

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
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
Monday 1 st February <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	John Onigu-Otite, RIP
Tuesday 2 nd The Presentation of the Lord (Feast)	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Kathleen Anastasia O'Brien, RIP Anniversary
Wednesday 3 rd <i>St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Clive Thomas, Birthday Thanksgiving (C S)
Thursday 4 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Mass for the Dead: David Davies, RIP
Friday 5 th <i>St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Clive Solomon, RIP Anniversary (C S)
Saturday 6 th <i>St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs</i>	10.00am (Livestreamed)	John Onigu-Otite, RIP
Sunday 7th February 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Parish Community Fr Devine, RIP (K B) John Lynch, RIP Anniversary (A & M B) John Onigu-Otite, RIP

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**.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a collection for Sick and Retired Clergy this weekend.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Breda Tennant, Becky Webb, Janice Jones.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY ONLINE: Bible study on Monday, 8th February 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@swansea-edunet.gov.uk or phone on 01792 512212 or follow us on Twitter: @stdavidscps.

PHILOMENA O'CONNELL, RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Philomena O'Connell who passed away on Monday, 25th January. Our prayerful condolences go to Michael and Arlene O'Connell, Karolina Ashton, and Sarah Walsh as they mourn the loss of Philomena. May the Lord grant her eternal rewards. Amen.

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

FUNERAL OF EILEEN JENKINS, RIP: 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.

SUNDAY OFFERING: Last Sunday: £811 (includes standing orders)

LIVESTREAM DONATIONS: £50

Thanks to all who donate to support the livestream.

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

He has the power to free us

While there were already prophets at the time of Moses, God nonetheless promised to raise a Prophet from among his people. This promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ who is greater than all prophets that ever lived.

Moses Prophesied about Jesus: Moses is known as the greatest prophet that ever lived in Israel because of the great works God did through him among his people (Deut 34:10-12). However, before he died, Moses promised the people of Israel that God would raise up another Prophet after him who would be powerful like him and who would be one of them. This Mosaic prophecy could be understood from two perspectives. First, in the immediate understanding of the prophecy, it could refer to Joshua who immediately succeeded Moses as prophet in Israel and whom Moses himself anointed (Deut 34:9). Second, in the Messianic understanding of the text, it speaks of Jesus Christ who is worshipped as the long-awaited Messiah. In the light of this, a closer study of the text indicates that God was speaking about Jesus Christ through Moses as the words of the texts have been fulfilled in Jesus and not in Joshua. Also, the texts of the First Reading have been interpreted as the institution of the prophetic office by Moses. It is then worthy of note that Moses speaks of 'prophet' and not 'prophets'. After Moses, several prophets were called by God to lead the people. However, the use of 'prophet' by Moses indicates that the reference was made to a particular prophet and not to several of them. Thus, Jesus was the prophet referred to by Moses. He is the great prophet who has come among his people and in whom God has visited them (Lk 7:16). Also, because of the singular reference in the text, 'prophet' has been interpreted as meaning Messiah. Thus, Jewish expectation of a Messiah is based on this passage. Once again, it is Jesus who fulfils this role of the Messiah for whom the people longed.

Jesus was anointed by God: The prophecy of Moses was that the prophet (now understood as the Messiah) would be raised or anointed by God. It was Moses who anointed Joshua to succeed him, but it was God who

anointed Jesus Christ as the Messiah of the world (Acts 10:38). More so, in the testimony of John the Baptist, he was asked if he was the Prophet. John, the messengers who enquired of him and the Jews who sent them to him understood that the use of 'Prophet' in that context referred, not to prophets like Moses, Elijah or Isaiah, but to the Messiah himself. John was acknowledged as a prophet (Mt 14:5; Mk 11:32) but he declared clearly and openly that he was not the Prophet (Messiah) (Jn 1:21).

Listen to the Prophet of God: Moses instructed the people to listen to the Prophet whom God would raise up from their midst. At the transfiguration of Jesus, God uses similar words to confirm that Jesus is his anointed one. He speaks of Jesus as his Beloved Son whom we are to listen to (Mk 9:7). We are to listen to him because God has given him authority over all things, in heaven and on earth (Col 1:16). It is with this authority that he teaches us the way of salvation which begins with the building of God's kingdom here on earth. Also, through the authority which Christ exercises on earth and in heaven, he has the power to free us from the bondage of evil.

Christ Sanctifies Humanity: In the man who was possessed by an unclean spirit in the Gospel Reading, we see humanity which struggles with evil in the world. In the helplessness of our humanity, Christ comes to free us from whatever oppresses us. We may not be possessed by an unclean spirit, but we may feel troubled by circumstances beyond our control. In those dark moments of our lives, Christ, the Holy One of God, sanctifies us and prepares us for eternal life where we shall be free from all burdens. His words are still powerful and effective to calm our fears and soothe our sorrows. With his power working in us and through us, we are also able to help others to feel safe and secure under the umbrella of salvation of Jesus Christ. May the power in the words of Christ sanctify us and help us to serve God with undivided hearts. Amen.
