

Baptism of the Lord

Catholic Parishes of St Mary's, Bridgend, Our Lady Star of the Sea,
Porthcawl & St Joseph's of Arimathea, Kenfig Hill

www.catholicchurchbridgend.org.uk

www.catholicchurchporthcawl.org.uk

Priests: Fr. Tim McGrath 01656 652034 & Fr. Silvio Briffa (retired)

Parish Deacons: Rev. Philip Manghan philip.manghan@rcadc.org

Rev. Robert Coyne Tel: 01656 783540 & Rev. Anthony Martin Tel: 01656 746648

Parish Administrator: Sarah Kearns Tel: 07534 095766 bridgend@rcadc.org

A Parish of the Archdiocese of Cardiff: 1177272

To make a booking for weekend Mass please text or call the office on 07534 095766 and leave a message. I will get back to you to confirm your booking. The office is closed on a Wednesday. Many thanks.

Apart from those Masses taking place in Our Lady Star of the Sea Masses will continue to be live streamed from St Mary's. The links for this are available on the home page of both websites.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Mass Times</i>	<i>Mass Intentions</i>
Sat 8 th January	Our Lady Star of the Sea - Mass 4.30 pm <i>Live stream only from St Mary's</i>	
	St Mary's - Vigil 6.00pm- bookings only	Steven Rock RIP (MC Phillips)
Sun 9 th January <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	Our Lady Star of the Sea - Mass 10.00am <i>bookings only – FULLY BOOKED</i>	People of the parish, frontline & NHS workers
	St Mary's - Mass 11.00am- FULLY BOOKED	Special Intention Anne & Philip (Rick & Maria)
	St Mary's - Mass 6.00pm- bookings only	People of the parish, frontline & NHS workers
Mon 10 th January	<i>Requiem Mass 11.00am</i> <i>Nancy Rodgers</i>	<i>INVITATION ONLY</i>
Tue 11 th January	Our Lady Star of the Sea - Mass 10.00am	
Wed 12 th January	Our Lady Star of the Sea – Mass 10.00am	
	<i>Requiem Mass 10.30am</i> <i>Beryl French</i>	<i>INVITATION ONLY</i>
	St Mary's – Mass 7.00pm	Anne & Mick Cleary (L Dainty)
Thurs 13 th January	Our Lady Star of the Sea - Mass 10.00am	
	St Mary's – Mass 10.00am	Catrin Morgan (I Ford)
Fri 14 th January	St Mary's – Mass 10.00am	Victorio Sacay (Dequito family)
Sat 15 th January	Our Lady Star of the Sea - Mass 4.30 pm <i>Live stream only from St Mary's</i>	People of the parish, frontline & NHS workers
	St Mary's - Vigil 6.00pm- bookings only	People of the parish, frontline & NHS workers
Sun 16 th January <i>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Our Lady Star of the Sea - Mass 10.00am bookings only	Tom & Rita Sheridan (Addie Ellis)
	St Mary's - Mass 11.00am- bookings only	Harold Jenkins RIP
	St Mary's - Mass 6.00pm- bookings only	Mam (Pamela Evans)

Prayers for the Sick - If you wish to have a person's name included on the list, then please ensure you have their permission and then contact the office on 07534 095766 or via emailing bridgend@rcadc.org

We pray for the sick and housebound of Our Lady Star of the Sea, St Joseph's of Arimathea & St Mary's.
We pray for our friends, relatives and those who have asked for our prayers.
For Jan/ Feb: Elsie Freeth, Martin Ginnelly, Helle, Sam Henn, Margaret Jarvis, Catherine John, Keith Jones, Julia Margaret Lewis, Jack Michael Ley, Brinley Morgan, Becky O'Donnell & Maureen Pritchard.



Fr Tim will be covering Fr Edmund and the parishes of Maesteg and Aberkenfig until the end of January.
We give thanks to Canon Pelosi who will be officiating at Mass in Our Lady Star of the Sea during this time. Please make the Canon very welcome.

St Mary's Piety – Could you help? If this is something you would like to do for your parish community or you wish to find out more information about what exactly is involved, then please contact the office.

Please see the website for an update to the First Holy Communion Course.

Eternal Rest

*Beryl French, Nancy Rodgers & Patrick Joseph Bermingham 'Eric'
and their families in your prayers.*

*Requiem Mass for Nancy Rodgers at 11.00am on Monday 10th January in St Mary's RC Church followed by
interment at Laleston Cemetery*

*Requiem Mass for Beryl French at 10.30 am on Wednesday 12th January in St Mary's Church followed by
interment at St Woolers Cemetery Newport.*

*Please keep all those recently deceased and their families in your thoughts and prayers.
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. Amen.*

Baptism of the Lord, 9th January 2022

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms'

Today marks the end of the Christmas season, as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. It heralds the beginning of Jesus's public mission: the work of teaching, preaching and healing. God's great love and mercy offer salvation to all through Jesus, by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the **Gospel**, God proclaims Jesus as his beloved Son at his baptism in the Jordan. St Luke draws our attention to the descent of the Holy Spirit while Jesus is at prayer.

The **First Reading** offers hope and joy. God has seen his people repent and will bring them home across the desert. He is both their defender and their shepherd, who gathers, guides and nourishes.

The image of God gathering and nourishing is echoed in the **Psalm**.

The Lord renews with his Spirit all who look to him.

