

Our Lady Star Of The Sea Catholic Church

The Presbytery, 22 Devon Place, Mumbles, Swansea, SA3 4DR
 Rev. Fr Michael 'Tega Akpoghira, O.P. Tel: 01792 367283
 Rev. Fr Clement Oloruntoba, O.P. (Singleton Hospital Chaplain) 07459335606
 Rev. Fr Victor Ogundipe, O.P.
 Parish Safeguarding Rep: Mrs Clare Power Tel: 01792 401781
 email: mumbles@menevia.org twitter: @OLSS_Mumbles
<https://www.facebook.com/OLSSMumbles/>

St David's Catholic Primary School
 West Cross, Swansea, SA3 5TS
 Tel 01792 512212
 Headteacher: Ms E. Richards
<http://www.stdavidsatholicprimary.swansea.sch.uk/>
 email: st.davids.primaryschool@swansea-edunet.gov.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/StDavidsCPS/>
 'Love God, Love Learning, Love Life'

SOME MASSES LISTED BELOW ARE LIVESTREAMED

Date & Liturgical Celebration	Time	Mass Intention
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) Intention of Linda Hickox Parish Community
Monday 14 th <i>St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church</i>	9.30am	Intention of the Davies Family (A D-F)
Tuesday 15 th <i>3rd Week of Advent</i>	9.30am	Intention of the Harris Family (A D-F)
Wednesday 16 th <i>3rd Week of Advent</i>	9.30am	Mrs Christiana Akpoghira, RIP
Thursday 17 th <i>3rd Week of Advent</i>	9.30am	Intention of the Bartolo Family (A D-F)
Friday 18 th <i>3rd Week of Advent</i>	9.30am	Fr Paul Gallagher, RIP Anniversary (N E)
Saturday 19 th <i>3rd Week of Advent</i>	10.00am	Peter Parish, RIP Anniversary (N E)
Sunday 20th December 4th Sunday of Advent	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Gerardine McNeff, RIP & Birthday Remembrance (C M ^c) Parish Community Tom Byrne, RIP Anniversary Thanksgiving: Confirmation of Katie Percy

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: Caroline Solomon, Yvonne Richards, Kevin Holly.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY ONLINE: Monday 21st December, 7pm on Zoom. Details will be sent to all via email.

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.

FOOD BANK: Thank you for your generous donations which currently go to the Swansea Food Bank and are much needed in the run up to Christmas. Seasonal goods, tinned vegetables and toothbrushes have been requested along with the usual items. Thank you.

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

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it will not be possible for parishioners to leave Christmas cards for other parishioners on the table in the porch this year.

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.

CONFIRMATION: We rejoice and pray with Katie Percy who will be confirmed at the 11.45am Mass on Sunday, 20th December.

SUNDAY OFFERING: Last Sunday: £931 (includes standing orders)
 Donations to the livestream: £160
 Second Collection this weekend is for Christmas Flowers

The traditional Christmas Offering (cash, cheque, bank transfer) is your gift to the parish clergy. Envelopes are available in the porch. Thank you.

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 3rd Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Rejoice, for the Lord is Near

The Third Sunday of Advent is liturgically referred to as the *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* in Latin means rejoice. This exhortation to rejoice in the Lord is taken from the first words of the entrance antiphon of the day – rejoice in the Lord always (Phil 4:4). Thus, the Church invites us to be joyful on this day because the Lord whose coming we have been preparing for is near.

The Good News of Joy: The mission of Christ has been prefigured in the Old Testament in several ways. One of these many ways is the prophecy of the Messiah's mission as expressed in the First Reading (Is 61:1-2,10-11). This mission finds its origin in God himself who is the author of the world's salvation history. It is God who saves, and it is his spirit that renews the world. Also, the Messianic mission of liberation finds its meaning in the context of the Israelites who had returned from exile but still felt the weights of bondage in their lives. These people were poor, broken-hearted, and still felt imprisoned even in their own country. This life of despair deprived them of the joy which the Lord had promised them. Jesus picks up this prophecy (Lk 4:16-19) at the beginning of his own ministry and addressed it to the entire humanity. In applying Isaiah's text to his own ministry, Jesus emphatically stresses his preferential option for the poor. These poor are not only those who are deprived of material prosperity but also those who lack the joy of the Lord in their lives. Many of us find ourselves in certain situations which have deprived us of joy. Even amid these hardships in life, Christ our Lord comes to us with his liberation. He sets us free from the burden which life has placed on us so that we may celebrate his coming in true peace and joy.

Rose Candle: A Reminder of Joy: On the Third Sunday of Advent, the rose candle is lit. Rose is a brighter colour than purple. With the lighting of the rose candle, the Church uses the liturgy of the day to brighten the mood of those who are eagerly waiting for the coming of the Lord. Why should we be joyful amid the difficult situations we find ourselves in life? We should be joyful because Christ our Saviour will be born to us. At Christmas, we shall once again have the joy of celebrating the birth of Christ. We shall also have the pleasure of sharing this joy with others. (Rm 12:15). However, the fullest experience of this joy is in heaven.

Joy in Witnessing to the Lord: When he encountered Christ in his mother's womb, John was already filled with joy knowing that the Saviour of the world would soon be born (Lk 1:44). As he bore witness to Christ, he also stated that, unknown to them, the Christ was already among the people. That is the message of Christmas. It is the message of Christ who comes among us in the flesh (Jn 1:14). While we may not recognise him when the paths of life are tough, Christ sees and understands all our trials, and he brings joy into our lives. This joy of the coming of Christ which the Church invites us to share today then becomes a preparation for the eternal joy which we shall experience in heaven. May the coming of Christ into the world fill our hearts with joy and prepare us for our eternal home in heaven. Amen.