SAINT HELEN'S PARISH

THE SEASON OF ADVENT+CHRISTMAS

THE HOLY FAMILY
JESUS, MARY, and JOSEPH

Let the Word of Christ Dwell in You Richly

THE WORD THIS WEEK

After the beauty and poetry of the Christmas prophesies and stories, the lectionary turns to practical advice on family life: Encouragement to family piety and duty from Ben Sirach; and a more theological, Christ-centred, imagining of Christian family life from Saint Paul. Then in Matthew's Gospel this is modelled for us in the prompt and practical actions of Saint Joseph, the dreamer, in response to the changing situations in which he and his little family find themselves.

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

Sirach 3: 2 – 6, 12 – 14.

whoever fears the Lord, honours his parents.

Response: **Psalm 127.**

Blessed are those who fear the Lord,
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands shall you eat.
You will be blessed and prosper.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed//
the husband who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Sion.
May you see Jerusalem prosper
all the days of your life!

Colossians 3: 12 – 21.

Family life in the Lord.

Acclamation for the Gospel:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Matthew 2: 13 – 15, 19 – 23.

Take the child and his mother, and to Egypt.

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

Preface: of the Nativity iii. ***Eucharistic Prayer:*** i.

Acclamation: When we eat this bread ,,,,

'The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is His as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.' *John 1:14*

MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

Sat 27th Dec	**5.30pm**	**The HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY, + JOSEPH** Loi Tai Wong (Y))
Sun 28th Dec	**10.00am** **11.45am**	**The HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY, + JOSEPH** for the People of the Parish with the **Baptism** of David Partenie David Williams (MW) (*Bargoed*)
Mon 29th Dec	9.45am 10.00am	Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas Morning Prayer of the Church Service of the Word, with Communion
Tues 30th Dec	9.45am 10.00am	Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas Morning Prayer of the Church Service of the Word, with Communion
Wed 31st Dec	9.45am 10.00am	Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas Morning Prayer of the Church Service of the Word, with Communion
Thurs 1st January	**10.30am**	**MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD** For Peace
Fri 2nd January	am 9.45am 10.00am	**Saint Basil the Great + Saint Gregory Nazianzen** , Bishops + Doctors Morning Prayer of the Church Service of the Word, with Communion
Sat 3rd January	Am **5.30pm**	**The Holy Name of Jesus** **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY** for the People of the Parish
Sun 4th January	**10.00am** **11.45am**	for our Families for the People of the Parish (*Bargoed*)

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 6.30pm, or at any time by arrangement with the priest.

THANK YOU!

A huge THANK YOU from us all to: - The church Cleaners, who did such a thorough job preparing for Christmas, and to the Flower Arrangers for their classic displays; Thanks also to Brett and his many marvellous Musicians and Singers for all their preparation and practice, ensuring three joy-filled celebrations; Thanks to the Welcomers and the Altar Servers, the Sacristans, and the Ministers of the Word and of Communion; and to all who prepared, participated, and joyfully celebrated the Coming of our God.

A(n equally)**BIG THANK YOU** from Father John for the very generous Christmas offerings, the many thoughtful and generous presents, and all the greetings received this Christmas. Many thanks!

A BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!

NEW YEAR'S DAY Mass for **The Solemnity of MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD** will be at 10.**30**am, to allow a little lie in after the night before, and will be followed by a short **PARISH WALK** to the Maenllwyd Inn for lunch, or just a drink. I f you want to join in Lunch please book with Father **TODAY** to ensure you get a place at the table.

THE YOUTH GROUP (13 -17) are invited for a New Year get together on Saturday (3rd) at 6.30pm in the hall, to share Christmas stories and New Year resolutions, pizza, and pop.

18 – 30? Time for a **'YOUNG ADULTS' GROUP?** Kirsty invites you to explore the idea, on Saturday 17th January, 6.30pm in the hall.

MARY CONANT and FAMILY would like to thank the community of Saint. Helen for the many cards and numerous messages of love and support they have received following Alan's recent death. May God Bless you All.