St Paul (**Second Reading**) tells us it is entirely due to God's mercy, love and compassion that we are offered salvation; not for anything we have achieved. God's loving kindness is revealed through 'the cleansing water of rebirth' and renewal with the Holy Spirit in Christ.

Today is an opportunity to reflect on the gift of baptism. We remind ourselves that the words spoken at Jesus's baptism also apply to us.

We, too, are beloved daughters and sons of God, called to make known the love of God to all we meet. Let's pray this week, and in the weeks ahead, for whatever grace God feels we need to help us.

Act of Spiritual Communion

St Alphonsus Liguori.

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the
Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things, and
I desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you
sacramentally, come spiritually
into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there
and unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.

Parish Prayer

Heavenly Father, who sent the ten plagues to free his children, and protected them by the blood of the Lamb, bless all those affected by the Coronavirus.

Encourage and strengthen those who seek a cure. Protect all who care or work in the NHS. Send your Holy Angels to guard us and bring us safely through this time of trial. May your Holy Mother care for us as she did for the sick child Jesus. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes. Pray for us.

St. Raphael Archangel. Pray for us.

St Luke, the Physician. Pray for us.

St. Bernadette. Pray for us.

Towards a Synodal Church

An opportunity to have your say. **Questions to think about:**

How do we journey together, listen to each other? to the Holy Spirit?

What is your dream for the Church, your parish, so that it becomes more missionary, more outward looking?

St Mary's parish representatives are Maureen Harris and Deacon Philip Manghan, Our Lady Star of the Sea's representatives are Debbie Dawson and Deacon Rob Coyne. There will be a series of forums held to discuss these questions in the New Year! Website updates soon!

Can you help steward our churches?

As we continue to try and keep our churches open for Mass during the level 2 restrictions and continuing pandemic we find ourselves in need of more stewards, particularly for Our Lady Star of the Sea. If you come to Mass and feel you could help please contact the office.

FINANCE MATTERS - Please consider that the best way to support your parish is by donating directly into your parish bank account. The Account name in both instances is “Archdiocese of Car”

St Mary’s account no. 13017974 sort code:20-18-23

Our Lady Star of the Sea account no. 33951863 sort code: 20-18-23

Please use your surname as your reference unless you are making a one-off donation, for example for a Mass Intention or Christmas/ Easter Offerings – in that case please state the purpose of your donation. Should you need any assistance in setting up a standing order to your parish, or, as a taxpayer should you wish to gift aid your donations, then please contact the office by emailing bridgend@rcadc.org or calling 01656 652034 option 2.

Thank you for your support - With offertory collections and counting teams still suspended thank you to everyone who has continued to support Father Tim and the parishes during the pandemic by embracing a new way of doing things.

Covid-19 Measures – Update

Please only attend church if you are symptom free!

1. **Opening of Churches** - St Mary’s will be left open and unsupervised for individual prayer during times when there are no public acts of worship. Our Lady Star of the Sea will remain closed for now apart from the published Mass times. Group prayer sessions will hopefully be reintroduced in Our Lady Star of the Sea once restrictions allow.
2. **Face masks** – these remain mandatory, even whilst seated, for those over the age of 11 (unless medically exempt).
3. **Hand sanitiser** – please use this on the way in and out of the church.
4. **Test, Track and Trace** – please sign in using the NHS app and QR barcode or on the form available.
5. **One-way systems and movement of people** – people should exercise good responsible behaviour especially when moving to receive Holy Communion during Mass and should avoid getting too close to each other. Please use the main entrance to enter the church as you will need to sign in. Please follow the one-way system.
6. **Social Distancing** – 2m social distancing restrictions have been reintroduced please be respectful of other parishioners.
7. **Stewards** – our stewards will still very much be needed to provide a welcoming presence at the church door, to guide people as necessary to an appropriate seat and assist in the cleaning of frequently used touch points within the church buildings. Want to join the team? Please contact us.
8. **Cleaning** – this will remain a high priority. Along with the post Mass sanitising by stewards and parishioners of the benches and touch points, regular deep cleaning will be maintained throughout the week.
9. **Holy Water stoups** will remain empty for now.
10. **Ventilation** – windows and doors will be kept open where possible to maintain a good supply of fresh air.
11. **Ministers** for the celebration of Holy Mass such as servers, cantors, readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be re-introduced slowly over the coming weeks/ months.
12. **Offertory collection** – although this may be resumed parishioners are encouraged to continue giving direct to the parish accounts where possible. There will be a basket available at the rear of each church for donations. **Please consider setting up a standing order and gift aiding your offertory.**
13. **Sign of Peace** remains suspended.
14. **Holy Communion** will continue to be under one kind and the ministers will continue to sanitise their hands beforehand and wear a face covering whilst distributing. It is recommended that Communion is received in the hand.
15. **Singing will be re- introduced gradually.**
16. **Confessions** – please see a steward to see if a Priest is available prior to Mass to hear your confession.
17. **Baptisms, Confirmation, Marriages and Funerals** – Please see the clergy or contact the office with any questions.
18. **Children’s liturgy** – to be re-introduced in due course.
19. **Tea and Coffee after Mass** – to be re-introduced sometime in due course.
20. **Hall** – the hall will be reopened for our own parish needs pending the necessary risk assessments. **Hiring to third parties/ general public will remain suspended for now.**