

Recently died

Please pray for the eternal repose of the following:

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

Mr Vaughan Mitchell R.I.P. - The Funeral Service will be celebrated in the Pidgeons Chapel of Rest on Tuesday 9th March at 1.30pm.

Mr John Lamb R.I.P. - The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's on Wednesday 10th March at 12.00pm.

Mr Anthony Wojtowicz R.I.P. - The Funeral Service will be celebrated at Thornhill Crematorium on Thursday 11th March at 12.30pm.

I will be attending the Funeral Mass for Fr Ray O'Shea which will be celebrated at St Bridget's Church on Thursday 4th March at 11.30am.



**Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord, and let perpetual light
shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace. Amen.

LENTEN FAMILY FAST DAY

Following our Cafod Family Fast Day on Friday 26th February, we have the opportunity today to offer our donations in support of our National Catholic Development Agency. I am sure that the work of Cafod is well known to everyone. It forms part of the Church's international CARITAS network and this ensures the most effective connectivity to every part of the globe. My thanks for your continuing generosity in these difficult times.



Readings continued When the disciples were captured by a deepening sense of anxiety and foreboding regarding future suffering and sacrifice, Jesus strengthens them. "Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be by themselves." The three critical members of the College of Twelve are granted an insight into the Lord's glory when he is transfigured. Moses the Lawgiver appears as does Elijah, the greatest of the Prophets. Jesus is seen to be in conversation with the entire history and tradition of the Hebrew People. With a dazzling brilliance are all the strands of hope brought together. "It is wonderful for us to be here", says Peter. The Apostles longed to stay and capture the revealed glory within the confines of their still limited comprehension, but they would have to come down from that mountain to complete their journey of faith. The sacrifice cannot be circumvented. We are still in the early days of our Lenten journey and we will do well to build a resistance to the temptation to take some ill-conceived short cut. We are all tempted to think that there must be some way of embracing the glory without first embracing the sacrifice. Through faith we have been granted more than a mere glimpse of the glory that awaits. In our lifelong journey we need to treasure the moments of spiritual insight that will sustain us through those periods when our emotional disposition persuades us that we are alone. It is an ancient tradition that places the account of the Transfiguration on the Second Sunday of Lent. We are being reminded that Jesus is determinedly taking the road from Galilee to Jerusalem. The disciples accompany him only reluctantly. Reflecting the events of the Lord's Baptism in the waters of the River Jordan, at the Transfiguration the voice of the Father is heard to say: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." What disposition will we nurture as we struggle to accompany the Lord to Jerusalem through the Sacred Liturgy?

Parish Contacts

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tel: (029) 20 230 492

Parishes of St. Mary's and Holy Family
new email address is: canton@rcadc.org

Canon Peter Collins

e-mail: peter.collins@rcadc.org

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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

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

28th February-7th March 2021 Second Sunday of Lent Cycle B

Readings for the 2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18.

Whenever we read the story of God asking Abraham to sacrifice his only son, and of Abraham's willingness to offer such a sacrifice, we are rightly shocked. However, the presence of this story in the Hebrew Scriptures constitutes a condemnation rather than a ratification of human sacrifice. Such sacrifices are to be considered an unnatural outrage. Although not common, the offering of human sacrifices was not unheard of in the religious practices of Israel's neighbouring societies. The key to the story is that Isaac will not be sacrificed and neither should anyone else's son. We read this extract from Genesis with linking it immediately with what we read in Paul's Letter to the Romans which states that ultimately God himself "did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all." God put Abraham to the test. Having shown himself obedient, even to the point of sacrificing that which was more precious to him than his own life, Abraham is finally given the instruction not to raise his hand against the boy. In order to understand the magnitude of Abraham's faith and obedience in this instance, we need to remind ourselves of the sacrifices previously undertaken by Abraham. In obedience to God's invitation, indeed his command, Abraham had left the security and prosperity of his sedentary life in the country of Ur (Northern Iraq). When he began his great pilgrimage in search of the Promised Land Abraham was already an old man. He fostered no hope of fathering children and yet he embraced the promises of the Lord. In the context of the ancient world, the nurturing of a family constituted the best hope of security as well as continuity. Abraham enters the wastelands, leaving behind the embedded security of his former home. Abraham's trust in the Lord God is made manifest in palpable faith, hope and love. Only as a result of God's special intervention is a son given to Abraham. Abraham acknowledges that Isaac is God's gift to him and this acknowledgment provides him with the willingness and strength to return the gift. The language used in the account reveals the loving affection of the father for the son. Even though Abraham cannot comprehend why God asks for the ultimate sacrifice, it is clear that Abraham is rooted in a complete trust in the Lord God. This trust is rewarded. "I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore." The obedience of Abraham will become a blessing for all peoples and nations.

