

## Recently died

Please pray for the eternal repose of the following:

**Mr David Watkins R.I.P.** - The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 12.15pm.

**Mr Gary Sutton R.I.P.** - The Funeral Service will be celebrated at Holy Family on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 11.15am.

**Mrs Nell Strugnell R.I.P.** - The Funeral Service will be celebrated at Thornhill Crematorium.



**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.**

## Pray for the Sick

**Holy Family:** David Rogers, Catherine Driscoll, Kay & Paul Parris, Sheila Ferriter, Bernard Perry, Collette Griffin, Vivian Miller, Valentine, Brian Webster, Henry Fernandez, Hanna Marengi, Mary Bodman, Susanna, Martin, Chris Collins, Louise Macpherson.

**St Mary's:** Fr Christopher Delaney, Bethan Williams, Jean Allen, Madison Lane, John & Marian Lamb, Jean Hayman, Nadasiri Ifada, Cecily Hughes, James Church, Anthony Jackson, Margaret Griffiths, Tom Hopkins, Joanne Coakley, Helen Ward, Doreen Utley, Carina Foster, Ben Foster, Maria Sullivan, Thomas Hyde (now living in Canada), Ivan Sadka, Mary D'Alpa, John Barry, Peter and Isabelle Nash, Mary Kelleher.

## Parish Contacts

The Priory 67 Talbot St. Canton, Cardiff  
tel: (029) 20 230 492

Parishes of St. Mary's and Holy Family  
new email address is: [canton@rcadc.org](mailto:canton@rcadc.org)

**Canon Peter Collins**

e-mail: [peter.collins@rcadc.org](mailto:peter.collins@rcadc.org)

**Fr Nick Williams**

e-mail: [nicholas.williams@rcadc.org](mailto:nicholas.williams@rcadc.org)

**Deacon Professor Maurice Scanlon**

e-mail: [maurice.scanlon@rcadc.org](mailto:maurice.scanlon@rcadc.org)

tel (029) 2021 2651

**Deacon Christian Mahoney**

Contact details to follow

Priest in residence at St Mary's:

**Fr Dwayne Bednar**

Retired Priest in Residence at Holy Family:

**Monsignor Canon John Maguire**

Website: [cardiffwestcatholics.org.uk](http://cardiffwestcatholics.org.uk)

Bank details for standing orders, which are directly linked to the respective parish accounts are as follows:

**Account name: Archdiocese of Cardiff**

**Sort code: 20-18-23 (for both)**

**St Mary's Acc No: 03285375**

**Holy Family Acc No: 63656861**

**St Mary's SVP contact number 07731847622.**

### Parish Safeguarding Reps

Mrs Ellery Hennessy (Holy Family)

Mr Jack Meggitt-Phillips (St Mary of the Angels)

