

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 23rd August 2026 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time	6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am	Katarina & Martin Dutko, 44 th Wedding Anniversary (K D) Theo Battershell, Health & Recovery (H B) Eno & Benjamin Usoroh, Birthday Thanksgiving (E U)
Monday 24 th St Bartholomew, Apostle (Feast)	9.30am	Parish Community
Tuesday 25 th <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am	Mae Dunne, RIP (G M)
Wednesday 26 th <i>St David Lewis, Priest, Martyr</i>	9.30am 10.00am	Rita Power, RIP (E T) COFFEE MORNING
Thursday 27 th <i>St Monica</i>	7.00pm	Betty Hannigan, Special Intention (M P)
Friday 28 th <i>St Augustine, Bishop, Doctor</i>	9.30am	Rita Power, RIP (M A)
Saturday 29 th <i>The Passion of St John the Baptist</i>	10.00am	A Donor, Restoration of Health
Sunday 30th August 2026 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	6.30pm 8.30am 10.30am	Peter Quinn, Anniversary (V Q) Parish Community Louisa Akujobi-Ibe, 50 th Birthday 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: Benjamin Usoroh, Louisa Akujobi-Ibe, Sue Sander, Martin Power, Tina Law, Seamus Upton, Luca Cianci, Richard Morgan.

RITA POWER, RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rita Power who died on Sunday evening, 16th August. Funeral Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea on Thursday 3rd September at 10.30am. May the Lord grant her eternal rest and rewards. Amen.

FROM THE ARCHBISHOP: 1) There will be a 2nd Reading and vote in the House of Commons for the **Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life Bill)** on 11 September. As Catholics, we oppose this legislation in principle as it attacks the innate dignity of every person. It is also very poorly written and gives no safeguards to healthcare staff, nursing homes, or hospices all of whom will be pressured to implement the bill if the legislation is passed. I encourage all Catholics to write to their MP. The Bishops' Conference has produced has a scannable QR code, available on its website at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/> [1]. On the page, there are various resources, copies of statements and guidance on writing to your MP, and please do so, to protect the most vulnerable in our society. Many thanks.

2) The Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers and the Maryvale Institute run an **annual 6-month course for adult Altar Servers**, exploring the history of liturgy, the sacraments, scripture, communication, leadership and people skills and the theology of service. There are no pre-requisite education requirements, and it is delivered online in 1-hour monthly evening sessions, with an optional one day in-person session at Oscott College, Birmingham at the end of the course. The deadline for registration for the next cohort is 15th September 2026. For more information see the attached flyer or the Guild of St Stephen website guildofststephen.org/certificate or email Deacon Paul Briers on certificate@guildofststephen.org.

MATTHEW MULCAHY SPONSORED WALK: This year's sponsored walk will take place on 13th September commencing 2.00pm from Stella Maris Convent and is in support of the Ursuline Sisters' Mission in Madagascar which feeds and educates orphaned and abandoned street children. Please walk with us or consider sponsoring walkers. Full route details are available in the porch. Halfway refreshments will again be kindly provided by Our Lady Star of the Sea. Please support us.

PARISH PRAYER GROUP: Meets every other week in the Church Hall. Next on **Tuesday 25th August at 7pm** in the Parish Hall.

PARISH BIBLE STUDY: You are welcome to join our Parish Bible Study on Zoom (recorded for a later review). **Monday 31st August at 7pm.** Text: Acts of the Apostles chap 3. Zoom Meeting ID: 585 166 8513. Please contact Fr Michael for an audio recording.

CATHOLIC ROUND TABLE: Join us to discuss Catholic teachings from a biblical background. The next meeting is on **Thursday 3rd September 7.30 to 8.30pm** in the Parish Hall. Remote Zoom attendance is available. Zoom ID: 585 166 8513

HOOR 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, Hymns, Worship Songs, Intercessions for Various Intentions, and Benediction. Next session will be on **Wednesday 26th August.**

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

WE REMEMBER THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND, AND THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS: Frank Bowen, Teresa Plunkett, Kath Bowling, Frances T aylor, Angela Matthews, Yvonne Richards, Bill Gill, John Mannion, Jill Griffiths, Karolina Ashton, Andy Payne, Allan Jones, Pauline Howard, Elizabeth Williams, Mike Bickerstaff, Caroline Solomon, Arthur Barragry, Sarah Leaman, Cecily Hughes, Roger Eddy, Joy Stafford, Fran Jordan, Maureen Dooley, Margaret Frost, Emily Jones, Wendy Graham, Tess O'Donoghue, Joshua Lane, Mark McGaw, Judith Adams, Breda Tennant, John Jones, Margaret Joyce-Brown.

CYCLE OF PRAYER: During Ordinary Time (Summer), i.e. up to September, we are asked to pray for these intentions: A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Human Life; Seafarers.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST: For evangelisation in the city, that in large cities, often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

SUNDAY OFFERING: £1059

Thank you for your generosity

PARISH GARDEN PARTY

Date: Sunday, 23rd August 2026. Time: 1.00p.m. Venue: Please see notice board for address. Special thanks to our host.

All are invited and welcome. Please invite your families and friends. We would be grateful if parishioners would bring some food and / or a bottle to share. If you have a folding chair and/or a rug, please bring it. Please sign up on the notice board. Thank you.

An Exceptionally Successful Year

It has been an exceptionally successful year for St David's, with many significant milestones, including a positive Estyn inspection, a successful Section 50 Catholic Schools Inspection, achieving School of Sanctuary status, and most recently, being awarded the Siarter Iaith Gold Award. These accomplishments are a testament to the commitment and dedication of our staff, pupils, governors, parents and parish, all working together to live out our mission of *Love God, Love Learning, Love Life*.

REFLECTION

Both the 1st Reading (Is 22:19-23) and the Gospel (Mt 16:13-20) reveal the sovereign authority of God, who elevates and puts down, and on whom alone should be our utmost dependence. However, although the ultimate power and decision lie with God, today's and recent (extended) readings highlight (de)meritorious predispositions in candidates either for demotion: vainglory in Shebna and the king of Tyre, faithlessness in Paul's lamented unbelieving Jews; or for elevation: fatherliness in Eliakim, God's Spirit-inspired outspokenness in Simon-Peter and faith of the believing Gentiles in whose region, by the way, Jesus's Messiahship, the Church's institution and Peter's/papal key-holding-authority are professed.

The LORD, who alone is truly high and mighty, looks on the lowly to elevate them. The lowliness of the contrite sinner trumps the haughtiness of the conceited righteous man – pardon the mismatch. It is such lowly one who, in the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 138:1-8), praises the eternal love of God, who would not discard the pitiable, self-realising, fallible work of his hands.

It is this might, sovereignty and inscrutability of God that Paul, like Job (cf. Job 35:7; 41:1-3; 42), praises in the 2nd Reading (Rm 11:33-36). Paul could hardly fathom that God is rejected by a people (Jews) with whom He had walked for generations, from and through whom He revealed himself to the world, in Christ, whereas the Gentiles (a good number of us) would welcome Him without much fuss.

May God bless, sustain and reward our professed faith and lowliness. Amen. (Fr. Jude A. Akpobasa, OP)