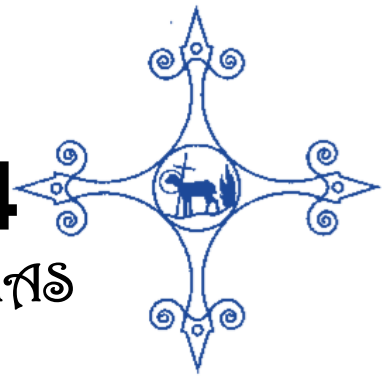




SAINT HELEN'S PARISH
Advent Sunday 4
 SEASON OF ADVENT~CHRISTMAS
 24th December 2023



Nothing is Impossible to God

THE WORD THIS WEEK:

"Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to everyone everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith!"

We know, as David learns, that God doesn't live in buildings, but in people and families. The revelation begins when His Spirit overshadows Mary to make her the 'Ark of God'. In the 'incarnational' sacraments Christ's Spirit comes down on us also, to fill us with his presence as the Temple made of Living Stones. "Give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ"

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: (Psalter: Week 4)

Gathering Antiphon:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the just one;
 let the earth be opened and bring forth a saviour.

2 Samuel 7: 1 – 5, 8 – 12, 14, 16.

The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord.

Response: Psalm 88.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
 through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
 Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
 that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
 I have sworn to David my servant:
 I will establish your dynasty for ever
 and set up your throne through all ages."

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
 my God, the rock who saves me.'
 I will keep my love for him always;
 for him my covenant shall endure.

Romans 16: 25 – 27.

*The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages,
 is now made clear.*

Acclamation for the Gospel:

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!
 I am the handmaid of the Lord:
 let what you have said be done to me.
 Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!*

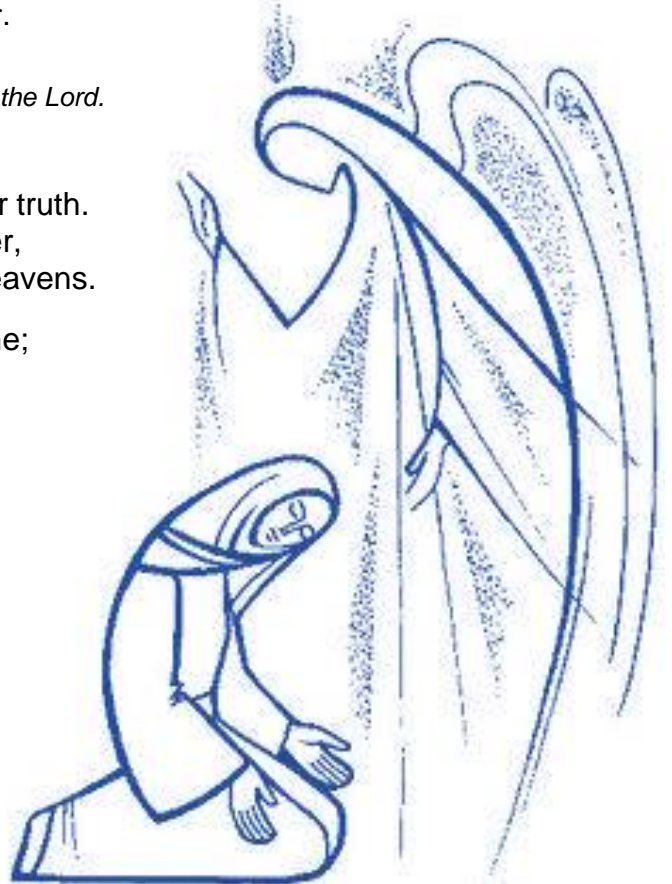
Luke 1: 26 – 38.

Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.

Prayer of the Faithful: R/. Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Preface: of Advent II **Eucharistic Prayer:** II **Acclamation:** Save us Saviour...

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a virgin will conceive and bear a son,
 and his name will be called Emmanuel.



