

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 8th November 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.30am (Livestreamed only)	Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran, RIP O/L Lamp: Roy Protheroe, RIP
Monday 9 th The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (Feast)	9.30am (Livestreamed only)	Sister Ray, 80 th Birthday Anniversary (M M)
Tuesday 10 th <i>St Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed and with a congregation)	Edna and Frank Kent, RIP Anniversary (A R & J M)
Wednesday 11 th <i>St Martin of Tours, Bishop</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed and with a congregation)	For the Holy Souls
Thursday 12 th <i>St Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed and with a congregation)	Paddy McCann, RIP Anniversary (N E)
Friday 13 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed and with a congregation)	Gerry Gilmore, RIP Anniversary (S O'K)
Saturday 14 th	No Mass Today	
Sunday 15th November 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm (With a congregation) 8.30am (With a congregation) 10.30am (Livestreamed and with a congregation) 11.45am (With a congregation)	For the Holy Souls For the Holy Souls Morgan Battey, RIP Anniversary (A L) Parish Community

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.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday evenings from 6pm-6.15pm, and on request. This takes effect from Saturday, November 14th.

CHURCH REOPENING: Given that the 'firebreak' lockdown in Wales will be lifted on Monday, November 9th, Mass with a congregation in our parish church will resume on Tuesday, November 10th with the 9.30am Mass. As has been our practice in the parish, pre-booking is required for only the weekend Masses. However, the details of those attending the weekdays Masses will be taken on arrival.

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**.

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.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Louise Pass, Diana Mason, Paul Cullen.

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 needs 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.

PAUL AND CAROLYN CULLEN: Our love and prayers are with Paul and Carolyn (parishioners) who have temporarily relocated to Caldey Island where Paul is taking care of the monks in the infirmary. They send warm greetings to all parishioners.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Peter Gregory Mason, Rev David Watkins, Anita Dewer.

MRS CHRISTIANA AKPOGHIRAN, RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran (Fr Michael's mother) who was laid to rest on Friday, November 6th. May God grant her eternal rewards. Amen.

Reflection for 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

The Wisdom of God Guides us Through Life

Christ, our bridegroom, invites us to his banquet in heaven where he shall satisfy all our inner longings for God. Vigilance and watchfulness then become the lighted torch with which we march to heaven with Christ. We ask for God's wisdom to live in readiness for his Son's coming.

We Marvel at the Wisdom of God: God is the ruler of heaven and earth and it is with his wisdom that he rules the universe. It was with his wisdom that he created heaven and earth and all that is in them. It is also with this wisdom that God sustains life in his creation. In his infinite wisdom, he has also made us partakers in his work by giving us the responsibility of tending his creation (Gen 1:28-30). If we are to nurture God's creation, then we also need a share in his wisdom to enable us to carry out this divine task.

Christ is the Wisdom of God: The wisdom of God is the divine truth shining through the world and illuminating the whole of humanity. In his teachings, Jesus declared himself as this divine truth which leads us to God, and which assures us of eternal life (Jn 14:6). St Paul also refers to Christ as the divine wisdom which God predestined for our glory and salvation (1 Cor 2:7). When we rise early to seek Christ, he comes to us and stays with us in our daily struggles. With Christ on our side, we will win each day's battle (Ps 108:13).

Wisdom is our Torch of Vigilance: The Gospel Reading (Mt 35:1-13 – the parable of the Ten Virgins) is an exhortation on vigilance and watchfulness in our journey of faith. Jesus uses the Jewish marital custom to communicate this message. After the period of betrothal, the groom would lead a procession to bring his new wife to their home and they would celebrate a week-long banquet with family and friends. In the Gospel Reading, the bridegroom arrives to find some virgins not ready for the banquet procession. He, however, went in with those who were ready. In the parable, the bridegroom stands for Jesus and the virgins are Christians who have been invited to the heavenly wedding feast.

We note that the bridegroom was delayed. This delay was not unplanned. Rather, it was intended to give the virgins more time to prepare. Unfortunately, some of them did not take advantage of his delay to prepare for his coming. This delay of the bridegroom signifies God's patience with us. Many have used this

opportunity to get closer to God while others have not utilised this opportunity to know God and live according to his commands. St Peter then warns us that God will surely come and so every moment should be used to move closer to our salvation (2 Pt 3:9). With this wisdom at hand, we will be ready for the Lord when he comes calling.

In the parable, we were also made to know that the requirement for gaining entry with the bridegroom into the wedding hall is a burning lamp. The lamp itself could signify the word of God. Psalm 119:105 refers to the word of God as the lamp and the light that guides God's children through life. The oil in the lamp is the Holy Spirit who gives new life to Christians. It is with the power of the Holy Spirit that we are enabled to bring the word of God to life in our lives. It is with this oil of the Holy Spirit that the Father has set his seal on us and claimed us for himself (CCC 698). Through the life of the Spirit in Christ Jesus, we remain spiritually vigilant and attentive to the voice of God speaking in us and through us.

The lamp could also be understood as the Christian faith which we received at our baptism while the oil could be identified as the good works with which we keep our Christian faith alive. This explains why St James (2:14-17) teaches that faith without good work is dead just as a lamp without oil cannot give light. It is with this wisdom that comes from God that we are enlivened to carry out good works while living out our Christian faith.

Facing the Unexpected: In the parable, we also learn that the virgins met with the unexpected while waiting for the bridegroom. Their experience relates to the unexpected challenges and trials we also face in our lives. With the help which comes from Christ, we are empowered to face the unexpected situations in our journey towards God. With the radiant and brilliant wisdom which comes from God, we can surmount the challenges of life. In the face of the unexpected events of our lives, may we find Christ, the bridegroom, taking us by the hand and leading us to his wedding feast of peace and joy in heaven with Mary and all the saints. Amen.
