

CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST JOSEPH'S, PORT TALBOT & ST PHILIP EVANS, CWMAVON

A PARISH OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF-MENEVIA - CHARITY NUMBER 1177272



Parish Priest: Rev. Canon Barry English

Assistant Priest: Rev. Fr Elliot Hanson

The Presbytery

Water Street

Port Talbot

SA12 6LE

UK

Tel: 01639 882846

Website: stjosephs-porttalbot.co.uk

Email: porttalbot@menevia.org

22ND FEBRUARY - 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD THIS WEEK:

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

CF. PSALM 90:15-16

**When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.**

FIRST READING

GENESIS 2:7-9; 3:1-7

The creation and sin of our first parents.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 51 (50)

RESPONSE: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 5:12-19

Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

MATTHEW 4:4B

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ.
One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 4:1-11

Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

MATTHEW 4:4

**One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.**

“The Lord did not come to destroy the Law but to fulfil it; to fulfil it by adding what was lacking, not by taking away what was there.” - St Augustine, Sermon on the Mount (Book I)

PARISH NOTICES

LATELY DEAD

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Michele Twomey, whose funeral will take place on Tuesday 24th February at Margam Crematorium at 10.30am. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

LENT AT ST JOSEPH'S

Here's what's on offer at St Joseph's this Lent.

Walk With Me Booklets – These booklets contain the readings and reflections for the season of Lent. They are a wonderful help for us to reflect on the Word of God during this time. They are available from the back of Church at the cost of £1.

Thursday morning Masses: Following the success of the early Masses during Advent, Mass will be celebrated at 8am every Thursday morning during Lent in addition to the 10am Mass. This Mass will be followed by a simple breakfast in St Joseph's Hall.

Confessions: In addition to our usual confession times – 11-12 at St Joseph's and 4:45-5pm at St Philip Evans, the sacrament will also be celebrated from 5pm-6pm before the Saturday evening Mass at St Joseph's. If you would like to go to confession outside of these times, speak to a priest and they will be happy to oblige.

Stations of the Cross: The Stations of the Cross originate in Jerusalem, where pilgrims would walk the path that Jesus would have taken to Calvary and paused at various moments to meditate and what had happened. The devotion was brought to Europe in an adapted form and it was St Francis of Assisi who popularised the Stations of the Cross that we know today. The Stations will be prayed each Friday at St Joseph's at 7pm.

Lenten Alms: Almsgiving is one of the great pillars of our Lenten devotion. If you would like to give alms, there is a green box by the cross at St Joseph's and a basket at St Philip Evans.

Lenten Station Mass: There is an ancient tradition of the Church where the Pope would celebrate Mass at different Churches (stations) during the season of Lent. In this Archdiocese, the Archbishop does the same. We are invited to join him at our Deanery Station Mass which will be held at Holy Cross, Gendros, Swansea on Thursday 5th March at 7pm.

The Clydach Passion Play: The Road to Calvary: We are happy to announce that St Joseph's will host the Clydach Passion play. The play will take place here at St Joseph's on Friday 6th March at 7pm. Tickets are available to purchase from the sacristy after Mass for £5 with proceeds going to support the work of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP).

The Passover Meal: It has been a long standing tradition at St Joseph's to celebrate a Passover Meal in the run up to Holy Week. In doing so, we get a glimpse into Jewish life and what it may have been like in that upper room. It's also a lovely moment for us to come together as a parish. The meal will be held on Monday, 30th March at Blanco's Hotel. 6.15pm arrival for a 6.30pm start. 2 course lamb carvery for £10. There will be a sign up sheet after weekend Masses next week and if full payment can be had by the week after that would be great. Our thanks to the staff of Blanco's for being so welcoming.

PARISH NOTICES

ST JOSEPH'S INFANT SCHOOL – APPLICATIONS FOR NURSERY WELCOME

St Joseph's Catholic Infant School Governing Body are currently accepting applications for our Nursery for September 2026. If you have a child or know a child who will be three before September 2026 contact the school for an application.

Also, if you are aware of family or friends who may be interested in giving their child an education rich in catholic ethos, please encourage them to contact the school on Tel: 01639 882579

ST JOSEPH'S JUNIOR SCHOOL – ESTYN REPORT

St Joseph's Junior School are still accepting applications for September 2026. To read their inspection report, please follow this link: <https://estyn.gov.wales/app/uploads/2025/12/Inspection-report-St-Josephs-Catholic-Junior-School-2026.pdf> If you would like to have a conversation or arrange a visit, please get in touch with the school on 01639 769743 or via email at: office@stjosephsjunior.npt.school

LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MOTION

As the Senedd prepares to debate whether to give legislative consent to Westminster's Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, Archbishop Mark and Bishop Peter Brignall wish to express their deep concern about legalising assisted suicide in Wales. International experience shows that where assisted suicide is legalised, eligibility criteria expand over time and subtle pressure is placed on those who are elderly, disabled, or who fear becoming a burden. True compassion means accompanying those who suffer and ensuring no one feels abandoned, not ending life. They urge Members of the Senedd to withhold consent and focus on strengthening palliative care. On Monday 26th January, those who can are asked to observe a day of fasting in solidarity with the vulnerable. Please also engage respectfully with your Member of the Senedd to make your voice heard on this important decision for Wales.

GROWING IN FAITH

The Growing in Faith group continues on Tuesday at 6.30pm. All are most welcome.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

An ecumenical service for the annual World Day of Prayer will be held at Tabernacle Chapel, Tabernacle Road, Cwmavon on Friday 6th March at 2.30pm. All most welcome.

ST JOSEPH'S HALL THIS WEEK

Monday 23rd February

10:00am	Craft Club
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Tuesday 24th February

6.30pm	Growing in Faith
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Wednesday 25th February

After the 9.30am Mass	Coffee Morning
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Sunday 1st March

After the 10:00am Mass	Coffee Morning
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LITURGIES THIS WEEK

(ALL LITURGIES AT ST JOSEPH'S UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)

Saturday 21st February

5:00pm (Cwmavon)	Vigil Mass:
6:00pm	Vigil Mass: Timmy Crowley & Mary Pascoe RIP

Sunday 22nd February

1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

8:30am	Holy Mass: Wanda Glaek, Dariusz Kolasa, Wladyslav Tomków
10:00am	Holy Mass: People of the Parish

Monday 23rd February

NO MASS TODAY

Tuesday 24th February

10:00am	Holy Mass: James Hartson RIP
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Wednesday 25th February

9:30am	Holy Mass: Robin Millard
11:00am - 12:00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Benediction.

Thursday 26th February

8:00am	Holy Mass:
10:00am	Holy Mass:

Friday 27th February

10:00am	Holy Mass:
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross

Saturday 28th February

11:00am-12:00pm (St Joseph's)	Confessions
4:45pm - 5:00pm (Cwmavon)	Confessions
5:00pm-5:45pm (St Joseph's)	Confessions
5:00pm (Cwmavon)	Vigil Mass:
6:00pm (St Joseph's)	Vigil Mass: Una O'Neill

Sunday 1st March

2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

8:30am	Holy Mass: Denis Coonan
10:00am	Holy Mass: People of the Parish