

ST. MARY'S THE GROTTTO The work of cleaning the stonework around the Grotto will be done soon after Christmas. I have not sorted the refurbishment of the Pieta; it is proving to be very difficult because of its size. Donations will be gratefully accepted. Suggestions are very welcome on how best to make our Grotto more beautiful.

**Mary Immaculate High School
Christmas Fayre**

Tuesday 29th November 6-8pm
Handmade gifts, raffle, refreshments and lots more!
Entrance £1 per adult which includes mulled wine or coffee/tea and a cake.
Children free!
Tickets available from school or on the night.



Parish Piety Stall

I'm very pleased to announce the opening of the piety stall. This new venture will take time to manage and to have items appropriate to people's needs. I am thankful to Dot Howells for volunteering to manage the stall but we need more help. Items available are Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, Miniature Nativity Sets, Hand Crafted Cards etc. All at reasonable prices.

The Rite of Committal and burial

The Rite of Committal

This rite concludes the funeral rites, it is the final act of the community in caring for the body of the deceased. It may be celebrated at the graveside or crematorium.

The Rite of Committal at the grave

In committing the body to its resting place, the community expresses the hope that, with all those who have gone before marked with the sign of faith, the deceased awaits the glory of resurrection. The rite of committal is an expression of the communion that exists between the Church on earth and the Church in heaven. The rite begins with an invitation, scripture verse and a prayer over the place of committal (if it is not already blessed). The rite continues with the words of committal, intercessions the Our Father and final prayers and blessing.

The Rite of Committal at the crematorium

In the rite of committal at the crematorium *there is no prayer of the place of committal; that is done later at the burial of the ashes.* The rest is similar to that at the graveside. In some cases where there is only one funeral service a special service is provided which expands the rite of committal, including reception of the body, the liturgy of the word, commendation and committal prayers

Burial of the ashes

Recently the Vatican asked that *"all necessary measures be taken to preserve the practice of reverently burying the faithful departed"*. The resurrection of Jesus is the culminating truth of the Christian faith preached from the very beginnings of Christianity: *"For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve"* (1 Cor 15:3-5).

Because of Christ, Christian death has a positive meaning. The Christian vision of death receives privileged expression in the liturgy of the Church: *"Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven"*. Following the most ancient Christian tradition, the Church insistently recommends that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other

sacred places. In memory of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord, the mystery that illumines the Christian meaning of death, burial is above all the most fitting way to express our faith and hope in the resurrection of the body.

By burying the bodies of the faithful, the Church confirms her faith in the resurrection of the body, and intends to show the great dignity of the human body as an integral part of the human person whose body forms part of their identity. She cannot, therefore, permit rites that involve erroneous ideas about death, such as considering death as the definitive annihilation of the person, or fusion with Mother Nature or the universe, or as a stage in the cycle of regeneration, or as the definitive liberation from the "prison" of the body. Furthermore, burial in a cemetery or another sacred place adequately corresponds to the piety and respect owed to the bodies of the faithful departed who through Baptism have become temples of the Holy Spirit and in which *"as instruments and vessels the Spirit has carried out so many good works"*. The Church considers the burial of dead one of the corporal works of mercy.

Finally, the burial of the faithful departed encourages family members and the whole Christian community to pray for and remember the dead, while at the same time fostering the veneration of martyrs and saints.

The Church raises no doctrinal objections to cremation, since the deceased's body does not affect his or her soul, nor does it prevent God, in his omnipotence, from raising up the deceased body to new life. When cremation of the body has been chosen, the ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place which has been set aside for this purpose. The burial of the ashes of the departed ensures that they are not excluded from the prayers and remembrance of their family or the Christian community. It prevents the faithful departed from being forgotten. Also it prevents any unfitting or superstitious practices. For the reasons given above, the conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted nor may the ashes be divided among various family members nor is it permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea in order to avoid every appearance of pantheism, naturalism or nihilism.

Holy Family & St Mary of the Angels

Keyston Rd, Fairwater CF5 3NP

Kings Rd, Canton CF11 9BX

27th November - 4th December 2016 - First Sunday of Advent Year A

First Sunday of Advent

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Collect	90	Prayer over the Gifts	98
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First Reading (Isaiah 2:1-5)

Mountains in the Hebrew scriptures are always places of theophany - the encounter with God. Whether it is with Abraham and the binding of Isaac or Elijah and the gently breeze at the mouth of the cave, God's presence is felt on high and sometimes lonely places. Here, the mountain is a place of instruction. Those chosen are set apart and in climbing the mountain will become the people living in right relationship with Yahweh.

