

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 23RD TO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH ALL MASSES LISTED BELOW ARE CELEBRATED WITHOUT A PUBLIC CONGREGATION AND ARE LIVESTREAMED

Date & Liturgical Celebration	Time	Mass Intention
Sunday 25th October 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time	10.30am (Livestreamed)	Parish Community O/L Lamp: For Sick of the Parish (E T)
Monday 26 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	In Thanksgiving (E K)
Tuesday 27 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	The Intentions of the Family and Friends of Our Dominican Priests in Nigeria (The Parish Prayer Group)
Wednesday 28 th Sts Simon & Jude, Apostles (Feast)	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Winnie McCann, RIP Anniversary (N E)
Thursday 29 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran, RIP
Friday 30 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Bridget Kirwan, RIP (P F)
Saturday 31 st	No Mass Today	
Sunday 1st November All Saints (Solemnity)	10.30am (Livestreamed)	Mr Daniel Thomas, RIP Anniversary (C S)

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 23rd to Monday, November 9th. 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 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: Brian White, Kazia Obara, John Grant.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: The collection last Sunday amounted to £187.10. Many thanks.

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 this weekend.

MONTH OF THE ROSARY: October is traditionally a month of devotion to Our Lady. 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. 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 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.stdavidsatholicprimary.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 2nd. Many thanks from Liz Richards, Headteacher.

Reflection for 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Loving God in our Fellow Humans

Because he is love, God teaches us to love him and our fellow humans. It is through love that we truly share in the life of God. We ask God to help us to live in the light of his love.

Love All Peoples: The land of Egypt was a reminder of the oppression the Israelites suffered in the foreign land. While in the foreign land, they cried to God for deliverance and at the appointed time, Moses was sent to them as God's instrument of liberation. After God delivered them from slavery, he promised to settle them in their own land in fulfilment of the promise he made to Abraham their father. While he led them to the Promised Land, he gave them laws and commandments which they were to follow. Knowing that they would mingle with foreigners, God instructed them to be kind to all people and not act wickedly towards anyone. Thus, the message of the First Reading is that kindness is to be shown to everyone, especially to the less privileged. These include strangers, widows, orphans, the poor. These sets of people are not farfetched in our society. They are dear to the heart of Jesus. It is for this reason that he teaches us that whatever we do to the least of his brothers and sisters, we do to him (Mt 25:40). We have the responsibility of caring for others just as God cares for us.

We are all Strangers and Sojourners on Earth: As humans born within a certain locality, we claim particular nationalities for ourselves. This is necessary for identification and for reasons of administration. However, sometimes, our identification with a certain nationality or locality makes us feel as owners of the land and others as strangers. This feeling of ownership may even carry with it some level of hostility towards those we consider to be strangers. As Christians, the Scriptures remind us that this world is not our home. We are pilgrims who are on the way to our permanent homeland (Heb 13:14; Ps 119:9). We all are strangers on earth and are on our journey to heaven, the Promised Land. Knowing that God is the Lord of the universe (Ps 24), we are called to accommodate everyone with the same love we

have received from God. It is this universal love that can lead us to God's dwelling place in heaven.

Love God and Love your Neighbour: From the Ten Commandments, the Jews developed 613 precepts of the law which every Jew was expected to religiously obey. Knowing the complexity in keeping all the precepts, one of the teachers of the law asked Jesus which of the commandments of these precepts is the greatest. Jesus then simplifies the whole of the commandments into one: love. According to the teachings of Jesus, this love, like the two sides of the same coin, is expressed in two ways. The first side of the coin of love is our love for God who loved us first in creating us and sharing his divine life with us (1 Jn 4:19). We express our love for God by giving him praise which is due to his holy name. We also worship him as our Creator by whose power we have been brought into the world.

The other side of the coin is the love we show to our fellow humans. Jesus emphasised that this second commandment of love is like the first. With this, he means that our love of God is expressed in the love and care to show to fellow humans and in the help we render to them. Put differently, we cannot love God whom we do not see if we do not love his creatures whom we see (1 Jn 4:20) and who have been created in his image and likeness (Gen 1:27). The First Reading spells out practical ways in which we can show God's love to our fellow humans.

Christ is the Fullness of God's Love: It was out of God's love for the world that he sent his Son as the expiation for our sins (Jn 3:16). It was in love that Christ laid down his life for us and made us his friends. Laying down one's life for another is the greatest expression of love (Jn 15:13). We are called to imitate Christ in also making sacrifices for those who need our help to survive and cope with life. May the love of Christ which has sustained us thus far continue to propel us to show God's love to all peoples. Amen.
