

RECENTLY DIED

Please pray for the eternal repose of the following:

Mrs Kathleen Pitman R.I.P. – The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Holy Family on Thursday 2nd December at 1.00pm.

Mr Anthony Pace R.I.P. – Service at Thornhill Crematorium on Friday 3rd December at 1.15pm.

Mrs Geraldine Evans R.I.P. – Service at Thornhill Crematorium on Tuesday 14th December at 11am.

Mrs Frances Stone R.I.P. – The Funeral Service will be celebrated at St Mary's on Tuesday 21st December at 12.00pm.



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

Readings continued

Alleluia. Alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36.

The reading opens with apocalyptic images of the catastrophes which will attend God's final judgement of the world. Jesus employs the teaching devices of his Jewish contemporaries by speaking in cosmic terms when his actual focus was judgement of the person or the people. When judgement dawns there will be a cosmic impact but the most crucial ingredient will be how such events impact the individual. St Luke's Gospel highlights the need for the Christian to resist earthly distractions, to contemplate the long-term perspectives of discipleship. Whereas St Paul addresses the Thessalonians in anticipation of a swift return of the Saviour, St Luke calls for perseverance in the belief that the end would not come so soon. The fervour of first conversion does not always endure and the soul can all too easily become consumed by worldly indulgence. Luke's Gospel stresses how the Christian must weave prayer into the fabric of daily life in order to remain alert and focused.

"Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap."

"Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man."

Parish Contacts

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Parishes of St. Mary's and Holy Family
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Deacon Christian Mahoney

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Monsignor Canon John Maguire

Retired Priest in Residence at Holy Family

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

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, Joseph Stancombe, Zaid Saffo, Peter Macpherson, Rita Aquilina.

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., Jacob Callaghan, Martin Jones and Connie Greck.

Holy Family & St Mary of the Angels

Keyston Rd, Fairwater CF5 3NP

Kings Rd, Canton CF11 9BX

28th November - 5th December 2021 First Sunday of Advent (Cycle C)

Holy Family Masses

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent (28th November)

6pm Vigil Mass Amalia Pegoraro

11am Fr Dewi Davies

1.30pm Sacrament of Baptism

Tuesday: (30th November)

9.30am Margaret Driscoll (Birthday)

Thursday: (2nd December)

9.30am Michael & Olive Lynch RIP

1.00pm Funeral Mass for Mrs Kathleen Pitman

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent (5th December)

6pm Vigil Mass Phyllis Webber RIP

11am Catherine Bearwish

St Mary's Masses

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent (28th November)

10am Thomas & Marjory Duffy (Anniv.)

12pm Gordon Baker & Carlo Toscano

1.30pm Sacrament of Baptism

6pm Harry Hogan

Monday: (29th November)

9.30am Mrs Geraldine Rees RIP

**Tuesday: Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland
(30th November)**

9.30am John D'Souza RIP

Wednesday: Weekday in Advent (1st December)

9.30am Maisie Molloy

Thursday: Weekday in Advent (2nd December)

7-8pm Adoration & Benediction

Friday: St Francis Xavier, Priest (3rd December)

9.30am S. Sueref

Saturday: Weekday in Advent (4th December)

12.15pm Antonia Abela

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent (5th December)

10am Frances & Stan Trigg

12pm For the People of the Parishes

6pm Liam Fry

Confessions will be celebrated in children's liturgy room on Saturday from 10am to 11am. Access via the Church.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT INAUGURATES A NEW LITURGICAL YEAR FOR THE CHURCH. THE SELECTION OF READINGS FOR THE SUNDAY MASSES FOLLOWS A THREE-YEAR CYCLE. THIS YEAR WE COMMENCE 'CYCLE C' WHICH CONCENTRATES OUR ATTENTION ON THE GOSPEL OF ST LUKE.

Readings for the First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16.

Today's extract from the Book of Jeremiah is actually a fragment from the writings of an anonymous later prophet that has been inserted/ attached to Jeremiah's text. This fragment belongs to the period barely one hundred years before Christ was born, whereas Jeremiah lived over five hundred years prior to Jesus. The content of this fragment reflects the growing expectation regarding the emergence of the promised Messiah, one who would fulfil all hope. The Old Testament contains many strands of messianic expectation, some focus upon an individual as Messiah others emphasise the nation of Israel as the instrument of messianic action in the world. As we listen to this reading, we should not interpret its content in simplistic terms as a vapid preliminary to Christmas. The Season of Advent is more than an opportunity to simply attend to the practicalities of Christmas preparation. Advent is the dawn of a new liturgical year and always begins with the same theme that ends the previous liturgical year, that is a focus on the end of time. Our journey through Advent should sharpen our sense of renewal, our dedication to the Kingdom of God in the midst of the world. Today's first reading challenges us to assess how near we are to becoming the place where 'The Lord Our Integrity' resides.

