

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 21st February 1st Sunday of Lent	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Ray Clancy, Thanksgiving (A L) Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart (G C) Philomena O'Connell, RIP (The Prayer Group) Parish Community
Monday 22 nd The Chair of St Peter the Apostle	9.30am (Livestreamed)	For the Intention of Ray & Claire Clancy (E D)
Tuesday 23 rd <i>Weekday, First week of Lent</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Gerry McNeff, RIP Anniversary (C Mc)
Wednesday 24 th <i>Weekday, First week of Lent</i>	9.30am	For the Intention of Jem Gott (E D)
Thursday 25 th <i>Weekday, First week of Lent</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Brian Thomas, RIP, Wedding Anniversary (E T)
Friday 26 th <i>Weekday, First week of Lent</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed) 1.00pm	John Onigu-Otite, RIP <i>Today is Lent Family Fast Day</i> Funeral Service: Gina O'Brien, RIP
Saturday 27 th Lenten Day of Recollection	10.00am (Livestreamed)	For the Intention of Brian Hughes (C S) Recollection (Mass, Adoration, Confession)
Sunday 28th February 2nd Sunday of Lent	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	For the Intention of Fr Michael Fewell (M A) Sheila Delahunty, RIP (A B) Kevin & Maureen Jermey, RIP (D P) 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: Peter Smith, Maurice Rees, Alison Lewis, Diane Davies, Susanna Power, Vincenzo Cianci

PARISH BIBLE STUDY ONLINE: Bible study on Monday 22nd February 2021 at 7pm on Zoom. Details will be sent to all via email

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY: Friday 26th February. Please give today to provide vulnerable communities around the world with water and other vital support. Donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/fastday. Or donate using one of the envelopes in the porch. Thank you.

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@swanseaedunet.gov.uk or phone on 01792 512212 or follow us on Twitter: @stdavidscps.

LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION: A Lenten Day of Recollection will be livestreamed on Saturday, 27 February, starting at 10.00am with Holy Mass. The talk will be given by Fr Matthew Roche-Saunders. If you wish to attend in person, please contact Madeline to book a seat. To join the livestream, please visit our parish website or the website of DOMSEC at www.domsec.org.uk

PARISH COFFEE MORNING ON ZOOM: Please join parishioners and friends for a Zoom coffee morning at 11.30am for half an hour following 10.30am Mass this Sunday (21st February). Access it with the Zoom ID **874 7646 0780** (no passcode required). You can turn up and leave at your leisure. Please let your friends know about this new initiative which will continue until further notice. Have your coffee and biscuit (s) ready to enjoy meeting your friends in a new way. Don't get left out. See you. For more information, please contact Stephanie Jefferies (402409; stephfernhill@aol.com).

FUNERAL SERVICE GINA O'BRIEN, RIP: Funeral Service in our Parish church on Friday, 26th February, at 1.00pm. Due to current COVID restrictions, attendance will be by invitation only. May the Lord grant her eternal rewards.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Barbara Evans, Gina O'Brien, Philomena O'Connell, David Davies, Eileen Jenkins.

SUNDAY OFFERING: Last Sunday: £716 (includes standing orders) Last week's collection for Sick & retired Clergy: £60 Racial justice Sunday: £126.50	LIVESTREAM DONATIONS Thanks to all who donate to support the livestream.
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Reflection for the First Sunday of Lent (Year B)

He will never leave us alone

On this First Sunday of Lent, our liturgical attention is already directed to the temptations of Christ. As he overcame temptations, he as well gives us grace through the sacraments, the celebration of God's covenant, to also become victorious over the difficulties we face in our lives.

God saves through his Church: When God wanted to save the world, he raised up Noah and instructed him to build an ark. Here, Noah becomes a symbol of Jesus whom God sent to save the world. Just as Noah built an ark to save the world, Jesus also founded his Church (Mt 16:18) to become the means of salvation for everyone. However, the ark built by Noah could only save a few people but the Church, the new ark of God, has become the haven for all peoples of the world. This Church of Christ does not only include all people. but it is also a lasting and sure seed of unity, hope and salvation for the whole human race (Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium*, n. 9). Thus, God has made a covenant with every living creature on earth because he desires the salvation of all (1 Tim 2:4). At the time of Noah, water destroyed many people. In the Church of Christ, the waters of baptism have now become the means through which we are saved (Mk 16:16). During this season of Lent, the Church invites us to recall our baptism through which God has given us eternal life.

God has made a covenant with us through Christ: The First Reading repeatedly speaks of the covenant God has made with the whole human race. At the time

of Noah, the rainbow was given as the sign of this covenant. In the new covenant which God has made with us in Christ, the Precious Blood of his Son has become the everlasting sign of this covenant (Mt 26:28). God made a covenant with the people of Israel, yet he spoke through the Prophet Jeremiah that he would make a new covenant with his people (Jer 31:31-33). The new covenant was made when he offered his Son as the sacrifice for our sins through his Blood (Rom 5:9; Eph 1:7). Thus, each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we are reminded of God's covenant with the whole world.

Christ was tempted to strengthen us: At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus was in the wilderness where he was tempted. Christ's temptation in the wilderness speaks of the cross we carry. As he was tempted alone in the wilderness, we also remember the many times we have felt alone in our trials. That Christ himself was tempted alone in the wilderness once again assures us that we are not alone in our troubles. As angels were there to minister to him, he will always send his help from above to restore our hope in him. Also, the temptation of Christ reminds us of his humanity in which he died in order to save us. Through Christ's death, God has made a covenant with us that he will give us the graces we need to face the difficulties of life. He will never leave us alone. May we always find strength in our weakness to trust in God's providence. Amen.