*I am the handmaid of the Lord:
 let what you have said be done to me.*

MASS AND SERVICES:

Sat 23 rd Dec <i>O Emmanuel</i>	5.45 – 6.15pm 6.30pm	Celebration of Reconciliation 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT for the People of the Parish
Sun 24 th Dec	10.30am 12.00pm	for the People of the Parish Maria Lockwood (AH) (Bargoed)



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

	5.15pm 5.30pm 7.00pm 10.30pm	Carols Vigil Mass (The People of the Parish) Mass in the Night (People of the Parish) (B' goed) Mass in the Night (Our Families)
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Mon 25 th Dec	10.30am	Mass in the Day (The people of the Parish)
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STEPHEN



Tues 26 th Dec	9.45am 10:00am	SAINT STEPHEN , the First Martyr Morning Prayer of the Church The Altar Servers Intentions
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Wed 27 th Dec	9.45am 10:00am 2.00 - 4.00pm	SAINT JOHN , Apostle and Evangelist Morning Prayer of the Church John Ryan Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
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Thurs 28 th Dec	9.45am 10:00am	THE HOLY INNOCENTS , Martyrs Morning Prayer of the Church Isabelle Bourdon
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Fri 29 th Dec	9.45am 10:00am	(Saint Thomas Beckett, Bishop and Martyr) Morning Prayer of the Church Thomas Loome
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Sat 30 th Dec	5.45 – 6.15pm 6.30pm	Celebration of Reconciliation The HOLY FAMILY Thanksgiving (TT)
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Sun 31 st Dec	10.30am 12.00pm	for Our Families for the People of the Parish
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THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

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

COLLECTIONS	16 th /17 th December	
Gift Aid	£	370.00
Gift Aid standing Orders	£	527.00
Other Envelopes	£	30.00
Non Gift-Aided Standing Orders	£	172.00
Loose	£	361.60
TOTAL	£	1,460.60

Thank you

Over 12? Keen on your faith?
Is it time for **CONFIRMATION?**
To look at the possibilities, please
take, fill in, and return a red enrolment
form from the porch. Thank you.

The ALTAR SERVERS are invited to celebrate the Deacon Saint Stephen, their Patron, and renew their commitment to their Ministry at the Feast-Day Mass on Tuesday ('boxing day') at 10am.

The first Monthly **PARISH LUNCH** of the new year will be on Wednesday 10th January at 1pm.

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: caerphilly@rcadc.org email: caerphilly@rcadc.org

Website: www.sthelenscaerphilly.com



MASS TIMES

The news we have all been waiting for!

The final decision is **5.30pm** on Saturdays and **10.00am** on Sundays.
 These changes will not take place until the weekend of **the First Sunday of Lent 2024 :: 17/18th February**. Meanwhile we will continue with the present times of 6.30pm on Saturday and 10.30am on Sundays.

And the voting?

At Mass in church:

Saturday	
5.30pm	49/112
6.00pm	42/112
6.30pm	21/112

Sunday	
9.30am	18/112
10.00am	60/112
10.30am	34/112

TOTALS

Saturday:

5.30pm: 69

6.00pm: 53

6.30pm: 29

Sunday:

9.30am: 37

10.00am: 66

1.30am: 47

via Scoop in the Primary School

Saturday		
5.30pm	16/35	46%
6.00pm	11/35	31%
6.30pm	8/35	23%

Sunday		
9.30am	15/34	44%
10.00am	6/34	18%
10.30am	13/34	38%

Via Parish email: Saturday: 5.30pm 4/4; Sunday: 9.30am 4/4

As more and more characters turn up in the crib, please note that this year's **CRIB OFFERINGS** will go towards the work of **Caritas Cardiff and Menevia**, and aid for Christians in the Holy Land, through the work of **Friends of the Holy Land** and the **Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre**.

"A Synodal Church in Mission - a workshop with Austen Ivereigh"

A great event for Cardiff has been organised by the Diocesan Synodal Team.

Dr. Austen Ivereigh will be speaking at the Cornerstone on **Wednesday, January 24th at 2pm**.

Austen Ivereigh is a UK-based Roman Catholic journalist, author, commentator and biographer of Pope Francis. He was one of the expert facilitators at the recent Synod in Rome which began on October 4th 2023. We look forward to his presentation in Cardiff and hope many of us will be able to attend.

For the Year of Prayer, we are offered a weekly **CATECHESIS ON PRAYER** from Pope Francis, available in full via [Pope Francis Catechesis for Year of Prayer.pdf](#)

Advent **2023**



We await the dawn,
amid darkness and weariness.
The light of day will come.
Let us not lose heart!"

POPE FRANCIS, ADVENT 2020

Your support this Advent shines a light of hope in the
darkness of a harsh winter for Afghan families.

cafod.org.uk

A family in the Afghan mountains where communities are bracing for the life-threatening cold temperatures that winter brings leaving them cut off from crucial supply networks.

