

SAINT HELEN'S PARISH

25th SUNDAY of the YEAR

24th September 2023



“Why be envious because I am generous?”

THE WORD THIS WEEK:

“Why be envious because I am generous?” Perhaps we all forget that every day and every thing is a gift from God, and can get jealous of those who seem to get a better deal. Strangely it is those with least, on the margins, who seem to get a better deal in Jesus’ story of the workers in the vineyard, the parable of the kingdom. As the prophet knows, God’s thoughts and God’s ways are not ours. But they challenge our expectations and assumptions, and call us all to change up a gear. “Seek the Lord while he is still to be found” and “avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.”

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE: (Psalter: Week 1)

Gathering Antiphon: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Isaiah 55: 6 – 9.

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Response: Psalm 144.

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

Philippians 1: 20 – 24, 27.

Life to me is Christ.

Acclamation for the Gospel:
Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

Matthew 20: 1 – 16.

Why be envious because I am generous.

Prayer of the Faithful: R/. Lord, be close to us.

Preface + Eucharistic Prayer: Jesus, who went about doing good.

Acclamation: When we eat ...

Communion Antiphon: I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.





MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

Sat 23 rd September	5.45pm – 6.15pm 6.30pm	Celebration of Reconciliation 25th SUNDAY in Ordinary Time For the People of the Parish
Sun 24 th September	10.30am 6.00pm	Private Intention (GJ) for the People of the Parish (Bargoed)
Mon 25 th September	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church John Foster
Tues 26 th September	12:30am	Edith Wilson Requiem
Wed 27 th September	11.30am 2.00 - 4.00pm	Saint Vincent de Paul , Priest Anthony Miniphy Requiem Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thurs 28 th September	9.45am 10:00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Denis Cronin + Catherine Cannon
Fri 29 th September	9.45am 10:00am 11.00am	SAINT MICHAEL, SAINT GABRIEL + SAINT RAPHAEL , Archangels Morning Prayer of the Church Ferdinand Thomas (TT) Funeral Service for Catherine Cannon
Sat 30 th September	5.45 – 6.15pm 6.30pm	Saint Jerome , Priest + Doctor of the Church Celebration of Reconciliation 26th SUNDAY in Ordinary Time for the Care of Creation
Sun 1 st October	10.30am 12 Noon	Jan & Grazyna Mroz (JK) for the People of the Parish (Bargoed)



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 5.45 – 6.15pm, or at any time by arrangement with the priest.

Or you may want to investigate the new times for confession in Saint David’s Cathedral, Cardiff:

Monday – Thursday: 12 noon – 12.30pm. Friday: 6.00-7.00pm
Saturday: 10.45-11.45am & 4.30-5.15pm Sunday: 10.00-10.30am

PARISH PRAYER LIST:

In our prayers we are asked to pray for all who are sick, in hospital or at home, the long-term housebound, and those who care for them, including:

- | | | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Eileen Morris | John Maguire | Wilson Brown | Sandra Bray | Jackie Jones |
| Mary Gordine | Pauline Richards | Margaret Jones | Carol Morrissey | Frank Price |
| Anne Morgan | Pat Starynski | Keith Griffiths | Katrin Merry | Albert Carley |
| Mary Everson | Gwyn + Margaret Bishop | | Loraine Cahill | Ann Head |
| James McGowan | Katherine Partenie | Dafydd Thomas | Vi Zadnic | Vic Owen |
| Carol Beech | | | | |

PLEASE PRAY ALSO

for Catherine Cannon who died on the 13th and will be buried on Friday. We pray also for Denis Cronin who will be cremated on Thursday, and for Edith Wilson and Anthony Miniphy buried from here on Tuesday and Wednesday. And we pray for Joseph Benedict who will be buried on Wednesday 11th October. May they rest all in peace, and may their bereaved families and friends and fellow parishioners find strength and consolation in the Lord

Stay Curious! Try Alpha. THIS Wednesday 20th September, 7pm



“It’s not Fair!”

Today’s Gospel story is a parable of the clash between the divine and human perspective, on what we earn, and what God gives us freely. The workers who have sweated through the heat of the day cannot fathom God’s radical generosity. However hard we work or well we live – or badly or little – the eternal day is never earned or deserved, but always a free gift of God’s over-generous, ‘unfair’, love. God’s ways are not our ways.

This weekend we celebrate **WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**, an opportunity to learn more about refugees and migrants on the move, to pray for them as a community, and work together for positive change. The theme for this year's celebration is 'Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay'. Many of us have come to this country as migrants, or are descended from migrants. To celebrate our roots and show solidarity with today's migrants we are all invited to sport a symbol of our family origins. A flag, a badge, a scarf etc. Let's be proud of our diversity. For more information and a few ideas, please see the poster in the porch.

