

## RECENTLY DIED

Please pray for the eternal repose of the following:

**Mrs Betty Murphy R.I.P.** – The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's on Monday 25th October at 10.45am.

**Mrs Rose Philomena (Phyllis) Shannon R.I.P.** – The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's on Thursday 28th October at 11.30am.



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:** Catherine Driscoll, Kay & Paul Parris, Bernard Perry, Mary Bodman, Valentine, Collette Griffin, Vivian Miller, Brian Webster, Henry Fernandez, Hanna Marengi, Susanna, Martin, Chris Collins, Sharon Dobson, Joseph Stancombe, Zaid Saffo.

**St Mary's:** Fr Christopher Delaney, Bethan Williams, Jean Allen, Madison Lane, Marian Lamb, Nadasiri Ifada, Cecily Hughes, James Church, Anthony Jackson, Tom Hopkins, Margaret Griffiths, Joanne Coakley, Helen Ward, Carina Foster, Ben Foster, Maria Sullivan, Mary D'Alpa, Patricia Sadka, Mary Williams, Donald Rees, Michael McLoughlin, Chris Streat.

## MASS INTENTIONS

There are a number of Mass Intentions available for Masses in Holy Family on Tuesday and Thursday at 9.30am and at the Vigil Mass on Saturday at 6pm.

### Readings continued

Given how high the bar is placed, can anyone be saved? The Lord offers his followers some reassurance: "For men it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God." As in recent weeks, we hear Jesus giving absolute priority to the Kingdom. Without compromising the magnitude of the challenge, we draw our reassurance from the fact that Jesus will guide us along the path that leads us home to the Kingdom. Even if we did sacrifice everything, it would not constitute sufficient merit to bring us salvation. We must unite our offerings with the ultimate sacrifice of Christ, which alone fashions our redemption.

"Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

"How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!"

## 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)

**Deacon Professor Maurice Scanlon**

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tel (029) 2021 2651

**Deacon Christian Mahoney**

E-mail: [christianmahoney2@gmail.com](mailto:christianmahoney2@gmail.com)

tel 07764515864

**Monsignor Canon John Maguire**

Retired Priest in Residence at Holy Family

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

10th - 17th October 2021 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

### Readings for the 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Wisdom 7:7-11.

The Book of Wisdom was written towards the end of the Old Testament era. Israel had suffered repeated setbacks through invasion, destruction and exile. The hope that a Davidic Messiah would emerge, bringing salvation and protection, gradually began to diminish. The concept of 'Wisdom' (a strand of thought much influenced by Greek philosophy) was increasingly adopted as a source of hope. Wisdom is seen as distinguishable from God himself, yet perfectly absorbed in him. Chapter seven goes on to describe Wisdom as "a breath of the power of God" and "a reflection of the eternal light". Such texts undoubtedly begin to expand the comprehension of the complexity of the Godhead. These 'instruments' or 'characteristics' will increasingly be personified in Israelite thought and expression. We can rightly say that we catch an early glimpse of the Holy Spirit, though the formation and comprehension of the concept is primitive. We can also see a developing understanding of how God enters his creation, a foretaste of the incarnation of the Divine Word.

"I prayed, and understanding was given to me; I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me."

"... for compared to her, all gold is a pinch of sand, and beside her silver ranks as mud."

Psalm 89.

Fill us with your love that we may rejoice.

Hebrews 4:12-13.

The Letter to the Hebrews here reflects upon how God's grace is at work in our midst. God does not merely make pronouncements. God acts in the real world, in the lives of his people. God's discernment of the human soul is not to be interpreted as a threat but as an encouragement. When our efforts connect to the grace of God's mercy, we are granted the assurance that we can reach our true and abiding home in heaven.

"The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely."

"... everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves."

Alleluia. Alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.

Alleluia!

Mark 10:17-30.

We should not interpret today's text from Mark's Gospel as some kind of universal call to embrace the consecrated life of an enclosed monk of nun. The man who ran up to Jesus and asked his question seems to make his approach in all sincerity. However, given the eventual outcome of the encounter, we may surmise that he was merely seeking vindication for his already established lifestyle - for he was a man of great wealth. Upon receiving his answer from Jesus, the man promptly abandons the scene for he has been severely disturbed by a challenge he did not anticipate. The man is not merely refusing to embrace some kind of 'monastic' life but refusing to follow Jesus at all - for he was a man of great wealth. Although the Apostles have sacrificed much, they too are perplexed by the magnitude of the challenge presented by Jesus.

