

## Our Lady Star Of The Sea Catholic Church

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 'Love God, Love Learning, Love Life'

**DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, PUBLIC ACTS OF WORSHIP HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED IN ALL CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN WALES FROM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23<sup>RD</sup> TO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> ALL MASSES LISTED BELOW ARE CELEBRATED WITHOUT A PUBLIC CONGREGATION AND ARE LIVESTREAMED**

Date & Liturgical Celebration	Time	Mass Intention
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b> <b>All Saints (Solemnity)</b>	<b>10.30am (Livestreamed)</b>	Mr Daniel Thomas, RIP Anniversary (C S)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed</b>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	For all the Faithful Departed
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> <i>St Martin de Porres, Religious</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Vergie Cresci, RIP Anniversary (A L)
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> <i>St Charles Borromeo, Bishop</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Yvonne Chatterton, RIP Anniversary (J M)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Wilfred Hughes, RIP Anniversary (B H)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> <i>St Illtud, Abbot</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Johannah O'Donoghue, RIP Anniv. (T O'D)
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass Today</b>	
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November</b> <b>32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>10.30am (Livestreamed)</b>	Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran, RIP

**TWO-WEEK CHURCH CLOSURE:** Following the announcement by the Welsh Government, our parish church will be closed for two weeks from 6pm on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> to Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. As a result of this, there will not be in-person Mass attendance (except for funerals) in the church for this period. Throughout this period, Masses will continue to be livestreamed from our parish as will be indicated in the Newsletter. Thank you very much.

**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](http://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:** Madeline Ahearne, Elijah Webb

**NOVEMBER – PRAYING FOR HOLY SOULS:** November is the month traditionally dedicated to praying for the Holy Souls. If you would like your deceased relatives, friends and loved ones remembered in a special way at each Mass during November, please put their details in one of the brown envelopes. They can be put through the letterbox in the Presbytery. If any of our housebound parishioners need any help with collection, please contact Maggie on 362212. They will be placed in front of the altar at each Mass in November. Anniversary Mass intentions will be shared with the list.

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

**HALF TERM NEWS FROM ST DAVID'S SCHOOL:** It has been a busy half term and staff and pupils have adapted to the new 'norm' in a very positive way. The younger pupils have been learning about 'Colour,' and older pupils 'A Wonderful World'.

Pupils have been creative, studying different Artists, keeping healthy by completing the daily mile, and investigating in their Science lessons. Pupils have enjoyed the outdoor learning and using our new outdoor classroom. Meetings have taken place with Governors and Staff (virtually). Please look on our school website to find the most up to date information.

[www.stdavidscatholicprimary.swansea.sch.uk](http://www.stdavidscatholicprimary.swansea.sch.uk) If you would like to see more of the wonderful things we do at St David's, please follow us on Twitter @stdavidscps. Have a relaxing half term. School will reopen on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Peter Gregory Mason.

**FUNERAL OF MRS CHRISTIANA AKPOGHIRAN:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran (Fr Michael's mother) who will be laid to rest on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. May God grant her eternal rewards. Amen.

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## Reflection for the Solemnity of All Saints (A)

### We Are Called to be Saints

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The celebration of All Saints brings together the whole Church, both in heaven and on earth. We, the Church militants, who are still on our way to heaven are united with the Church triumphant (the saints) who have attained the crown of glory. We all have been called to share in the holiness of God and to live holy lives here on earth. The saints in heaven now intercede for us so that we also may be united with them in the glory of heaven.

**Our Vocation is Holiness:** It was the Apostle Paul who wrote of our vocation to holiness in his letter to the Ephesians (1:4). He showed gratitude to God who chose us from the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him. In other words, our vocation in life is to be holy and blameless before God.

Throughout the liturgical year, the Church celebrates the lives of specific saints who have been recognised by the Church. Based on the public recognition of their holiness, the Church presents them to us as models of Christian life and whose intercession we may invoke. However, there are many other holy men and women who have not been publicly recognised by the Church but who share in the blessed life of God in heaven. Thus, the Church has instituted the Solemnity of All Saints to celebrate such persons who have accepted the saving grace of Christ, whether explicitly or implicitly. Also, the Church in her wisdom teaches that the salvation of God is accessible to everyone who has sought to do his will either from accepting Christ's message or from merely living according to the dictates of love (1 Tim 2:4; Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium*, n. 16).

**Our Road to Heaven is Love:** Heaven is the state of blessedness and eternal happiness. It is the state of perpetually sharing in the blessed life of the Most Holy Trinity. For this reason, Christ gives us the beatitudes to lead us to this blessedness in heaven. When we live according to the commandment of love, we begin to enjoy our beatitude (blessings) here on earth. In Christ's teachings, holiness is to have dependence on God, long for justice, sincerity, mercy, and peace. It is to have the right attitude towards God and others. Once again, the path to holiness is to love God above all things and to love our neighbours as ourselves (Mt 22:37-40).

**Our Examples of Holiness:** All the saints of God were humans like ourselves. They fought the

good fight; they finished the race of Christian life and they kept the faith which leads to salvation (2 Tim 4:7). The celebration of their lives is an encouragement to us that we also can be saints. We also can live in holiness. That life of holiness begins from how we apply ourselves to doing good here on earth. In St Augustine's words, we are reminded that our lives are God's gift to us but what we become (saints) are our gifts to God.

**The Power of their Intercession:** The Church presents us with the lives of the saints to serve as examples and encouragements to us on our own journey back to God. Likewise, we celebrate the lives of the saints to also ask for their intercession. According to St Bernard, we ask for their intercession so that we also may also enjoy their saintly company someday. Through their intercessions, we also hope that Christ will manifest himself to us as he did to them.

It was as well with this awareness that St Dominic de Guzman (the Founder of the Dominican Order) said to his religious brothers on his deathbed, "Do not weep, for I shall be more useful to you after my death and I shall help you then more effectively than during my life." As the saints are more closely united to Christ, they support the whole Church more strongly in her holiness. They intercede with the Father for us, as they offer the merits which they acquired on earth through the one mediator between God and humans, Christ Jesus. So, by their prayerful support, we are greatly helped to please God here on earth (CCC 956). The Book of Revelation (5:8-10) attests to the fact that the saints truly intercede for us. It speaks of certain living creatures and the twenty-four elders in heaven who held in their hands the prayers of the saints as they sang the praises of God.

We also note that the saints attained the life of holiness through the passion of Christ. They encountered sufferings here on earth but were not defeated by them. They rather fixed their eyes on the crown of glory that awaited them. As we also journey back to God, let us not be deterred by the crosses we carry but we should place our hope in Christ who has promised us the crown of glory. May the prayers of the saints always support us as we also desire to be in their company someday. Amen.

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