### Primary Headteachers:

#### Holy Family

Mrs Louise Mills Tel: 20565354

#### St. Mary's

Miss Claire Russell Tel: 2022 5680

### Secondary Headteachers:

#### Corpus Christi

Mr Patrick Brunnock Tel: 20761893

#### Mary Immaculate

Mr Huw Powell Tel: 2059 3465

#### St David's 6th Form College

Mr Mark Leighfield Tel: 20498555

# Holy Family & St Mary of the Angels

Keyston Rd, Fairwater CF5 3NP

Kings Rd, Canton CF11 9BX

21st-28th February 2021 First Sunday of Lent` Cycle B

### Readings for the 1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15.

The account of the Flood in the Book of Genesis reflects similar stories across a number of ancient civilizations. Such stories are mythical representations of significant religious events, experiences and insights. The contemporary mind tends to reduce the word 'myth' to mean mere fantasy. In anthropological terms 'myth' is more accurately defined as a rather sophisticated mechanism of representation and explanation. The elements of the Flood story not only manifest a destructive condemnation but also provides an opportunity that will enable the survival of the righteous. The Book of Genesis describes how the Lord God addresses Noah and his family: "See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you." The sinful rebellion of the human race, that had gathered momentum since the very dawn of time, constituted a rejection of the very purpose of Creation. Despite the fact that we proved ourselves unworthy of the gift of life itself, God did not abandon us. The Lord God recognises Noah to be a righteous man and Noah embodies a hope for the future. The rainbow is employed as the sign of hope. "Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth." The Old Testament holds a sequence of Covenants established between God and his People. We proclaim that the strands found in all these Covenants find their completion in Christ. It is only in the loving self-offering of Christ on the Cross that the rift caused by sin is healed. Without the Eternal Covenant forged by Christ we could not discover the true meaning and purpose of freedom. Without the sacrifice and triumph of Christ we could not flourish, indeed, we could not survive this life. Only in Christ are we set free from death, which is the fruit of sin. As we begin the Season of Lent we will do well to contemplate the significance of the Flood. Christ leads us through the waters of baptism so that we can die to sin and rise to eternal life.

Psalms 24.

Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

I Peter 3:18-22.

"Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God." This great declaration from the First Letter of St Peter leads us to contemplate how critical was the sacrifice of Christ for the salvation of the world. The language and imagery of this Letter is firmly rooted in Hebrew tradition. We are reminded that in the time of Noah only eight people were saved from the condemnation imposed by the Flood. The great immersion of the Flood was only an ancient and imperfect type of the waters of baptism. This First Letter of St Peter links three elements within the Sacrament of Baptism: the flow of water that provides the external sign of cleansing; the interior disposition of a good conscience that pledges allegiance to God; the recognition that the foundation of our redemption is established by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our Lenten journey leads us to the night of the Resurrection at Easter Vigil when we will renew our baptismal promises. Lent is our opportunity to attend to our dispositions, ensuring that we nurture a good conscience.

Mark 1:12-15.

"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days." In biblical terms, the number forty signifies an 'indefinite' period. There were the forty years of wandering in the desert following liberation from Egypt. There were the forty days of preparation undertaken by the Prophet Elijah in preparation for his mission. There were forty days between the Resurrection and the Ascension, providing the Apostles with an opportunity for further formation. Jesus will enter the desert places to confront the temptations presented by Satan. Jesus is God Incarnate, the Innocent One, who though free from sin, will confront the Enemy on our behalf. The temptations, in fact, constitute a sign of God's favour. The testing of the temptations is a refining process which strengthens, just as metal is purged of the dross by the refining fire. Just as Jesus enters the wilderness in preparation for his Public Ministry, we must engage with the opportunities presented by Lent so that we are recollected and equipped for our own part in the great mission of evangelisation. "Repent, and believe the Good News."

### Holy Family Masses

#### 1st Sunday of Lent (21st February)

6pm Vigil Mass Mrs Nell Strugnell RIP  
11.00 Jo Webber

#### Thursday (25th February)

11.15am Funeral Service for Mr Gary Sutton

#### 2nd Sunday of Lent (28th February)

6pm Vigil Mass People of the Parish  
11.00 Nell Strugnell

### St Mary's Masses

#### Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent (21st February)

10am Michael, Ruby & Peter Walsh  
12pm People of the Parish  
6pm Intentions of the Thomas Family

#### Monday: Chair of St Peter the Apostle, Feast (22nd February)

9.30am John, Ann & Michael Murphy (Anniv.)  
12.15pm Stan MacCormac

#### Tuesday: (23rd February)

9.30am Patricia Kydd  
12.15pm Funeral Mass for Mr David Watkins  
7-8pm Adoration & Benediction

#### Wednesday: (24th February)

9.30am David Kydd  
12.15pm Tony Wojtowicz

#### Thursday: (25th February)

9.30am Helene Kydd  
12.15pm Betty, Leo, Martin & David Walsh  
7-8pm Adoration & Benediction

#### Friday: (26th February)

9.30am Constantine Sueref & Mary Angelopoulou RIP  
12.15pm Intention of Archbishop George

#### Saturday: (27th February)

12.15pm Fr Ambrose Walsh

#### Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent (28th February)