Continued opposite

### Holy Family Masses

**Sunday: 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time (10th October)**

6pm Vigil Mass Paul Richards

11am Patrick Morris

**Tuesday: (12th October)**

9.30 Perviz Clifford

**Thursday: (14th October)**

9.30am Int'ns of Geraldine Beattie

**Sunday: 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time (17th October)**

6pm Vigil Mass Michael & Olive Lynch RIP

11am Brian Collins

### St Mary's Masses

**Sunday: 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time (10th Oct.)**

10am People of the Parishes

12pm Robert & Des Andrews

6pm John Barry RIP

**Monday: St John XXIII, Pope (11th October)**

9.30am Julia Butler RIP (birthday)

**Tuesday: Weekday in Ordinary Time (12th Oct.)**

9.30am Mary Dyne RIP

**Wednesday: Weekday in Ordinary Time (13th Oct.)**

9.30am John Crowley

**Thursday: Weekday in Ordinary Time (14th Oct.)**

7-8pm Adoration & Benediction PUBLIC ACCESS

**Friday: St Teresa of Jesus,**

**Virgin and Doctor of the Church (15th October)**

9.30am Ermino Rodrigues

**Saturday: St Richard Gwyn (16th October)**

12.15pm Michael Maher

**Sunday: 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time (17th Oct.)**

10am Dora Dorizas (illness)

12pm Mary Walsh RIP

6pm Chris Streat

**The Angelus and Prayer During the Day live-streamed at 12pm daily. Evening Prayer live-streamed at 7pm daily except Sundays.**

**THIS SCHEDULE WILL INCREASINGLY BE DEPENDENT UPON MY TIMETABLE OF APPOINTMENTS.**

**Thursday: 7-8pm Adoration & Benediction (including Evening Prayer) open to public access.**

**Confessions on Saturday 10am to 11am. Access to the children's liturgy room via the side gate.**

## FEASTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October – Memoria: St John XXIII, Pope.



Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 1818 in Sotto il Monte in the Province of Bergamo, the third child of Giovanni Battista Roncalli and Marianna Roncalli (nee Mazzola). His father was a farmer, the family having tended the same small plot of land for over five hundred years. The young Angelo began his studies at the local seminary in Bergamo in 1892, remaining there until 1900. His talent was identified and he was sent to undertake further studies at the Papal Seminary in Rome, living at the Collegio Cerasola. In the Spring of 1904 Roncalli obtained his doctorate in theology. On the 10<sup>th</sup> August 1904 he was ordained to the priesthood in the Church of Santa Maria in Monte Santo and offered his first Mass above the Tomb of St Peter in St Peter's Basilica on the 15<sup>th</sup> August.

In 1905 he returned to his home diocese and was appointed as the private secretary to his own bishop. As well as serving as secretary, Roncalli lectured in theology at the diocesan seminary. He wrote his first book in 1908, referencing the Apostolic Visitation to Bergamo undertaken by St Charles Borromeo in 1575. He would write four other books on the life and ministry of St Charles.

Following the outbreak of the First World War, in 1915 Roncalli began his military service. As a priest he ministered as a Chaplain in various hospitals but also served on the frontlines as a medical orderly. He managed to write another book during this time. At the end of the War, Roncalli returned to Bergamo and took charge of a Hostel for University Students. He concurrently established a new movement for Catholic women. In 1921 Pope Benedict XV called Roncalli to serve in the Roman Curia, being appointed to the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. He travelled extensively across Europe, charged with the task of fostering initiatives for evangelisation in the post-war turmoil.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> March 1925 Roncalli was ordained a Bishop. Pope Pius XI had now succeeded and he immediately appointed Roncalli as Apostolic Visitor to Bulgaria. In 1930 his status was raised from Apostolic Visitor to Apostolic Delegate to Bulgaria. He remained in Sofia for a further five years. In January 1935 Roncalli was appointed as Apostolic Delegate to Turkey and to Greece, though he resided in Istanbul. He remained in this important position until 1944.

