

SAINT HELEN'S PARISH 21st SUNDAY of the YEAR

THE YEAR OF THE WORD –
THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

23rd August 2020



YOUR LOVE, O LORD, IS ETERNAL

THE WORD THIS WEEK

'I drive him like a peg into a firm place': Not a glorious image for a chosen leader, unless you are pitching your tent in shifting sands. In a time and a world just as uncertain and changing as our own, Peter recognises a firm truth, on which the 'big tent' of the Church can be founded and based: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'. For a moment maybe, with the insight of Peter and the anchor of the solid peg of faith in Christ, maybe, we can catch a glimpse of the depth of God.

SUNDAY MASS: (*Psalter: Week 1*)

Gathering Antiphon (6.30pm):

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save your servant who trusts in you, my God.,
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long..

Isaiah 22: 19 – 23.

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Response: Psalm 137.

*R/. Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
Discard not the work of your hands.*

Romans 11: 33 – 36.

All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him.

Acclamation for the Gospel:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build
my church, and the gates of the underworld
can never hold out against it,
Alleluia!

Matthew 16: 13 – 20.

*You are Peter, and I will give you the keys
of the kingdom of heaven.*

Preface: of Sundays viii. Eucharistic prayer: I.

Communion Antiphon (6.30pm):

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
has eternal life, says the Lord,
and I will raise them up on the last day.



THE YEAR OF THE WORD – THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

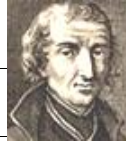
"O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose,
grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you
promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be
fixed on that place where true gladness is found."

(Collect, 21st Sunday of the Year)



MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

Sat 22 nd August	6.30pm	21st SUNDAY of the YEAR for the People of the Parish
Sun 23 rd Aug	10.30am	Thanksgiving (<i>Live-streamed</i>)
Mon 24 th Aug		SAINT BARTHOLOMEW , Apostle Mary Boase Intention.
Tues 25 th Aug	10.00am	Revd. Marshal Gibbs (GF) (<i>Public Mass</i>)
Wed 26 th Aug	2.00 – 4.00pm	Saint David Lewis , Priest + Martyr Hazel Durrant <i>Exposition and Adoration</i>
Thurs 27 th Aug		Saint Monica , Mother Ursula James
Fri 28 th Aug	10.00am	Saint Augustine , Bishop+ Doctor of the Church Private Intention (VT) (<i>Public Mass</i>)
Sat 29 th August	Am	The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist 22ND SUNDAY of the YEAR for our Schools
Sun 30 th August	10.30am	for the People of the Parish (<i>Live-streamed</i>)



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Will not be available this week.



So where is everybody? What are they doing? **DON'T FORGET THE ZOOM COFFEE MORNING** straight after Sunday Mass, a chance to meet up and catch up. Easy entry, via the parish facebook page. *See you there!*

“IGNORANCE OF SCRIPTURE IS IGNORANCE OF CHRIST” says the Catechism, on the back of this newsletter, quoting Saint Jerome.

Why not take another look? Join the **SCRIPTURE GROUP** on Thursday evenings, 7.30pm, via the Parish facebook page, to look at next Sunday's Scriptures. Useful preparation for us all, especially Ministers of the Word.



[The God Who Speaks](#)

The Bible profiles hundreds of men and women. Their life stories are fascinating to read about, especially when the 'heroes' of the stories seem just as flawed as anybody else.

The link below leads to a fascinating list of some of the well known and lesser known Biblical characters.

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/word-at-home/our-top-tens/our-top-ten-heroes-villains/>



SAINT HELEN'S VIRTUAL COMMUNITY CENTRE – THIS WEEK:

Date	Time	Event
Thurs 27 th August	7.30pm	Scripture Study: <i>Via Saint Helen's Facebook</i>
Sun 30 th August	10.30am 11.30am	SUNDAY MASS: <i>Via Saint Helen's Website or Facebook</i> 'Coffee Morning': <i>Via Saint Helen's Facebook</i>

CONGRATULATIONS, PRAYERS, AND BLESSINGS

for Matilda Barrett, Charlie Bateman, Cerys Duggan, Eoin Gillingham, Evie Gough, Callum Gregory, and Angeline Jacob, who will share in Communion in the Body of Christ for a first time today. Congratulations, prayers, and thanks for their parents (and siblings) for bringing them to this day, and for their catechists and teachers for preparing them. With their Communion in the Body of Christ, the Communion of our Parish family grows also. And we pray also for the second 'cohort' waiting and preparing for Communion in a fortnight's time: Lexi Dacey, Sophie Everitt, Marley Jackson, Vanessa Kowalska, Kajetan Luczka, Sean Corcoran, Aidan Mullis, Sophie Murphy, Amelie Outing, Iestyn Outing, Jessica Wnuk, and Ilinca Woods.



