

SAINT HELEN'S PARISH
5th SUNDAY of LENT
Season of Lent + Easter
The Year of the Word

21st March 2021



I will be their God, and they my People

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

Gathering Antiphon:

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause
against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34.

I will make a new covenant and never call their sin to mind.

Response: Psalm 50.

R/. A pure heart create for me, O God.

Hebrews 5: 7 – 9.

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

Acclamation for the Gospel:

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God
If anyone serves me, says the Lord, they must follow me,
Wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

John 12: 20 – 30.

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Prayer of the Faithful: *R/. Have mercy on us, O Lord.*

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

Communion Antiphon:

Amen, amen, I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat
falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain.
But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

THE WORD THIS WEEK

"Then I shall be their God and they shall be my People": the promise of a new covenant, to be written on human hearts. And now the hour has come, by his dying to bring new life, submitting to be raised again, Jesus writes the pattern into the human heart, and so wins glory, and our hope and future. "I will draw all people to myself".



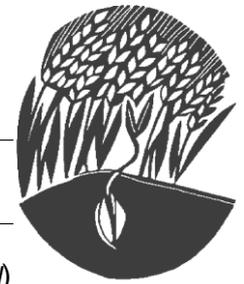
CELEBRATING EASTER: Restrictions continue, so once again we will have to book for the great feasts of the Triduum, and accept that maybe **we will not all be able to attend all the ceremonies in person.**

Here are the phone numbers you will need to call to book a place for Palm Sunday: Please note, **only** ring on **Wednesday, only** between the hours of **11am and 7pm.**

Palm Sunday vigil Mass (Saturday 6.30pm) please ring 02920 883291;

Palm Sunday morning Mass (10.30am): please ring 02920 861930.

The numbers to call for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter morning will be published in next week's newsletter.



MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

Sat 20 th March	6.30pm	5th SUNDAY OF LENT for the people of the Parish (<i>Public Mass</i>)
Sun 21 st March	10.30am 6.00pm	for the homeless (<i>Public Mass</i>) for the People of the Parish (<i>Public Mass, Bargoed</i>)
Mon 22 nd March	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Kyrle + Cecelia James (SW)
Tues 23 rd March	9.45am 10.00am	National Day of Remembrance Morning Prayer of the Church for all who have Died in the Pandemic (<i>Public Mass</i>)
Wed 24 th March	9.45am 10.00am 2– 4pm	Morning Prayer of the Church Pat Emanuelli (LA) Exposition and Adoration (<i>Open to All</i>)
Thurs 25 th March	9.45am 10.00am	THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD Morning Prayer of the Church Johanna + Harold Jones (P+PJJ)
Fri 26 th March	9.45am 10.00am 12 noon 7.00pm	Morning Prayer of the Church for the survivors of Sexual Abuse Funeral Service for Shirley Partridge Zoom Way of the Cross
Sat 27 th March	6.30pm	PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION Weissman Family Intention (<i>Public Mass</i>)
Sun 28 th 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 next Saturday 10 am – 11 am, 'Drive-by' Reconciliation: Father will be seated by the back door of the church – drive up (or walk up if on foot) 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
Pat Doheny	Gwyn Bishop	Christine Roberts		

PRAYER CYCLE FOR OUR DIOCESE: Please pray for the People and Parish of Saint Peter, Bargoed, with their priest, Canon John Kelly.

THE YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

“It is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I shall be their God and they shall be my people.”

(Jeremiah 31:33)

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1y-Jj-xj_Pi1TElikErsZkdUI0L-dQvAHcofMI73Ae_Y/edit



At Mass this weekend we will celebrate **THE THIRD SCRUTINY**.

This Sunday, the Spring Equinox, is also **Census Day**: Have you filled yours in?

Tuesday will be a **NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**: at 12.45 pm the Archbishop will say a Diocesan Mass in the Cathedral for all who died in the Diocese over this year. To log in, please go to the Cathedral website, <https://www.cardiffcathedral.org.uk/>. To add the name of a loved one please email Father Daniel Stanton at cathedral@rcadc.org. We will also have Mass for those who have died in our parish and families, at 10am – this will be open to all, within current restrictions.



THE FAMILIES PREPARING FOR RECONCILIATION meet, with the catechists, at 6.30pm on Tuesday, to look at 'God Gives us Forgiveness', and how we celebrate it.