10am  
12pm Dr Eleanor Hartley  
6pm Harry Hogan

**Angelus and Prayer During the Day live-streamed at 12pm daily. Evening Prayer live-streamed at 7pm daily except Sundays. Tuesday & Thursday 7-8pm Adoration & Benediction (including Evening Prayer). Confessions on Saturdays 10-11am. Access to the children's liturgy room via the side gate.**

## LENTEN FAMILY FAST DAY

We will be celebrating our Lenten Family Fast Day on

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February.**

Donations to CAFOD will then be offered at the Masses on

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February.**



## Season of Lent

Extracts from the Sacred Liturgy for Ash Wednesday.

From the Prophet Joel.

‘Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks – come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning.’ Let your hearts be broken not your garments torn, turn to the Lord your God again, for he is all tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness, and ready to relent.

From St Paul’s Second Letter to the Corinthians.

We are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ’s name is: be reconciled to God. ... Now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18.

Jesus said to his disciples: Be careful not to parade your good deeds before men to attract their notice; by doing this you will lose all reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give alms, do not have it trumpeted before you; this is what the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win men’s admiration. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing; your almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not imitate the hypocrites: they love to say their prayers standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you pray go to your private room and, when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you. When you fast do not put on a gloomy look as the hypocrites do: they pull long faces to let men know they are fasting. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that no one will know you are fasting except your Father who sees all that is done in secret; and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

## ACTS OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

A Prayer by St Alphonsus Liguori.

My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

A Prayer by St Thomas More.

Give me, good Lord, a longing to be with You ... give me warmth, delight and quickness in thinking upon You. And give me Your grace to long for Your holy sacraments, and specially to rejoice in the presence of Your blessed Body, Sweet Saviour Christ, in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

## PRAYER FOR WALES

O Almighty God, who in your infinite goodness have sent your only-begotten Son into this world to open once more the gates of heaven, and to teach us how to know, love and serve you, have mercy on your people who dwell in Wales. Grant to them the precious gift of faith, and unite them in the one true Church founded by your divine Son: that, acknowledging her authority and obeying her voice, they may serve you, love you, and worship you as you desire in this world, and obtain for themselves everlasting happiness in the world to come. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady, Help of Christians, pray for Wales.

Saint David, pray for Wales.

Saint Winefride, pray for Wales.

## PRAYER OF SORROW / ACT OF CONTRITION

Wash me from my guilt and cleanse me of my sin. I acknowledge my offence; my sin is before me always. Psalm 50:4-5.

Father, I have sinned against you and am not worthy to be called your son. Be merciful to me, a sinner. Luke 15:18; 18:13.

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and with the help of your grace I will not sin again.

LET US DAILY OPEN OUR HEARTS IN CONTRITION TO ALMIGHTY GOD AND REMIND OURSELVES HOW ESSENTIAL IT IS TO GRANT MERCY IF WE EVER EXPECT TO RECEIVE MERCY.

## THE ANGELUS

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary, ... .

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

R. Be it done unto me according to your word. Hail Mary, ... .

V. And the Word was made flesh:

R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary, ... .

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE MAGNIFICAT

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her lowliness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. He puts forth his arm in strength and scatters the proud-hearted. He casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy, the mercy promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his sons for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## Mass Intentions

There are a number of Mass intentions available at the moment, particularly for weekday Masses. In addition, please note that when a Mass is said in either parish for the People of the Parish, this refers to the members of both parishes.

