

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 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
Monday 7 th Dedication of the Cathedral Church (Feast)	9.30am	Sister Joanne, RIP (M M)
Tuesday 8 th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)	9.30am	Special Intention (E K)
Wednesday 9 th <i>2nd Week of Advent</i>	9.30am	Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (G C)
Thursday 10 th <i>St John Roberts, Priest, Martyr</i>	9.30am	Patrick & Maureen O'Connell, RIP Anniversary (K A, M & A O'C)
Friday 11 th <i>St Damasus I, Pope</i>	9.30am	Patrick Walsh (M P)
Saturday 12 th <i>2nd Week of Advent</i>	10.00am	Advent Day of Recollection
Sunday 13th December 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Susan Philippart, RIP (C M ^c) Brian Thomas, RIP Anniversary (E T) 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 (01792 361194; 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: Jean Powell.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection next weekend for Christmas Flowers.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY ONLINE: Monday 7th December, 7pm on Zoom. Details will be sent to all via email.

ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION: You are welcome to the Advent Day of Recollection at our Parish on Saturday 12th December (also livestreamed) at 10.00am. For the livestream, please visit our Parish website. Thank you.

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.

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@swansea-edunet.gov.uk or Phone on 01792 512212 or follow us on Twitter: @stdavidscps.

CHRISTMAS LITURGY

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

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 2nd Sunday of Advent (Year B) Through John's Mission, Christ Prepares us for His Coming

The importance of the coming of Christ into the world necessitated the sending of John the Baptist to go ahead of the Saviour. John was sent as a messenger to prepare the minds of the people to receive the message of Christ. Like John, our mission in the world finds its true meaning in the saving mission of Christ.

GOD PREPARED A WAY FOR CHRIST: The message of today's liturgy focuses on the person and mission of John the Baptist. God had made a covenant of salvation with his people Israel who strongly believed that he would not fail to fulfil his promise. Based on this belief, the Prophet Malachi speaks of a messenger whom the Lord would send before him to prepare a way for him. At the appointed time, the Lord will come to visit his people (Mal 3:1). John the Baptist was the messenger whom Christ the Lord sent to prepare the way for him (Lk 1:76).

The Prophet Isaiah also tells of a voice calling the people to prepare a way for the Lord (Is 40:3). The Evangelist Mark identifies this voice as John the Baptist. In other words, John the Baptist was already speaking through the Prophet Isaiah in the words of the First Reading (Is 40:1-5, 9-11). In various ways, all the prophets of the Old Testament were sent to prepare the way for the Christ (Heb 1:1-2). John the Baptist then appeared as the last of them. Accordingly, he could be seen as the link between the prophets of the Old Testament and the coming of the Messiah into the world.

THE WILDERNESS AND THE WAY: It is of utmost significance that John the Baptist preached in the wilderness and as well called the people to prepare the way for the Lord who is the Way himself (Jn 14:6). That John preached in the wilderness recalls the journey of the Israelites through the wilderness to the Promised Land. This signifies the trials we experience in life. Just like the Israelites and John, we also have been through the wilderness of life where we experience loneliness, disappointments, frustrations. However, John was filled with the hope that the Lord who promised to come to his people would not disappoint them. Thus, like John we also prepare the way for Christ the Way who will lead us to the Father in heaven. With the coming of Christ, we

shall have the strength to overcome the daily challenges of life.

THE MESSAGE OF THE FORERUNNER: The mission of John the Baptist was to prepare the people's hearts to receive the Messiah. The people's minds had become weary from waiting for the long-awaited Messiah. For many years, the Israelites were dominated and oppressed by foreign powers and at the time of Jesus, the Jewish nation was under the rule of the Roman Empire. Thus, they eagerly longed for the coming of the Messiah who would defeat all their enemies and grant them freedom from all who oppressed them. The message of comfort was then sent by God through the Prophet Isaiah to the people. This was also the message of John the Baptist who called the people to repentance. The people of God would be comforted when the Messiah comes among them. We are then assured that in the driest parts of our wilderness in life, God will send us his comfort. He will show us the way of salvation through the coming of Jesus into the world.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE PEOPLE: John the Baptist lived a life of austerity. He avoided the joyful moments of life in order to direct the minds of the people to the joyful coming of the Lord who is the Christ, the Son of God. His life and mission were only a preparation for the Lord whose coming would be greatest Good News in human history. It is this Good News that comforts the people of God in their loneliness. It is that which restores their hope in God when they fall into despair. It is that which rests their confidence in God when they lose their self-confidence. It is the Good News that brings us joy in our moments of sorrow. May we find true comfort and hope in the coming of Jesus into the world. Amen.
