



# SAINT HELEN'S PARISH THE HOLY FAMILY SEASON OF ADVENT~CHRISTMAS

31<sup>st</sup> December 2023



## The Child Grew, Filled with Wisdom

### THE WORD THIS WEEK:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph teaches us that every family is holy, a place where God's love may appear on earth, and live among us.

We welcome **CANON EDDIE O'CONNELL** who comes to celebrate Mass with us and for us.

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

*Gathering Antiphon:* The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in a manger.

### **Genesis 15: 1 – 6. 21: 1 – 3.**

*Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood.*

*Response: Psalm 104.*

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
O sing to him, sing his praise;  
tell all his wonderful works!

Be proud of his holy name,  
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.  
Consider the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face.

Remember the wonders he has done,  
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.  
O children of Abraham, his servant,  
O sons of the Jacob he chose.

He remembers his covenant for ever,  
his promise for a thousand generations,  
the covenant he made with Abraham,  
the oath he swore to Isaac.



### **Hebrews 11: 8. 11 – 12. 18 – 19.**

*The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac.*

*Acclamation for the Gospel:*

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

At various times in the past and in various different ways,  
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;  
but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son.  
Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

### **Luke 2: 22 – 40.**

*The child grew, filled with wisdom.*

**Prayer of the Faithful:** R/. Lord, bless your children.

**Preface:** of the Nativity      **Eucharistic Prayer:**      **Acclamation:** When we eat this bread ...

**Communion Antiphon:** Our God has appeared on earth, and lived among us.

## MASS AND SERVICES:

Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec	5.45 – 6.15pm  <b>6.30pm</b>	Celebration of Reconciliation <b>The HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH</b> Thanksgiving (TT)
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	<b>10.30am</b> <b>12.00 noon</b>	Our Families The People of the Parish (Bargoed)
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	9.45am 10.00am	<b>MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD</b> morning Prayer of the Church Service of the Word with Communion
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	9.45am 10:00am	<b>Saint Basil the Great + Saint Gregory Nazianzen,</b> Bishops + Doctors of the Church Morning Prayer of the Church Service of the Word and Communion
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	9.45am 10:00am 2.00 - 4.00pm	Morning Prayer of the Church Service of the Word and Communion Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9.45am 10:00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Service of the Word with Communion
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9.45am 10:00am 1.00pm 3.15pm	Morning Prayer of the Church Jill Goldsmith (GG) Funeral Service for Bryan Barrett (Bargoed) Funeral Service for Morris Perry
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	5.45 – 6.15pm  <b>6.30pm</b>	Celebration of Reconciliation <b>The EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b> Renee Marie Kelly
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>10.30am</b> <b>12.00 noon</b>	for the People of the Parish Irene Rossi (MR) (Bargoed)



## THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

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

COLLECTIONS	23 <sup>rd</sup> /24 <sup>th</sup> December	
Gift Aid	£	25.00
Gift Aid standing Orders	£	527.00
Other Envelopes	£	26.00
Non Gift-Aided Standing Orders	£	172.00
Loose	£	245.24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>1,025.24</b>
		<b>Thank you</b>

**THANK YOU** from Father Kelly for so many cards, so many thoughtful gifts, and the so generous Christmas collections, with which once again you spoilt him. Thank you! Thank you!

**THANK YOU** also to all who made Christmas in church a beautiful and joyful celebration: The Junior and Senior singing groups formed and led by Brett, for their choir pieces and for leading the us all in singing praise to the new-born Christ; The Servers of Welcome and Altar, Word and Communion; All who prepared the church for the liturgy, with special mention for the Flower Arrangers; And all who gathered to worship, pray, and rejoice at the birth of Our Saviour and celebrate and share him in Communion: Lovely to see so many familiar faces and families back together.



Is it time **TO BE CONFIRMED?** Are you keen on your faith? Keen to grow in your life of faith? To look at the possibilities, please take, fill in, and return a red enrolment form from the porch. Thank you.



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

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 :: 17/18<sup>th</sup> 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

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%

TOTALS	
Saturday:	
5.30pm:	69
6.00pm:	53
6.30pm:	29
Sunday:	
9.30am:	37
10.00am:	66
1.30am:	47

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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](#)