## Feast of the Chair of St Peter - Monday 22nd February

In my sitting room I have a framed photograph of 'The Chair of Saint Peter' that constitutes the central ingredient of the great Reredos above the Altar of the Apse within the Vatican Basilica of St Peter. A fellow seminarian took the photograph during our 1981 Easter Week pilgrimage to Rome, an annual event. The Reredos was created by Bernini and the central 'Chair' is a reliquary for a few pieces of ancient wood that are said to be the surviving remnants of St Peter's original 'cathedra'. These pieces of wood were originally housed in the baptistry of the original Basilica constructed by the Emperor Constantine. Until the twelfth century, the Bishop of Rome was known as the Vicar of Peter rather Vicar of Christ. Today's feast provides an opportunity for the Universal Church to celebrate the role of the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, as the Successor of Saint Peter. The Pope exercises the ministry and authority entrusted to Peter by Christ. The original feast of the Chair of St Peter on this date was linked to Peter's time in Antioch, the place where the followers of Jesus are first called 'Christians'. In 1558 an additional feast was added to the calendar on the 18<sup>th</sup> February to celebrate Peter's ministry in Rome. It was only following the Second Vatican Council that the two feasts were united. Simon bar Jonah, who was re-named by Christ to become Peter (Kepha / Cephas/ Rock) is named 169 times across the New Testament. In Matthew 16:18 Christ bestows upon Peter the power of the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter moved from Jerusalem to Antioch and then on to Rome. It was at some time between 64 AD and 68 AD that Peter was crucified upside down during the persecutions perpetrated by the Emperor Nero. Members of his Christian Community in Rome witnessed the martyrdom and buried his mortal remains on the Mons Vaticanus. Today we honour Saint Peter as Vicar of Christ and we honour his successors who have assumed the responsibility of holding and exercising the 'Power of the Keys' through the ages, down to the present Bishop of Rome. Pope Francis is the 265<sup>th</sup> Successor of St Peter.



## Lenten Family Fast Day 2021



We will be celebrating our Lenten Family Fast Day on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Donations to CAFOD will then be offered at the Masses on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

CAFOD's Lent Campaign draws our attention Abdella, a boy who is eight years of age. He lives in a remote and mountainous region of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water for his family. As

with so many other children across the world, the work of collecting water takes up an enormous part of the day. The action is critical to life but the time spent on such collection makes it impossible for many to attend school. Our focus this Lent will concentrate on providing vulnerable communities with a water source and is accessible and sustainable.

It is possible to donate online at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give) or by placing a donation in an envelope marked CAFOD which you can contribute next Sunday (no CAFOD envelopes have been received this year). It is also possible to donate via text – text Lent to 70460 to donate £10. \*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you would like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For more information please see the privacy policy at [cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice](http://cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice).

## Celebrating First Holy Communion

Please pray for Amelia who will celebrate her First Holy Communion at the 10.00am Mass at St Mary's.

Please pray for Abiel and Bavin, who will celebrate their First Holy Communion during the 11.00am Mass at Holy Family.

I ask you all to keep the entire cohort of children at the heart of your prayers over the coming weeks.



## Prayers for Mary Heimann

Please place Mary Heimann at the heart of your prayer., as she prepares to Enter into Full Communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Fr Nicholas and I have been accompanying Mary over the past 18 months. She is Professor of Modern History at Cardiff University. She has a particular interest in Eastern Europe, especially the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Mary will be called forward for a particular blessing at the 10.00 Mass at St Mary's this Sunday. Could I also ask that you keep in your prayers all Catechumens and Candidates for Reception from across the Archdiocese. These would normally be gathered with the Archbishop for the Rite of Election in the Cathedral on the First Sunday of Lent.

## Forthcoming Papal Pilgrimage to Iraq

I ask you to keep Pope Francis in your prayers over the coming weeks as he prepares for his Apostolic Pilgrimage to Iraq, which will take place from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. The Vatican has only recently published details of the schedule due to security concerns together with issues connected to the pandemic. Cardinal Louis Sako of Baghdad, Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church (Chaldean Rite), has confirmed that His Holiness will meet Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, leader of Iraq's Shi'ite Muslim majority. There will be an interreligious meeting with other Christians, Muslims and Yazidis on the Plain of Ur, recognised as the homeland of the Patriarch Abraham. The Pope will also celebrate at the Syriac Rite Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady of Deliverance in Baghdad which was the site of a massacre in 2010 perpetrated by the so called 'Islamic State' – two priests and fifty-eight parishioners were killed. The Pope will also visit the Autonomous Region of Iraqi Kurdistan.

