

SAINT HELEN'S PARISH  
**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY of LENT (Year B)**  
 Season of Lent + Easter  
**The Year of the Word**  
 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021



## Wisdom to the Simple

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:** (*Psalter: Week 3*)

**Gathering Antiphon:**

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

**Exodus 20: 1 – 17.**

*The Law was given through Moses.*

*Response: Psalm 18.*

*R/. You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.*

**1 Corinthians 1: 22 – 25.**

*Here we are, preaching a crucified Christ.*

*Acclamation for the Gospel:*

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory  
 God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son;  
 everyone who believes in him has eternal life.  
 Praise to you ....

**John 2: 13 – 25.**

*Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.*

**Prayer of the Faithful:** *R/. Lord, give light to our eyes.*

**Preface:** of Lent i. **Eucharistic Prayer:** ii.

**Communion Antiphon:**

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young by your altars, O Lord of Hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

**THE WORD THIS WEEK**

The Ten Commandments do not come from nowhere – God is renewing the Covenant with his people as he (re)forms them through their 40 year escape from slavery to the promised land. They are to learn to depend on God's goodness as gift, and to respond with the same generosity. Jesus finds they are still buying and selling grace, exploiting God's gift for profit, and is angry, turning their tables upside down. "God's weakness is stronger than human strength"



**Lent** What is the point of Lent? – *the Great Three-Days of entry into Christ's saving death-and-Resurrection.* **EASTER**

Maunder Thursday

**Mass of Our Lord's SUPPER**

**7.30 pm**

Good Friday

**Celebration of Our Lord's PASSION**

**3.00 pm**

Holy Saturday

**THE EASTER VIGIL AND MASS**

**OF OUR LORD'S RESURRECTION**

Saint Peter, Bargoed

**6.00pm**

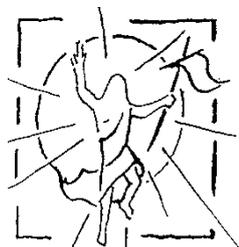
Saint Helen Caerphilly

**8.30 pm**

Easter Sunday

**Easter Mass of Our Lord's RESURRECTION**

**10.30 am**



## MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> March	6.30pm	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT</b> for the People of Both Parishes ( <i>Public Mass</i> )
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am 6.00pm	Pat Emanuelli (SVP) ( <i>Public Mass</i> ) Lou + Evelyn Krizan (JP) ( <i>Public Mass, Bargoed</i> )
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> March	9.45am 10.00am	( <b>Saint John of God</b> , Religious) Morning Prayer of the Church Mary Varghese (TT)
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am	( <b>Saint Frances of Rome</b> , Mother and Religious) Requiem for Cecelia Mawby
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> March	9.45am 10.00am 2– 4pm	Morning Prayer of the Church Raymond Britton (MB) Exposition and Adoration ( <i>Open to All</i> )
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> March	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Private Intention (MMJ)
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> March	9.45am 10.00am 7.00pm	Morning Prayer of the Church Private Intention (EM) Zoom Way of the Cross
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> March	6.30pm	<b>4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (Laetare Sunday)</b> for All who are Sick ( <i>Public Mass</i> )
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am 6.00pm	for the People of the Parish ( <i>Public Mass</i> ) for the People of the Parish ( <i>Public Mass, Bargoed</i> )



## THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

At any time by arrangement with the priest.

Or Saturday 10am – 11 am, 'Drive-by' Reconciliation: Father will be seated by the back door of the church – walk up (or drive up if it is raining) beside him, confess your sins, ask for a sign of penance and conversion, receive absolution, and walk or drive on. Please remember to stay well back from the 'confessional' until it is your turn

## 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
Mary Gordine	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	Mary & Wilson Brown	Pino Emanuelli	Katrin Merry	
Sian Thomas	Winifred Benedict	Albert Carley	Mary Everson	Maura Coll
Mary Kelleher	Pat Doheney	Gwyn Bishop	Christine Roberts	Bethan Jones

**PRAYER CYCLE FOR OUR DIOCESE:** Please pray for the People and Parish of Saint Thomas, Abercynon, with their priest, Reverend John Phillips..

## THE YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

“I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord,  
whoever believes in me will never die.”

(John 11: 25, 26)

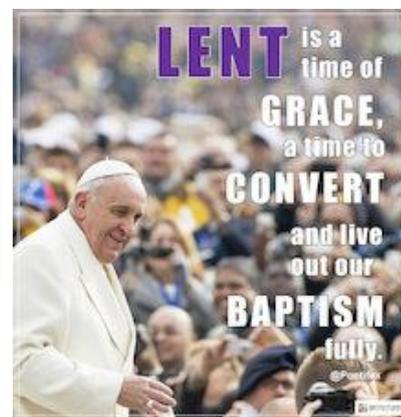
### Children's Liturgy of the Word:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1y-Jj-xj\\_Pi1TELikErsZkdUIOL-dQvAHcofMI73Ae\\_Y/edit](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1y-Jj-xj_Pi1TELikErsZkdUIOL-dQvAHcofMI73Ae_Y/edit)



“By the Decalogue God instructed humans to be friends with Godself, and in harmony with their neighbours. Humans are greatly helped by these things. God, however, stands in need of nothing from humanity. These blessings made us glorious, giving us what we lacked: Friendship with God. They bestowed nothing on God, for God did not stand in need of humanity's love.”  
(Saint Irenaeus – ‘Against the Heresies’)

**'SCRUTINIES'**: Today we begin the 'Scrutinies', 3 Sundays with a challenge and blessing for those preparing for the Baptism of Easter: Checking that they are indeed turning away from their old life and idols and turning (back) to God. These challenges and blessings are aimed first of all for new Christians, but they work as well and can be a reminder and a blessing for us this Lent as we renew our faith and prepare again for the Baptism of Easter.



