

## 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
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after The Nativity</b>	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Parish Community For the Sick and Housebound of the Parish Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran, RIP Parish Community
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Neil Morgan, RIP Anniversary (J R)
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	For the Intention of Margaret Byrne
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Solemnity of the Epiphany of The Lord</b>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Avril Thomas, RIP (J & M R)
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup></b> <i>St Raymond of Penafort, Priest</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Pat & Jim Taylor, RIP (J & M R)
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	For the Intention of Sheila Smith
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i>	10.00am (Livestreamed)	For the Intention of Sheila Smith
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Parish Community Intention of the donor NHS Workers World Leaders

**GOODBYE TO FATHER VICTOR:** Father Victor has successfully completed his postgraduate studies at Swansea University, MSc in Management (Human Resource Management), graduating with a distinction grade. Later this month, he will return to home to work in our new Dominican University in Nigeria. Father Victor's commitment to and love for the life of our Parish has been extraordinary. The Parish will miss him. We will, as a parish community, thank him for his exemplary service. (Father Michael).

**WEEKEND MASSES:** Weekend Masses with a congregation resume 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of January. Pre-booking is required. Thank you.

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** Weekday Masses are livestreamed without a congregation. There will be no in-person attendance until further notice. Funerals are not affected.

**CONFESIONS:** Saturday evening, 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](mailto:madelineolss@aol.com)) or send an email to the Parish email address [mumbles@menevia.org](mailto: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](http://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:** Matthew Kieft, Allan Jones, Tony Lane, Menna Evans.

**PARISH BIBLE STUDY ONLINE:** Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7pm on Zoom. Details will be sent to all via email.

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

**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](mailto:st.davids.primaryschool@swansea-edunet.gov.uk) or Phone on 01792 512212 or follow us on Twitter:@stdavidscps.

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## Reflection for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Nativity (Year B)

### God Dwells with Us in His Son

The Word of God became flesh in our Lord Jesus Christ who has always existed from all eternity as the Word of the Father. It was for our sake and for our salvation that this Word took flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Christ then saved us in both his divine and human natures.

**The Eternity of the Word of God:** In several ways, Evangelist John aligns the Prologue of his Gospel account of Jesus to the first account of creation in the Book of Genesis (1:1-2:4a). This first account is referred to as the Priestly Account of Creation. This account emphasises the omnipotence of God who created the world out of nothing. The Priestly Account of Creation and John's Prologue both refers to the beginning of time, light, darkness, life and the spoken word of God.

John begins his Prologue in the following words, 'In the beginning', the same phrase used in the Book of Genesis. This phrase traces the origin of the Word of God to eternity where God the Father always existed with God the Son. While we live in time, God lives in eternity such that we cannot speak of the beginning of God. Jesus Christ is the Word of God who has always existed with God the Father from all eternity. Thus, the Son of God is God. He has the same divine nature with the Father. His Sonship does not diminish the fullness of his divinity. Just as God created the universe out of nothing, also the Son of God took flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary without any human seed (CCC 496). Indeed, with God, nothing is impossible (Lk 1:37).

**Christ is the Light of the World:** Light was the first to be created by God in the Priestly Account of Creation. The creation of light then dispersed the darkness that enveloped the whole world (Gen 1:2-4). John also speaks of Christ as the light which the darkness cannot overpower. It is through this light that we have been saved. It is the light of Christ that shall shine on us on the day of resurrection when we shall rise from the dark shadows of death into the newness of life (Is 9:2). This light also dispels

the inner darkness we feel when life's trials weigh too heavily on us. This light enlightens us to see the hand of God caring for us and supporting us as we journey through life.

**Christ is Our Life:** In the Priestly Account of Creation, God gave life to the world with his spoken Word. He gave life to all creatures on earth and in the heavens. In other words, we have our lives from the Word of God and he sustains this life in us (Heb 1:3). Similarly, St John also speaks of Jesus as the life of the world. We enjoy this life in the sacraments of the Church in which Jesus renews the Church with his own Spirit and unites us with the heavenly liturgy. Ultimately, Jesus also assures us of eternal life in the resurrection of the dead. At the resurrection of the dead, we shall share in the Blessed Life of the Holy Trinity. This is the fullness of life.

**Jesus is the Spoken Word of God:** In the Book of Genesis, it was through his Word that God created all that is. While God created the world through his spoken Word, he now renews the world through the Word made flesh. The birth of Christ into the world then becomes the beginning of a new creation in God. Those of us who share in the life of the Word of God have become members of this new creation (Col 1:15).

**The Word Became Flesh:** The summit of John's Gospel account is the incarnation of the Word of God. In God's plan to save humanity, he made his Son, the eternal Word, to share the human nature so that humans may also share the divine nature, the life of the Trinity. That was indeed the mission of Christ, to unite us with the Trinity (CCC 460). At his incarnation, the Word of God became one like us. By his incarnation, he understands and sympathises with our human struggles and limitations. Because of this, he is even more able to intercede for us before the Father. May the light of the Word of God who dwells among us enlighten us for the glory of God. Amen.

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