Second Reading (Romans 13:11-14)

The allusion to light and darkness seems strange here at this time of year when we tend to get up and go to bed in darkness. Perhaps it concentrates the mind into realising not only how much light can brighten our lives, but also how much divine light, and the bringer of that light' can brighten the darker places of our souls where the sins mentioned by St Paul are known to live.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 24:37-44)

The message is clear: stay awake. Jesus' admonition is not a million miles away from where we left off with Luke's Gospel two weeks ago. We don't and won't know the day or the hour. Christianity is a perpetual state of readiness and anticipation. As Christians we live our lives to the best of our ability in the ordinary and every day, but we also keep our eye on the prize. Behind the reading is the destruction of the Temple; the fact of which those first listeners of the Gospel would have been aware. Remember, everyone laughed at Noah when he began to build the ark, but they weren't laughing when the rain came.

Parish Team: Mgr Canon John Maguire, Fr. Andy Bord & Deacon Professor Maurice Scanlon.
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Holy Family Masses

First Sunday of Advent

Vigil Mass
6pm Daniel Fitzmaurice
11.00 Eileen Geary

Thursday

9.30 Dole family

Second Sunday of Advent

Vigil Mass
6pm John Canter
11.00 Eileen Geary

Confessions available before each Mass.

St Mary's Masses

First Sunday of Advent

10.00 Tim Kehoe
12.00 William McCarthy
6.00 Christine Stanton

Monday (1st week of Advent)

9.30 Michael Sullivan & family

Tuesday (1st week of Advent)

12.15 Patrick & Nancy O'Donovan

Wednesday (St Andrew, Apostle)

9.30 Peter Paul Sultana
12.15 Irene Ford

Thursday (1st week of Advent)

10.15 Maria Clements (*Requiem Mass*)
12.15 Susan, Gwen & Fred Baker

Friday (1st week of Advent)

9.30 David Clements
12.15 Thanksgiving

Saturday (St Francis Xavier, Priest)

12.15 Ollie Howells

Second Sunday of Advent

10.00 Peter Murray
12.00 John D'Souza
6.00 Mr & Mrs Rich

Confessions: Saturdays 9.30-10am & 11.30am-12.00



All parishioners, newcomers and visitors are very welcome to visit St Mary's Parish Hall for a cup of tea or coffee after 10am Mass today.

Recently died

Your prayers are asked for the following who died recently:
Maria Clements Requiem Mass in St Mary's on Thursday 1st December at 10.15am
Alf Hayward, Requiem Mass in St. Mary's on Tuesday 6th December at 12.15.
 We offer their families our sincerest sympathy. May they rest in peace.

Pray for the Sick

Holy Family: Vivian Miller, Peggie O'Rourke, Marjorie O'Gorman, Mary Bodman, Elizabeth Magee, Brian Webster, John Gallagher, Kay & Paul Parris, Maria O'Keeffe, Joan Corcoran, Jessie Mullett, Anne Murray, Henry & Tony Fernandez, Valentine and Martin.
St. Mary's: Con Sullivan, Veronica McCarthy, Teresa Francis, Tom Hopkins, John & Marian Lamb, Dave Burns, Catherine Kemp, Paul Williams, James Church, Liam Fry, Kevin Barry, Peggy Dooley, Betty Smith, Ivan Sadka, John Goode, Gwyn Thomas, Margaret Griffiths, Jonathan Gomez, Anthony Jackson, Freda Burns, Joanne Coakley, Gareth Browning, Karan Donovan, Sheila Summers, Bets Sullivan, and Maria Gomez

Parish Collections

Many thanks for your generosity.
St Marys Gift Aid: £339.46 Loose: £934.66
Holy Family Gift Aid: £228.50 Loose: £345.82
 Many thanks for a donation of £50 towards the Grotto.

Exhibition of Paintings Kevin Sinnott

At St. David's Cathedral from 26 November until 4 December. Uniquely, a large number of his paintings on religious subjects have been brought together in one place. Information and literature have already been circulated to parishes. Please publicise the exhibition in your parish newsletter this weekend. Still better, encourage people to attend perhaps by organising a group to come together. The Art Departments and R.E Departments of our Secondary schools have been invited to attend. Kevin Sinnott will speak in the Cathedral on 26 Nov. and 3 Dec., 12 noon.