## MORE STEWARDS NEEDED

The need for more stewards remains. If you in a position to assist, please contact us by telephone or email. The parish telephone number is 029 2023 0492. The parish email address is [canton@rcadc.org](mailto:canton@rcadc.org)

## FINANCE & PROPERTY

Parish Offertory Collection at St Mary's:  
7th February - £ 501.91  
St Mary's Standing Orders per week amount to £ 600.00

Parish Offertory Collection at Holy Family:  
7th February - £154.22  
Holy Family Standing Orders per week amount to £ 250.00

### WHY NOT GIFT-AID ALL YOUR PARISH DONATIONS?

COPIES OF 'THE UNIVERSE' ARE ON SALE AND AVAILABLE FOR £2.40

### Contributions via Virgin Money

I am very grateful to those who have contributed to parish funds through the use of the Virgin Money donate button on the website. This mechanism is an excellent way of making your one-off donations.

If you intend to make a sequence of donations over the coming months, then the establishment of a standing order remains the most efficient method of contributing regular payments.

All our parish details (St Mary of the Angels and Holy Family) that are required by your bank in order to set up a standing order can be found in the Parish Contacts section of the newsletter.

**N.B. All sums donated via Virgin Money will be considered as contributions to the parishes. Do not use this mechanism to contribute to any separate purpose, for example, the Reaching Out scheme or Clergy Offerings at Christmas and Easter.**

### Newly established Standing Orders

Our indomitable Parish Secretary has brought to my attention that a significant number of parishioners have recently established Standing Orders for their weekly/monthly donations to the parishes. This has obviously been prompted by the disruption to attendance as a result of the pandemic. I am very grateful for such thoughtfulness in the present circumstances.

May I encourage all parishioners who are taxpayers to consider completing a Gift Aid Declaration that would enable an increase to their contributions of 25%. Please contact Canon Collins or Fr Nicholas directly or contact the Parish Office on any Friday when Pat is at her desk. The telephone number is 029 2023 0492.

## Another Resident for the Priory

On Sunday we will welcome Gwyn Jones to the Priory. Gwyn was accepted as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Cardiff in 2020 and was sent to the Royal English College, Valladolid, Spain to engage with the mandatory propaedeutic year. Due to pandemic restrictions, the U.K. students have been unable to return to the College following their Christmas break. The Archdiocese has provided our three seminarians with an accommodation base for use during vacations, the former presbytery in the Parish of St John Lloyd. Gwyn has been in residence there over past weeks but now it is necessary to further direct and support his formation through close proximity to the Archdiocesan Director of Vocations, he being Fr Nicholas. Please keep Gwyn in your prayers as he settles into the Priory.

### A NOTE FROM DEACON MAURICE

**'REACHING OUT':** Many thanks to all who have made donations over the last few weeks and to all our volunteers who have enabled us to provide food parcels, hampers, children's toys and food vouchers to around 100 families in need across West Cardiff over the Christmas period. We are now continuing this weekly food distribution programme for which we need ongoing funding of around £500 monthly so please continue to help if you can with money or food donations or both. Perhaps you may be able to make a regular weekly or monthly donation of £5, £10 or £20 - or more or less, by Standing Order? If you are willing and able to contribute with a one-off donation or on a more regular basis please contact me on 07747038274 or email: [mfscanlon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mfscanlon@hotmail.co.uk) or Neil O'Toole on 07860647367 or email: [neilgot@me.com](mailto:neilgot@me.com) Thanks for your ongoing generosity in these troubled times. God bless you all and keep safe and patient for just a few more months!



### Contributing to the Reaching Out Project

In order to facilitate the best possible accounting process, we would encourage you to direct all your contributions to the Reaching Out Project to the Holy Family parish account. I have had a meeting with Deacon Maurice on this matter and in order that the parish secretary can maintain an effective scrutiny of the funds being contributed, then the above suggestion provides the simplest remedy.