Psalm 115.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Romans 8:31-34.

The focal ingredient in this extract from Paul's Letter to the Romans is the recognition that, unaided, man could not fulfil the demands of the Law. Even when armed with a willing determination, man is doomed to failure. An earnest effort to obey the precepts of the Law is insufficient and man is condemned to flounder hopelessly in the grip of sin. Paul rejoices to recognise and proclaim that God sent his own Son to achieve what man could not, the offering of a 'perfect obedience'. The Incarnate Word of God forged this perfect obedience through sacrifice. Though we be unworthy, we are all acquitted in Christ. "Christ not only died for us but he also rose from the dead for us, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us." We must acknowledge how we are redeemed and we must never squander the fruits of the sacrifice.

Mark 9:2-10.

Jesus spent a great deal of time and effort to bring the Apostles and the other disciples to a recognition that he was the Messiah. It took longer still to lead them to the point when they understood Jesus was God Incarnate, an understanding that only matured after the resurrection. The followers of Jesus were eager to hear of the promised glory, less eager to hear of how the glory would be won. They were positively reluctant to accept the declaration that Jesus would be rejected.

Continued opposite

Holy Family Masses

2nd Sunday of Lent (28th February)

6pm Vigil Mass People of the Parish
11.00 Nell Strugnell

3rd Sunday of Lent (7th March)

6pm Vigil Mass Francis Davey
11.00 Michael McMahon

St Mary's Masses

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

10am Eithne O'Donohoe
12pm Dr Eleanor Hartley
6pm Harry Hogan

Monday: St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales (1st March)

9.30am Elsie Lamb
12.15pm Laurence Jones

Tuesday: (2nd March)

9.30am Walter Cox
12.15pm Patricia Collins
7-8pm Adoration & Benediction

Wednesday: (3rd March)

9.30am Coulson Family Intentions
12.15pm Maisie Molloy
6.30pm Stations of the Cross

Thursday: (4th March)

9.30am Deceased members MacCormac Family
12.15pm Rhian James
7-8pm Adoration & Benediction

Friday: (5th March)

9.30am S Sueref
12.15pm Jean Hayman
6.30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday: (6th March)

12.15pm Phyllis Shannon

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent (7th March)

10am Lawrence & James Tobin
12pm People of the Parish
6pm Fr Raymond O'Shea

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). Stations of the Cross Wednesday and Friday at 6.30pm. Confessions on Saturdays 10-11am. Access to the children's liturgy room via the side gate.

Great Penitential Psalm 129/130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchmen for daybreak. Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption; Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

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.

Lenten Family Fast Day 2021



After celebrating our Lenten Family Fast Day on Friday 26th February, donations to CAFOD will then be offered at the Masses on Sunday 28th 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 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.

Feast of the Week

Monday 1st March – Solemnity of Saint David, Bishop, Patron of Wales.



