

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 17th January 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	NHS Workers Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran, RIP Mike D'Rozario, RIP Anniversary (S & M G) Parish Community
Monday 18 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	For the intention of Fr Victor (C M ^c)
Tuesday 19 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	John Onigu-Otite, RIP
Wednesday 20 th <i>St Fabian, Pope & Martyr</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	John Onigu-Otite, RIP
Thursday 21 st <i>St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Theresa McNeff, RIP Anniversary (C M ^c)
Friday 22 nd <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	John Onigu-Otite, RIP
Saturday 23 rd <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	10.00am (Livestreamed)	For the Intention of Daniel Feltham (N E)
Sunday 24th January 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Fr Puntin, RIP (K B) Mrs Christiana Akpoghiran Ciaran Byrne, RIP Anniversary (A & M B) Parish Community

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

CONFESSIONS: 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) 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: Sonia Capper, Gregor Dutko, Dorina Zanetti, Eileen Waters

PARISH BIBLE STUDY ONLINE: Bible study will now hold on Monday, 25th January 2021 at 7pm on Zoom. Details will be sent to all via email.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER: In the Winter Season of Ordinary Time, we are invited to pray for these intentions: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those who Care for Them; Victims of Human Trafficking and Those Who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed.

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

POPE FRANCIS' NEW BOOK: You may want to read Pope Francis' new book titled "Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future." In this book, the Holy Father explores what the present pandemic can teach us about how to handle upheaval of any kind in our own lives. He speaks of how these strange times have changed him dramatically for the better.

DAVID DAVIES, RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of our parishioner, David Davies, who passed away on Tuesday, 12th January. May the Lord grant him eternal rewards. Amen.

SUNDAY OFFERING: Last Sunday: £698 (includes standing orders)

DONATION TO LIVESTREAM: £20

Thanks to all who donate to support the livestream.

Reflection for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

God Keeps Calling Us to His Service

When God calls us, he as well provides the necessary grace we need to answer his call. It is also by the grace of God that we have the support of our fellow disciples with whom we journey to him. The call of Samuel and that of the first disciples of Jesus relates how God calls us to his service and how this call is brought alive in the community of faith and love.

The Disciple Listens to the Master: The story of the call of Samuel is one which teaches about discipleship. When God called Samuel, he needed the guidance of Eli for him to know that it was the Lord who was calling him. Eli served, not just as an elderly prophet to Samuel, but more importantly as his spiritual director. In his wisdom, God ensures that his children do not lack the wisdom of the old through whom they can know him and answer his call. Thus, we listen to God in the Pastors of his Church whom he has consecrated for the priestly ministry and to whom he has entrusted the ministries of his word and sacraments. The need to listen to God then becomes an important aspect of our spiritual life. In our prayer life, it is essential to listen to God speak to us. Prayer becomes a dialogue with God when we truly allow him to speak to us.

The Disciple Directs Others to the Master: God used Eli to help Samuel respond to his call. In the Gospel Reading, John the Baptist directs his disciples to Jesus. Andrew also assisted Simon, his brother to discover Christ. Thus, an important aspect of our discipleship is embarking on the mission of evangelisation through which we bring others to Christ through our kind words and charitable works. Through our witnessing, God also uses us to bring salvation to others.

The Disciple Stays with the Master: In the days of his boyhood, Samuel stayed with Eli in the sanctuary of the Lord to learn the ways of the Lord from him. In their joy of meeting Christ, his

first disciples also spent some time with him which also showed the level of their friendship. It is also our joy to spend time in the presence of the Lord because we know that he is our dependable companion and our friend in times of need. There is no friend like Jesus.

God Calls Us by Our Names: Just as God called Samuel by his name, God also calls us by our name at our baptism. Calling someone by their name indicates certain degree of affection towards them. Because the disciples were the friends of Jesus (Jn 15:15), he called them by their names (Mt 10:2-4). Sometimes, God also gives us a new name which identifies us with our mission. Jesus named Simon, Peter which means rock. This was because he was to be the rock upon which Christ would build his Church (Mt 16:18). Also, when God calls us by our names, our eyes are opened to recognise him. This was the experience of Mary Magdalene when Jesus called her by her name. It was at that moment she knew it was Jesus who was talking with her (Jn 20:16).

God Keeps Calling: With the help of Eli, Samuel knew that it was the Lord who was calling him, and he answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening'. Just like Samuel, we have also responded to the call of God in living for him and serving him in joy and gladness. It is also worthy of note that God called Samuel several times. He did not recognize the voice of God the first two times God called. Yet, God kept on calling him. Even when it becomes difficult for us to hear the voice of God in the troubled waters of our lives, God does not cease to call us to himself. That is the expression of the love of God who does not give up on us. May we hear the comforting voice of God in our lives and so follow him faithfully to the end as his faithful disciples. Amen.