

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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The Presbytery

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15TH MARCH - 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)

THE WORD THIS WEEK:

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

CF. ISAIAH 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.

Be joyful, all who were morning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING

1 SAMUEL 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A

David is anointed King of Israel

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 23 (22)

RESPONSE: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

Arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

JOHN 8:12

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

GOSPEL

JOHN 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

He went and washed and received his sight.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord anointed my eyes:

I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

“The blind man sees, and the seeing are proved blind;  
because the humble receive light, and the proud lose it.”  
- St Gregory the Great (Homilies on the Gospels, Homily 10)

## PARISH NOTICES

### LENT AT ST JOSEPH'S

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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:** Our usual confession times are Saturdays, 11-12 at St Joseph's and 4:45-5pm at St Philip Evans. 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:** Sign up has now closed. Can though who have signed up to join us for the Passover Meal please make payment to Katrina as soon as possible. Thank you.

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### LEGION OF MARY

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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!

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### ADVANCE NOTICE: STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

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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 6.30pm. All most welcome.

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### ST JOSEPH'S INFANT SCHOOL: STAY AND PLAY

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Come and join the fun at St Joseph's Infants Stay and Play! Join us every Wednesday term time, in our dining hall for a fun filled session. From 1:30pm-2:30pm, little ones can enjoy a variety of playful activities designed to spark curiosity and joy, while adults can relax, connect, and share a friendly chat over a warm cuppa. Whether you're a parent, grandparent, or carer, everyone is welcome—we'd love to see you there!

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### ST JOSEPH'S JUNIOR SCHOOL: PLACES STILL AVAILABLE

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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](mailto:office@stjosephsjunior.npt.school)

## PARISH NOTICES

### HAPPY MOTHERING SUNDAY

Mothering Sunday is a tradition inherited from the Middle Ages. In those days, it would be a day of pilgrimage where you would travel back to the Church where you were baptised, your “Mother Church” as it were. Today, that meaning has expanded. We give thanks for the spiritual birth we received in baptism. But we also give thanks to God for our mothers and for all who have assumed a motherly role in our lives, that the Lord would bless them for their kindness and love.

### THE SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH

Next Thursday, 19th March is the Solemnity of St Joseph and our parish patronal feast! Please note that there will be only one Mass celebrate and it will be at 9.30am so that our primary school children can join us. As the children will lead us with some music, this Mass will be a little longer than usual. Please do come as we celebrate St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Foster Father of our Lord and Protector of the Universal Church.

### ADVANCE NOTICE: HOLY WEEK

The Masses and Liturgies for the Triduum will be as follows:

Maundy Thursday: Thursday 2nd April – Holy Mass at 7.00pm

Good Friday: Friday 3rd April – Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion at 3pm

Holy Saturday: Saturday 4th April – Solemn Easter Vigil at 7.30pm

Easter Sunday: Sunday 5th April – Holy Mass 8.30am at St Philip Evans, 10.30am at St Joseph’s

A full timetable for Holy Week is available on the noticeboard and will be published in the newsletter next week.

Please do make every effort to attend these liturgies in honour of Our Lord’s death and resurrection.

## ST JOSEPH’S HALL THIS WEEK

### Monday 16th March

|         |            |
|---------|------------|
| 10:00am | Craft Club |
|---------|------------|

### Tuesday 17th March

|        |                  |
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| 6.30pm | Growing in Faith |
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### Wednesday 18th March

|                       |                |
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| After the 9.30am Mass | Coffee Morning |
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### Sunday 22nd March

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| After the 10:00am Mass | Coffee Morning |
|------------------------|----------------|

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

**Saturday 14th March**

|                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5:00pm (Cwmavon) | Vigil Mass: Fr Michael Lewis RIP |
| 6:00pm           | 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 |

**Monday 16th March**

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|  | NO MASS TODAY |
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**Tuesday 17th March**

|         |                                 |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| 10:00am | Holy Mass: Rebecca Sterling RIP |
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**Wednesday 18th March**

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|--------|--------------------------------|
| 9:30am | Holy Mass: Augustine Caulfield |
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**Thursday 19th March**                      **THE SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BVM**

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|--------|---------------------------------|
| 9.30am | Holy Mass: People of the Parish |
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**Friday 20th March**

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

**Saturday 21st 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:             |
| 6:00pm (St Joseph's)         | Vigil Mass: Mollie Rees |

**Sunday 22nd March**                      **5TH SUNDAY IN LENT**

|         |                                 |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| 8:30am  | Holy Mass: People of the Parish |
| 10:00am | Holy Mass: Anthony Butler       |