

Our Lady Star Of The Sea Catholic Church

The Presbytery, 22 Devon Place, Mumbles, Swansea, SA3 4DR
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St David's Catholic Primary School
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 'Love God, Love Learning, Love Life'

SOME MASSES LISTED BELOW ARE LIVESTREAMED

Date & Liturgical Celebration	Time	Mass Intention
Sunday 27th September 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	David Jordan, RIP (B R) Peter Stewart, RIP (SVP) Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran, RIP (M & S G) Parish Community
Monday 28 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am	George Boyce, RIP (N E)
Tuesday 29 th Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels (Feast)	9.30am	Maureen Davies, Birthday Thanksgiving (E T)
Wednesday 30 th <i>St Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church</i>	9.30am	Intentions of Maureen Taylor & Susan Taylor (P & C C)
Thursday 1 st October <i>St Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church</i>	9.30am	Intention of the people of Nigeria (Independence Day)
Friday 2 nd <i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>	9.30am	John Fowler, RIP Anniversary (C F-H)
Saturday 3 rd <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	10.00am	Dr Tony Power, RIP (M & A O'C)
Sunday 4th October 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Laurie Regan, RIP Anniversary (B R) Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran, RIP (M & A O'C) The Clarke Family, Thanksgiving Parish Community Our Lady's Lamp: Private Intention (Fouracre Family)

CONFESSIONS: After Saturday morning Mass, Saturday evenings from 6pm-6.15pm, and on request.

FACE COVERINGS AT MASS: The Welsh Government have announced that from 14/9/20 the wearing of face coverings will be compulsory in shops and in other enclosed public spaces. This will apply to adults and children aged 11 and over. There is evidence that the wearing of face coverings reduces the risk of passing on Covid-19 and other respiratory viruses to others and even if you feel well you may still carry the virus. For these reasons, you will now need to wear a face covering when you attend Mass. The face covering may be removed in order to receive Holy Communion. By wearing a face covering you will be helping to protect others.

HOW TO PRE-BOOK SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE: To book a place at Sunday Masses, please contact **Madeline Ahearne** on phone or email (01792361194; madelineolss@aol.com) or send an email to the Parish email address mumbles@menevia.org. Please provide your name, the number attending Mass, and contact phone number when you book. This record will be held for 14 days solely for track and trace (COVID-19).

LIVESTREAMED MASSES: Masses are livestreamed from our Parish every day. For a link to livestreamed Masses please go to our Parish website www.ourladystaroftheseamumbles.org.uk and click "Livestream" on the menu bar. You can also find us on **YouTube** by searching for **Our Lady Star of the Sea Mumbles**.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Debbie Horton, Louise Watkins, Penny Kieft.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: THANK YOU! As you will be aware, without the weekly collections the Parish income suffered during the early part of the year. However, down to your increasing generosity over the period, the Parish's regular "collection" income is now close to pre-lockdown levels. For that we wish to sincerely thank you. The Parish now faces the resumption of our monthly contribution towards the many costs borne centrally by the Diocese which will put further strain on resources. The monthly levies to the Diocese, which were suspended due to the impact of COVID-19 on the incomes of parishes, will now be collected in arrears. We are sure your generosity will continue to help meet this cost.

THANK YOU: Many thanks also to all who gave generously to the belated Easter Collection for the Clergy. Envelopes are still available in the porch for those who may wish to donate.

CAFOD: Family Fast Day is on Friday, 9th October.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: We celebrate with Keira Clarke who receives her First Holy Communion next Sunday 4th October.

OUR CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Our local Catholic Primary school is **St David's** on West Cross Avenue, a welcoming and happy school, where children are cared for and nurtured to develop, educationally, spiritually and emotionally. The contact details for St David's are at the top of this Newsletter - do get in touch to secure a place for your child.

ST DAVID'S SCHOOL NEWS: Message from the Headteacher:

We are delighted to welcome so many of our families back to school. The children looked very smart in their school uniform and it was fabulous to see so many smiling faces as they entered the gate. Children and staff are pleased to be back in school and continue learning, it has been lovely to see the wonderful smiles daily. We have been very lucky with the weather and have enjoyed being outdoors, on the field, using our outdoor classroom and using our class patios. The younger children have been learning about Colour and the older children are learning about the wonderful world we live in. The children are adapting to different routines and safety measures around the school. If you would like to come and visit us at St David's please contact

st.davids.primaryschool@swansea-edunet.gov.uk or Phone on 01792 512212 or follow us on Twitter: @stdavidscps.

