



SAINT HELEN'S PARISH 2nd Sunday in Lent Season of LENT/EASTER

25th February 2024



This is my Son, the Beloved – Listen to Him

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: (*Psalter: Week 2*)

Genesis 22: 1 – 2, 9 – 13, 15 – 18.

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

Response: Psalm 115.

I trusted even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

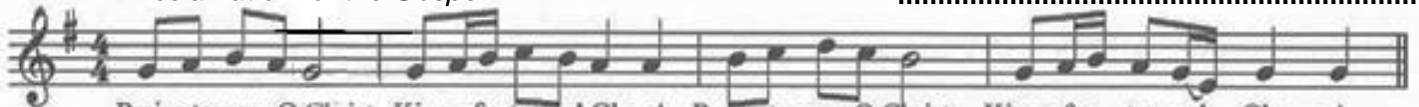
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Romans 8: 31 – 34.

God did not spare his own Son.

Acclamation for the Gospel:



Praise to you, O Christ, King of e-ter-nal Glory! Praise to you, O Christ, King of e - ter-nal Glo - ry!

You have only one Father, and he is in heaven;
You have only one Teacher, the Christ!
Praise to you

Mark 9: 2 – 10.

This is my Son, the Beloved.

Prayer of the Faithful: *R/. Lord, show us your brilliance.*

Preface: of the 2nd Sunday of Lent **Eucharistic Prayer:** II

Acclamation: We proclaim your death, O Lord...

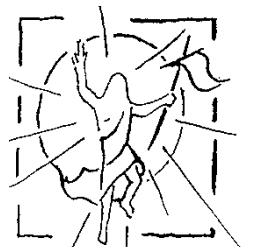
THE WORD:
It is not only the thin air that allows us those 'mountain-top experiences': The places themselves are 'thin places' where the spiritual seeps into our material world. The Disciples experience it, and suggest capturing the spirit in material constructions – always a danger for the followers of a God who comes to 'be-with-us'. Abraham is caught up in the world's ways of thinking that sacrifice is a bribe to a demanding God, to secure our future at the cost of our present, rather than a thanks giving. But the angel frees Isaac his bonds, and Abraham from his small picture of God. With God on our side, and coming to live with us, who can be against us?



Please put your filled FAMILY FAST DAY envelope in the offertory Today

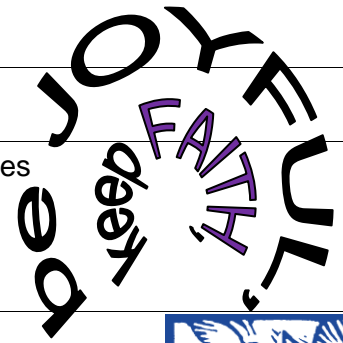
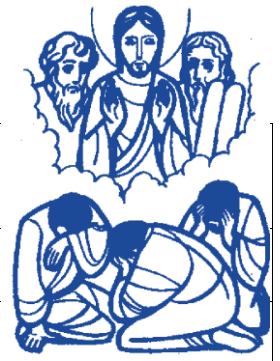
Lent What is the point of Lent? – *the Great Three-Days of* **EASTER**

Maundy Thursday	<i>Mass of Our Lord's SUPPER</i>	7.30 pm
Good Friday	<i>Celebration of Our Lord's PASSION</i>	3.00 pm
Holy Saturday	<i>THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL AND MASS OF OUR LORD'S RESURRECTION</i>	8.30 pm
Easter Sunday	<i>Easter Mass of Our Lord's RESURRECTION</i>	10.00 am



MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

Sat 24 th Feb	5.30pm 6.30pm	2nd SUNDAY of LENT Angela Taylor (GT) Celebration of Reconciliation
Sun 25 th Feb	10.00am 12.00 noon	Mona + Gordan Clinch (JO'B) for the People of the Parish (Bargoed)
Mon 26 th Feb	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Jim McGowan (GJ)
Tues 27 th Feb	11:45am	Requiem for Mary Bailey
Wed 28 th Feb	9.45am 10:00am 2.00 - 4.00pm	Morning Prayer of the Church All Souls (TT) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thurs 29 th Feb	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Gloria Vella (JC)
Fri 1 st Mar	6.30am 10.30am 12.45pm 7.00pm	SAINT DAVID , Bishop, Patron of Wales Elena + Luigi Antoniazzi (G+RF) World day of prayer Service, Wesley Chapter Mass (Saint David's Cathedral) The Way of the Cross – in Saint Helen's
Sat 2 nd Mar	5.30pm 6.30pm	3rd SUNDAY of LENT For Vocations (Catenians) Celebration of Reconciliation
Sun 3 rd Mar	10.00am 12.00 noon	For the People of the Parish for the People of the Parish (Bargoed)



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday after Evening Mass, or at any time by arrangement with the priest.

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 | Katrin Merry | Albert Carley | Mary Everson |
| Gwyn + Margaret Bishop | Loraine Cahill | Ann Head | Vi Zadnic | |
| Katherine Partenie | Dafydd Thomas | Carol Beech | Terrence Miles | Keith Jones |
| Mike Shaughnessy | Denis Kennedy | Johanna Greenaway | | |

“The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows. For the aim and object of apostolic works is that all who are made sons of God by faith and Baptism should come together to praise God in the midst of His Church, to take part in the sacrifice, and to eat the Lord's supper.”

Sacrosanctum Concilium – The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy – Vatican Council II

PLEASE NOTE that from the start of April this year we will **NO LONGER BE PROVIDING OFFERTORY ENVELOPES**. If you are a gift aider and would like us to be able to collect the tax as in previous years, please will you set up a standing order as we are required to be able to trace your donation back to you. If you do not gift aid then we hope that you will continue your generous support of the parish by putting your contribution loose in the plate at Mass. **A very big thank you to all our envelope users for your contributions, some spanning many decades in the parish.**

MORNING MASS this Sunday will be led by years 3 + 4 of Saint Helen's School. The children will welcome us as we gather, open and proclaim the Scriptures for us, lead us in prayer for our wider world, and gather our offerings. Thank you to the school and the families for giving the children this feel and experience of Sunday liturgy.

We will also add our fast-filled **CAFOD** envelopes to the collection.



A child for baptism? The **Parents' REPARATION for BAPTISM** continues on Monday at 7.00pm in the Small Meeting Room.



GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE SCRIPTURES - with a Twist! Through Lent, we will be following the "**WE DARE TO SAY**" booklet, on **Zoom**, 7.30 each Monday, a chapter a week: If you haven't yet been able to find or form your small group, this might be it! Meeting ID: 867 5738 6414 Passcode: 545872. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86757386414?pwd=Vkl5UnVveVdDTVJSaWlpQzAxTDZPdDZ0>.

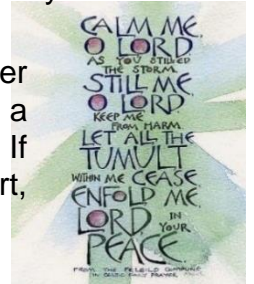
THE 4 CONSTITUTIONS – AN INTRODUCTION: On Tuesday we begin our Lenten revision of the 4 great Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council, as asked by the Pope (See below), with an introduction to them and to the Council itself. 7pm, in the Hall.



Friday is the feast of **SAINT DAVID**. With his reputation for asceticism and serious (earth-moving!) prayer, it seems right to keep the usual Lent Friday Mass time of 6.30am, and perhaps this Friday above all for us to rise to the challenge and blessings. A small reward is the Break-fast straight after in the hall: See you there!



Also this Friday is The **'WORLD DAY OF PRAYER'**. please join with other Churches in the Caerphilly area at 10.30am in Wesley Methodist Church for a shared Prayer Service, prepared this year by the Christian woman of Palestine. If anyone wishes to represent Saint Helen's Parish and take a small reading part, please contact Brigid on 07847 426 011.



The Christian Aid LENT LUNCHES continue on this Lent, 12-1pm every Friday in Wesley Methodist Church. Lunch is a cup of soup and a roll, served with tea or coffee. Admission by donation, with proceeds going to Christian Aid. We in Saint Helen are jointly responsible for providing soup and servers for the week of 8th March. If you can help, please contact Brigid on 07847 426 011. Many thanks.



