SAINT HELEN'S PARISH

30th SUNDAY of the YEAR

26th October 2025

God, Be Merciful to Me, a Sinner

WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES SAY?

How can I save my soul? If I do all my religious duties? At the right time, in the right order? Or must I depend on someone else, a Saviour? 'The one whose service is pleasing to the Lord will be accepted.' So also will the widow and orphan, and 'the prayer of the humble.' Paul has fought the good fight, but he also knows that 'the Lord stood by me and strengthened me'. And even the God-fearing but proud Pharisee thanks God - for his boasts. But sadly he thinks that they make him better than others. The tax collector knows his sinfulness, but he is not beyond hope, he also remembers he must step out and do his bit coming to the Lord in prayer. 'In the Lord my soul shall make its boast.'

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

Sirach 35: 12 – 14, 16 – 19.

The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds.

Response: **Psalm 32.**

I will bless the Lord at all times,
the praise of him is always in my mouth.
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to cut off their remembrance from the earth.
When the just one cries out, the Lord hears,
and rescues him in all his distress.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
All who trust in him shall not be condemned.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted.

2 Timothy 4: 6 – 8, 16 – 18.

There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness.

Acclamation for the Gospel:

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!
God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

Nor can it be said that most of the poor are such because they do not "deserve" otherwise, as maintained by that specious view of meritocracy that sees only the successful as "deserving."

Dilexi Te

Luke 18: 9 – 14.

The tax collector went down to his house justified, rather than the Pharisee.

Prayer of the Faithful: Lord, be merciful.

Preface + Eucharistic Prayer: of Reconciliation i.

Acclamation: Save us, Saviour ...

MASS AND SERVICES THIS WEEK:

Sat 25th October	**5.30pm**	**30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** for the People of the Parish
Sun 26th October	**10.00am** **11.45am**	Rita Bell (CP) Stan Dernulc (TR) (Bargoed)
Mon 27th October	9.40am 10.00am	Rosary Service of the Word, with Communion
Tues 28th October	9.40am 10.00am	**SAINT SIMON AND SAINT JUDE**, Apostles Rosary Service of the word, with Communion
Wed 29th October	9.40am 10.00am 2.00 – 4.00pm	Rosary Service of the Word, with Communion Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thurs 30th October	9.40am 10.00am	Rosary Service of the Word, with Communion
Fri 31st October	9.40am 10.00am	Rosary Service of the Word, with Communion
Sat 1st November	**5.30pm**	**THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS** for the People of the Parish
Sun 2nd November	**10.00am** **11.45am**	Vic Owen (HO) Terry McCarthy (MW) (Bargoed)

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday **6.30pm**, 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 also for their families and carers:

John Maguire	Carol Beech	Sandra Bray	Dafydd & Martin Thomas	
Pauline Richards	Margaret Jones	Carol Morrissey	Frank Price	Anne Morgan
Pat Starynski	Katrin Merry	Michael Thomas	Albert Carley	Loraine Cahill
Ann Head	Theresa Erwin	Keith Jones	Lorna Elliot	Lloyd Jones
Katherine Partenie	Anthony Bromley	Terrence Miles	Monica Skillen	Ethan Boswell

Gwyn + Margaret Bishop Mary + Alan Conant Johanna + Brian Greenaway

	Saturday	Sunday
Church Cleaning	Team 2	
Welcome	Sylvia Miles, Ariana Maybank & Douglas Gordine	Charlotte Roberts and Cliff Bray
Word	Berenice Williams, Simon O'Brien & Steve Jones	Geraldine Holmes, Joana Kolasa & Roxana Partenie
Communion	Margaret Rees, Daniel Barrett & Max Lewinski	Varghese Thalian, Tiberion Partenie & Gina Jenkins
Counters	Catherine Pritchard, Josephine Caruana & David Hughes	

Hallowe'en ~ "All Hallows' Eve" or "All Saints' Eve", when the 'saints', the souls of those who died this year, saved by Christ but still on the journey through purgation to heaven, roam the world, not to frighten us, but to ask for our prayers. So through November, the 'month of the Holy Souls', we will offer the Mass, the saving sacrifice of Christ, for the 'Holy Souls', starting on All Souls Day, this year on November 3rd.

On Monday 17th November we will celebrate a SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE.

HALF TERM! A break for the children, a change in routine and chance to catch breath for school teachers and staff, a juggling act for parents, and a time with the grandchildren for the grandparents. Wishing everyone a joyful, different, and refreshing week!

The Clocks go Back this Saturday night

CLOTHING / BRIC-A-BRAC COLLECTION this weekend. Any little-used but good condition surplus items for the S.V.P. shops for resale and reuse. Please place your gifts in the 'print-room' at the back of church before 4pm this Sunday, or any last Sunday of the month.

This Saturday the **PARISH ALPHA GROUP** are sharing a day of **PRAYER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT** gathered in Cardinal Newman High School. Fully refreshed they will meet again In the hall on **Wednesday, 7pm** for the regular Wednesday evening **ALPHA.** As always these times and opportunities are open to us all – talk to Tracey, Steve, Gina, or Giovanna, or just come along to see.

