

Readings continued

Alleluia. Alleluia!

The Lord has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives.

Alleluia!

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21.

We hear the opening proclamation of Christ according to Luke's account, a manifesto of his intent built upon prophetic texts. Matthew achieves the same objective with his structuring of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus appears in the midst of the world and proclaims that the scriptures are fulfilled in his very person. Luke will repeatedly emphasise that Christ has come in and with the power of the Spirit. Jesus is the 'Servant of the Lord' who is filled with the Spirit. Just as the Spirit would guide Jesus in his humanity so will the Spirit guide the infant community of faith, the Church. Just as Ezra addressed the downtrodden exiles upon their return to the promised land so Jesus addresses the emptiness within each and every soul. Jesus alone can and will bring fulfilment to those who recognise their need of him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.

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Retired Priest in Residence at Holy Family

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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 Account No: 03285375

Holy Family Account 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.

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, Connie Greck, Owen Williams.

Holy Family & St Mary of the Angels

Keyston Rd, Fairwater CF5 3NP

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23rd - 30th January 2022 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (Cycle C)

Readings for the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10.

Following the fall of the Babylonian Empire to the conquering Persian army, a first group of exiled Israelites were soon allowed to return to their homeland. However, this return did not go smoothly. Foreigners had taken up residence in Israel and Judaea giving rise to many disputes. The returnees were harassed and soon became dejected. Although a start was made on rebuilding the Temple, albeit on a modest scale compared to the original structure erected by King Solomon, the work soon came to a halt. Northern Israel and Southern Judaea were now subject to Persian dominion and the Persian Emperor appointed a commissioner for Jewish affairs. Nehemiah, the commissioner, authorises Ezra, the priest, to promulgate the Law of God. It was during this era, some 500 to 450 years before the birth of Christ, that many of the Old Testament collections were gathered. The origins of the nation were definitively outlined and the laws and traditions of the nation were more formally and finally codified. The promulgation of the Law of God by Ezra brings joy to the people as they contemplate God's considerate care but there is also sorrow in recognition of infidelities. The tears were bitter sweet. Ezra is a messianic figure, for he reinforces the bond between God and his people by promulgating the Law, by encouraging hope and by nurturing an enduring fidelity. Jesus will promulgate the fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets.

And Ezra (the priest and scribe) read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah - His Excellency - and Ezra and the Levites said to the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep - the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 18.

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

I Corinthians 12:12-30.

We continue our reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. The Christian community is 'vibrating' with the Spirit and Paul is concerned to bring unity and order to the situation. Today we hear Paul employ the imagery of the human body to highlight the value and function of each part. All parts are interrelated for the good of the whole. Each and every member of the 'Body of Christ' has their particular talent, their particular faults and their particular needs. Paul draws our attention to the great wisdom that recognises the weaker and more vulnerable parts of the body as properly receiving the most honour and care. Others had spoken before Paul of an integrated whole being made up of many parts, but Paul brings us to the recognition that the one body is the 'Body of Christ'. We are reminded that Christ assured us that where two or three disciples are gathered in his name then he is present. We can also recollect that the Spirit dwells within each one of us. Christ takes possession of each one of us in the Spirit. Paul will challenge us to recognise that any defilement of our own body is a defilement of the 'Body of Christ'.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Continued opposite

Holy Family Masses

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time(23rd Jan.)

6pm Vigil Mass

11am Maureen Petersen RIP

Tuesday: (25th January)

9.30am

Thursday: (27th January)

9.30am Peggy Rein & Rose Coyle

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time(30th Jan.)

6pm Vigil Mass Garry Sutton

11am Colin Webber RIP

1.00pm Sacrament of Baptism

St Mary's Masses

**Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sunday of the Word of God (23rd January)**

10am Mathew Thomas

12pm John & Mary Hall Intentions

6pm Intentions for the Thomas Family

Monday: St Francis de Sales (24th January)

9.30am Charles McCarthy

Tuesday: Conversion of St Paul (25th January)

9.30am James Murphy RIP

Wednesday: St Timothy and St Titus (26th Jan.)

9.30am Nora Corcoran

**Thursday: Weekday (27th January)
(Holocaust Memorial Day)**

9.30am

7-8pm Adoration & Benediction

Friday: St Thomas Aquinas (28th January)

9.30am Mike Gallagher (Birthday)

Saturday: Votive Memoria of Our Lady(29th Jan.)

