

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`

THE SUNDAY 10.30AM MASS AND ALL WEEKDAY MASSES ARE USUALLY LIVESTREAMED

| Date & Liturgical Celebration | Time | Mass Intentions |
|--|---|---|
| Sunday 26th January 2025 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time | 6.30pm (Vigil) 8.30am 10.30am | Parish Community Christiana Akpobasa, Birthday Thanksgiving (Fr Jude) Kevin & Breda O'Carroll, RIP Anniversary (N & I L) O/L lamp: Special Intention |
| Monday 27 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> | 9.30am | George Plunkett, RIP Anniversary (T P) |
| Tuesday 28 th 1. St Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church (Feast) 2. Funeral Mass | 9.30am 2.00pm | David and Christiana Akpoghiran, RIP Funeral Mass for Janet Susan Blackburn |
| Wednesday 29 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> | 9.30am 10.00am | Gino Cresci, RIP Anniversary (A L) Coffee Morning |
| Thursday 30 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> | 7.00pm | Sr. Margaret Canny, RIP (A L) |
| Friday 31 st <i>St John Bosco, Priest</i> | 9.30am | Barbara Owen, RIP (M M) |
| Saturday 1 st February <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i> | 10.00am | Janet Blackburn, RIP (E W) |
| Sunday 2nd February The Presentation of the Lord | 6.30pm (Vigil) 8.30am 10.30am O/L Lamp | Parish Community Sr Margaret Canny, RIP (J & A McG) Nelson Onuoha, Birthday Thanksgiving The Thomas Family, Thanksgiving |

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

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION: Saturday morning after 10am Mass (Confessions also available)

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Maria Rees, Joan Morgan, Breda Tennant.

TOWNHILL PARISH AND CLERGY MOVES: 1. Fr Clement Oloruntoba OP – Priest-in-Charge of Gorseinon/Pontarddulais (from 1st March). 2. Fr Christo Titto Neriampampil – Priest-in-Charge of Townhill, Swansea and Chaplain to the Syro-Malabar Community in the three Western Deaneries.

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD: This Sunday (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time) is **Sunday of the Word of God**. In his Apostolic Letter, *Aperuit illis*, published on 30 September 2019, Pope Francis establishes that "the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God".

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY, 27 JAN 2025: This year's Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia. The theme: **For a better future**. There are many things we can all do to create a better future. We can speak up against Holocaust and genocide denial and distortion; we can challenge prejudice; we can encourage others to learn about the Holocaust and more recent genocides. Please see the website of the Bishops' Conference (cbcew.org.uk) or the Holocaust Memorial Day (hmd.org.uk) for more information.

DYSLEXIA CLUB SWANSEA: One of our parishioners, Tina Law, runs Dyslexia Club Swansea. If you shop in Tesco, you can use the blue tokens you get at the checkout to vote for this club. You can vote for Dyslexia Club in Tesco stores throughout Swansea, including the one in Mumbles. Tina and the club would value your support.

FUNERAL OF JANET BLACKBURN, RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Janet Susan Blackburn (the widow of the late Joe Blackburn)**. Funeral Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea at 2pm on Tuesday, 28th January. May the Lord grant her eternal rest and rewards. Amen.

FUNERAL OF BARBARA OWEN, RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Barbara Owen (Stephanie Jefferies' mum)** who died peacefully on Monday night (6th January) after a brief illness at the **age of 103**. Funeral Service at **Methodist Church, Mumbles** at 11am on Friday 31st January, and 12.30pm at Morrision Crematorium. May the Lord grant her eternal rest and rewards. Amen.

BABY ITEMS NEEDED: SVP has received another request for items for a new baby including cot, pram, bath, clothes etc. If you can help, please contact Eileen Waters (07592 829091) or any member of the SVP. Thank you.

PARISH PRAYER GROUP: Now meeting every other week in the Church Hall. Please join our next meeting on **Tuesday 4th February at 7pm**. All are welcome.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY ONLINE: **Monday 27th January at 7pm**. Text: John chapter 10. Zoom Meeting ID: 585 166 8513.

