



St. Alban's Parish Newsletter
 Cameron Street, Splott, Cardiff, CF24 2NX Tel. 029 20463219
Fr. Philip Scanlan , Fr. Michael McCarthy

A Parish of the Archdiocese of Cardiff. A Registered Charity (No. 242380)
 Served by Rosminians

Safeguarding Representative: Maggie Suller Tel. 07899748377



23rd December to 31st December

4th Week of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS

What's on this Week

Sat. 23rd December 12.00 to 12.30pm 6.00pm Mass	3rd Week of Advent Confessions Jimmy Craddock
Sun. 24th December 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Vigil Mass	4th Sunday of Advent Angelika Spiteri For All Parishioners
Mon. 25th December 10.00am Mass	The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, (Solemnity) Christmas Day Terry O'Neill
Tues. 26th December 10.00am Mass	St. Stephen, the First Martyr Pauline Hawkins & Sandra Walentin
Wed. 27th December 7.00pm Mass	St. John, Apostle & Evangelist Carmela & Charles Gauci
Thurs. 28th December 9.30am Mass	The Holy Innocents Patricia Horan
Friday 29th Decenber 8.30 am to 9.30am 9.30 am Mass	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr Adoration in St. Joseph's Chapel Alice Edwards
Sat. 30th December 12.00pm to 12.30pm 6.00pm Mass	Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas Confessions Jean Webb & Marion Dixon
Sun. 31st December 10.00am Mass	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Catherine Nugent

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Legion of Mary	Monday 7.30pm	In the Presbytery
Union of Catholic Mothers	Monday 7.30pm	In the Presbytery
Divine Mercy Group	Tuesday 7.00pm	In the Presbytery
Our Faith, Step by Step	Resumes on January 10th	In the Chapel

CHRISTMAS – IS IT TRUE?

For days and weeks after the events of that night the main topic of conversation in Bethlehem and surrounding villages must have been the mysterious events of that night and the witness of the shepherds, the people at the inn where the birth took place and many others who were moved by these mysterious events. Then, as it does, the story faded until, some thirty years later, rumours began that a new Preacher had appeared who was doing and saying wonderful things that led many people to think and claim that this man was in fact the long-awaited Messiah. We know that this is true - that this Child born in poverty at Bethlehem would later become the centre of attention to the whole nation and even after His terrible death, was seen alive by so many witnesses. And so, as we celebrate the events of that mysterious night at Bethlehem, we know that He came to bring a message of peace and happiness but also of eternal Redemption and glory.

Our Sick Ethan Chichester, Lesley Barnett, Bernard Toft, Maria Jones, Colin Kingston, Gareth & Ethan Woodberry, Christian Babu, Val Kenealy, Pat Xuereb, David Burns, Jacob Meighan, Julie Cale, Henry Burns, Tina, Tracey & Chloe Price, Anna Sueref, Pat Kiiver, John Cowhey, Jack O'Leary, Mike McCauliffe, Sheila Downey, Daniel Young, Shelagh O'Donoghue, Barbara Murphy, David Jones, Paul Burns, Barbara Hurley, Patrick O'Rourke, Audrey Bodenham.

Fr. Philip and Fr. Michael wish to send sincere thanks and greetings to all Parishioners and particularly those who sent cards and gifts at this time. We know that it is a time of giving but it is also a time of receiving and we have received so much from this Parish Community in so many ways over the past two years. So **THANK YOU** and may everyone be blessed with peace, joy and rest (!) during the coming festivities and we look forward to seeing you all in the church this weekend and over the New Year weekend...and for ever, Amen!

Anniversaries
 James Brooks, James Britton, Mary Eccles, Margaret Riordan, Michael Brown, William Stallard, William Legge, Sandra Walentin, Catherine James, Pauline Collier, Sheila Heath, Charles Brice, Margaret Thomas, Francis Thomas, Gerald Goodall, Mary Gee, George Houlston, Christopher Brown, Catherine Whelan, Alice Edwards, Victor Dimech, Catherine Chamber, Ninian Finn, Charles Andrews, Alan Edwards, Robert Edwards.