The PARISH PRAYER LIST Among all those we pray for in this time, we continue to remember all suffering from the virus and its effects, all the medics, health-workers, and other front line workers, and also each other coping with the gradual easing. We remember also:

Teresa Meade	Rosa Channon	Graham Jenkins	Sandra Bray	Lloyd Jones	
Cecelia Mawby	David Mabey	Isobel Cummins	Pauline Richards	Margaret Jones	
Carol Morrissey	Claris Howell	Anne Morgan	Pat Starynski	Yvonne Grandon	
Martyn Western	Marjorie Gurney	Carmen Agius	Lowela Teves	Joe Marengi	
Pamela and Keith Griffiths	Pat + Pino Emanuelli	Mary & Wilson Brown			
Katrin Merry	Sian Thomas	Maura Coll	Barbara Jones	Mary Everson	John Maguire

Please Pray Also for the Repose of the Soul of **Stella Curtis** of Graig y Rhacca, who died on September 14th, in Gloucester, where she had been staying with her daughter, caught by the lockdown. Stella will be brought back for the Requiem Mass here on



PRAYER CYCLE FOR OUR DIOCESE: We move into the Newport Deanery, and pray today for the Parishioners of Saint David Lewis Bettws, part of the All Saints Pastoral Area, led by Revd. Michael Doyle.

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Part One: **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH.** Section One: **'I Believe' – 'We Believe'**

Article 3: **SACRED SCRIPTURE** IV. **The Canon of Scripture**

(133) The Church "forcefully and specifically exhorts all the Christian faithful... to learn the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ, by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures. Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ" (DV. 25; cf. [⇒ Phil 3:8](#) and *St. Jerome, Commentariorum in Isaiam libri xviii prol.: PL 24, 17B*).

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 1992)

Parish Directory

Priest: Revd. John Kelly 20883192

Safeguarding Officer: 20864112

Music: 07971848734.

Cafod: 20861930

Saint Helen's School: 20852532

Newsletter items: 20883192

Chair of Parish Council:

SVP: 20883462

Hall Bookings: 20883192

Marriage Care: appointments@marriagecare.co.uk

Cardinal Newman School: 01443 494110

Calendar Additions: calendar@sthelenscaerphilly.com

caerphilly@rcadc.org

www.sthelenscaerphilly.com

Website Additions: Website@sthelenscaerphilly.com



Saint Helen is a Parish of the Archdiocese of Cardiff, a Registered Charity.



OUR MARTYRS: Summer was the season of executions, so we have a grouping of local Martyrs around this time.

23rd July is the feast of **Saint John Lloyd and Saint Philip Evans**, the Cardiff Martyrs, one a secular priest, the other a Jesuit, both still young men when they were captured in the Vale, and executed together at a site outside the walls of Cardiff which is now a bank, at the top end of Crwys Road.

“Following their trial they were returned to prison, where they were allowed a great deal of liberty- -so much liberty that when an official came to tell them they were to be executed the following day, Father Evans was playing tennis and would not return to his cell until he had finished it. Father Evans spent his remaining hours playing the harp and talking to his well-wishers who came to visit them. It almost seems as though the local people were reluctant to have treated them in such an uncharitable manner.

At their execution, Father Evans addressed the onlookers in Welsh and English and, turning to his fellow martyr, said: “Adieu, Mr. Lloyd, though for a little time, for we shall shortly meet again.” After Evans’ death, Father Lloyd made only a brief speech because, as he said, “I never was a good speaker in my life”



22nd August is the feast of **Saint John Kemble**. A local man, he ministered for many years to a small community on the southern border of Herefordshire. At the age of 80 he was arrested, Like John Lloyd and Philip Evans, in the furore of the ‘Titus Oates Plot’. He was taken to London to be questioned, strapped to a pack horse all the way there, and walking most of the way back on foot. ‘Before he was led out to his execution Father Kemble insisted on saying his prayers and finishing his drink, and the assembled party joined the elderly priest in a final smoke and a cup of sack.