Following the Liberation of France, in December 1944 Pope Pius XII appointed Roncalli as Papal Nuncio in Paris. Roncalli presented his credentials to General de Gaulle who headed the French Government. In 1952 the French State awarded Archbishop Roncalli the Grande Croix of the Legion d'Honneur in recognition of his work for peace and international understanding in Europe. On the 12<sup>th</sup> January 1953 Pope Pius XII placed the Red Hat of a Cardinal upon the head of Roncalli and three days later the announcement was made that the new Cardinal was to become Patriarch of Venice. His ceremonial induction at Venice took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> March.

It was Cardinal Roncalli who consecrated the newly-built underground basilica in Lourdes in 1958. Later that year, following the death of Pope Pius XII, the Conclave elected Cardinal Roncalli as Pope on the 28<sup>th</sup> October. He adopted the name of John XXIII and his Coronation took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1959 Pope John XXIII proposed three major projects. The first declaration announced his intention of holding a Diocesan Synod for Rome, the first in its history. The second announcement was his intention to revise the Code of Canon Law. The third announcement was his intention of convening an Ecumenical Council. The following day, the headlines highlighted the revision of Canon Law. It was only on the second day that the Church and the World woke up to the fact that there was going to be an Ecumenical Council. The Roman Synod took place from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> January 1960, and constituted an 'overture' to the forthcoming Council. The Second Vatican Council was opened on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1962.

Pope John XXIII made a decisive intervention on the Schema on Revelation which had been crafted by a small group of arch-conservatives and had been rejected by a majority of the Council Fathers. The Pope insisted on a new Schema. He closed the First Session of the Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1962. He wrote a sequence of significant Encyclical Letters. Although he possessed a keen intellect and had a command of many languages, John XXIII ever remained a humble man. He died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1963. He was canonized by Pope Francis.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October – Memoria: St Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church.

Teresa was born into a minor aristocratic family on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 1515 in Avila, the walled city located in the northern foothills of the Guadarrama Mountains in Central Spain. She was rather precocious in her childhood. Following the death of her mother, when she was twelve, her father placed Teresa in a local convent of Augustinian Nuns. She developed a strong desire to enter religious life. When she was nearly twenty, she was accepted into the Carmelite Convent of the Incarnation, located just outside the walls of Avila, making her profession in November 1534.

For many years she led a worthy but unremarkable religious life. In 1555 she experienced a mystical vision of Christ which began her profound spiritual transformation. Her relationship with Christ deepened and became ever more focused. She was misunderstood by some but she benefitted greatly from the spiritual direction provided by St Peter of Alcantara.

After twenty-five years of religious life, she developed a clear agenda for the reform of Carmelite Order. Her opinions were not universally shared and she encountered a great deal of resistance. She left the Convent of the Incarnation and established the first house of her reform within the walls of Avila in 1562. This convent was dedicated to St Joseph. Teresa's profound mystical experiences were combined with robust common sense and prudence. Her own dedication was always given 'flesh' by manual work. Over the following decade she became increasingly engaged in the reform of the Carmelite Friars. She was enthusiastically joined in this endeavour by another famous Mystic and Poet, St John of the Cross. By the time of her death in 1582, she had established seventeen convents according to the reformed rule (capturing her former Convent of the Incarnation). Fifteen friaries had also adopted the reform of the 'Discalced'. Having established a foundation at Burgos, Teresa was making her way back to Avila when she fell ill and died at Alba de Tormes, which is near Salamanca. She wrote a series of outstanding spiritual works, including 'The Way of Perfection' and 'The Interior Castle'. Her wisdom and guidance remain as vibrant and relevant today as when they were first written. She was canonized by Pope Gregory XV in 1622 and was named a Doctor of the Church by St Paul VI in 1970.



Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Memoria: St Richard Gwyn.



Richard Gwyn was born in Llanidloes (Montgomeryshire) around 1537. He was a student at St John's College, Cambridge and also studied for a brief time in Oxford. Following his university studies he returned to Wales and became a teacher first in Wrexham and then in Overton, Flintshire. He married Catherine and they had six children.