Masses over the New Year weekend are:
 Sat December 30th Mass at 6.00pm
 Sun December 31st Mass at 10.00am
 Mon January 1st Mass at 10.00am

Tenovus Raffle Prize

During last Mondays carol concert a raffle was held by the Tenovus group and one of the prizes has yet to be collected, so if the owner of the blue raffle ticket 176-180 gets in touch at the Presbytery they can collect their prize.

Crib Offerings

The Crib offerings this year will be sent to support Welfare Charities for children in Wales which help children at risk and in need of physical, emotional and spiritual support. The Archdiocesan Directory and Year Book for 2018 is now available at the shop in the porch.

Church Offerings 16th & 17th December

Offertory Collection -	£701.95
Of which	£331.50 was Gift Aided
Sick and retired Clergy	£153.01, total £537.53

Lately dead

Please remember in your prayers;

Hazel Jones and Maria Camacho

Hazel's Funeral Service was on Wednesday

No details available for Maria's Funeral at this time.

CHRISTMAS ALONE

Some people will observe Christmas alone this year, not seeing anyone nor talking with anyone. This fact means that we can possibly transform this situation - if we know of anyone nearby in this situation can we knock the door to see if they are well or if they need food, if they need someone to speak to. In this way we can bring the light of Christmas into lives that might otherwise be lonely and depressed.

ADVENT ITEMS

Some little ways in which we can make Advent a real preparation for the awesome mystery of Christmas:

1. Send only Christmas cards which show the real meaning of Christmas;
2. Set up a small crib at home, especially where there are young children;
3. Establish the habit of daily prayers at the crib by and for the children;
4. Use the 'Come back to Me' cards which will be available in the Parish to send to those neighbours or relatives who have not been to church for some time and invite them to come (possibly with you) to one of the Christmas Masses.
5. Ask yourself what kind of present can you give to Jesus on His birthday.

A reminder

That we are collecting **used postage stamps** to support a charity which brings hope and courage to sufferers from leprosy.

There is a box at the back of the church to receive your used postage stamps.

200Club Prize Winners, November Draw

1 st	No.	114	S. Kingston	£50.00
2 nd	No.	181	Julia Upcott	£25.00
3 rd	No.	162	Phyllis Clarke	£15.00

A Welshman was shipwrecked at sea and marooned on a desert island. When a passing vessel picked him up 5 years later the crew were amazed to find his little island covered in fine buildings that he had built himself. With pride, the Welsh Robinson Crusoe took the Captain round the island and pointed out to him his house, workshop, electricity generator and two chapels, "But what do you need the second chapel for?" asked the Captain. "Oh that's the one I don't go to," he replied.

"COME BACK TO ME"

We all know of baptised Catholics who, for one reason or another, have abandoned or just drifted away from Mass, the Church and even from God. That so many are in this situation is a tragedy, since it means that so many people no longer have that sense of belonging - whether that is to God or to the Church or to the Parish community where they live. During this Advent, all of us in our Parish are asked to extend to anyone in this situation an invitation which comes from Jesus Himself "Come back to Me with all your heart; do not be afraid". In extending this invitation, we remain uncritical and non-judgemental but openly rejoice for anyone who responds to His words and returns to share with us the joy of Christmas and the continuing awareness that we have come home.

Let us invite them to come to one of the Advent Masses, but especially at Christmas when Masses will be:

Saturday December 23rd at 6.00pm

Sunday December 24th at 10.00am and 6.00pm (the first Mass of Christmas Day)

Monday December 25th at 10.00am

Tuesday December 26th at 10.00am

Invitation cards to send are available at the back of the church.

Don't forget to check the rack at the back of the church for Christmas Cards from fellow parishioners

Contact Details

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Corpus Christi High School
Pontprennau
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St. Illtyd's Catholic High School
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St. David's Catholic Sixth Form College
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