

Our Lady Star Of The Sea Catholic Church

The Presbytery, 22 Devon Place, Mumbles, Swansea, SA3 4DR

Rev. Fr. Michael 'Tega Akpoghiran, OP. Tel: 01792 367283

Rev. Fr. Matthew Achunine, OP.

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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 2nd January 2nd Sunday of Christmas	Sat. Vigil 6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Maureen Davies, RIP (A L) Joe Blackburn, RIP (A & M B) Parish Community Dead Refugees, RIP (Prayer Group)
Monday 3 rd January	10.00am Mass in Townhill	
Tuesday 4 th <i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i>	9.30am	Sinead Sweeney, RIP (T & C L)
Wednesday 5 th <i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	Joe Blackburn, RIP (T & A L)
Thursday 6 th The Epiphany of the Lord TWO MASSES TODAY	9.30am (Livestreamed) 7.00pm	Joe Blackburn, RIP (B & D D) Rosario Imperato, RIP Anniversary (A I)
Friday 7 th <i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i>	9.30am (Livestreamed)	James & Mary Witooley, RIP Anniversary (M G)
Saturday 8 th <i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i>	10.00am (Livestreamed)	Special Intention of L B (C B)
Sunday 9th January The Baptism of the Lord	6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am 11.45am	Maureen Davies, RIP (E D) Gloria Lewis, RIP (T O'D) Clare Wilson, RIP (D W) Parish Community

CONFESSIONS: Saturday morning after 10am Mass, Saturday evening 6pm-6.15pm, and on request.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Seamus O'Brien, Matthew Kieft, Allan Jones, Tony Lane.

AFGHANISTAN CRISIS APPEAL: CAFOD is combining efforts with the Disasters Emergency Committee to launch the **Afghanistan Crisis Appeal**. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister **Caritas** agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During the Christmas season, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

DONATIONS TO THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA: Although not ship visiting at the moment, Carolyn and Paul Curren can take donations To Fr Paul in Milford Haven who has many ships to visit. Any donations will be gratefully received. Please leave a message for Carolyn on 01792 547787 and she will collect from your home or the Church when she returns from Caldey, usually about once a month. She has recently delivered four bags of hats from Sheila and Wyn. Thank you very much.

WE REMEMBER THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND, AND THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS: Isabelle Gilfedder, Bill Gill, Claire Clancy, Roy Miller, Frank Bowen, Michael Guerin, Theresa Plunkett, John Grant, Kath Bowling, Doris Renninghoff, Pat Davies, Frances Traylor, Rosemary Ronan, Mary Brearley, Audrey Robinson, Maria Davies, Angela Matthews, Millie Richards, Janet Blackburn, Eleanor Scowcroft, Yvonne Richards, Maria Watkins, Peter McPherson, Heather Ellis, Bernard Gregory.

WE REMEMBER THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR ABOUT THIS TIME: William Kinrade, Bert D'Rosario, Stephen Evans, Orlek Zienkiewicz, Fr Patrick Kelly, Fr Edward Lunt, Edward Cummings, Claude Gunning, Stella Cummings, John and Josie Frawley, Brian Davies, Ellen White, Ellen Smith, Aldo Grattarola, Ronald Cummings, Florence Taylor, Mary Whooley, Mary-Ann O'Mahony, Delia Hughes, Jack McLoughlin, Angela Davies, Fr John Quinn, Fr Leopold Cunningham.

SUNDAY OFFERING: £762 (includes standing orders). Thanks for your generosity.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY: In January, we pray with Pope Francis that the Lord may give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER: Christmastide continues the themes begun in Advent: Openness to the Word of God; Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.

New Year's Blessing

May the Lord bless and keep you.
May his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May he look upon you with kindness and give you peace. Amen.

Sincere thanks and deep appreciation for all your kind words, cards, and gifts this Season.
Father Michael, Father Matthew, and Monsignor Brian Kinrade.

St Thomas Aquinas on the Hail Mary "Hail Mary"

We must now consider concerning the first part of this prayer that in ancient times it was no small event when Angels appeared to men; and that man should show them reverence was especially praiseworthy. Thus, it is written to the praise of Abraham that he received the Angels with all courtesy and showed them reverence. But that an Angel should show reverence to a man was never heard of until the Angel reverently greeted the Blessed Virgin saying: "Hail."

In olden time an Angel would not show reverence to a man, but a man would deeply revere an Angel. This is because Angels are greater than men, and indeed in three ways. First, they are greater than men in dignity. This is because the Angel is of a spiritual nature: "You make your angels spirits" [Ps 103:4]. But, on the other hand, man is of a corruptible nature, for Abraham said: "I will speak to my Lord, whereas I am dust and ashes" [Gen 18:27]. It was not fitting, therefore, that a spiritual and incorruptible creature should show reverence to one that is corruptible as is a man. Secondly, an Angel is closer to God. The Angel, indeed, is of the family of God, and as it were stands ever by Him: "Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, and ten thousand times a hundred thousand stood before Him" [Dan 7:10]. Man, on the other hand, is rather a stranger and afar off from God because of sin: "I have gone afar off" [Ps 44:8]. Therefore, it is fitting that man should reverence an Angel who is an intimate and one of the household of the King.

Then, thirdly, the Angels far exceed men in the fullness of the splendour of divine grace. For Angels participate in the highest degree in the divine light: "Is there any numbering of His soldiers? And upon whom shall not His light arise?" [Job 25:3]. Hence, the Angels always appear among men clothed in light, but men on the contrary, although they partake somewhat of the light of grace, nevertheless do so in a much slighter degree and with a certain obscurity. It was, therefore, not fitting that an Angel should show reverence to a man until it should come to pass that one would be found in human nature who exceeded the Angels in these three points in which we have seen that they excel over men—and this was the Blessed Virgin. To show that she excelled the Angels in these, the Angel desired to show her reverence, and so he said: "Ave (Hail)."

St Thomas Aquinas, *The Angelic Salutation*

COVID ADVICE: To reduce the risk of spreading COVID, please do NOT attend Mass if you feel unwell or have any symptoms of a cold, no matter how mild. Instead, follow our livestreamed Mass. Also, we remind those attending Mass that face masks should be worn over the nose and mouth. Thank you.

Face Covering 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 (COVID track and trace).

Livestreamed Masses: Masses are livestreamed from our Parish (weekday Masses and Sunday 10.30am Mass). 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**

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.

Email: 6703303_stdavidscatholicprimaryschool@hwbcmru.net or phone on 01792 512212 or follow us on Twitter: @stdavidscps.