Before his death Father Kemble addressed the assembled crowd, pointing out that no association with the "plot" had been charged to him. The old priest went on to say: "The failure of the authorities in London to connect me to the plot makes it evident that I die only for profession of the Catholic religion, which was the religion that first made this Kingdom Christian." Consoling his distraught hangman, the priest is said to have whispered, "Honest Anthony, my friend Anthony, be not afraid; do thy office. I forgive thee with all my heart. Thou wilt do me a greater kindness than discourtesy.”



26th August is the feast of **SAINT DAVID LEWIS**, a Jesuit priest. Lewis was brought up in Abergavenny as an Anglican. Aged 16, travelling on the continent, he became a catholic and trained for the priesthood in the ‘English and Welsh College’ in Rome (Where Elliot Hanson is now studying). Returning to Wales he worked from the Cwm, a Jesuit house just north of Monmouth. For 30 years he ministered to recusant catholics throughout Monmouthshire, gaining the nickname ‘Tad y tlodion’, father of the poor. In 1678 he was arrested in Llantarnam, betrayed by one of the servants after saying Mass in the big house. Like John Kemble, he was taken to London to be examined by Titus Oates, then sent back to be tried and condemned, and executed in Usk on 27th August 1679. “It was a tribute to the esteem in which he was held that the crowd, who were mainly Protestants, insisted that he be allowed to hang until he was dead (rather than being disembowelled and quartered while still alive), and that he receive a proper burial.”

All four were canonised by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

‘Saint of the Month’ (from The Year of the Word Team) **SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST:**
 Feast of the beheading of Saint John the Baptist, 29th August



Salome with the Head of John the Baptist,
 Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, c.1607, Source: WikiArt

Saint John followed in the footsteps of the great prophets of the Old Testament, calling upon the people to repent and be ready for the coming Messiah. He baptised with water but spoke of the one who would baptise with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11). He pointed Jesus out as the promised Lamb of God (John 1:35-37) and baptised him (Matthew 3:13-17). He had a great following among the people but he always directed away from himself and lived an ascetic lifestyle. His life was centred on God and on his calling. Herod, despite being fearful of John’s popularity among the people, had John beheaded after an oath he made to Herodias at his birthday party (Matthew 14:1-12).

Saint John is believed to be buried in Samaria. His cult is exceedingly ancient in both the East and West and he was particularly popular during the middle ages. He is the Patron Saint of the Knights Hospitaller and is believed to protect pilgrims to and from the Holy Land.



THE LIVING LITURGY FORUM

Discovering the Riches of Christian Worship

Recovered or re-imagined?

Paralysed or re-energised?

Months of Pandemic has seen more changes to how Christians worship than the passage of as many centuries: What does this crisis say to leaders of liturgy? How might we pray as a church? Where do we go from here? Do we resume or renew, recover, or reimagine? These are the key questions that a small group of liturgists and theologians are going to examine in a series of six conversations on zoom.

If you would like to participate, contact info@appliedtheology.org.uk and you will be sent the link. The conversations will take place on Monday evenings at 1900 BST.

Date	Starter Questions	Conversation Partners	
14 Sept	Can you send an apple by email? The difference between on-line / physical liturgy	Francisca Rumsey	Tom O’Loughlin
21 Sept	Celebrating Easter Sacraments outside of Easter? What does it mean to have missed the Paschal Triduum?	Kevin McGinnell	Joe Grayland
28 Sept	Where does the Eucharist begin and end - the community as eucharistic	Tom O’Loughlin	Andrew Cameron-Mowat
5 Oct	The Icon Corner and prayer at home: spiritual lessons from the Christian East	James Siemens	Francisca Rumsey
12 Oct	Resume or Renew? What more do we need to do post-COVID	Andrew Cameron-Mowat	Kevin McGinnell
19 Oct	Other Liturgies in lockdown: the Lord’s Prayer and the Liturgy of the Hours post-COVID	Joe Grayland	James Siemens

For more information see: www.appliedtheology.org.uk