

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 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 O.L. Lamp: Jackie & Maurice Rees
Monday 21 st <i>4th week of Advent</i>	9.30am	Friends & Benefactors of the Daughters of Divine Love
Tuesday 22 nd <i>4th Week of Advent</i>	9.30am	Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran, RIP
Wednesday 23 rd <i>4th Week of Advent</i>	9.30am	Peter Cottle, RIP Anniversary (R C)
Thursday 24th CHRISTMAS EVE	4.30pm 6.30pm 9.00pm	No Morning Mass Today Intention of Covid-19 Patients Parish Community Mary Lynch, RIP Anniversary
Friday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	8.30am 10.30am	Maria Richardson, RIP & Birthday Remembrance (C M ^c) Bill Bowling, RIP Anniversary (K B)
Saturday 26 th <i>St Stephen, the First Martyr (Feast)</i>	10.00am	Intentions of Davies, McGenty & Harris Families
Sunday 27th December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (Feast)	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Teresa McNeff, RIP (C M ^c) All Families in the World Norman Evans, RIP (A & M B) Parish Community

CONFESSIONS: After Saturday morning Mass, 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: Peter Andrewes.

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.

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.

CLERGY CHRISTMAS BREAK: There will be no Parish Mass from Monday, 28th December to Thursday, 31st December. This is to enable the Clergy to have some break after Christmas. Mass will resume on Friday, 1st January. Thank you.

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: £732 (includes standing orders)
Last week's Collection for Christmas Flowers: £102

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.

**Sincere thanks for all your kind cards and gifts this Christmas.
Wishing you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.
Father Michael, Father Victor and Monsignor Brian Kinrade.**

Reflection for the 4th Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Mary is the Perfect Dwelling Place for the Son of God

The liturgy of the Fourth Week of Advent centres around the role of Mary in salvation history. It was her humble response to God's invitation that brought salvation to the world.

A Befitting House for God: Out of gratitude to Yahweh for making him the king of Israel and for granting him victory over his enemies, King David wanted to build a befitting house for Yahweh. In his judgment, Yahweh deserves the best. However, Yahweh had other plans. He would be the one to build a house for David. In the Hebrew context, a house could mean, not just a building, but also a palace, dynasty, family or lineage. Thus, David's house which God built for him was his reign over Israel which would last forever. Nevertheless, the history of the people of Israel reveals that the reign of the line of David ended about four centuries after this promise was made. Because God will always fulfil his promises beyond our imagination, Jesus comes into our world as the King of the universe to fully realise this prophesy which God made to his father David.

Mary is the Most Befitting House of God: In accordance with the love God had for David and his son, Solomon, the Jerusalem temple was built to the taste of King Solomon. With liturgical celebrations, it was dedicated for the worship of Yahweh (1 Kings 8). Its beauty and magnificence were celebrated all over Israel. Yet, the Scriptures relate that God does not live in houses made by human hands (Acts 7:48). Heaven and earth were created by him and there is no house that could be befitting enough for God to dwell in (Is 66:1-2). Still, God chose the Blessed Virgin Mary as his perfect dwelling place when he took flesh in her womb in the person of God the Son. Both the Davidic dynasty of old and the Jerusalem temple no longer serve their purposes. But today, the Davidic dynasty has been fully realised in the universal kingship of Jesus and Mary, in her perfect purity, becomes the new Temple in which God has chosen to dwell.

Mary's Role in Salvation History: While the Prophet Nathan was sent to relate the message of everlasting

reign to David, the Angel Gabriel was sent to Mary to deliver the news of the birth of the Saviour. Also, it was David's decision to build a house for God to show the magnificence of his kingdom. On the contrary, salvation came to the world through Mary's obedience of faith. In her humility, she responded to the divine call and to a special mission in salvation history. Through her humble submission to the word of God, she played a unique role in the work of our salvation.

Jesus Christ; Son of God and Son of David: At the annunciation of the birth of Jesus, the angel referred to him both as the Son of the Most High God and the Son of David. This description points to the two natures of Christ. He is divine because he is the Son of God (Lk 1:32,35). He is human because he took flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Lk 1:31). His humanity also derives from his descent from the tribe of Judah which both David and his foster father, Joseph, belonged to.

The Promise of Rest and Peace: In his words to David, God promised to provide a place for his people where they shall find rest and never be disturbed again. At the annunciation, Mary was also deeply disturbed by the words of greeting of the angel, but she found rest in God after submitting to his will. Some of God's plans and purposes in our lives could disturb our peace. Like Mary, we are called to surrender our lives to his plans. It is by so doing that we find true peace and rest. In our troubled moments in life, may we imitate the humility and obedience of Mary in submitting to God's plans in our lives. Amen.