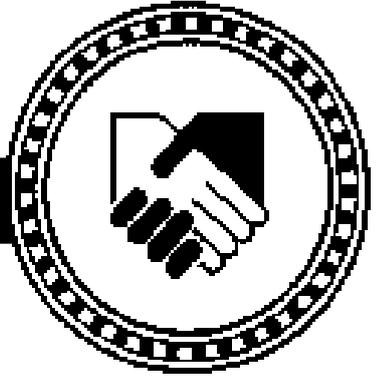


SAINT HELEN'S PARISH
4th SUNDAY of the YEAR
RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY



31st January 2021

LIVE STREAM

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

He Taught them with Authority

THE WORD THIS WEEK

The prophet 'speaks for' another: Rather than the terrifying closeness and voice of God, the people ask for an intermediary. Who can give authentic voice to God? People recognise when the words of Jesus 'make sure that everything is as it should be', casting out the deceit of the unclean spirits who 'put a halter round your necks'.

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

Deuteronomy 18: 15 – 20.

I will raise up a prophet and I will put my words into his mouth.

Response: Psalm 93.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord,
 hail the rock who saves us.
 Let us come before him, giving thanks,
 with songs let us hail the lord.

Come in; let us kneel and bend low;
 let us kneel before the God who made us
 for he is our God and we //
 the people who belong to his pasture,
 the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
 as on that day at Massah in the desert //
 when your fathers put me to the test;
 when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

1 Corinthians 7: 32 – 35.

I say this to help you, that you give your attention to the Lord.

Acclamation for the Gospel:

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!
 Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
 for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
 to mere children.
 Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

Mark 1: 21 – 28.

He taught them with authority.

Prayer of the Faithful: R/. Lord, teach us.

Preface and Eucharistic Prayer: For Reconciliation ii.

Communion Antiphon:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the Land.

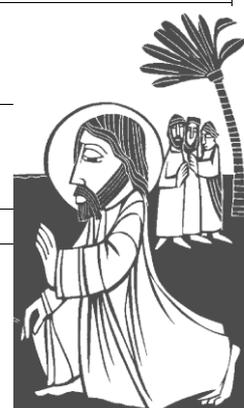


Barrier-breaking God,
 You embrace all cultures and lands,
 But keep a special place in your heart
 For the stranger, the widow and the orphan.
 Grant us the gift of your Spirit
 That we may become as You are,
 Welcoming all as brothers and sisters,
 Your cherished children,
 Citizens together in Christ's kingdom
 of justice and peace. Amen



MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

Sat 30 th January	6.30pm	4th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Racial Justice Sunday Holy Souls (TT)
Sun 31 st January	10.30am	for the People of Both Parishes
Mon 1 st February	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Bob Walton (MW)
Tues 2 nd February	9.45am 10.00am	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD Morning Prayer of the Church Szymczak Family Intention
Wed 3 rd February	9.45am 10.00am 5.00pm	Saint Blaise , Bishop and Martyr Morning Prayer of the Church Colin Everson (SVP) (Virtual) Holy Hour
Thurs 4 th February	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Cath and Tommy Jones (MB)
Fri 5 th February	9.45am 10.00am	Saint Agatha , Virgin and Martyr Morning Prayer of the Church Wignall Family Intention
Sat 6 th February	Am 6.30pm	Saint Paul Miki + Companions , Martyrs 5th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR For the People of Both Parishes
Sun 7 th February	10.30am	For those who have died in the pandemic



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:

Eileen Morris	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
Pat Doheney	Mary Gordine			

PRAYER CYCLE FOR OUR DIOCESE: Please pray for the People and Parish of the Saint Alban, Pontypool, their Priest, Rev Canon David Hayman, and their care of the County Hospital, Panteg, Saint Alban's High School, and Padre Pio Primary School.

THE YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

“All Scripture is inspired by God and useful for refuting error, for guiding people’s lives and teaching them to be upright. This is how someone dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.”

(2 Timothy 3:16)

THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

Y
DUW
SYN
SIARAD



Jesus taught with authority; and the authority came from his person. There we see what it can mean to be fully human: compassionate, fearless, loving, with a passion for justice and awareness of what is in the human heart.

It is by watching him and pondering his words and behaviour, that I too will learn what it is to be human.

Today is '**RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**'. As the tragedy of deaths in this pandemic, and the 'Black Lives Matter' campaign have reminded us, there is still an issue of racial inequality in our country, our culture, our economy, and in our church also. Noting it in prayer is also a call to us to examine our own attitudes, and play our part in changing the culture. In preparation, you may visit 'CARJ', the Catholic Association for Racial Justice, at carj.org.uk.

Tuesday is the feast of **The PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD** in the temple, otherwise known as **CANDLEMAS**. Traditionally the Candles, to be used throughout the coming year as symbols of to remind us of Christ our Light coming among us his people, are blessed on this day. The same celebration of Christ coming into the gathered community, his temple, marks the end and completion of the Christmas mystery. Time to turn off the Christmas lights and put away the crib.



The **FAMILIES PREPARING FOR RECONCILIATION** meet (virtually) on Tuesday (Candlemas) evening, 6.30pm: Parents and children together – split into two 'breakout' groups (we hope). Please remember to 'bring' your Baptismal Candle (or another like it if you can't find it) for the Rite of Enrolment at the end.

As Father's hope to reopen the church for private Prayer on Wednesdays has been thwarted by the continued lockdown, we will instead have a **VIRTUAL HOLY HOUR** at 5pm on Wednesday, finishing with **Evening Prayer and Benediction** at 6pm.