FRIDAY WAY OF THE CROSS: 7pm. This week led by Saint Helen. To log in this week, please use the code go to: Meeting ID: 853 7571 7089 Passcode: 822644. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85375717089?pwd=MGk2S1M1cWFKNEZlV0ZrZTEuZkYwZz09>

Next Saturday night **THE CLOCKS SPRING FORWARD**: *Wakey wakey!*

Next Sunday is **PALM SUNDAY OF OUR LORD'S PASSION**: But this year we will not have the usual blessing of Palms and procession from outside. Nevertheless, you can still pluck a budding or blossoming bough to bring to church for a blessing, and thank God for yourselves, putting it in a place of honour in your house. If you are not coming to Church, why not put a cross next to the branch, and a candle, and gather as a family to read through the Passion story in Saint Mark's Gospel (Mark 14:1 – 15:47), and pray together.



As usual there will be a **Collection for the S.V.P.** after the Palm Sunday Mass, or through the letterbox if you are not able to come to Mass. Please support this our main parish charitable arm for the local community, along with the Food Bank. The Archbishop has suggested that these two could be the main beneficiaries of our Lenten Almsgiving.

Palm Sunday takes us into **HOLY WEEK**, and to the end of Lent on Maundy Thursday morning, and beginning of **THE TRIDUUM** that same evening.

On Maundy Thursday, the day of **OUR LORD'S SUPPER**, if you can't be at the Mass, remember after joining the live-stream to have a fine 'pass-over celebration' family meal, if possible in the evening. Start with the grace: "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread to share, fruit of the earth and work of human hands", and take a bread roll or small baguette, break it and give a piece to each person to share. Don't forget to say a grace for the drink too, as you pour it out: "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this wine/juice/cola to share, fruit of the earth and work of human hands",

On Good Friday, the day of **OUR LORD'S PASSION**, if you cannot share in the afternoon liturgy, as well as the live-stream you can make a 'prayer focus' with a family cross and a candle, and at a convenient time gather the family to read together Saint John's telling of the Passion of Jesus as a victory procession, John 18:3 – 19:42. And you might stop to listen to Bach's Saint John Passion.

On Holy Saturday, after a day in the tomb with Christ, the Church gathers for the great **EASTER VIGIL AND MASS**. If you cannot join in, in person or live-stream, try to gather as a family with a large candle, the children's Baptism candles, and a candle each for the adults. By their light, read some of the old testament readings, at least 3rd one, Exodus 14:15 – 15:1; then the Mass reading, Romans 6:3-11. Then sing a good Alleluia and read the Gospel, Mark 16:1-7. And have a late night party!

And on Easter Sunday, if you don't get to the **MORNING MASS**, then after the Easter Egg hunt, or just before your Easter meal, read together the disciples' race, discovery, and joy: John 20: 1-9.

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY:

Date	Time	Event
Sat 20 th March	6.30pm	Sunday Mass
Sun 21 st March	10.30am 11.30am	Sunday Mass 'Coffee Morning': <i>Via Saint Helen's Facebook</i>
Tues 23 rd March	6.30pm	Reconciliation Families Prepare
Fri 26 th March	7.00pm	Way of the Cross: <i>see previous page</i>
Sat 27 th March	6.30pm	Sunday Mass
Sun 28 th March	10.30am	Sunday Mass

(N.B.: no **Scripture Sharing** this week – Governors' Meeting)

'COVENANT': Lest we think God's love in the Covenants is meant for us or our group alone, the Scriptures are filled with reminders to God's chosen ones that they are *not* the only ones God welcomes. The frightened, tired, and confused People of God in the wilderness no doubt sought comfort in the knowledge that their covenant with God made them special. They soon learned that there is no rest for God's chosen ones. Instead, God's people are called out for a special mission.

It is true that God stands with God's people through every trial, but not so that they will sit comfortably with the privilege of apparent divine favour. Rather they have to stand in solidarity with, graciously receive and *welcome* the vulnerable ones within their community and beyond it whom they might find it most difficult to accept: the orphan, the widow, the stranger, The Other. God has done it for them. Now they are called to respond in kind, literally imitating the God who graciously welcomed them.

