

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: Very Rev. Canon Barry English

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8TH MARCH - 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD THIS WEEK:

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

CF. PSALM 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare.

Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

FIRST READING

EXODUS 17:3-7

Give us water to drink.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 95(94)

RESPONSE: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 5:1-2,5-8

Love has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit who has been given to us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CF. JOHN 4:42

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world; give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

GOSPEL

JOHN 4:5-15,19B-26, 39A, 40-42

A spring of water welling up to eternal life.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

MATTHEW 17:5

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

“He who asked for drink was thirsting for the faith of this woman.”

- St Augustine of Hippo (Tractates on the Gospel of John, 15.11)

PARISH NOTICES

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.

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. This is the last weekend to sign up and pay.

WELCOME!

A warm welcome to our children and all who have joined us for the Family Mass this week. You are most welcome and please do join us in the hall for a cup of tea after Mass.

LEGION OF MARY

We are looking at founding a chapter of the Legion of Mary, a group which prays for the parish and reaches out to the lapsed and non-catholics in our town. If you would be interested, there will be members of the Legion of Mary at Masses over the next two weekends. Do say hello!

CLYDACH PASSION PLAY

A hearty thanks and congratulations to all the Players from the Clydach Passion Play who performed for us on Friday evening. It was a wonderful way to help us prepare for the drama of Holy Week. We wish them all the best as they continue their performances throughout South Wales.

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

ASSISTED DYING BILL – LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MOTION – UPDATE

Following the narrow approval of the Legislative Consent Motion in the Senedd on Tuesday, Archbishop Mark O'Toole has issued this statement:

“The vote in the Senedd in which a majority have indicated support for assisted suicide being available through the NHS is deeply disappointing. The situation in other countries shows that the safeguards do not hold up. This is a very sad day for the most vulnerable in Wales.”

We continue to pray that life will be protected from conception until natural death.

GROWING IN FAITH

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

Advance Warning: Stations of the Cross 27th March

Advance notice that on the 27th March, there will be no Stations of the Cross at St Joseph's as there will be an ecumenical celebration of the Stations at St Philip Evans in Cwmavon at 7pm. All most welcome.

ST JOSEPH'S HALL THIS WEEK

Monday 9th March

10:00am	Craft Club
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Tuesday 10th March

6.30pm	Growing in Faith
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Wednesday 11th March

After the 9.30am Mass	Coffee Morning
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Sunday 15th 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 7th March

5:00pm (Cwmavon)	Vigil Mass: Archbishop Peter Smith RIP
6:00pm	Vigil Mass: Denis Rees

Sunday 8th March **3RD SUNDAY IN LENT**

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

Monday 9th March

	NO MASS TODAY
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Tuesday 10th March

10:00am	Holy Mass: James Welsh RIP
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Wednesday 11th March

9:30am	Holy Mass: Eileen O'Sullivan
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Thursday 12th March

8:00am	Holy Mass: Bishop Francis Vaughan RIP
10:00am	Holy Mass: Private Intention

Friday 13th March

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

Saturday 14th March

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: Fr Michael Lewis RIP
6:00pm (St Joseph's)	Vigil Mass: Con Harrington

Sunday 15th March **4TH SUNDAY IN LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)**

8:30am	Holy Mass: Brian Wills (RIP)
10:00am	Holy Mass: People of the Parish