The Friday WAY OF THE CROSS this week is in Saint Helen.



As well as following and sharing "**WE DARE TO SAY**" as part of the Lenten work of the **YEAR OF PRAYER** in preparations for the **Jubilee Year of Hope 2025**, Pope Francis is encouraging the study of the **Four Constitutions** of the **Second Vatican Council**. Using the Clifton Diocesan reflections on the Four Constitutions of Vatican II as jumping off points, we are offered the following opportunities to look at them together:

- Tuesday 27th February: Introduction to the Constitutions
- Tuesday 5th March: Lumen Gentium -The Church
- Tuesday 12th March: Sacrosanctum Concilium – The Liturgy
- Tuesday 19th March: Gaudium et Spes – The Church in the Modern World.

Yes, you are right, we have missed out 'Dei Verbum' – The Word of God: – we have already been blessed by Kate Duffin's excellent exposition of that earlier this year.



SAINT HELEN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE – THIS WEEK:

Date	Time	Event
Sun 25 th February	11.00am	Parish Tea, Coffee and Catch-up
Mon 26 th February	9.30am 1.30pm 4.30pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	'Parents + Toddlers' 'Sweaty Mamas' 'Fame Factory' Baptism Preparation (s.m.r) "We Dare to Say" (zoom)
Tues 27 th February	10.00am 7.00pm	"Music Appreciation" The 4 Great Vatican II Constitutions - Introduction
Weds 28 th February	9.30am	'Parents + Toddlers'
Thurs 29 th February	12.00 2.00pm	"Elder Fit" "Sunshine Club"
Fri 1 st March	7.00am 12noon	Feast Day Break-fast Shared Lent Lunch, in Wesley
Sat 2 nd March	9.30am	"Dance"
Sun 3 rd March	11.00am	Parish Tea, Coffee and Catch-up

CAFOD
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COLLECTIONS	17 th /18 th February
Gift Aid	£ 15.00
Gift Aid standing Orders	£ 527.00
Other Envelopes	£ 36.00
Non Gift-Aided Standing Orders	£ 172.00
Loose	£ 277.27
TOTAL	£ 1,027.27

Thank you

Friday was Lent **FAMILY FAST DAY**: Please add your fast-filled **CAFOD** envelopes (available in the porch) to the offertory collection.



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 vii. The Fall

I. Where Sin abounded, Grace abounded all the more

(387) Only the light of divine Revelation clarifies the reality of sin and particularly of the sin committed at mankind's origins. Without the knowledge Revelation gives of God we cannot recognize sin clearly and are tempted to explain it as merely a developmental flaw, a psychological weakness, a mistake, or the necessary consequence of an inadequate social structure, etc. Only in the knowledge of God's plan for man can we grasp that sin is an abuse of the freedom that God gives to created persons so that they are capable of loving him and loving one another. Original sin - an essential truth of the faith.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1992

Parish Directory

Safeguarding Officer: cmben@hotmail.com

Bereavement support: 20863450

CAFOD: 07726968374 / 07791318809

Saint Helen's School: 20852532

email: caerphilly@rcadc.org

Priest: Revd. John Kelly 20 883192

SVP: 07704 292 945

Hall Bookings: 07533 082601

Music: 07971848734.

Piety shop: post vacant

Marriage Care: appointments@marriagecare.co.uk

Cardinal Newman School: 01443 494110

Website: www.sthelenscaerphilly.com



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



The word *Christian* is more familiar to us today than the word *disciple*. These days, *Christian* often seems to apply more to the kinds of people who would turn cross to the other side of the road if they saw Jesus coming toward them than it does to his true followers. Perhaps the time has come to rediscover the power and challenge of that earlier, more primary word *disciple* which occurs over 250 times in the New Testament, in contrast to the word *Christian*, which occurs only three times. Maybe those statistics are trying to tell us something.

To be alive in the adventure of Jesus is to hear that challenging good news of *today*, and to receive that thrilling invitation to follow him ... as a *disciple*.

Brian McLaren – We Make the Road by Walking