

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 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 Akpoghira, RIP (M & A O'C) The Clarke Family, Thanksgiving Parish Community Our Lady's Lamp: Private Intention (Fouracre Family)
Monday 5 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am	Brian Davies, Thanksgiving (B & D D)
Tuesday 6 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am	Monica Foley, Birthday Thanksgiving (M M S)
Wednesday 7 th <i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	9.30am	Barry Jefferies & Edgar Owen, RIP (S J)
Thursday 8 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am	Mrs Bridie Kerwan, RIP (F T)
Friday 9 th <i>St John Henry Newman, Priest</i>	9.30am	David & Christiana Akpoghira, RIP
Saturday 10 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	10.00am	Bryn Morris, RIP (M M)
Sunday 11th October 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Parish Community Mrs Christiana Akpoghira, RIP (N & G H) Br. Bernard Wassall OSB, RIP (S M) For the Holy Souls

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**.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY ONLINE: Monday 5th October, 7pm on Zoom. Details will be sent to all via email

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Lina Policelli, Judith Adams, Joy Coles, Maureen Williams.

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: This week our Parish marks Family Fast Day on Friday, 9th October. There will be a short announcement after Masses this weekend and envelopes are available for your donations and collected next weekend. You may also donate online (see notice in church porch). All contributions will go towards helping people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. Thanks for your support.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: We celebrate with Keira Clarke who receives her First Holy Communion today, 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.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 9.20am (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).

CANCELLATION OF CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: The Christmas Raffle for 2020 has been cancelled owing to the COVID-19 crisis. It is hoped that we will be able to organise a parish Champagne/Fizz celebration, when it is safe to do so, sometime in 2021.

Reflection for 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

The Eucharist is Our Thanksgiving to God

As the Saviour of the world, Jesus is the cornerstone of our lives. It was by his redemptive mission that we have been made righteous with God. In our worship today, we acknowledge his love and mercy and we express our gratitude for his infinite love.

Israel is the Vineyard of the Lord: The First Reading (Is 5:1-7) describes the unconditional love which God has shown to Israel in her salvation history. With profound symbolism, Prophet Isaiah describes God's love and concern for his people Israel. God cleared Israel of stones: this signifies the many ways in which God took away the many hardships of Israel and granted her victory in her battles. God also planted the choicest vines in his vineyard, Israel. With this, the prophet recalls how God provided food, shelter, and security for his people. He made them stand out among the other nations and treated Israel with care and love (Ps 80:8-11). The watchtowers which God built for Israel also signify the prophets whom God raised up in Israel to teach her how to obey God's commands (Heb 1:1-2). Like a vineyard which has been pruned and tendered, God expected Israel to produce the fruits of justice and righteousness. She has rather shown ingratitude to God. In her disobedience and obstinacy, she has broken God's covenant.

The Rejection of the Messiah by the Jewish Leaders: In today's Gospel Reading, Jesus picks up the metaphor of Israel as the vineyard of the Lord. He uses the parable to describe his rejection at the hands of the leaders of the people. This is like Israel's rejection of the love of God described in the First Reading. In this parable, the landowner is God. The vineyard is God's chosen people, Israel. The servants are the prophets whom we explained as the watchtowers mentioned in the First Reading. The wicked tenants are the faithless Jews who rejected the teachings of Jesus and his mission as the promised Messiah (Jn 1:11). The son of the landowner is Jesus, the Son of God (Mk 15:39) who was persecuted and who died at the hands of the Jewish authorities (Mt 16:21).

Just like Israel who did not appreciate the love of God, the Jewish authorities also did not welcome the gifts of God who entrusted his vineyard to them. To their surprise, the Son of God who was rejected and killed is now worshipped as Lord and God (Jn 20:28). He has indeed become the cornerstone of the universe because through him, all peoples have been reconciled to God.

The Church is the New Vineyard of God: One of the imageries that is used to describe the Church is the vineyard. It was God who planted this vineyard and Christ is the vine. It is Christ the vine who gives life to the vineyard. Without Christ the vine, the Church (the vineyard) can do nothing. Believing Christians are the branches of this vine who produce fruits for the Father who is the vinedresser (Jn 15:1-5; Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium*, n. 6). The sacraments of the Church have their power from Christ the vine. It is by his power that we are united with the Trinity and our sins are forgiven.

In addition, the Church as a building has Christ as its cornerstone; the cornerstone being the most important part of the building. All the baptised are then built into this cornerstone (Acts 4:10; CCC 756; *Lumen Gentium*, n. 6). This building (the Church of Christ) which has Jesus as its foundation stone (Eph 2:20) reaches its full status in the New City, the heavenly Jerusalem (Rev 21:1-2, 10), which God has prepared for his beloved.

The Eucharist is the Sacrament of Thanksgiving: In the Church, which is the New Vineyard of God, believers gather to give thanks to God who has made all things beautiful (Ecclesiastes 3:11). At the Eucharist, we thank God for his work of creation in time, redemption in Christ and sanctification in the Holy Spirit (CCC 1328). At the Eucharist, we thank God for counting us worthy to be in his presence and minister to him (Eucharistic Prayer II). As we reflect on his word, may God accept our thanksgiving and may he always give us reasons to praise his Most Holy Name. Amen.
