

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 18th October 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Gerry McNeff, RIP (C M ^c) Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart (G C) Michael Policelli, RIP Anniversary (L P) Parish Community
Monday 19 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am	Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran, RIP (C M ^c)
Tuesday 20 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am	Diane Hall, RIP (C M ^c)
Wednesday 21 st <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am	David Jackson, RIP (C M ^c)
Thursday 22 nd <i>St John Paul II, Pope</i>	9.30am	Sylvester Morris, RIP (C M ^c)
Friday 23 rd <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am	For the Holy Souls
Saturday 24 th	No Mass Today	
Sunday 25th October 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Susan Philippart, RIP (C M ^c) For the Holy Souls Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran, RIP Parish Community

CONFESSIONS: 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**.

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.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Kath Bowling, Katherine Oshisanya, Michael O'Connell, Alessandra Cianci, Linda Biagioni.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend for **World Mission Sunday**.

CAFOD CORONAVIRUS APPEAL: A heartfelt thank you for all for your generosity this Family Fast Day. The amount collected so far is £840. Thank you so much for standing together with our brothers and sisters facing the worst of coronavirus.

GRATITUDE: Our livestreamed Masses and Funerals are followed by parishioners and people all over who say the livestreams provide spiritual nourishment for them. One of those who follow the livestreams outside the parish has kindly donated £100 to support the parish livestreams. We thank this donor and ask the Lord to reward this generosity.

REMINDER: The clocks go back next weekend.

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.

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 available in the porch and place the envelopes in the basket at the back of the Church. They will be placed in front of the altar at each Mass in November. Anniversary Mass intentions will be shared with the List.

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.

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.

Reflection for 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Glory, Power and Majesty Belong to God

It is in God's world we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). Thus, we thank him for making us partakers in his work of creation and in restoring the world back to him.

King Cyrus as God's Instrument of Restoration: Cyrus was the Persian king who, after conquering Babylon, issued a decree that all the people who had been captured from their homelands be allowed to return home. The Scriptures record that it was the Lord who stirred the spirit of Cyrus to liberate the people of Israel from their exile (2 Chro 36:22-23). The liberation which the people enjoyed from the king was the fulfilment of the promise of hope which God had made through his prophets. In the First Reading (Is 45:1.4-6), Isaiah speaks of how God used Cyrus (a non-Jew) as his instrument of liberating the people of Israel. Isaiah also mentioned that God particularly prepared Cyrus for the work of deliverance which he was to perform. Thus, he was referred to as the Lord's anointed. The use of the title, 'anointed', for a non-Jew would have been a surprise to the Jews as it was reserved for the kings of Israel and the expected Messiah. Now, Isaiah uses this title for a pagan king whom God used to liberate his people. Thus, the fundamental lesson of the First Reading in relation to Cyrus is that the work of God can be performed even by persons who do not know him and by persons outside the covenant community which today is the Church.

Jesus is God's True Messiah: While the title, 'anointed' which means 'Messiah' was used for Cyrus because of his role in liberating the exiles of Israel, it is more properly used for Jesus because he is the only begotten Son of God through whom redemption has come into the world (Jn 3:16; Gal 4:4-5). Cyrus set free only a few hundreds of people during his reign. Jesus Christ has granted spiritual liberation to the whole of humanity by his death and resurrection.

Like the exiles of Israel, we Christian are also exiles on earth and it is Christ who will lead us to back to our eternal home with God.

All Authorities Come from God: Two sets of people were sent to question Jesus: the Herodians who were loyal to the Roman empire, and the Pharisees who were nationalists. In answering their question, Jesus asked for their coin with which they paid tax to Caesar, the Roman Emperor. The Roman coin itself was the property of Caesar and a symbol of the Roman government. Hence, 'paying the tax' could be interpreted as simply giving back to the emperor what already belonged to him. Jesus also reminded them of the obligation to serve God as conscientiously as they serve the emperor. As such, there should be no conflict between serving God and living as responsible citizens. Indeed, all authorities come from God just like the case of Cyrus (Rom 13:1-7; 1 Pt 13-14). By fulfilling our legitimate duties towards the state, we participate in promoting the common good of the society in which we live. Just as God used Cyrus to bring restoration to the people of Israel, God can also use civil leaders as instruments of peace and justice in our world.

The Church Gives Glory and Praise to God: When the Israelites received their freedom from Cyrus, an emphasis was laid on the restoration of the Jerusalem Temple which laid in ruins. In Christ, God has restored this Temple in the Church where we offer thanksgiving to God in the Eucharist, the heavenly banquet. In the Eucharist, the Church gives praise, glory, thanksgiving, honour and power to God to the end of the ages (Rev 7:12). The Psalm of the day also enjoins us to give glory and power to God because he is majestic in splendour. As we worship God, may our voices sing to the glory of his name for all eternity. Amen.