Stephanie Spellers: 'Radical Welcome: Embracing God, the Other, and the Spirit of Transformation'

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

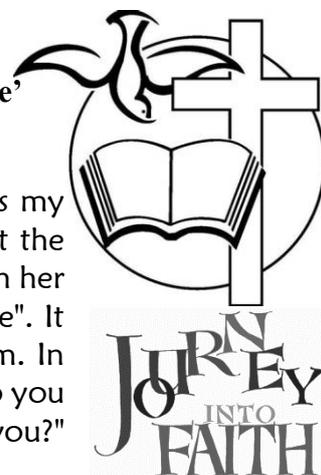
Part 1: **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH.** Section 1: 'I Believe' – 'We Believe'

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

1. "Lord, look upon the faith of your Church"

(167) It is the Church that believes first, and so bears, nourishes and sustains my faith. Everywhere, it is the Church that first confesses the Lord: "Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you", as we sing in the hymn "*Te Deum*"; with her and in her, we are won over and brought to confess: "I believe", "We believe". It is through the Church that we receive faith and new life in Christ by Baptism. In the *Rituale Romanum*, the minister of Baptism asks the catechumen: "What do you ask of God's Church?" And the answer is: "Faith." "What does faith offer you?" "Eternal life." (*Roman Ritual, Rite of baptism of adults*).

(*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



“Spread the Gospel: Developing a Missionary Parish.”

The Diocesan Evangelisation Commission has through the year of lockdown created this tool and piloted it in several parishes, reviewing, and amending it. The Programme has now been approved by His Grace, Archbishop George Stack. It is a seven-week programme, running for one and half hours via Zoom on one evening a week, delivered by members of the Evangelisation Commission. The dates will be Wednesday, April 21st and 28th, May 5th, 12th and 19th, June 9th and 16th, 2021.

The Programme is open to all parishioners and clergy across the Archdiocese.

The new Programme will remind participants of the Great Commission and the basic Gospel message. It will cover a rudimentary history of the early church and will consider important messages from recent papal papers, how to give witness testimonies, evangelise non-church going Catholics with practical approaches and tools for building a parish team to evangelise.

The Genesis Mission will be an important follow-on activity offered to participants, providing the necessary skills for successful encounters.

For more information and to register for the Programme, please email Madeleine Walters at madeleine.walters@rcadc.org.

WHO IS SAINT JOSEPH? (Extracts from a sermon by Cardinal Herbert Vaughan)

If you labour for your bread, if you have a family to support, if you endure privation and suffering; if your heart is searched by trials at home, you are assailed by some importunate temptation; if your faith is sorely tested, and your hope seems lost in darkness and disappointment; if you have yet to learn to love and serve Jesus and Mary as you ought, Joseph, the head of the house, the husband of Mary, the nursing-father of Jesus – Joseph is your model, your teacher, your father. Truly in all things, Saint Joseph is the people’s friend.

Go, then, to Joseph and do all that he shall say to you.

Go to Joseph, and obey him as Jesus and Mary obeyed him.

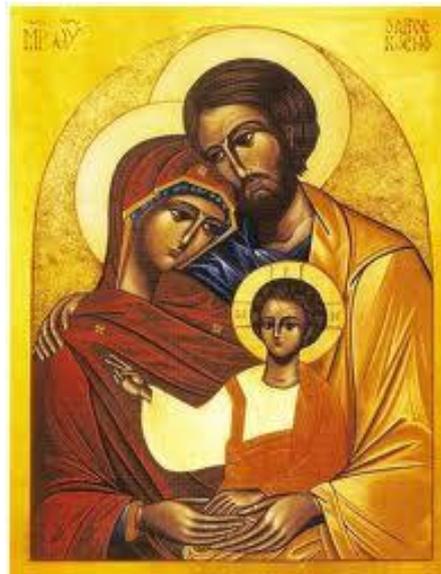
Go to Joseph, and speak to him as they spoke to him.

Go to Joseph, and console him as they consoled him.

Go to Joseph, and honour him as they honoured him.

Go to Joseph, and be grateful to him as they were grateful to him.

Go to Joseph, and love him as they loved him, and as they love him still.



A Concert of Hope - Tuesday 23rd March 7pm-8.30pm

With UK based Syrian musicians and singers, many of whom are themselves refugees. It will be hosted by Nour Sakr and Ahmad Al-Rashid. It will include stories of Refugee Sponsorship and testimonies from Nick Coke, Lord Alf Dubs, and Bekele Woyecha, and will honour the rich cultural history of Syria. It will be on Zoom and all the music has been pre-recorded to avoid any technical problems. It is free also – you just have to register.

To register for the Concert for Hope on 23rd March please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/concert-for-hope-tickets-143097070189>