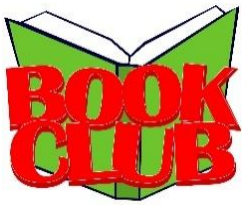
A PARISH QUIZ, this coming Friday, All-Hallows' Eve, at 7.00pm in the hall. A chance to revive a great parish tradition, with the usual 'refreshments' to help the memory flow, and the chance to order Fish (and chips) to feed the little brain cells, as well as lots of intriguing brain-teasers to amuse us all. Look forward to seeing you there.

On Saturday **THE YOUTH ALPHA GROUP** will gather in the hall at midday for a quiet afternoon journeying together to deepen what we have already shared these last few weeks A light lunch will be provided, but feel free to bring your favourite drinks or sweets to supplement it and feed those hungry minds and souls. Finishing about 3.00pm

FATHER MATT ROCHE SAUNDERS will be here again on Saturday to celebrate Mass with us, and to join the new Parish **YOUTH GROUP** in the hall afterwards. Meanwhile the Parents are invited for their own time together talking teenagers , religion, and maybe a video of their own to discuss.

This year's **SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE** will be celebrated on Monday 17th November

On Tuesday, after sharing their great enjoyment of Alif Shafad's 'There are Rivers in the Sky, the **BOOK CLUB** decided to read 'The Café with no Name' by Richard Seethaler, and meet again to discuss it on Tuesday 18th November. Why not pick up a copy and join them?



MARRIAGE CLASS OF '25: The five couples in the Parish who prepared for Marriage this year (one wedding still to come) are invited to share stories, joys, and photos together on Monday 25th November.

THANK YOU to all who contributed to the **MISSION SUNDAY** collection last weekend. If you still have money to contribute, please take a red Missio envelope from the porch for it, and place it in the collection basket along with your regular collection.

THANK YOU also to all who have the red Mission Boxes in their homes and regularly contribute and support this central work and call of the Church.

'Missionaries Of Hope Among All Peoples'

THANK YOU to all who shared in this month's Parish Lunch. We will next share lunch on Wednesday 19th November.

SAINT HELEN'S CENTRE – THIS WEEK:

Date	Time	Event
Sun 26th October	11.00am	Tea, Coffee, Chat & Biscuits
Mon 27th October	5.30pm – 8.00pm	Fame Factory
Tue 28th October	10.30am – 12.30pm 1.00pm-3.00pm	Music Appreciation Art for Beginners
Wed 29th October	7.00pm	Parish Alpha
Thurs 30th October	6.30pm	Singing Practice (in Church)
Fri 31st October	11.30am 1.00pm	Street Pastor Trustees (S.M.R) History Group
Sat 1st November	9.15 – 11.30am 12.00pm – 3.00pm 6.30pm 6.30pm	Dance Confirmation Quiet Day Youth Group Parents' Group (S.M.R)
Sun 2nd November	11.00am	Tea, Coffee, Chat & Biscuits

COLLECTIONS	18th / 19th October	
Gift Aid standing Orders	£ 527.00	
Non Gift-Aided Standing Orders	£ 172.00	
Loose	£ 392.68	
TOTAL	**£ 1,091.68**	**Thank you**
World Mission Sunday	**£ 197.08**	**Thank you**

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH
Part 1: **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE CREEDS**
Chapter Two: **I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, THE ONLY SON OF GOD**
Article 3: **"He Was Conceived By The Power Of The Holy Spirit, And Was Born Of The Virgin Mary"**
Paragraph 2. "Conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary"
ii. Born of The Virgin Mary

(505) By his virginal conception, Jesus, the New Adam, ushers in the new birth of children adopted in the Holy Spirit through faith. "How can this be?" (*Luke 1:34; cf. John 3:9[ETML:C/]*). Participation in the divine life arises "not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God". (*John 1:13*). The acceptance of this life is virginal because it is entirely the Spirit's gift to man. the spousal character of the human vocation in relation to God (*Cf. 2 Corinthians 11:2*) is fulfilled perfectly in Mary's virginal motherhood. *Catechism of the Catholic Church 1992*

"A concrete commitment to the poor must also be accompanied by a change in mentality that can have an impact at the cultural level. In fact, the illusion of happiness derived from a comfortable life pushes many people towards a vision of life centred on the accumulation of wealth and social success at all costs, even at the expense of others and by taking advantage of unjust social ideals and political-economic systems that favour the strongest. Thus, in a world where the poor are increasingly numerous, we paradoxically see the growth of a wealthy elite, living in a bubble of comfort and luxury, almost in another world compared to ordinary people. This means that a culture still persists — sometimes well disguised — that discards others without even realizing it and tolerates with indifference that millions of people die of hunger or survive in conditions unfit for human beings.."" *Pope Leo's first magisterial document,* Dilexi Te *("I have loved you"),*

To read the full document, go to: http://www.vatican.va›documents›20251004-dilexi-te

Parish Directory

Priest: Revd. John Kelly 20 883192
Safeguarding Officer: cmben@hotmail.com **SVP:** 07704 292 945 **Hall Bookings:** 07533 082601
Bereavement support: 20883192 **Music:** 07971848734. **Piety shop:** 07777659744
CAFOD: 07726968374 / 07791318809 **Marriage Care:** appointments@marriagecare.co.uk
Saint Helen's Primary School: 20852532 **Cardinal Newman High School:** 01443 494110
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