILDREN ARE THEY ANYWAY”

The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill currently before the Senedd will effectively remove the rights of parents as the first educators of their children. It will threaten the nature and purpose of Catholic schools as well as being an affront to devout Jews, Christians, Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims in Wales.

In the provisions concerning Human and Sex Education, the responsibility and privilege of parents to choose the right moment and language to discuss love and human sexuality with their children will be overridden by the imposition of a curriculum not in conformity with Christian teaching and that of many other faiths. The right of parents to remove their children from such classes will be removed.

The implications of this Bill places the right of the State before that of the parents of a child in such an important part of life. Should this ideologically driven Bill become law, it will remove the ancient freedoms and duties of parents in the education of their children. It would restrict freedom of conscience, freedom of expression, freedom of worship and conscientious objection. These are fundamental human rights which should be respected in a pluralistic society. They are not being upheld by this proposed legislation.

The assertion of power by Welsh Government in the lives of its citizens is not always malicious, but it cannot go unchallenged. The responses to the consultation on this Bill have been largely ignored. The First Minister of Wales and the Members of the Senedd need to be reminded very clearly that they were elected by us in order to represent us. We do not elect members of the Senedd to usurp our role as parents, grandparents and families. The rights and duties of parents are more significant and profound than party view and politics. This abuse of government power cannot go unchallenged. If we remain silent, there will be no appeal.

**ACT NOW AND URGE YOUR LOCAL MS
TO **REJECT** THE CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT (WALES) BILL
BY USING THE LINK BELOW:**

<http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/welshparents?tmpl=component&print=1>

This link will take you to a pro forma from the Catholic Education Service, they will provide you with details of your local MS on the basis of your postcode. Individual letters registering your objection to this proposed legislation are better than copied circulars.