12.15pm Sheila Sage

**Sunday: 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time
(30th January)**

10am

12pm Sylvia Abbott (née Dalrymple)

6pm

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

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Thursday 27th January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. On 27th January, we remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution. The writing of history and the act of remembering brings dignity and justice to those whom the perpetrators of the Holocaust intended to obliterate. Safeguarding the historical record, remembering the victims, challenging the distortion of history often expressed in contemporary antisemitism, are critical aspects of claiming justice after atrocity crimes.

For more information on how you can take part in the memorial, visit <https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/ukhmd/>



SVP NEWS

A NEARLY NEW HOSPITAL BED originally costing over a £1000 and in very good condition has been donated to the SVP and is available free to any deserving person or family who may wish to take advantage of this offer. Please contact 07906101015 if you wish to have more information.

Accounts of the lives of the Saints who are commemorated during the coming week can be viewed at the end of the newsletter on the parish website or attached to the weekly email.

THE SYNODAL PROCESS OF CONSULTATION

St Mary's Parish

The St Mary's Synodal Team have arranged Parish Meetings on **Saturday 22nd January** at 10.30am and **Sunday 23rd January** at 3pm. These meetings will be hosted in the Parish Hall on Talbot Street. **Please take a Listening Exercise form so you can tell us what you really think. Take them for family and friends who no longer practise too. Return them by 6th February to the Post Box at the back of the church.**

Holy Family Parish

The Holy Family Synodal Team invite you to participate in the consultation that is about to take place. This is your opportunity to influence the future direction of the Church. The members of the team are:

Neil O'Toole Phil Smith Lauren Fear Steve Morris Margaret Dowds Terry Morris Josephine Morris

The parish suggestion box will be placed on a table in the church entrance. Pens and paper will be available to enable contributions. Two or three members of the team will be available in the hall after each Sunday Mass on the following dates:

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd January, when the theme will be **COMMUNION**.

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th February, when the theme will be **PARTICIPATION**.

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th February, when the theme will be **MISSION**.

But please don't feel limited to these themes, come and join us to express your ideas verbally or in writing and to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES: DATES OF CELEBRATION

First Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession).

*** St Mary of the Angels – Saturday 7th May 2022 at 10.30am.

*** Holy Family - Saturday 14th May 2022 at 10.30am.

First Reception of the Holy Eucharist (First Communion).

*** St Mary of the Angels – Saturday 25th June 2022 at 10.30am.

*** Holy Family – Saturday 9th July 2022 at 10.30am.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Saturday 2nd July at 2.00pm.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES: DATES OF FIRST MEETINGS

*** St Mary of the Angels First Confession / First Communion:

The first meeting for parents and candidates is scheduled for Tuesday 1st February 2022 at 6.30pm in S.M.A. Parish Hall.

*** Holy Family First Confession / First Communion:

The first meeting for parents and candidates is scheduled for Tuesday 8th February 2022 at 6.30pm in H.F. Parish Hall. (All further details of the timetable and catechetical content will be provided at the first meetings.)

*** Confirmation – combined preparation for candidates from both parishes:

Notification of the first meeting for parents and candidates will now be published next week.

NEWS FOR ALL PARISH READERS AND MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

It is my intention to host a Day of Recollection for Readers and Ministers of Holy Communion during the Season of Lent. Ministers of Holy Communion have not been operational either in Mass or in terms of home visitations since the dawn of the pandemic. The Day of Recollection will provide an opportunity to re-assess continuing involvement and the need for future provision. We can look forward to refreshing our commitment and sense of vocation in service to our parish communities.

RECRUITMENT OF CO-WORKERS

As the sacramental programmes become operational, we will need to recruit catechists, both those who have previously been involved and those who might consider stepping forward for the first time. The synodal process of consultation and reflection offers us the perfect opportunity to evaluate and address our needs. I am most grateful to the multitude of people who are already involved in supporting parish life in so many different capacities. Over the coming weeks and months I will be highlighting a number of specific tasks which require our attention. Let us be active and consistent in praying for the well-being of our parishes and the wider diocese.

Nursery September 2022 admissions.

The application process opens on Monday 24th January 2022 and the closing date is Monday February 21st 2022. Offer/decline letters will be sent out on Monday 25th April 2022. From the 24th January application packs can be collected from the school office or downloaded from our website:

stmarysprm.cardiff.scb.uk – key info - admissions

Reception September 2022 admissions: we are still accepting late applications for this class.