Today we celebrate the feast of our National Patron, Saint David, the great monk and bishop of the sixth century. We have few certain details of his life and as a result there is a choice of two dates for his death, either 589 AD or 601 AD. It was said that David was the son of a Prince and was either a nephew or an uncle of King Arthur, giving rise to the Abbey of Glastonbury holding David as its Patron. David has been firmly regarded as Patron of Wales since the twelfth century, but it is certain that the cult of David was well established in earlier centuries. He was rooted in what we identify as Pembrokeshire and his influence was greatest across West and South Wales rather than the North. Many dedications can be found in other regions: the Marcher lands, Cornwall and Brittany. It is interesting to note that the earliest surviving written accounts of David come from eighth century Ireland in the 'Catalogue of the Saints' (730 AD). The Irish martyrologies of c.800 AD state that David's feast is to be celebrated on the 1st March. He is described as a Monk, an Abbot and as Bishop of Menevia (Menevensis / Mynwy), i.e. St David's. He is given the title of 'Aquaticus' for he and his monks drank neither wine nor beer, only water. It was in 1090 that a 'Life of David' was written by Rhygyfarch. This document attempted to establish the claim that David was an Archbishop in his own right, separate from Canterbury. It was said that the Synod of Brevi proclaimed David as Archbishop, the place where David was elevated by the miraculous raising of a mound from which he could more effectively preach to the congregation there assembled. The Mosaic of Saint David that has been erected in Westminster Cathedral captures the iconic image of the Saint. A Dove, representing the Holy Spirit, rests upon David's left shoulder at the Synod of Brevi and he holds a Cup in his right hand which receives a cascade of water. This Mosaic was blessed by Pope Benedict XVI during the 2010 Papal Visit. It is said that David and his monks claimed their inspiration directly from the traditions of the Egyptian Desert Fathers, led by the example and teaching of Saint Anthony of the Desert. A later fable gained credence with the claim that David went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem and was there consecrated a bishop. Pope Callistus II approved devotion to David in 1120, declaring that two pilgrimages to St David's Shrine was equivalent to a pilgrimage to Rome. King William I (the Conqueror) and King Henry II undertook pilgrimages to St David's.

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, 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 & Isabelle Nash, Mary Kelleher, Phyllis Shannon.

Celebrating First Holy Communion

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

One more child, who has recently arrived from India where they have already completed their preparation, will soon be celebrating their First Holy Communion at Holy Family.

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



2021 COHORT FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: RECONCILIATION, HOLY EUCHARIST AND CONFIRMATION

I will publish in next week's newsletter some details regarding the registration and preparation process for this year's sacramental programmes.

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.

Signs of Spring

Although Spring has not yet officially dawned, we can all rejoice that the season is fast approaching. The weather over the past few days has lifted our spirits. As I was locking the gates to the Priory car park the other evening, I was stopped in my tracks by the sound of bird song. It was a joy to hear the symphony of avian proclamations from the trees and rooftops – I exclude the Gulls from this description even though they have also very much arrived!



The Stations of the Cross

The Way of the Cross is a devotion to the Sacred Passion in which we accompany, in spirit, our Blessed Lord in his sorrowful journey from the house of Pilate to Calvary, and recall, with sorrow and love, all that took place from the time when he was condemned to death to his being laid in the tomb. We meditate devoutly on the Passion and Death of our Lord as come before each station. Although we cannot physically move around our Churches at present, let us engage fully with this devotion at home.

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R. Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

First Station: Jesus is condemned to death.

Second Station: Jesus receives the Cross.

Third Station: Jesus falls the first time.

Fourth Station: Jesus is met by his Blessed Mother.

Fifth Station: The Cross is laid upon Simon of Cyrene.

Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time.

Eighth Station: The women of Jerusalem mourn for our Lord.

Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time.

Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments.

Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the Cross.

Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the Cross.

Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the Cross.

Fourteenth Station. Jesus is placed in the Sepulchre.

Throughout Lent, Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at 6.30pm on Wednesday and Friday.

Origins of the Stations of the Cross

We can trace the devotion back to the Patristic era when large numbers of pilgrims began visiting the sites of the Passion in and around Jerusalem. This practice continued into the Middle Ages, though disrupted in the aftermath of the Crusades when Islamic Governance was imposed on the Holy Land. When it was no longer possible to visit Jerusalem, there arose in Europe a demand for pictorial representations of the Passion of the Lord. When the Franciscan Order took over custody of the shrines in the Holy Land in 1342 AD, they propagated devotion to the 'Holy Places'. Shrines were erected across Western Europe as a result. The number and titles of the 'stations' varied. The current norm can be traced back to Spanish Low Countries in the sixteenth century. The pattern was standardised in the eighteenth century with a series of Papal pronouncements. The Franciscan Friar Leonard of Port Maurice (Died 1751 AD) was the chief promoter of this devotion being responsible for the erection of five hundred sets of stations, the most famous being established in the Colosseum of Rome.



One Year On: Remembering Our Loved-Ones

On 23rd March 2021 we will reach a significant milestone in the country's fight against Coronavirus: for it was on this day that we entered the first of the lockdowns. With these words of the Prime Minister, our lives radically changed, and the era of a 'new normal' was ushered in:

"From this evening I must give the British people a very simple instruction - you just stay home".