### MARY IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL

We have impending vacancies for a Local Authority Governor and a Parent Governor at Mary Immaculate High School. Could those interested in undertaking such a role please contact Deacon Maurice (Chair of Governors) on 07747038274 to discuss further or email: [mfscanlon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mfscanlon@hotmail.co.uk)

### A Statement from the Catholic Education Service



The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill currently before the Senedd will effectively remove the rights of parents as the first educators of their children. It will threaten the nature and purpose of Catholic schools as well as being an affront to devout Jews, Christians, Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims in Wales.

In the provisions concerning Human and Sex Education, the responsibility and privilege of parents to choose the right moment and language to discuss love and human sexuality with their children will be overridden by the imposition of a curriculum not in conformity with Christian teaching and that of many other faiths. The right of parents to remove their children from such classes will be removed.

The implications of this Bill places the right of the State before that of the parents of a child in such an important part of life. Should this ideologically driven Bill become law, it will remove the ancient freedoms and duties of parents in the education of their children. It would restrict freedom of conscience, freedom of expression, freedom of worship and conscientious objection. These are fundamental human rights which should be respected in a pluralistic society. They are not being upheld by this proposed legislation.

The assertion of power by Welsh Government in the lives of its citizens is not always malicious, but it cannot go unchallenged. The responses to the consultation on this Bill have been largely ignored. The First Minister of Wales and the Members of the Senedd need to be reminded very clearly that they were elected by us in order to represent us. We do not elect members of the Senedd to usurp our role as parents, grandparents and families. The rights and duties of parents are more significant than party view and politics. This abuse of government power cannot go unchallenged. If we remain silent, there will be no appeal.

**ACT NOW AND URGE YOUR LOCAL MS TO REJECT THE CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT (WALES) BILL BY USING THE LINK BELOW:**

<http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/welshparents?tmpl=component&print=1>

This link will take you to a pro forma from the Catholic Education Service, they will provide you with details of your local MS on the basis of your postcode. Individual letters registering your objection to this proposed legislation are better than copied circulars.

I have been made aware that the Welsh Government has accepted a number of amendments to their proposals. This acknowledgement of the problems we have been highlighting is most welcome. I would still encourage you to contribute to the Consultation as outlined in the statement from the CES. Their website will provide you with all necessary information regarding the Church's concerns.

## I WAS THERE

### 'When Pope John Paul II came to Wales'

Radio Wales: Thu 4 Mar 2021, 6:30pm

Mai Davies reunites those who could say 'I Was There' at a moment in Welsh history. She asks her guests to recall the **Papal visit of John Paul II in 1982**.

Huge crowds gathered in Cardiff on June 2nd, 1982 to see the Pontiff become the first reigning Pope to visit Wales. Addressing 150,000 people at Pontcanna Fields, the Polish-born pontiff began the Mass in Welsh. The Pope's message: "Bendith Duw arnoch" - "the blessing of God be on you" - was received with rapturous applause.

Three people who were there on that historic day share their memories and reflections. Broadcaster and singer-songwriter (and Holy Family parishioner) **Frank Hennessy** recalls how he was asked to compose and perform an official song of welcome for the Pope.

"For me it was a great day," Frank remembers. "There was a lot of excitement running up, and relief that it went well. I can still remember every minute, every second of the day. I suppose it was the highlight of my career."



Retired teacher **Carys Whelan** recalls how she was asked to give a reading at the Papal Mass: "It gave me goose pimples, I couldn't believe they wanted me to do it," she says. "I lost so much sleep before the big day. I went to a boutique in Bridgend to get myself a good dress. It usually did wedding dresses. They were fascinated with me as I had to get a smart dress for the Pope! I did the Welsh reading - from the Second Epistle of Peter, about coming to the mountain of God. Another time I had to read it at Mass a few years later and I couldn't read it. I was overcome with emotion. It all came flooding back to me."

And **Canon Mike Evans** - then a young Deacon - remembers how he served on the altar that day right next to the Pontiff: "I was there at the Pope's side the whole way through. I have really happy memories of the day - the youth mass at Ninian Park was incredible."