You are very welcome to visit the school, please phone to arrange to see the headteacher (02920 225680).



FINANCE & PROPERTY

Parish Offertory Collection at St Mary's:
9th January - Gift aid £90.10 Loose £666.16

White Flower Appeal - £251.77

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

Parish Offertory Collection at Holy Family:
9th January - Gift aid £234.00 Loose £164.38

White Flower Appeal - £150.52

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

Many thanks for your generosity, especially considering I provided no advance warning of the White Flower Appeal.

INVEST IN MY COMMUNITY

Those of you who have donated in the past via Virgin Money Giving will be aware that this is no longer available. However, it has been replaced by a new scheme called Invest in My Community. If you would like to make a donation online, please use the following link. In the future there will be a button on the parish website.

The link is rcadc.org/portfolio-item/parish-offertory/ then you select the parish.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PARISH CLERGY

On Thursday I convened the team of Clergy for our first meeting of 2022. Following our conversations, I can announce the following:

Monsignor Maguire has agreed to take responsibility for creating a team of co-workers to address the issues surrounding a strategy for evangelisation. The vast new developments that are being constructed along the ribbon of the Llantrisant Road will be a particular focus.

Deacon Maurice will continue as our parish lead on the Reaching Out Programme combined with other social action programmes.

Deacon Christian will lead on the catechetical programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Deacon Elliot will lead on the catechetical programme for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist.

OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Octave of Prayer will conclude on 25th January, when we celebrate the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul. This year's theme focuses our attention on the phrase "We saw his star in the East" ("Gwelsom ei seren ar ei chyfodiad") (Mathew 2:2).

This year's phrase for inspiration was chosen by Christians in the Middle East for use across the world. The Magi are symbolic of the world's diversity, religious and cultural. They come to pay homage to the Christ-child. The Wise represent the unity of humanity, for God has created each one of us in his own image and likeness. All Christian Churches are called upon to cooperate in providing relief to the afflicted and a welcome to the displaced; we are honour-bound to build a just and peaceful world order.

Please join in these special prayers with your local Christian community or at home using the Christian Unity website, www.rcadc.org or the Churches Together website, <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/>

I wish to thank Angela Graham, our local Cytun representative for St Mary's, who has sent the following message to our fellow Churches in Canton:

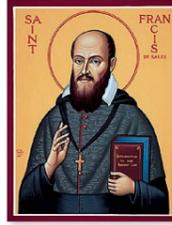
"The parishioners and clergy of the parish of St Mary of the Angels join with you in prayer and action to foster the unity of Christians and the building of peace."



FEASTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 24th January – Memoria: St Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church.

St Francis de Sales was a child of the aristocracy, a son of the Count de Sales. He was born in 1567, in his father's Chateau near Annecy in Savoy. He was a delicate but pious child and showed an early inclination to the ecclesiastical state, receiving the clerical tonsure at the age of eleven. He was schooled in rhetoric in Paris and studied philosophy and theology at the University of Paris before undertaking doctoral research in Padua where he obtained separate doctorates in canon and civil law. He returned home and proceeded toward ordination to the priesthood even though his family had hoped he would take up a secular career as a Senator of Savoy.



He was ordained in 1593. He took up pastoral work in the challenging territory of Chablais where Calvinism had taken root. His life was threatened on more than one occasion, indeed, he twice narrowly escaped assassination. The mission was most difficult but his labours were rewarded by a significant number of conversions. Francis displayed apostolic heroism in undertaking this work. As a result of his successes, Francis was called to Rome where his opinions were carefully scrutinised. He was then appointed coadjutor to the Bishop of Geneva in 1599 and succeeded to the See in 1602.

Francis was zealous in his episcopal responsibilities and was called upon to preach in many places beyond his own diocese. In 1609 Francis wrote the spiritual classic entitled 'An Introduction to the Devout Life'. Another of his enduring works is 'Treatise of the Love of God'. Francis provides a method of spiritual reflection and application that addresses every person in all the differing states of life. The thread is simple yet profound with the concern being to lead the reader to the love of God through the imitation of Christ. In 1610 he founded the Order of the Visitation for women, with the assistance of the Baroness de Chantal who became St Jane Frances de Chantal.