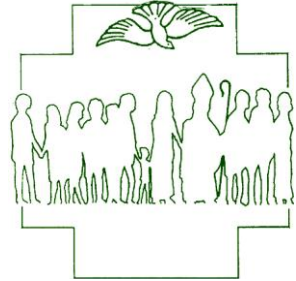
**Free to choose whether
to migrate or to stay**
World Day of Migrants and Refugees
24th September 2023



The **FINANCE & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE** meets this Monday at 7:00pm in the Small Meeting Room.

GROWING INTO COMMUNION IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE CHURCH:

On Tuesday we welcome to the families who enrolled to grow (or grow deeper) into our privileged love and relationship with God Our Father, through Christ, and gathered by his Holy Spirit in the Communion of his Body. In Baptism we promised to accompany them and walk with their children on this journey. So on Tuesday evening the Parents are invited to gather in the hall at 7pm, to explore what help they want or feel they need, and how and when we can provide it. First off, as always as we share this pilgrimage and draw new members into the Body of Christ in the Sacraments of Initiation into the Paschal Mystery, we start with prayer, in the Mass, in our other liturgies and groups, and in private prayer.



ALPHA CONTINUES on Wednesday, 7pm in the Hall, and every Wednesday till Advent. Were you there last week? Will you be here this week? Don't miss out!
A big THANK YOU to Steve and all his great team for a good start, and for the ongoing work, prayer, and love.

CHOIR: This Thursday and every Thursday, 6:30pm in the Church.

THE PARISH SUPPORT GROUP prays, dreams, and plans the day to day life and on-going growth and development of us as a Parish. We are all invited to join in, on Sunday evening, 7pm in the Hall. Do you have ideas, do you have energy, do you have a prayer for the Parish? Come early or come late, we are all invited to work in the vineyard of the Lord, with whatever we have to offer, so come and share in the building up and development of this corner of the Kingdom.



Who are all these ~~children~~ young people walking to the hall, running round the grounds, and generally not in school? They are **CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL Year 7** starting the Catholic Secondary education as in prayer and recollection (and ice-breaking!) in the hall over the next few Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. Please keep them in your prayers as they negotiate this great transition.

Saint Illtyd's School & College Celebrates 100 Years. Opening Mass for the Year: Saint Alban's Church, Splott. Thursday 5th October at 7pm. Please join Archbishop Mark, past pupils and De La Salle Community Light refreshments in Parish Hall'



Something for the NEWSLETTER? Please email it to Caerphily@rcadc.org. clearly marked 'Newsletter Item', to arrive before 3pm on Tuesdays, for Lizzie to be able to include it. Thank you.

SAINT HELEN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE – THIS WEEK:

Date	Time	Event
Sun 24 th September	11.30am	Tea, Coffee, and Catch-up
Mon 25 th September	9:00am – 3:00pm 4:30 – 8:30pm 7:00pm	Cardinal Newman School Retreat Fame Factory Finance Committee (S.M.R.)
Tues 26 th September	9:00am – 3:00pm 7:00pm	Cardinal Newman School Retreat Bringing our Children into Communion
Wed 27 th September	7:00pm	Alpha
Thurs 28 th September	12pm – 1pm 1.30pm	Elder Fit Sweaty Mamas
Fri 29 th September	9:00am – 3:00pm	Cardinal Newman School Retreat
Sat 30 th September	9.30 – 11:30am	Dance
Sun 1 st October	11.30am 7.00pm	Tea, Coffee, and Catch-up Parish Support Group

COLLECTION	16 th /17 th September	
Gift Aid	£	20.00
Gift Aid standing Orders	£	527.00
Other Envelopes	£	61.00
Non Gift-Aided Standing Orders	£	172.00
Loose	£	254.91
TOTAL	£	1,034.91
Mission Sunday	£	462.50



“Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ” *Saint Jerome*

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Part 1: THE PROFESSION OF FAITH. Section 2: The Creeds

Chapter One: I Believe in God the Father

Article 1 "I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth"

Paragraph v. Heaven and Earth: II The Visible World

(345) The sabbath - the end of the work of the six days. The sacred text says that "on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done", that the "heavens and the earth were finished", and that God "rested" on this day and sanctified and blessed it. (*Genesis 2:1-3*) These inspired words are rich in profitable instruction:

(346) In creation God laid a foundation and established laws that remain firm, on which the believer can rely with confidence, for they are the sign and pledge of the unshakeable faithfulness of God's covenant. (*Cf. Hebrews 4:3-4; Jeremiah 31:35-37; 33:19-26.*) For his part man must remain faithful to this foundation, and respect the laws which the Creator has written into it.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1992

Parish Directory

Safeguarding Officer: cmben@hotmail.com **SVP:** 07704 292 945 **Hall Bookings:** 07533 082601

Bereavement support: 20863450 **Music:** 07971848734. **Piety shop:** post vacant

CAFOD: 07726968374 / 07791318809 **Marriage Care:** appointments@marriagecare.co.uk

Saint Helen's School: 20852532 **Cardinal Newman School:** 01443 494110

Newsletter items: 20883192 **Calendar Additions:** calendar@sthelenscaerphilly.com

caerphilly@rcadc.org **www.sthelenscaerphilly.com**

Website Additions: Website@sthelenscaerphilly.com



Saint Helen is a Parish of the Archdiocese of Cardiff, a Registered Charity, No. 1177272

“HOW IMPORTANT it is for our time to discover
that God alone responds to the yearning
present in the heart of every man and woman”

Pope Benedict xvi

LIKE IT OR NOT, MIGRATION IS CHRIST KNOCKING AT OUR DOOR, SAYS JOSEPH KELLY

There's an old maxim that everyone supports the principle of immigration, until the immigrants start arriving. Fear of the stranger in our midst is probably one of the oldest and most dubious of human emotions, with its origins lost in human prehistory.