"See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah."

Psalms 24.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

I Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2.

St Paul's letters to the Thessalonians are the earliest of his writings. When Paul writes these letters, he envisages that Christ would return to the face of the earth in the immediate future bringing with him the force of his judgement – threat or promise according to our preparedness. When Paul speaks of 'love' we should not interpret the word as representing some sort of 'warm inner feeling'. The love that he speaks of is to be understood as that willingness to serve the Kingdom that keeps us alert and responsive every single day of our lives. We should be characterised by an unlimited spirit of generosity. Yet more is demanded. We are to be 'blameless' so that the Kingdom is not compromised by any failure to love on our part. Holiness is not an insipid piety but the true devotion of dedicated service that is empowered by the Holy Spirit. Striving for holiness is to be our preparation of Christ's coming – at Christmas and at the end of time, whenever that may be.

"May the Lord so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when the Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints."

"Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: ..."

Continued opposite



FEASTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday 30th November – Feast: St Andrew, Apostle and Patron of Scotland.

St Andrew was the brother of Simon, St Peter, and a native of either Bethsaida or Capernaum in Galilee. The brothers were fishermen. St John's Gospel describes Andrew as first being a disciple of John the Baptist before being drawn to Jesus and becoming a member of the Apostolic College of Twelve. The fourth gospel goes on to describe how Andrew brought his brother to Jesus.

Andrew is mentioned in the feeding of the 5,000 and in the episode of the Greeks seeking an audience with Jesus. According to the writings of Origen, Andrew preached the Good News in Scythia following the dispersal of the Apostles from Jerusalem. St Gregory Nazianzen and St Jerome claim that Andrew also laboured in Greece. Some later traditions place Andrew journeying as far as what we would identify as Poland and Russia.

It was an old English tradition that claimed St Andrew had travelled to Scotland, founding a Church in the Kingdom of Fife (St Andrew's) – this is the foundation of St Andrew being treated as patron of Scotland. The central tradition claims that Andrew was martyred at Patras in Achaia (Greece), suffering crucifixion on the Saltire Cross - in the form of an X. The relics of St Andrew were interred in the Church of the Apostles in Constantinople by the Emperor Constantine the Great in the year 357. In the thirteenth century the Crusaders translated the relics to the Cathedral in Amalfi.



Friday 3rd December – Memoria: St Francis Xavier.



Francis was born in the year 1506 at the Castle of Javier (Xavier) in Navarre, northern Spain. He became a student at the University of Paris where he met Ignatius of Loyola, who was himself a native of the Basque region of Spain. Francis Xavier would be one of the seven who joined Ignatius as his first spiritual companions. They took vows at Montmartre in 1534 and were ordained to the priesthood three years later in Venice.

The Society of Jesus was established upon these foundations.

As well as addressing the Protestant threat in Europe, Ignatius had a clear vision regarding the missionary outreach of his newly established Society. Francis Xavier was sent to join Simon Rodriguez at Lisbon. Accepting the invitation of King John III of Portugal, in 1541 these two set sail for Goa on the west coast of India. Xavier was appointed as effective apostolic nuncio in the East. Francis Xavier reformed the Portuguese enclave of Goa and moved on South India, Shri Lanka, Malacca, the Molucca Islands and the Malay peninsula. He was remarkably effective in establishing well organised communities. He would periodically return to Goa, his administrative headquarters, so as to consolidate the network of his missions.

In 1549 he set sail for Japan. By the time he returned to Goa in 1552 he had converted over 2000 Japanese to the Christian faith. His encounters with Japanese society and culture offer fascinating reading. The communities he established soon faced persecution, which was endured with great courage. A few generations later, clergy were prevented from entering Japan. Despite being deprived of the ministry of priests, the lay faithful of Japan persevered in the faith through baptism for over two hundred years. When missionaries returned to Japan in the nineteenth-century they found enduring communities of faith. It is interesting to note that the two greatest concentrations of Catholics were found in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

After spending a few months in Goa, Francis Xavier embarked upon a journey to China. Unfortunately he would die during this final missionary journey on the Chinese island of Chang-Chuen-Shan. His body was taken back to Goa. His right arm was sent to Rome as a relic in 1615, residing in what had become the Jesuit headquarters, the great Baroque Church of the Gesu. He was canonised by Pope Gregory XV in 1622 and declared the Patron of the Foreign Missions by Pope Pius XI in 1927.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - THE OFFICIAL RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE SUNDAY OBLIGATION

The Season of Advent marks the commencement of the new liturgical year and it will also mark the re-introduction of our canonical obligation to attend Sunday Mass. The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales removed the obligation at the beginning of the lock-down in 2020. Remotely tuning into the celebration of Mass via our streaming service proved to be so beneficial when we were unable to attend in person.