Although he conformed to the newly established protestant order by attending services in his local Parish Church, he was known by all to be truly a 'Papist' by conviction. He minimised his attendance and then came under sustained pressure from the Bishop of Chester. When the first missionary priests arrived from the English and Welsh Seminary at Douai in order to celebrate Mass (contrary to Civil Law), Richard refused to attend protestant services. He was imprisoned at Ruthin in 1580. He was taken forcibly to protestant services but he 'protested' at the falsehoods. Together with John Hughes and Robert Morris, Richard Gwyn was taken before the Court of Assizes in 1582. All three continued to suffer prolonged imprisonment at Bewdley, Bridgenorth and Wrexham. All three were subject to torture as by now they had been accused of high treason. Richard Gwyn and John Hughes remained steadfast but Robert Morris did not, a weakness and decision he later repented. On the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1584 Gwyn and Hughes faced trial. Many false witnesses were brought to the courtroom. Although both were found guilty and sentenced to death, Hughes was soon reprieved. Richard Gwyn was taken to the gallows on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 1584. He refuted the accusation of treason but openly proclaimed his Catholic faith. His wife Catherine, who had offered her husband consolation and encouragement throughout his imprisonment, was there at the end. Richard was hanged until nearly losing consciousness, then brought down before death to be drawn and quartered in the most barbaric fashion. St Richard Gwyn was the first Welshman to be martyred for the faith during the Elizabethan persecutions. We possess five carols written by Richard Gwyn in Welsh together with one funeral ode.

## REFERENCE FOR CANDIDATES FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

\*\*\* N.B. THE NEXT MEETING FOR CANDIDATES FROM ST MARY'S PARISH IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER FROM 6.00PM TO 7.00PM.

\*\*\* N.B. THE NEXT MEETING FOR CANDIDATES FROM HOLY FAMILY PARISH IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER FROM 6.00PM TO 7.00PM.

\*\*\* N.B. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS FOR ST MARY OF THE ANGELS WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER AT 2.00 PM.

\*\*\* N.B. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS FOR HOLY FAMILY WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER AT 2.00 PM.



## REFERENCE FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

\*\*\* N.B. THERE WILL BE A FINAL MEETING AND PRACTICE FOR ALL OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES ON WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER FROM 6.30PM TO 7.30PM AT THE CHURCH OF ST MARY OF THE ANGELS.

\*\*\* N.B. THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER AT 2.00PM IN ST MARY OF THE ANGELS.



## OCTOBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

There will be a public recitation of the Holy Rosary at 11.30am on each Saturday during the month of October, at St Mary of the Angels.



## REPLENISHING THE TEAM OF READERS AT ST MARY'S

I am most grateful to Anji Minoli for her efforts in contacting those parishioners who were already on the Reading Rota in order to structure provision for the coming months. Anji is also looking to recruit new volunteers for the Rota as we need more coverage for all Masses at St Mary of the Angels. A number of newcomers have already come forward. If you would like to contribute to the Ministry of the Word then please contact Anji at [zampetto1215@gmail.com](mailto:zampetto1215@gmail.com)

## REPLENISHING THE TEAM OF READERS AT HOLY FAMILY

We are in need of new volunteers to join the team of readers at Holy Family particularly for the 6pm Vigil Mass. The Ministry of the Word is of critical importance to our celebration of Holy Mass. If you are interested in joining a new rota, then please contact me directly or Helen Smith.

## RE-ESTABLISHING AND REPLENISHING THE TEAM OF WELCOMERS IN BOTH PARISHES

During the past eighteen months our cohort of volunteer stewards attended to our compliance with COVID Protocols but also provided a warm welcome to parishioners as they arrived for Mass. Now that the stewards are no longer operational, we need to re-establish and replenish teams of welcomers. There are a number of practicalities that require attention: providing a warm welcome together with any necessary directions; distributing and collecting hymnals and missals (as and when this becomes possible); conducting the offertory collection (the collection baskets/boxes will soon be carried and presented to people in the benches) and overseeing any retiring collection. If you are willing to assist with this important service then please contact me directly with specific details as to which Mass you attend at either parish.

## FINANCE & PROPERTY

Parish Offertory Collection at St Mary's:  
26th September - Gift aid £50.05 Loose £429.98  
3rd October - Gift aid £63.33 Loose £454.16  
CAFOD Climate Crisis Appeal - £836.35

St Mary's Standing Orders per week amount to £600.00 of which 90% is gift aided.

Parish Offertory Collection at Holy Family:  
3rd October - Gift aid £122.00 Loose £138.47  
CAFOD Climate Crisis Appeal - £319.60

Holy Family Standing Orders per week amount to £250.00 of which 95% is gift aided.

## BANK DETAILS FOR STANDING ORDERS

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**

## NEW ELECTRONIC DONATION STATION AT ST MARY OF THE ANGELS

Our new electronic donation station is now operational at St Mary of the Angels. It is currently located within the entrance porch. The display screen offers clear instructions for use. You can make a donation securely either by the contactless method or by inserting your card and using your PIN.

## DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Please remember that you can put your name down for training whether you are a parishioner of Holy Family or St Mary's. We are in the process of arranging training in November with a parishioner who is qualified to deliver such training. Contact [canton@rcadc.org](mailto:canton@rcadc.org).

## A NOTE FROM DEACON MAURICE

### ST VINCENT'S COMMUNITY CENTRE, ELY BRIDGE



I'm very pleased to report that the refurbishment and refitting of the former St Clare's Church is now complete with major financial support from the SVP and the Welsh Assembly via its Communities and Facilities Programme. Henceforth it will be known as St Vincent's Community Centre, Ely Bridge and the SVP have appointed a manager, Nathan Harding, who took up his new role a few weeks ago. There will be an official opening by Archbishop George at the end of November. We will hold a meeting of volunteers at St Vincent's in the near future to discuss things further. If you think you may be able to help in any way as a volunteer in this exciting new venture, please contact Deacon Maurice: [mfscanlon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mfscanlon@hotmail.co.uk) or 07747038274

## SVP SHOP COLLECTION AT HOLY FAMILY

The SVP will be holding a collection of good quality clothing and bric a brac **this Saturday & Sunday, 9th & 10th October at Holy Family Church**, to stock the shop at the new St Vincent's Community Centre, Ely Bridge. Please note we are unable to accept electrical items.

## APPEAL FOR BAGS FOR LIFE

Reaching Out are asking for your assistance! They are in need of large, strong Bags for Life in order to deliver food parcels. Do you have any that are surplus to requirements? If so, would you please bring them to either church and they will be passed on to the appropriate person. Many thanks.



## THANKSGIVING MEAL FOR OUR COHORT OF STEWARDS

I have booked The Cornerstone at the Cathedral for a meal of thanksgiving on Friday 22nd October at 7.00pm in honour of our cohort of stewards from St Mary of the Angels and Holy Family.

NB As the date for the meal is rapidly approaching, it is now urgent that I submit to Spiro the final number of participants. Could I therefore ask all stewards to confirm attendance at the event by emailing the parish office on [canton@rcadc.org](mailto:canton@rcadc.org). If anyone has any particular dietary needs, then please forward that information.

## COVERAGE FOR ALL FIVE PARISH MASSES

Although Fr John is generously offering support over the coming months with regard to celebrating the current pattern of Sunday Masses, this situation is not sustainable in the longer term. Although Fr John is enjoying good health and is in fine form, he is now approaching his seventy-ninth birthday. I am currently opening discussion with both Parish Councils regarding the necessity of altering the Sunday schedule of Masses at some stage in the New Year. I will, of course, be addressing both communities on this subject in the near future. Please pray for the wellbeing of our two Parish Communities as we continue to move through this period of challenging evolution.

### Scripture quotes for October:

THE  
GOD  
WHO  
SPEAKS

“Therefore, since everything asserted by the inspired authors or sacred writers must be held to be asserted by the Holy Spirit, it follows that the books of Scripture must be acknowledged as teaching solidly, faithfully and without error that truth which God wanted put into sacred writings for the sake of salvation. Therefore "all Scripture is divinely inspired and has its use for teaching the truth and refuting error, for reformation of manners and discipline in right living, so that the man who belongs to God may be efficient and equipped for good work of every kind" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). (Dei Verbum n11)

“ Scripture tells us that everything that exists does not exist by chance but is willed by God and part of his plan, at whose centre is the invitation to partake, in Christ, in the divine life. Creation is born of the *Logos* and indelibly bears the mark of the *creative Reason which orders and directs it*; with joy-filled certainty the psalms sing: “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth” (Ps 33:6) (Verbum Domini n8)

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DUW  
SYN  
SIARAD

### Archdiocese of Cardiff “The God Who Speaks”: Scripture Study Day

The next Scripture Study Day will be given on Saturday, November 6th from 11am-12.30pm. **On November 6<sup>th</sup>, Deacon Philip Manghan will be giving a talk on “The Gospel of St. Luke”.** Deacon Philip hails from St. Mary’s Bridgend. He will be familiar to many people for his knowledge of the Scriptures and his friendly and engaging speaking style. He will bring our study of the four Gospels to an excellent end. Details of the programme of talks for the year can be found on the Archdiocesan website <https://rcadc.org/> events.

