

Our Lady Star Of The Sea Catholic Church

The Presbytery, 22 Devon Place, Mumbles, Swansea, SA3 4DR
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 'Love God, Love Learning, Love Life'

SOME MASSES LISTED BELOW ARE LIVESTREAMED

Date & Liturgical Celebration	Time	Mass Intention
Sunday 11th October 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Parish Community Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran, RIP (N & G H) Br. Bernard Wassall OSB, RIP (S M) For the Holy Souls
Monday 12 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am	John Fowler, RIP (J & S S)
Tuesday 13 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am	Carl Harrison, RIP (C M ^c)
Wednesday 14 th <i>St Callistus I, Pope & Martyr</i>	9.30am	Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran, RIP
Thursday 15 th <i>St Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church</i>	9.30am	For the Intention of the Akpoghiran Family
Friday 16 th <i>St Richard Gwyn, Schoolmaster, Martyr</i>	9.30am	For the Intention of Ruth and Sebastian (C & P C)
Saturday 17 th	No Mass Today	
Sunday 18th October 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Gerry McNeff, RIP (C M ^c) For the Holy Souls Michael Policelli, RIP Anniversary (L P) Parish Community

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

FACE COVERINGS AT MASS: In keeping with Welsh Government guidance, face coverings must be worn at Mass by adults and children aged 11 and over. 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: Sue Morgan, Sheila Ward, Elliott Capper.

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: Many thanks to you all for supporting Family Fast Day on Friday 9th October. Thank you for joining together to help our poorest and most vulnerable brothers and sisters struggling to cope with coronavirus.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection on Sunday 18th October for **World Mission Sunday**.

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.

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.

SATURDAY MORNING MASS AND CONFESSIONS: As from 17th October till 21st November inclusive, there will be no Saturday Morning Mass and Confessions. These will resume on 28th November. The Saturday Evening Confessions (6pm-6.15pm) continue. In addition, the priest will also be available after the daily Masses for Confessions. Please let the priest know if you would like to make your Confession.

Reflection for 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

The Eucharist Is Our Banquet of Joy

The kingdom of God is an invitation to righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. We become partakers of these heavenly gifts in the Holy Eucharist which is the banquet of the Lord himself. Christ invites us to partake of this banquet for the salvation of our souls.

The Divine Promise of Peace and Joy: The First Reading (Is 25:6-10a) is one of the options the Church uses for the funeral liturgy. Historically, they were God's words of consolation to Israel who faced destruction at the hands of the invading Babylonians. God then promised his people that they would once again celebrate at his banquet and tears will be wiped away from their faces. It reiterates the promise of everlasting peace and joy which the faithful will enjoy in the new Israel which would be rebuilt by God himself. Thus, the Lord of the banquet promised to take away tears and sorrow from their eyes so that they could genuinely enjoy this banquet of love. When used at the funeral liturgy, this reading expresses the hope of the resurrection and the joy of heavenly glory which we all hope to enjoy someday.

The Promise is Fulfilled in the Eucharist: The First Reading also directs our minds to the Eucharist. The Eucharist is that heavenly banquet which God invites us to. It is in the Eucharist that God has fulfilled the promise of joy and satisfaction which he made to us in the First Reading. The Church is the true Israel of God (Gal. 6:16) where God has set this banquet (the Eucharist) before us. The mountain on which God promised to give us the banquet is the altar on which the sacrifice of the Mass is offered and where the work of our redemption is carried out (CCC 1364). Just as mountains are typically elevated from the rest of the ground so also is the altar of Christ elevated above the rest of the church. In the Old Testament, mountains signify the meeting place between the divine and the human. On the altar of the Eucharist, Christ, who is both divine and human, unites humans with the

divine through the sacrifice of the Mass. At the sacrifice of the Mass, Christ once again offers himself as the victim although in an unbloody manner (CCC 1367; Vatican II, *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, n. 2). Likewise, the First Reading specifies that it is with fat things and wine that the Lord will satisfy his people. These signify the bread and the wine which are consecrated into the Body and Blood of our Lord. In the eternal plan of God, Christ has chosen to remain sacramentally present in the Church in the forms of bread and wine which we bring forward in thanksgiving to God (CCC 1353). However, the Eucharist finds its full and perfect realisation in the kingdom of God where all the elect will be seated at the heavenly banquet of the Lord.

It is a Universal Invitation: Furthermore, Christ's message in the Gospel Reading is that everyone has been invited to this heavenly banquet. This derives from the desire of the wedding host that all classes of people be invited to the wedding feast. Just like Christ her Head, the Church welcomes all peoples to the Eucharistic banquet and invites those who are prepared and disposed according to the teachings of the Church to receive Christ in Holy Communion (1 Cor 11:28-29; CCC 1457). Even when we feel excluded because of our sins, God, our welcoming Father, purifies and beautifies us with the 'wedding garment' in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

It is a Banquet of Joy: Banquets are normally gatherings of joy and celebration. If the Eucharist is a divine banquet which God has invited us to, then we must always approach it with joy and thanksgiving in our hearts (Ps 122:1). We are joyful and grateful to God not because we are free from the cares and worries of life but because we trust that we shall not be afraid of any evil that troubles our peace in the Lord. May we always find peace and satisfaction in the celebration of the Eucharist. Amen.