However, whilst acknowledging that remote electronic participation has been a fruitful compensation for not being able to physically enter our churches, such a connection could never be a substitute for actual attendance and participation in the Sacred Mysteries of our Faith, above all in relation to the Sacrifice of the Mass. Remote spiritual communion does not constitute a long-term substitute for our actual sacramental celebration.

Our participation at Mass is not driven by legal / canonical obligation but by our love for the Lord who gives himself to us in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood, the Holy Eucharist. Let us joyfully embrace our Sunday obligation each week so as to celebrate and nourish our Catholic faith.

PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE MOST REVEREND GEORGE STACK, METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP OF CARDIFF AND APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DIOCESE OF MENEVIA

Archbishop George has written a Pastoral Letter that will be read at all the Masses across the Archdiocese on the First Sunday of Advent. The letter speaks of the consultation that is about to be undertaken regarding the forthcoming Synod and of the formal return to our Sunday obligation to attend Holy Mass. The Pastoral Letter and the accompanying document entitled 'Honouring Sunday', published by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, will be posted on-line and a limited number of paper copies of each will also be available.

A PERSONAL EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

I am immensely grateful for the many messages of condolence I have received from parishioners following the death of my sister Geraldine. Your assurances of prayer for her eternal repose and for the comforting of the family have provided great spiritual sustenance. I celebrated her funeral on Friday 26th November. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS 2023

'FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION.'

Our process of consultation will begin on the First Sunday of Advent. Reflections and submissions will be gathered by the end of February. It is hoped that the preliminary period of preparation in each diocese would present two concrete actions that could be addressed between the beginning of Lent and the conclusion of Eastertide, the Solemnity of Pentecost. Let us consciously pray for the Universal Church and for our Archdiocesan Family as we embark on this journey. Let us pray that our two Parish Communities will respond fruitfully to the invitation set before us by the Holy Father.

*** I am most grateful to Kath Elley who has agreed to my appointing her as St Mary of the Angels Delegate and Coordinator for the Synodal Process of Consultation.

*** I am most grateful to Neil O'Toole who has agreed to my appointing him as Holy Family Parish Delegate and Coordinator for the Synodal Process of Consultation.

The Holy Father has designated a text attributed to St Isidore of Seville (560-636) as the official 'Prayer for the Synod'. The prayer is entitled 'Adsumus Sante Spiritus', meaning 'We stand before You, Holy Spirit'. This prayer has been invoked throughout the centuries at Councils and Synods. Every session of the Second Vatican Council opened with this prayer. Here follows a simplified version of St Isidore's text that is meant for use in parishes as we journey together in preparation for the Synod in 2023.

WE STAND BEFORE YOU, HOLY SPIRIT, AS WE GATHER TOGETHER IN YOUR NAME. WITH YOU ALONE TO GUIDE US, MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME IN OUR HEARTS; TEACH US THE WAY WE MUST GO AND HOW WE ARE TO PURSUE IT. WE ARE WEAK AND SINFUL; DO NOT LET US PROMOTE DISORDER. DO NOT LET IGNORANCE LEAD US DOWN THE WRONG PATH NOR PARTIALITY INFLUENCE OUR ACTIONS. LET US FIND IN YOU OUR UNITY SO THAT WE MAY JOURNEY TOGETHER TO ETERNAL LIFE AND NOT STRAY FROM THE WAY OF TRUTH AND WHAT IS RIGHT. ALL THIS WE ASK OF YOU WHO ARE AT WORK IN EVERY PLACE AND TIME, IN THE COMMUNION OF THE FATHER AND THE SON, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

PARISH ADDRESS ON THE SYNODAL PROCESS OF CONSULTATION

Kath Elley will address the congregation at each of the Masses at St Mary of the Angels on the Second Sunday of Advent regarding the Synod Agenda and its implications. Members of the Synodal Teams from both parishes will meet together at The Priory on Monday 29th November. Over the coming weeks and months these teams will facilitate parish assessments and consultations.

RECOMMENCING COMMUNITY TEA AND COFFEE AFTER 10am SUNDAY MASS IN ST MARY'S

I am immensely grateful to Cynthia Trevelyan for her willingness to organise a new rota of helpers to facilitate the provision of teas and coffees following 10.00am Mass at St Mary's. Step by step we need to re-establish our opportunities to gather socially as well as liturgically. The weekly opportunity to chat and share experiences holds enormous value for a parish community. If you are willing to assist then please contact Cynthia directly or inform me via telephone or parish e.mail.