**The BOOK CLUB** met last Tuesday and chose 'The President is Missing' by Bill Clinton and James Patterson as their next month's read. All welcome.

**And don't forget the 'GOOD BOOK'**: looking at the scriptures for the following Sundays, **7.30pm on Thursdays**: A good preparation, near and remote, for the Ministers of the Word, and for anyone who wishes to meet and greet Christ as he comes to us (as much in his Word shared as in his Body broken).

**FRIDAY WAY OF THE CROSS**: 7pm, this week led by Saint Helen, with different Parishioners each reading their own meditation on a station. To log in this week, please go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82512866831?pwd=c0VaczNDRDQzNWk0blg1SFpKcURDZz09>,

Meeting ID: 825 1286 6831, Passcode: 269430

**SAINT JOSEPH**: March used to be called 'the month of Saint Joseph'. With the double season of Lent into Easter being restored to centrality in our calendar, this has slipped back. But the Pope has called this a 'Year of Saint Joseph', so in this year of Saint Joseph:

**Prayer to Saint Joseph by Pope Francis.**

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil.  
Amen.*

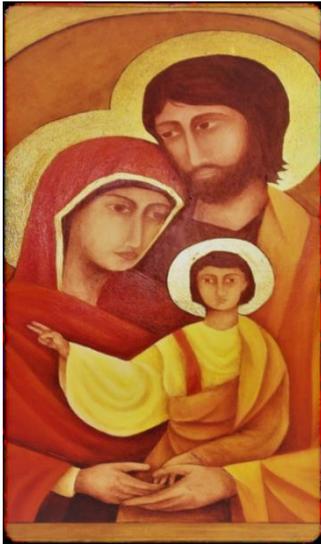


Today, Saint Joseph is venerated as the patron saint of workers, pilgrims, fathers, and carpenters. Yet we know very little about him since the Bible has so few references to his character and life. This seems remarkable given his role in Jesus' birth and early years. If Joseph is Jesus' human father, why is he not mentioned in the gospels of Mark and John? Luke mentions him by name only in the genealogy of Jesus and once in the narrative of Jesus' birth. However the Gospel of Matthew has Joseph as the central character of his nativity stories, so much of our picture of Joseph comes from Matthew's Gospel, but also embroidered with stories from the 2nd-century *Protoevangelium of James* and the *Golden Legend* by Jacobus de Voragine.

How Joseph and Mary came to be betrothed in the first place is described in the Proto-evangelium. An angel tells the priests to call all the widowers to come to the Temple with their rods; God will provide a sign to show which widower should be betrothed to Mary. Joseph is chosen because a dove flies out of his rod. In the Golden Legend, a flower grows out of the rod before the dove alights upon it. This symbol recalls the imagery of the flowering staff of Aaron showing he had been chosen by God in Numbers 17:23, and the Jesse rod in Isaiah 11:1-2.

## VIRTUAL COMMUNITY:

Date	Time	Event
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> March	6.30pm	Sunday Mass
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am 11.30am 7.30pm	Sunday Mass 'Coffee Morning': <i>Via Saint Helen's Facebook</i> Parish Discernment Dialogue
Thur 11 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30pm	Sharing the Sunday Scriptures
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00pm	Way of the Cross: <i>see previous page</i>
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> March	6.30pm	Sunday Mass
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am	Sunday Mass



**NOVENA TO SAINT JOSEPH** in preparation for his feast day on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March.

In this 'Year of Saint Joseph' we are offered and invited to join in a (virtual) nine days of prayer led by **Missio**, the national and international mission organisation, from Saint Joseph's church in Maidenhead. Mass will be at 7.30pm on the 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>; at 10am on the 13<sup>th</sup>; at 11am on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and at 7.30pm from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>. To join, and find more information and reflections, please go to: <https://millhillmissionaries.com/novena/>.

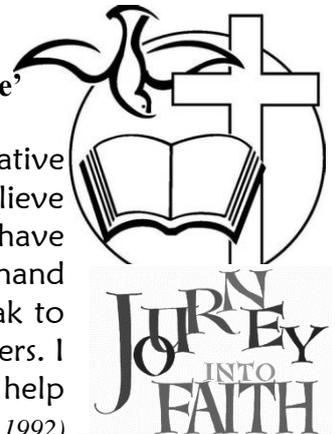
### THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

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

Chapter 3: **Man's Response to God.** Article 2: **We Believe.**

(166) Faith is a personal act - the free response of the human person to the initiative of God who reveals himself. But faith is not an isolated act. No one can believe alone, just as no one can live alone. You have not given yourself faith as you have not given yourself life. The believer has received faith from others and should hand it on to others. Our love for Jesus and for our neighbour impels us to speak to others about our faith. Each believer is thus a link in the great chain of believers. I cannot believe without being carried by the faith of others, and by my faith I help support others in the faith.

*(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

**Hall Bookings:** 20883192

**Marriage Care:** [appointments@marriagecare.co.uk](mailto:appointments@marriagecare.co.uk)

**Cardinal Newman School:** 01443 494110

**Calendar Additions:** [calendar@sthelenscaerphilly.com](mailto:calendar@sthelenscaerphilly.com)

**www.sthelenscaerphilly.com**

**Website Additions:** [Website@sthelenscaerphilly.com](mailto:Website@sthelenscaerphilly.com)