In many ways it's a strange suspicion, as every human person living today is a migrant of some kind – whether recent, or from the countless transglobal migrations of the past.

Migration is actually what all humans do, and have always done. Back in my childhood years the suspicion of the stranger was focussed on migrants from the West Indies – some 300,000 came to Britain between 1948 and 1964. But equally more than one million Brits (known as the Ten Pound Poms on account of the cheap cost of the processing fee) abandoned the UK for Australia under the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme, launched in 1945. The steady flow of migrants into the UK in the post war, ration book years was far from a burden and a threat, it offset an employment and economic crisis and helped balance the books and build a country that was in shreds after six years of bitter warfare, appalling human losses and the effects of German bombing.

Subsequent waves – from the Asian continent, from Poland and eastern Europe, have been met with the same battery of fears and suspicions, but there is little evidence that life or the UK economy has been upended by such arrivals. Romans, Vikings, Saxons and Normans may have impacted significantly on the subsistence landscape of ancient Britain, but industrialised economies invariably consume outsiders, with little or no impact on the national monolith. As anyone who has researched their family history will know, national identity is not a fixed thing but an ever-changing journey, of which we are just a moment on the road.

National points of reference and identity are just transitory and meaningless things, but sometimes the stranger brings with them far great affinities that do seem to threaten the ambient landscape. Much of the ambivalence to the current wave of people fleeing wars and terrible persecutions in places such as Syria, some African states and various middle eastern countries is centred on the muslim faith they bring with them, which is seen as a far greater threat to that very abstract thing called the 'British way of Live' than any national loyalties. But it was no more than a century or so ago that so-called British citizens were expressing exactly the same kind of irrational terror at the rapid expansion of Catholicism across the UK.

In his message for this Sunday's 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis makes the point that: “the migratory flows of our times are the expression of a complex and varied phenomenon that, to be properly understood, requires a careful analysis of every aspect of its different stages, from departure to arrival, including the possibility of return.”

It's worth pointing out that even our present pontiff is a prominent migrant – his father Mario Bergoglio fled from Italy to Argentina in 1929 to escape the fascist regime of Benito Mussolini. Francis himself lived variously in Spain, Ireland and Germany before his papacy brought him back to his late father's homeland.

Perhaps understandably he has this year leant on the story of the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt (*Mt 2:13*) to illustrate the pressures that confront so many migrants today.

“The flight of the Holy Family into Egypt was not the result of a free decision, nor were many of the migrations that marked the history of the people of Israel,” says Francis.

“The decision to migrate should always be free, yet in many cases, even in our day, it is not.”

Working out the reasons why any person decides to desert their homeland isn't easy, but you can assume it's because life there isn't pleasant. Unfortunately legislators and media commentators have a tendency to distil these many impulses into a bare, clumsy distinction between 'refugee' and 'economic migrant'. Refugee is perfectly straightforward – no-one should be living in a war or natural catastrophe zone and few ought to dispute our obligation to help and support any suffering fellow human being.

It's really the notion of 'economic migrant' that causes the moral objections, warps sympathy and tends to be weaponised by those seeking to exclude strangers. The great problem with the concept of economic migration

is that, whilst numerous people on the move are undoubtedly seeking to improve their living circumstances, to resist this human flow is to endorse the idea that some people have a right to a better standard of living than others. Inevitably this creates a distorted kind of meritocracy, where it is taken for granted that some will have unreasonable wealth, whilst others ought to be held down in their impossible poverty or are somehow in that position for metaphysical reasons. Sadly, I sense an increasingly vocal commitment to this terribly warped definition of society being expressed by those who claim to govern this country.

As Pope Francis says: "joint efforts are needed by individual countries and the international community to ensure that all enjoy the right not to be forced to emigrate, in other words, the chance to live in peace and with dignity in one's own country."

This particular 'right' is a long way from being defined or codified, but nothing short of a global concept of the common good will suffice if the population of this world is ever to live in peace. Given the increasingly perilous state of the planet and its economies and natural resources, it's no longer tenable to hold to the view that some are entitled to have everything, whilst there's a single person who has nothing. For so long as such imbalances exist, people will always uproot themselves in search of security and the life they see that others have.

That is simply Christ knocking at our door, and who are we to ignore Him?

Joseph Kelly is a Catholic publisher and theologian

An abbreviated editorial from The Universe.