Francis de Sales lived in a time when religious differences were generally tacked with fanaticism. Francis was always entirely orthodox in his delivery of teaching but his expression was always restrained and respectful. His great pastoral zeal was manifested through his meekness. He was eager to further the sanctification of the laity and to see the structures of religious life adapt to the needs of the new age. His thinking and work mark a turning point in the history of spirituality. He died in 1622 at Lyons, in one of the Visitation Convents that had been established. He was canonized in 1665 by Pope Alexander VII and was designated as a Doctor of the Church in 1877.

Tuesday 25th January-Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle.



St Paul was born at Tarsus in Cilicia to Jewish parents from the tribe of Benjamin. The Scriptures tell us that Paul held Roman citizenship. As a young man he was sent to Jerusalem to undertake schooling in Law, being attached to a group devoted to the patterns of a strict observance. We are told he was a pupil of the learned Gamaliel. As a 'trained' lawyer of the Pharisee sect, Paul returned to Tarsus before the commencement of the Public Ministry of Jesus. We are uncertain as to when Paul returned to Jerusalem but at some stage, after the death of Our Lord, Saul (his original name) is seen participating in the stoning of the Deacon and Protomartyr St Stephen. According to the Acts of the Apostles, Saul is then entrusted with the task of identifying and arresting the followers of Jesus in Damascus in Syria. Today we celebrate the moment when Saul encountered the Risen Lord through a vision that came to him on the road near to his destination. Saul was struck with a blindness from which he would emerge only after being taken into the embrace of the Christian Community at Damascus. This was the dawn of his conversion, signified by a change of name from Saul to Paul. This feast marks the conclusion of the Octave of Prayer for the Unity of Christians.

Wednesday 26th January. Memoria: St Timothy and St Titus, Bishops.



St Timothy was from Lystra in Lycaonia, born to a Greek father and a Jewish mother. Timothy was schooled in the prescriptions of the Law. The Scriptures provide indications that Timothy's mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois, embraced the Faith whilst Paul visited Lystra for the first time. It was when Paul returned to Lystra on his Second Missionary Journey that he accepted the recommendation of the local Christian community to adopt Timothy as his onward companion.

During the first imprisonment of Paul at Rome, Timothy was in the company of the Apostle. After this episode, Timothy accompanied Paul on his Third and last Missionary Journey. During this undertaking, Paul appointed Timothy as bishop of the community of Ephesus and he remained there until his martyrdom in 97 A.D.

St Titus was another friend and disciple of Paul the Apostle. Paul would eventually appoint Titus as bishop of the community on the Island of Crete. Around the year 56 A.D. Paul entrusted Titus with the immensely difficult mission of visiting and reforming the community at Corinth. Titus accompanied Paul and Barnabas to the Council of Jerusalem where the Apostles were deciding whether all Christians had to be circumcised according to the ancient Jewish tradition. When the 'Judaizers' clamoured for Titus to be circumcised, Paul vehemently refused and eventually won the argument. Titus returned to Crete and remained there until he died in 96 A.D.

Friday 28th January – Memoria of St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church



The famous Dominican Friar and theologian was born into a knightly family at Rocca Secca, near Aquino, in the year 1225 A.D. From age five to age thirteen, Thomas was educated at the Benedictine Monastery of Monte Cassino. From there he moved to the University of Naples where he remained for a further five years.

It was during his time at Naples that Thomas declared his intention of joining the Dominican Order. His family refused to accept his decision and imprisoned Thomas for over a year in his ancestral home. In the year 1244 Thomas persuaded his family to allow him to follow his vocational calling.

He spent the rest of his life between the University of Paris and Italy. His first master was St Albert the Great and it was Albert who recognised and nurtured the talents of Thomas. Due to his rather large proportions, his contemporaries called Thomas the 'Dumb-Ox'. Albert said that the 'lowing' of this Ox would be heard across Christendom. He became a Master of Theology in 1256 and later a Doctor of Theology. The latter undertaking he conducted in the company of St Bonaventure, the great Franciscan theologian. St Thomas was a prolific writer as well as an accomplished teacher. His two great multi-volume works are the Summa contra Gentes (c.1259) and the Summa Theologica (c.1266). He integrated Aristotelian and Platonist philosophies in service to Catholic Theology. Thomas experienced a number of profound spiritual insights and wrote a number of spiritual works. He died in the year 1274 A.D. whilst on his way to participate in the Council of Lyon. He was canonized in 1323 and proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope St Pius V in 1567.