MONTH OF THE ROSARY: October is traditionally a month of devotion to Our Lady. Please join us in saying a decade of the Rosary every day in October at 9.25am (before Mass). We encourage our parishioners to pray the Rosary this month for the intention of the world in this pandemic.

MARIAN DAY OF RECOLLECTION: A Marian Day of Recollection will be livestreamed from our parish on Saturday 10th October, starting with Mass at 10.00am. There will be Exposition & Adoration, Rosary, Confession, Marian Talk, Intercessions, and Benediction. To join the livestream, please go to our parish website and click "Livestream" or go to the DOMSEC website (www.domsec.org.uk).

Reflection for 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

The Mercy of God is Abundant

We live out the fullness of our human vocation when we hear the word of God and carry out its precepts. The readings of today assure us that God is always generous with his mercy. Ultimately, our Lord Jesus invites us to avail ourselves of the mercy of God through which we are strengthened to do his will.

God's Mercy in Israel's Exile: The Book of the Prophet Ezekiel was written while the people of Israel were in exile. While in exile, the Israelites felt dejected, lonely, and forsaken by God. However, the word of the Lord in the First Reading (Ez 18:25-28) was addressed to them through the Prophet Ezekiel that the mercy of God is abundant. With these words, the people who were suffering in exile were given the hope of experiencing the mercy of God once again. Certain situations in our lives also make us feel as though we are in exile. In these conditions, God assures us of his steadfast love and mercy. For those who are striving to please God, it is an encouragement to remain on the path of righteousness. For those who are struggling with certain weaknesses that seem to pull them away from God, it is assurance that God is ever ready to forgive. It is however necessary for us to acknowledge our shortcomings to receive the mercy of God (1 Jn 1:9).

The Repentant Son and the Obstinate Son: The theme of repentance is also reflected in the Gospel Reading (Mt 21:28-32). With the use of a parable, Jesus speaks of two sons of a father who had different dispositions to the latter's instruction. The first was repentant and so did what the father required of him. The second promised to please his father but did not. Here, Jesus used this parable to challenge the refusal of the chief priests to recognise John the Baptist's authority and his status as a messenger of God. In the preceding passage, the chief priests of the Jews had challenged the authority of Jesus' teaching. Jesus wanted to teach them that his authority came from the same source as John's. However, they would not admit that the authority of John came from God. For this reason, they rejected John's teachings as they did Jesus'. On

the contrary, a good number of sinners were converted by John's preaching and they received the mercy of God. These were the people who were disposed to hearing the message of Jesus. Thus, Jesus likened repentant sinners to the first son who initially disobeyed his father but later did what he asked. He as well compared the chief priests to the second son who was unrepentant and disregarded his father's instruction. Like the second son, the chief priests were indifferent to John's message and felt no need to repent. By following the way of righteousness as taught by John, repentant sinners do the will of the Father and so receive the fullness of his mercy.

The Lord is Compassionate: To the First Reading, the Psalmist then responds with the petition for mercy from the Lord. For the Israelites in exile, it seemed as though God had forgotten the promise of mercy he made (Ps 77:9). The Psalmist then pleads to God to show mercy to the repentant heart. It is the mercy of the Lord that we also ask for especially at the Eucharist and at the sacrament of penance. He does not refuse his mercy to those who ask for it in sincerity of heart. When we stray far away from his presence and wander far-off from his house, we have the assurance that he will show us his mercy. It is only by the mercy of God that we can do his will as he requires of us.

Hearing and Doing: Christ teaches us that it is by doing the Father's will that we can please him (Mt 7:21). The importance of acting on the word of God is also emphasised by St James and St Paul. They teach that our faith is brought alive by our good works. We are put right with God by both faith and good works. Our good works are expressed in acts of love shown to all people created in the image of God. (James 2:14-26; 1 Cor 13). This is because, God himself is love and when we live in love, we live in God. God himself then dwells in us (1 Jn 4:16). We have all received mercy from God. May the mercy of God lead us to our eternal home in heaven. Amen.