The Parish **BOOK CLUB** will meet on **Wednesday** (moved from the Tuesday to accommodate the Reconciliation families) at 7.00pm, to talk about the 'Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night', and chose a book for next month – always good fun, all welcome!

The **THURSDAY SCRIPTURE EVENING** returns this week, 7.30pm: A chance to read and share the Word of God with fellow parishioners in preparation for Sunday. No specialist knowledge needed, but a listening ear, an openness to the Spirit, and a desire to hear and explore what the Lord has to say to us today.



Ask your MP to sign a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain:

A new parliamentary motion (EDM 1340) is calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion.

Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MP, and ask them to sign this motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. It only takes 30 seconds using this easy-to-use tool. This tool can be accessed by visiting the link: www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion

Action is needed to further the cause of racial justice. What can we do?

In recent years Pope Francis has repeatedly used four verbs encouraging positive and direct action in relation to migrants and refugees, '**Welcome, Protect, Promote and Integrate**'. These same words are essential to advancing the cause of racial justice. None can be omitted, it is as necessary to have plans to *Promote* and *Integrate* as it is to *Welcome*.

An Invitation to Hope: Mission through Prayer and Lament

Book your free place for Bible Society's online webinar on Tuesday 9 February.



The Bible Society invites the Church to gather online to pray and lament for our nation, as we seek God together.

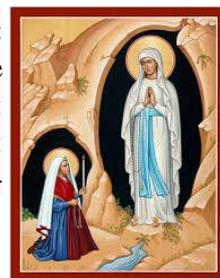
This ecumenical event will be held on **Tuesday, February 9th from 10:00 – 11:30 am.**

Led by Christian leaders from multiple traditions and cultural spheres, we will spend time in lament, prayer and reflection, asking God what He is doing and how we can partner with Him in a new wave of mission across our country. Fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP will be one of the speakers.

We so hope you will be able to join us. **You can [book your free place now.](#)**

OUR LADY OF LOURDES: Prepare in Prayer for her feast on 11th February:

Monday 8th February – Wednesday 10th February, 3 days of (virtual) prayer from the Cathedral in preparation for the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on Thursday 11th February: 6pm Rosary followed by Mass with a reflection by guest clergy, via the live-stream at: www.cardiffcathedral.org.uk; 7pm –8pm Novena Prayers via Zoom Link : 868-571-1627 / Password : cathedral.



“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.

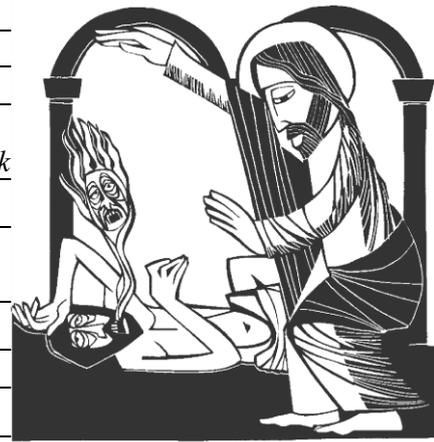
**ACT NOW AND URGE YOUR LOCAL MS
TO **REJECT** THE CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT (WALES) BILL
BY USING THE LINK:**

<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.

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY:

Date	Time	Event
Sat 30 th Jan	6.30pm	Sunday Mass
Sun 31 st Jan	10.30am 11.30am	Sunday Mass 'Coffee Morning': Via Saint Helen's Facebook
Tues 2 nd Feb	6.30pm	Reconciliation Families
Wed 3 rd Feb	5.00pm 7.30pm	Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament Book Club
Thurs 4 th Feb	7.30pm	Sharing the Sunday Scriptures
Sat 6 th Feb	6.30pm	Sunday Mass
Sun 7 th Feb	10.30am	Sunday Mass



Saint of the month: **SAINT BRIGID** February 1st –



St. Brigid was devoted to the poor and many miracles are attributed to her involving the multiplication of food such as butter. For this reason, she is often depicted in icons with a cow lying at her feet. Another miracle attributed to her involves the changing of bath water into beer.

St. Brigid founded Kildare Abbey and several other Abbeys in Ireland. Next to St. Patrick, she is Ireland's most beloved Saint. The miracle of food multiplication can be found in several places in the Bible. You may want to read the account of Jesus multiplying the 5 loaves and 2 fish in the Gospels (Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-14) or Elijah's prophecy that the Widow at Zarephath's flour and oil would not run out before the end of the drought (1 Kings 17:7-16). She is the Patron Saint of (among others): Ireland, poets and dairymaids.

Saint Brigid, unknown author, illumination from the manuscript "Ruskin Hours", c. 1300, ms. Ludwig IX 3, f. 106v, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles. Digital image courtesy of the Getty's Open Content Program.

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Part 1: **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH.** Section 1: 'I Believe' – 'We Believe'

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

III: The Characteristics of Faith The Necessity of Faith

(161) Believing in Jesus Christ and in the One who sent him for our salvation is necessary for obtaining that salvation (*Cf. 16:16; Jn 3:36; 6:40 et al.*). "Since 'without faith it is impossible to please [God]' and to attain to the fellowship of his sons, therefore without faith no one has ever attained justification, nor will anyone obtain eternal life 'But he who endures to the end.'" (*Dei Filius 3:DS 3012; cf. Mt 10:22; 24:13 and Heb 11:6; Council of Trent:DS 1532*).

(*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