Since then, we as a nation have lost over 121,000 lives, with the total here in Wales exceeding 5,000. These are no mere statistics: each number is a life, each life is a memory, each life is a family trying to grieve in such exceptional circumstances.

On Monday, 23rd March, I will celebrate a Solemn Requiem Mass at St. David's Cathedral for all the faithful departed who have died as a consequence of the pandemic. I have opened a Book of Remembrance at the Cathedral, and I invite you to send in the names of your loved-ones who have died over the last year as a result of the pandemic. The Book of Remembrance will be given place of honour at the Requiem Mass before the pascal candle at the Requiem Mass. If you would like the name of your loved one included in the Book of Remembrance, please email Fr. Daniel at cathedral@rcadc.org.

The Solemn Requiem Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral 12:45pm on Monday, 23rd March. Due to limited numbers able to safely be present at the Cathedral, those who may wish to attend will need to reserve a seat by telephoning Fr. Daniel Stanton at Clergy House on 029 20 23 14 07. There are thirty-four spaces available in the Cathedral for yourself or your bubble. These seats will be reserved on a 'first-come-first-served' basis. The Requiem Mass will also be live-streamed through the Cathedral website.

May their souls, and the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

With every blessing,

Archbishop George Stack

FINANCE & PROPERTY

Parish Offertory Collection at St Mary's:

21st February - £ 681.08

S.P.U.C. White Flower - £409.30

St Mary's Standing Orders per week amount to £ 600.00

Parish Offertory Collection at Holy Family:

21st February - £215.93

S.P.U.C. White Flower - £146.90

Holy Family Standing Orders per week amount to £ 250.00

Thank you for your generosity in support of the White Flower Appeal.

WHY NOT GIFT-AID ALL YOUR PARISH DONATIONS?

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

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 or Neil O'Toole on 07860647367 or email: 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.

New boilers at Holy Family Church

I am happy to report that a new set of boilers have been installed at Holy Family. We delayed the work from last year as we awaited news of grant applications that were undertaken on our behalf by the Archdiocesan Development Officer. This process has yielded over £2000. This sum was most welcome but I have to inform you that the total cost amounts to over £26,000. Both our parishes have significant funds on deposit and so we are able to deal with such expenditure. Having said this, it is opportune to point out that there are a number of repair and development projects that will soon require further significant capital expenditure. During the period of the pandemic, our parishioners have continued to contribute generously to parish funds through the various options now available. However, our income is probably 30-40% below its norm. I am as always appreciative of the fact that many families are facing financial uncertainties. We will need to be careful and prudent with our parish resources, taking account of the fact that our parish plant is extensive.

With regard to the installation of the boilers, I wish to express my thanks to Monsignor Maguire for facilitating access, and I extend my thanks to Phil Smith for coordinating the whole process.

Headteacher - Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School

Salary Range L31-L37 + Relocation Assistance Package of up to £8,000 for the right candidate

Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School in Bridgend are looking for a Headteacher with the energy, and vision to build on their significant achievements, continuing to raise standards within their caring, inclusive Catholic ethos.

They are seeking an experienced and inspiring leader to provide an environment where every single individual matters and where everyone has an opportunity to succeed. They have a strong commitment to ensuring that the learner is at the heart of everything they do. They are looking for a Headteacher who has the vision, skills, and partnership approach to allow all staff to realise their full potential.

Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School is a popular school located on a purpose-built site in Bridgend since 2011. There are 879 learners on roll, including a strong 6th form, with around 50% of learners from Catholic families. The school has positive relationships with the Archdiocese, the local authority, and the regional consortium.

They require a committed and practising Catholic to lead their inclusive school community, with a strong personal faith that will encourage others to live the school's mission and a positive attitude towards supporting the Welsh language, culture and history, and a distinctly Welsh curriculum and assessment strategy in Wales.

For more information about this exciting opportunity please contact our recruitment partner Emma Colvill whose details you will find on the last page of the candidate pack.

In addition, you will need to submit a supporting statement, detailing your track record, relevant experience, skills and competencies.

Please email your application to Emma Colvill

To apply for the position, please follow this link.

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/headteacher-bridgend-1405528>

Closing date: Monday, 15h March 2021

Shortlisting: Tuesday, 16th March 2021

Interviews: Thursday, 25th & Friday, 26th March 2021.

Start Date: September 2021

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."