News and activities from Holy Family Parish



International Mass last week was a wonderful occasion. Many thanks to all who attended and contributed in any way.
Red Mill Hill Mission Boxes
 Would you please count and bag the contents (with name and amount) and return to Phil Smith or Chris Davey at the end of Mass.
Church cleaning Group B w/b 28th Nov.

Holy Family Scouts
 Scout Post Stamps are on sale at the back of church at the fantastic price of 25p each. Please give your support as this is a **vital source of revenue** for these young people.
Last posting date Monday 5th December

Foodbank Collection

Collections of food are as follows:-
St Mary's - Sunday 18th December
Holy Family - Weekend of 3rd/4th December

Mary Immaculate High School

Mary Immaculate High School's Annual Christmas Buffet Lunch for the Senior Citizens of our Parish will take place at 12 noon on Wednesday 14th December 2016. If you would like to attend please contact Michelle Jeffrey at the school on (029) 2059 3465.



The Christmas Bazaar and Raffle
Next Saturday 3rd December at 1pm
St. Mary's Hall
Please support this important fundraising event



Cakes
Jewellery
Fruit Baskets
Handicrafts
Toys Bottle Stall
Candles Books
Groceries Raffles
Meet Father Christmas in the Grotto

Please bring in good quality items (no clothes or electrical goods). Thank you

Please put your donations into the **Bazaar Box** at the back of the Church.

Thank you

St Mary's Christmas Raffle

St Mary's Grand Christmas Prize Draw will take place during the Parish Bazaar on Saturday 3rd December. Tickets £1 per book are on sale at all Sunday Masses. Please buy some and sell them to your family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues. Anyone wishing to donate a prize can contact Fr John and Fr Andy or one of the Finance Group. Thank you.



Welsh Camerata Concert

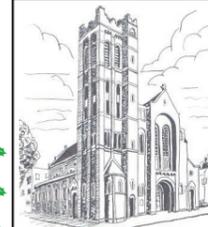
St Mary's Church on **Friday next 2nd December** at 7.30pm. Admission free. Light refreshments afterwards

First Holy Communion Preparations



The 7th Alpha meeting for 1st Communion Parents went very well. Thank to the parents who faithfully attend every week, very encouraging. The Theme next week is **How can I resist Evil** May I encourage those parents who have not attended to make a special effort **Wednesday 30th November** at 7pm in Holy Family Hall, Keyston Rd, Fairwater, Cardiff CF5 3NP.

News and activities from St. Mary's Parish



International Mass last Sunday was a great success and greatly enjoyed by everyone.
Parish Visit to National Museum of Wales 2.30pm Sunday 11th December. If you wish to attend please put your contact details on the sign up sheet at the back of the church.

Journey of Faith

For those interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church. Continues every Thursday at 7.30 in the Priory, 67 Talbot St, CF11 9BX.

Walk with Me through Advent

Walk with Me Booklets are on sale at the back of the church 60p each, please take one and prepare well for the coming of Christ

First Reconciliation Celebration

First Reconciliation for Holy Family on Saturday 3rd December at 10.30 in Holy Family church.
Holy Family preparation continues on 25th November in the School and 2nd December in the Church at 3.45.

First Reconciliation for St. Mary's on 10th December at 10.30am in St. Mary's Church.
Children attending other schools who wish to celebrate their reconciliation in St. Mary's Church are required to attend the following meetings
Friday 2nd December 4-5pm " " "
Friday 9th December 4-5pm at the Church

If parents have difficulty with Reconciliation on either 3rd or 10th December; please contact the relevant Headteachers Holy Family 20565354 or St. Mary's 20225680 of your intention. Thanks.

Important

Fr. Maguire wishes to meet with St Mary's School parents separately. I will be available from Wednesday 30th November till Wednesday 7th December. Please make an appointment for a suitable time.

Diary of Events

3rd December	1st Reconciliation Celebration	10.30am	Holy Family
3rd December	Christmas Bazaar	1pm	St. Mary's Hall
4th December	Presentation of the Bible	10am	St Mary's
4th December	Presentation of the Bible	11am	Holy Family
10th December	1st Reconciliation Celebration	10.30am	St Marys
18th December	Carol Service	4pm	St Mary's
18th December	Carol Service	4pm	Holy Family
Christmas Masses	St Mary's Christmas Eve 9pm	Christmas Day 10am and 12noon.	
	Holy Family Christmas Eve 6pm	Christmas Day 11am.	
22nd January	Church Unity Service		St. Mary's
1st March	Ash Wednesday	2nd March	The Feast of St. David, Patron of Wales
9th April	Palm Sunday	16th April	Easter Sunday.