You can access the talks on the day via Zoom at: <http://tinyurl.com/RCADCscripture>

**Meeting ID 863 9669 5727**

**Passcode: 068790**

Contacts for enquiries: Madeleine Walters  
at [madeleine.walters@rcadc.org](mailto:madeleine.walters@rcadc.org)  
or Kate Duffin at [kate.duffin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kate.duffin@hotmail.co.uk)

## TWO TEACHING VACANCIES AT ST PETER’S



Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Pedr Sant  
St. Peter’s R.C. Primary School  
Southey Street, Roath,  
Cardiff, CF24 3SP  
029 2049 7847  
[stpetersprm@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:stpetersprm@cardiff.gov.uk)

Two teachers are required at St Peter’s from January 2022. The closing date for applications is 13th October.

For information, visit the school website or the eteach website.

## THE CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Local medical professionals are intending to re-establish an active Cardiff branch of the Catholic Medical Association.

The C.M.A. is an association of Catholics who are working in the health sector – membership is open to those who are studying for a career in the health sector, those who are currently practising and those who have retired (\*all health care professions).

Members and potential members are invited to a celebration of Mass on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October (Feast of St Luke) at 7.00pm in St Joseph’s Church, New Zealand Road, Cardiff CF14 3BR.

The Mass will be followed by an introductory meeting with refreshments.

For further information please contact:

Dr Michal Pruski - [michal.pruski@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:michal.pruski@wales.nhs.uk)

Fr Peter Davies – [peter.davies@rcadc.org](mailto:peter.davies@rcadc.org)

Aims of the C.M.A.:

- Providing professional support
- Providing informed opinion
- Providing an effective voice
- Helping professionals to integrate their faith into their professional practice
- Publishing the Catholic Medical Quarterly

## A LETTER FROM BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON TO FELLOW BISHOPS REGARDING THE DANGERS POSED BY BARONESS MEACHER'S 'ASSISTED DYING BILL 2021'

Bishop Sherrington is an Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Westminster and is a Moral Theologian.

In the next few weeks, we face an unprecedented attack on the sanctity of life with Baroness Meacher's 'Assisted Dying Bill 2021' which received its First Reading in the House of Lords and is due its Second Reading with full debate on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October. The term 'Assisted Dying' is euphemistic, the truth is that the bill seeks to introduce Assisted Suicide. If legalised, this Bill would allow a terminally adult, with less than six months to live, to be assisted in committing suicide.

The context of the debate is fundamentally different from the Marris Bill in 2015. Dignity in Dying are running a vigorous campaign, which is highly mobilised. They have some national papers on side and are using strong, personal and emotional narratives to win hearts and minds. They also have a high presence on social media and are encouraging their supporters to write to Peers. Those in favour of the Bill are using language to confuse the issue and call it a compassionate and caring approach to obscure the actual reality and consequences of such legislation. As Pope Francis has said, 'Physician-assisted suicide is part of a "throwaway culture" that offers a "false compassion" and treats a human person as a problem ... True compassion does not marginalize anyone, nor does it humiliate and exclude – much less considers the disappearance of a person as a good thing.' He criticised 'those who hide behind an alleged compassion to justify and approve the death of a patient.'

We continue to argue for good palliative care and its important values, including spiritual ones, which are part of this approach. However, this language is being manipulated by Dignity in Dying. Importantly, at this stage we need to argue the dangers of the introduction of Assisted Suicide, which includes the safety of people who are vulnerable due to external pressures, and later liberalisation of the law which is evidenced by other countries which have introduced Assisted Suicide. Many voices from the world of disability-rights and other allies are also very fearful and fighting this bill. The Bill would also fundamentally change the relationship between the Healthcare Professionals and the Patient from treatment and care to providing the lethal means to commit suicide.

It is possible that the Bill will pass to Committee Stage without a vote in October and be returned to the Lords for Third Reading and then, if passed, be sent to the Commons. There will be pressure on the Government to provide time for this.

To prepare for these events, I ask your engagement and that of your dioceses over these next weeks. First, to ask you to call people to pray that the Bill will be defeated. Second, to ask that people write to the Peers from their personal experience and share stories which will argue the reasons for opposing the Bill as well as narrate the importance of precious time during the final stages of life. Healthcare and legal professionals should write giving reasons why they oppose the Bill. This needs to be done before the Second Reading on the 15<sup>th</sup> October. Peers engage with personal correspondence and not to campaigns. Third, to ask parishioners to engage and share stories and reasons against the Bill on social media.

