

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 29th November 1st Sunday of Advent	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	For the Holy Souls Parish Community Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran, RIP For the Holy Souls
Monday 30 th St Andrew, Apostle (Feast)	9.30am	For the Holy Souls
Tuesday 1 st December <i>1st Week of Advent</i>	9.30am	Peter Mason, RIP (M & R E)
Wednesday 2 nd <i>1st Week of Advent</i>	9.30am	Sr Joanne, RIP (T O'D)
Thursday 3 rd <i>St Francis Xavier, Priest</i>	9.30am	Peter Mason, RIP (M M)
Friday 4 th <i>1st Week of Advent</i>	9.30am	Ralph Pearson, RIP (C M ^c)
Saturday 5 th	11.00am	Bereavement Service
Sunday 6th December 2nd Sunday of Advent	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Gerardine McNeff, RIP (C M ^c) Mel Davies, RIP Anniversary (J D) Intentions of Pietro & Lisa Covelli (C C) 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**.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Jan Davies, Angela Crotty, Rose O'Mahoney, Dan Power, Krysten Thomas.

CAFOD: CAFOD are promoting a range of virtual gifts at Christmas which could make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world, especially during the pandemic. Examples are 'The Keep Clean Gift' for £6 and 'The Vegetable Garden Gift' for £10. For details please visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts

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@swanseaedunet.gov.uk or Phone on 01792 512212 or follow us on Twitter: @stdavidscps.

BEREAVEMENT SERVICE (WITH LIGHTING OF CANDLES): Livestreamed from the parish on Saturday, 05/12/20 at 11am. This service is open to all (especially those who have lost a loved one during the year). If you would like a candle lit for a departed loved one or if you would like to attend, please contact Eileen on 07592829091. To join the livestream please go to our Parish website.

ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION: Our Lady Star of the Sea Church on Saturday 12th December (also livestreamed). Please see poster in the Porch. More details to follow.

DAILY ROSARY: Please join us in saying a decade of the Rosary from Monday to Friday at 9.20am (before Mass).

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER: During Advent and Christmastide, we are invited to pray for migrants and refugees, and for expectant mothers.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Win Keane.

CHRISTMAS LITURGY

DATE	TIME	CELEBRATION
<u>December 24th</u>	<u>4.30pm</u>	<u>Vigil Mass (with a Congregation)</u>
<u>December 24th</u>	<u>6.30pm</u>	<u>Vigil Mass (with a Congregation)</u>
<u>December 24th</u>	<u>8.45pm</u>	<u>Recorded Carols (Livestreamed)</u>
<u>December 24th</u>	<u>9.00pm</u>	<u>Mass (Livestreamed with a Congregation)</u>
<u>December 25th</u>	<u>8.30am</u>	<u>Mass of Christmas Day (with a Congregation)</u>
<u>December 25th</u>	<u>10.30am</u>	<u>Mass of Christmas Day (Livestreamed with a Congregation)</u>

Please note that pre-booking is required to attend the above Christmas liturgical celebrations. Please see the preceding page on how to pre-book.

Reflection for the 1st Sunday of Advent (Year B) *We Eagerly Await the Mercy of God in Christ*

While the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus, King of the Universe marks the last Sunday in the Church's Liturgical Year, the First Sunday of Advent introduces a new Liturgical Year. Accordingly, the season of Advent is the period of the joyful expectation of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of the importance of Christ's birth for us, it is fitting that we solemnly prepare for him. As we begin this period of spiritual preparation, Christ guides us by his presence and the assurance of his love.

God is the Father who Loves: At the start of this solemn period of our joyful expectation, Isaiah reassures us of the love of our heavenly Father who does not abandon his children to their fate. The words of the First Reading were God's words of hope to the people of Israel while they were in exile. During this period of exile, the people lamented the seeming distance of God from them. As they felt the anguish of being away from their homeland, they prayed to God to show them his love again and for him to rescue them from the hands of their oppressors. Thus, Isaiah reassured them that God is their Father and Redeemer who would liberate them and break their chains of oppression. Isaiah also uses the imagery of the potter and clay to express the relationship between God and the people of Israel. God is the potter who moulds his people according to his plan for them. As a clay in the hands of the potter, the Israelites were at the mercy of God. Our relationship with God takes a similar shape when we surrender our lives to the mercy of God. The coming of Christ into the world is the fullness of the expression of the mercy of God for the world. The plan of God is for humanity to be saved through the coming of Christ. We celebrate this glorious coming at Christmas which we now prepare for at Advent.

God is Coming to Us in Christ: While on exile in Babylon, the Israelites felt distanced from the love and mercy of God. At those periods, they called to mind God's loving mercy and his promise to save his people (Ps 25:6; 119:49). It is this promise of

mercy that we also await at Advent as we prepare for the birth of Christ. When we look into the future, God's People of the Old Covenant and the new People of God (the Church) tend towards similar goals: the expectation of the coming of the Messiah (CCC 840). While the Israelites awaited their liberation from slavery and bondage, we now await our liberation from the kingdom of sin and death. With the birth of Christ, we will no longer feel distanced from God because he himself will dwell with us and his loving presence will remain with us (Ps 85:9). Just as the presence of parents comforts a child, God's presence in Christ among us comforts us and calms our fears.

Working While Waiting: Christ, in the message of the Gospel Reading (Mk 13:33-37), directs us to keep on doing God's work as we prepare for his coming. He speaks of a man who left his home and travelled abroad. This man left his servants in charge of his house; each with specific task to do while waiting for the master to return. Christ is that man who once came to earth to gather God's children together in his Church. After his mission on earth, he entrusted his Church to his apostles. In this Church as well, everyone has a task to perform. This task is to serve God in humanity while preaching God's kingdom by our words and deeds. Because we do not know when Christ will return to take us to the Father in heaven, we should continue to work diligently in his kingdom. It is our diligent service in God's kingdom on earth that will earn us the crown of glory in his heavenly abode. May the coming of Christ renew our hope and trust in God's never-failing promise. Amen.
