

Our Lady Star Of The Sea Catholic Church

The Presbytery, 22 Devon Place, Mumbles, Swansea, SA3 4DR
 Rev. Fr Michael 'Tega Akpoghiran, O.P. Tel: 01792 367283
 Rev. Fr Clement Oloruntoba, O.P. (Singleton Hospital Chaplain) 07459335606
 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.swanseae.sch.uk/>
 email: st.davids.primaryschool@swanseae.dunet.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 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, RIP Ciaran Byrne, RIP Anniversary (A & M B) Parish Community
Monday 25 th The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle	9.30am (Livestreamed)	John Onigu-Otite, RIP
Tuesday 26 th <i>Sts Timothy & Titus, Bishops</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Jesuseme Arhedo, RIP
Wednesday 27 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	John Onigu-Otite, RIP
Thursday 28 th St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church	9.30am (Livestreamed)	David Davies, RIP (E W)
Friday 29 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Ashling O'Sullivan, RIP (H B)
Saturday 30 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	10.00am (Livestreamed)	John Onigu-Otite, RIP
Sunday 31st January 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Sr Raymond (K B) Sr Jerome (K B) John Lynch, 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: Maria Rees, Joan Morgan

PARISH BIBLE STUDY ONLINE: Bible study 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.

FUNERAL OF DAVID DAVIES, RIP: Funeral service at Morriston Crematorium on Thursday, 4th February at 12.30pm. Attendance by invitation. May the Lord grant him eternal rewards. Amen.

EILEEN JENKINS, RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Eileen Jenkins, who passed away on Friday, 15th January. Funeral Mass in our parish church on Thursday, 18th February at 2.30pm. Due to current restrictions, attendance is by invitation. May the Lord grant her eternal rewards. Amen.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY, 27 JANUARY: A day for everyone to remember the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution, and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. Speaking to pilgrims in St. Peter's Square on 26th January 2020, Pope Francis said: "...in the face of this immense tragedy, this atrocity, indifference is inadmissible, and remembering is a duty... We are all called to have a moment of prayer and reflection, each one saying in his or her own heart, 'Never again, never again!'"

SUNDAY OFFERING: Last Sunday: £767 (includes standing orders)

Thanks to all who donate to support the livestream.

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

The Demands of Discipleship

The readings of today give us a sense of continuation on the theme of discipleship, the teaching of which was started last Sunday. While last Sunday's readings focused on answering God's call, today's readings speak of the demands God's call makes of us.

Jonah Preaches to the Ninevites; Jesus Preaches to the Nations: In significant ways, the mission of Jonah to the Ninevites prefigures that of Jesus to the nations of the earth. Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days while Jesus was in the tomb for three days (Mt 12:40). Also, Jonah preached to the Ninevites for three days. In their state of not knowing Yahweh, the people of Nineveh were considered spiritually dead. While Christ was in the tomb, he went down to Hades to proclaim the Good News of salvation to the dead (1 Pt 4:6; Eph. 4:9) who were awaiting his resurrection from the dead. In this sense, Christ descended into hell to set the souls of the just free from the bondage of death (CCC 633). These holy souls to whom Jesus preached became the fulfilment of the people of Nineveh to whom Jonah preached. More so, the conversion of the Ninevites is contrasted to the obstinacy of the Jews who refused to believe in Jesus (Jn 1:11). The people of Nineveh were also given forty days to repent. These forty days suggest the forty years of Israelite journey in the wilderness and so signifies our spiritual journey to the Lord through the preaching of the Church handed down to her by the Lord Jesus.

The Call of the Disciples: To continue God's mission of inviting peoples into his kingdom which has come among us in Jesus, the Saviour calls apostles and missionaries to himself. Jesus' call of his apostles is similar to God's call of Jonah. Jesus called his first sets of apostles in pairs: Peter and Andrew; James and John. When God calls us, he does so within a community of faith so that we may support one another as we respond to his call. The faithfulness of one is the strength of all. Also, he met Peter and Andrew where they were labouring. He met them in their humble state. Jesus, in

his divinity, has come to meet humanity in its humble state by becoming human. Also, Christ meets us in our life situations and identifies with our conditions. He stays with us while leading us to his kingdom of peace and joy. As he met Peter and Andrew while they were labouring, Christ also meets us as we labour through life's difficulties. He assures us that he is able to support us in our labour and to ease our burden (Mt 11:28-30).

Similarly, Jesus knew who they were: fishermen. He knew that as fishermen, they did not have much to offer to their society, but he had much to offer to them. He offered them eternal life and the peace that the world could not offer (Jn 14:27). As disciples of Christ, these men who were involved in poor labour became the pillars of the Church of Christ. We may also feel that because of certain inadequacies of our lives, we have nothing to offer to the world. When we follow Christ, he helps us to discover our inner potentials and the great things we can accomplish for God and humanity.

Follow Me! The Demands of Discipleship: The invitation Christ made of both sets of apostles was for them to follow him. This involves leaving behind everything they had to live on and even their own lives. In most cases, the most difficult thing to leave behind is ourselves. When Christ called James and John, they were in their boats mending their nets. They were mending their nets because it had torn while they were labouring. But when Christ called them, they left their nets and followed him. Their torn nets represent the frustrations we feel when life becomes sour and almost to the point of despair. However, James and John did not dispose the nets; they tried to fix it. The mending of nets then speaks to the lives of those who live in despair. Christ can renew our lives and give us new hope in the face of our troubled lives. Our nets of life, even when they are torn by trials, shall be given new meanings by Christ. May the call of Christ and our readiness to follow him bring us to the joy of eternal life. Amen.