In this way, the Church will be a prophetic voice: a voice of clarity and truth amidst the great confusion around this bill.

### BRIEFING.

**THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REMAINS OPPOSED TO ANY FORM OF ASSISTED SUICIDE. IT IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMAN LIFE, AND WE CANNOT DIRECTLY CHOOSE TO TAKE THE LIFE OF ANOTHER, EVEN IF THEY REQUEST IT.**

We must scrutinise and continue to challenge this proposed legislation in the months ahead. We must reaffirm our support for high quality end-of-life care, which includes spiritual and pastoral support for the one who is dying and their family.

**PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE.** Such proposed legislation arrives at a time when we have a growing elderly population, persistent exclusion and inequality for disabled people and a very real health and social care crisis. Experience during the pandemic is also pertinent, especially the number of care home deaths and the use or 'misuse' of 'Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation' notices for elderly and disabled people. This context coupled with the textual vagueness of the Bill raises a number of serious questions about law and society's ability to protect the most vulnerable. How can the law ensure that a person is free from pressure from ending their life prematurely due to societal attitudes and perceptions about 'quality' or 'worth' of life? How can the law ensure a person is acting voluntarily and not out of a sense of 'being a burden' to family, to health and social care services and to society?

**THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES.** Oregon, Belgium, Canada and other jurisdictions are held up as examples as to why the U.K. should follow suit in legalising assisted suicide. Yet, evidence in these countries overwhelmingly indicates that the introduction of laws for a 'small number of cases' inevitably leads to exponential growth in those seeking 'assisted dying': Oregon has seen a 1075% increase in 'assisted deaths' between 1998 and 2019, Belgium has seen a 925% increase between 2002 and 2019 and Canada has seen a 648% increase between 2016 and 2020. Similarly, an expansion of grounds upon which 'assisted suicide' is permitted follows suit with its legislation. Laws have been expanded in some jurisdictions to include assisted suicide for children, non-terminal illness (including non-terminal psychiatric illness). Laws are also being challenged with regards to allowing the elderly to request assisted suicide when their life is 'complete' or if they have dementia. Evidence shows that liberalisation of these laws seems to always follow. This is a serious risk, and can we expect the situation in the U.K. to be any different?

**INVESTING IN CARE AND NOT ENDING CARE.** Faced with suffering and illness, our response should be one of true compassion. This finds expression in high-quality and holistic end of life care for the one who is dying and their family. Rather than assisting suicide and bringing care and life to an end, we should be working to ensure people have access to the best end-of-life care when they need it. Organisations and medical professionals have done much good work in debunking myths and popular perceptions around end-of-life care and what a 'good death' can and does look like, but there is much more to be done here. The provision of quality palliative care should be a priority and reality for all who have need of it. 'Assisted Dying' could be seen as a quick and cheap alternative to proper end-of-life care. Can we expect a full range of choice to be given to us, in the event of terminal illness, should this Bill make the statute books? It is interesting to note that those who work most closely with people at the end of their lives are often those most opposed to assisted suicide within the medical profession.

### RESOURCES.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/life-issues/>  
In July 2021, the Bishops' Conference Department of Social Justice hosted a webinar with Baroness Ilora Finlay of Llandaf and Robert Preston, which provided a very useful and rational guide to this complex and sensitive issue: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/a-rational-guide-to-the-assisted-suicide-debate/>

If you would like a FREE copy of the book entitled 'Death By Appointment: A Rational Guide to the Assisted Dying Debate' by Baroness Ilora Finlay and Robert Preston, please contact Collette McGovern at the Conference Secretariat. The book provides an excellent evidence-based approach to the issue: [collette.mcgovern@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:collette.mcgovern@cbcew.org.uk)

'The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Dying Well' promotes access to excellent care at the end of life and stands against the legalisation of assisted suicide. Their website provides up to date political news and resources on the issue: <https://www.dyingwell.co.uk/>

'Living and Dying Well' provides excellent information on research and analysis of the evidence surrounding the 'assisted dying' debate: <https://livinganddyingwell.org.uk/>

'The Art of Dying Well' hosts a variety of resources for helping people to think about death and dying: <https://www.artofdyingwell.org/>