HOUR OF GRACE: 6pm - 7pm every other Wednesday. Led by a Dominican priest, this is a solemn moment of prayerful encounter with Jesus in the Exposition and Adoration of the Holy Eucharist. It will include an Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Silent Adoration, Talk, Worship Songs, Intercessions for Various Intentions, and Benediction. **Next on Wednesday 29^h January at 6pm**.

PRAYER INTENTION ENVELOPE (HOUR OF GRACE): If you would like us to pray for an intention during the Hour of Grace (Eucharistic Adoration), please collect a brown prayer intention envelope in the porch. It is NOT a Mass intention envelope. Thank you.

CATHOLIC ROUND TABLE: Explore Catholic teachings from a biblical background. The next meeting is on **Thursday 30th January at 7.30 to 8.30pm** in the Parish Hall. **Theme: Treasures of the Catholic Faith.**

PARISH BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT: Are you in need of confidential one-to-one support following a bereavement, whether a recent loss or one that occurred some time ago? A member of our Parish team is available to meet you and provide individual support. Whether you need someone to talk to, listen, pray with or just some company for a coffee and chat, please don't hesitate to call Rose at 078131-57296. We are here to support you. You are not alone in this journey of grief.

WE REMEMBER THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND, AND THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS: Roy Miller, Frank Bowen, Teresa Plunkett, Kath Bowling, Frances Traylor, Mary Brearley, Angela Matthews, Yvonne Richards, Bill Gill, John Mannion, Jill Griffiths, Rachael Naylor, Michael Kinrade, Karolina Ashton, Andy Payne, Allan Jones, Noreen Hyden, Rita Power, Mary Richards, Pauline Howard, Elizabeth Williams, Mike Bickerstaff, Caroline Solomon, Maureen Dooley, Arthur Barragry, Angela Millar, Sarah Leaman.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER: We are invited to pray for Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; Victims of Human Trafficking and Those Who Work to Combat it; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; The Unemployed.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY: For the respect of the rights of migrants, refugees, and those affected by war.

FOR FEBRUARY: For the sick who are in the final stages of life, and that their families receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

SUNDAY OFFERING: £857 Thanks for your generosity.

EVANGELISATION (DOMSEC) DONATIONS:

Thanks to all who donate to support the work of evangelisation

Pope Francis on the Sunday of the Word of God

"In the first reading and in the Gospel, we find two parallel acts. Ezra the priest lifts up the book of the law of God, opens it and reads it aloud before the people. Jesus, in the synagogue of Nazareth, opens the scroll of the Sacred Scripture and reads a passage of the prophet Isaiah in the presence of all. Both scenes speak to us of a fundamental reality: at the heart of the life of God's holy people and our journey of faith are not ourselves and our own words. At its heart is God and his word...

First, *the word reveals God*. Jesus, at the beginning of his mission, commenting on the words of the prophet Isaiah, announces a clear decision: he has come to liberate the poor and the oppressed (cf. v. 18). In this way, precisely through the scriptures, he reveals the face of God as one who cares for our poverty and takes to heart our destiny. God is not an overlord (padrone), aloof and on high – an ugly but untrue image of God – but a Father (Padre) who follows our every step...

Brothers and sisters: let us ask ourselves: do we bear within our hearts this liberating image of God, the God of closeness, compassion and tenderness, or do we think of him as a merciless judge, an accountant who keeps a record of every moment of our lives? Is ours a faith that generates hope and joy, or, among us, a faith still weighed down by fear, a fearful faith? What is the face of God that we proclaim in the Church? The Saviour who liberates and heals, or the Terrifying God who burdens us with feelings of guilt? In order to convert us to the true God, Jesus shows us where to start: from his word. That word, by telling us the story of God's love for us, liberates us from the fears and preconceptions about him that stifle the joy of faith. That word overthrows false idols, unmasking our projections, destroys our all too human images of God and brings us back to see his true face, his mercy. The word of God nurtures and renews faith: let us put it back at the centre of our prayer and our spiritual life! Let us put at the centre the word that reveals to us what God is like. The word that draws us close to God..."

- Taken from Pope Francis' Homily at St. Peter's Basilica, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, 23 January 2022