JOSQUIN AT CHRISTMAS

There will be a concert of music by the 16th century master Josquin des Prez at 7.30pm on Saturday 11th December in St Mary's Church. The concert will be performed by the Welsh Camerata choir, directed by Andrew Wilson-Dickson.

Tickets (£10 / £8) at the door or via the website www.welshcamerata.org

Archdiocese of Cardiff "The God Who Speaks": Scripture Study Days

The next two Scripture Study Day will be given on Saturday, December 4th from 11am-12.30pm. **Mrs. Kate Duffin will be giving a talk: "The Scriptures of Advent"**. Kate is one of the Scripture Champions for the Archdiocese and has promoted the Year of the God Who Speaks during the last two years. She has sent the Quote of the Week to parishes for their newsletters throughout that time too. Kate has been a tutor on the CCRS course for a number of years. Kate has an honours degree in Theology and is known for her love and knowledge of the Scriptures. She will bring our series of Scripture Study Days to an excellent end.

You can access the talks on the day via Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86396695727?pwd=aHlpV3lnbGgrWGVITHBFeGdqclpVdz09>

Meeting ID 863 9669 5727

Passcode: 068790

Contacts for enquiries: Madeleine Walters

at madeleine.walters@rcadc.org

or Kate Duffin at kate.duffin@hotmail.co.uk

The Road to Bethlehem: Belmont Advent Retreat

2 in-person days on St Luke's Infancy Story - Saturdays 10am to 3pm
Led by Dom Brendan Thomas

Sat 4th December - Part 1: Annunciation & Visitation

Sat 18th December - Part 2: Nativity & Presentation

The suggested donation including morning coffee and afternoon tea. Lunch can also be booked. This will cost £15 for a main course, home-made dessert and coffee. **Please contact the Retreat Secretary, Fr Augustine** on retreats@belmontabbey.org.uk or phone 01432 374750.

Also online via Zoom on 1st, 8th and 15th December

<https://www.belmontabbey.org.uk/the-road-to-bethlehem>

CHURCHES TOGETHER

There will be Carols on Fairwater Green at 10am on Saturday 18th December, followed by mulled wine in St Peter's Church Hall. You are all most welcome to come along and join in.

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Many thanks from all who attended to Amy Hewett for a great training session. Holy Family Church Hall. Everyone enjoyed it and benefited enormously. Training will follow in St Mary's at a later date.

SCOUT POST CANCELLED - DONATIONS REQUESTED

The Scouts are unable to operate the wonderful Scout Post system again this year due to the ongoing pandemic. As you are probably aware, they are hugely dependent on the revenue from the Scout Christmas Post to cover their growing expenses during the rest of the year. It raises about £150,000 each year, which helps to keep all the local groups afloat.

This year there is an online fund-raising campaign via the following link:

<https://localgiving.org/appeal/Scoutpost2021/>

If you have benefitted over the years from the Scout Post, or perhaps from being a part of the Scout movement yourself, then please consider making a donation. This will help ensure that the Scout Post can run again next year and also that our young people have the opportunity to enhance their life skills by joining a Scout group.

N.B. In order for your donation to go to the local Scouts, you have to specify the name of the group in the message box when you donate. For Holy Family Scouts, this would be "1st Pentrebane (Holy Family)".

If there are other local Scout groups linked to our parishes wanting to be mentioned, please email canton@rcadc.org.uk

DANGER FROM SCAM EMAIL

I have been contacted by a number of parishioners who have informed me that they have received scam emails purporting to be from myself. The content of the email is a request for £500 supposedly to fund the cancer treatment of a seminarian in a foreign country. Needless to say, I have not and would not make any such request for funds. This incident highlights the need to be vigilant regarding our use of the internet. If we have any doubts regarding emailed requests for money, let scepticism guide our response.

FINANCE & PROPERTY

Parish Offertory Collection at St Mary's:

21st November - Gift aid £59.50 Loose £450.26

Sick and Retired Clergy Fund total now **£2188.11**

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

Parish Offertory Collection at Holy Family:

21st November - Gift aid £145.00 Loose £316.94

Sick and Retired Clergy Fund total **£1334.10**

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'S

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.

TELLERS NEEDED AT ST MARY'S - RECOMMENCING THE USE OF COLLECTION BASKETS

The passing of Collection Boxes for our Offertory Donations to the Parish have been back in operation at Holy Family Church for the past month. I hope to recommence their use at St Mary of the Angels from the First Sunday of Advent. This operation will need Volunteer Tellers at each of the Masses. Could I ask those who previously undertook this responsibility (pre-lockdown) to assist with this task once again. I would be most grateful if some new volunteers step forward to join the cohort.