

## 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.

### 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.

## Advent

### Advent: A Time of Preparation

In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation, extending over four Sundays, before Christmas. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; but second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to His Second Coming at the end of time. Our preparations, therefore, should have all three comings in mind. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily.

### First We Fast, Then We Feast

Advent should be marked by increased prayer, fasting, and good works. While the Western Church no longer has a set requirement for fasting during Advent, the Eastern Church, both Catholic and Orthodox, continues to observe prayer and fasting. Traditionally, all great feasts have been preceded by a time of fasting, which makes the feast itself more joyful. Sadly, Advent today has been supplanted by "the Christmas shopping season," so that by Christmas Day, many people no longer enjoy the feast.

### The Symbols of Advent

In its symbolism, the Church continues to stress the penitential and preparatory nature of Advent. As during Lent, priests wear purple vestments, and the Gloria ("Glory to God") is omitted during Mass. The only exception is on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, when priests can wear rose-coloured

vestments. As on Laetare Sunday during Lent, this exception is designed to encourage us to continue our prayer and fasting,

### The Advent Wreath

Perhaps the best-known of all Advent symbols is the Advent wreath, a custom which originated among German Lutherans but was soon adopted by Catholics. Consisting of four candles (three purple and one pink) arranged in a circle with evergreen boughs (and often a fifth, white candle in the centre), the Advent wreath corresponds to the four Sundays of Advent. The purple candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle calls to mind the respite of Gaudete Sunday. (The white candle, when used, represents Christmas.)

### Celebrating Advent

We can better enjoy Christmas—all 12 days of it, from Christmas Day to Epiphany—if we revive Advent as a period of preparation. Abstaining from meat on Fridays, or not eating at all between meals, is a good way to revive the Advent fast. (Not eating Christmas cookies or listening to Christmas music before Christmas is another.)

Holding off on putting up the Christmas tree and other decorations is another way to remind ourselves that the feast is not here yet. Traditionally, such decorations were put up on Christmas Eve, but they would not be taken down until after Epiphany, in order to celebrate the Christmas season to its fullest.

# Holy Family & St Mary of the Angels

Keyston Rd, Fairwater CF5 3NP

Kings Rd, Canton CF11 9BX

4th - 11th December 2016 - Second Sunday of Advent Year A

### 2nd Sunday of Advent

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### First Reading (Isaiah 11:1-10)

The stock of Jesse, the wolf living with the lamb: this magnificent Advent word picture. Dream it. Imagine it. Conjure it in your mind and soul. Let it percolate, reminding us that the Season of Expectation is underway. Something entirely new is happening. Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God,, is soon to be born in history. Dream it. Imagine it. Conjure it. Let it percolate our souls, our deepest selves.

### Second Reading (Romans 15:4-9)

Treating each other with profound reverence and respect; imagine what this means with people we know. Only then are we truly doing the Lord's work and will.

### Gospel Reading (Matthew 3:1-2)

The dramatic, colourful persona of John the Baptist emerging from the wilderness, calling us to join the circus, become acrobats, perform somersaults, turn our lives completely around: this is repentance.



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

#### Second Sunday of Advent

*Vigil Mass*

6pm John Canter  
11.00 Eileen Geary

#### Thursday

9.30 Ray McCarthy

#### Third Sunday of Advent

*Vigil Mass*

6pm Walker family  
11.00 Mary Keeley(birthday) & Irene Matthews

**Confessions** available before each Mass.

### St Mary's Masses

#### Second Sunday of Advent

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

#### Monday (2nd week of Advent)

9.30 David Hutchinson

#### Tuesday (2nd week of Advent)

12.15 Alfred Hayward (*Requiem*)

#### Wednesday (St Ambrose, Bishop)

9.30 Pat Jones  
10.30 Domenico Giovanelli (*Funeral Service*)  
12.15 Margaret Maney

#### Thursday

(*The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*)

12.15 Thanksgiving

#### Friday (2nd week of Advent)

9.30 Michael Maher  
12.15 Bernard Free

#### Saturday (2nd week of Advent)

12.15 Thanksgiving-Marian

#### Third Sunday of Advent

10.00 Ruby, Peter & Michael Walsh  
12.00 Deceased Walsh & Donovan families  
6.00 Thomas family

**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:

**Alf Hayward**, Requiem Mass in St. Mary's on Tuesday 6th December at 12.15pm.

**Domenico Giovanelli**, Funeral Service in St Mary's on Wednesday 7th December at 10.30am.

**Gail Marie Cliff**, Funeral Service in St. Mary's on Monday 19th December at 11.15am

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.

<b>St Marys</b>	<b>Holy Family</b>
Gift Aid: £346.94	Gift Aid: £211.00
Loose: £830.58	Loose: £409.70

Many thanks for a donation of £50 towards the Grotto.

### Admission to Holy Family Reception Class September 2017

Please contact the School for an admission form for Reception Class next year. Your child must be 4 on or before August 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 to begin school in September 2017. The closing date for admissions is Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017. You will receive notification of the result of your application on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 (this is in line with the County School admission dates). The admissions criteria for the School are available on the School website.



### News and activities from Holy Family Parish



**Tea and coffee in the hall** after 6pm Mass on Saturday 10th December to welcome the many newcomers to our parish. Please join us, you are all most welcome.

**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 A w/b 5th Dec.



### 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 chance to purchase stamps this weekend! Last posting date Monday 5th December**

### Foodbank Collection

Collections of food are as follows:-  
**St Mary's - Sunday 18th December**  
**Holy Family - This weekend 3rd/4th Dec.**



**This second Sunday of Advent** we are called to make straight paths for the coming of our Lord. How we prepare is important. We are waiting, and yes, waiting can be frustrating. But waiting can also be a time of growth, of inspiration, of dreaming big dreams and imagining the endless possibilities that might come. We should try not to let go of that hope and inspiration.

John appeals to the community who have gathered to open their eyes, to take the opportunity that is at hand and deal with the spiritual crisis which surrounds them. John is calling for a radical change of heart. The decisive moment is coming where people must take a new path. What can we do to help build communities where leaders produce good fruit? What can we do to respectfully challenge those who do not? Today we pray that God's Spirit enlivens our heart, our work and our world.

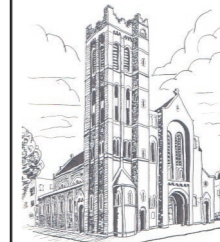
*Jane Mellet*

### 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.



### News and activities from St. Mary's Parish



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Bazaar. Another great success.

**PAC meeting** this evening at 7pm in the Priory.

**CAFOD World Gifts** are a way to give fun and meaningful gifts to the people you love, and make a difference to some of the poorest communities around the world at the same time. Each gift comes with a beautiful gift card, and you can choose to send trees, a goat, or even a camel. There are catalogues available at the back of church, so please take one home or see the gift range on-line at [cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](http://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts)

### Journey of Faith

For those interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church. The journey of faith resumes on January 12th at 7.30pm 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

**Congratulations to all the children who celebrated their First Reconciliation in the Holy Family Church yesterday.** Please keep faithful to this sacrament of reconciliation, it is one of God's greatest gifts of forgiveness and mercy.  
**First Reconciliation for St. Mary's will be next Saturday 10th December at 10.30am in St. Mary's Church.**

**The final rehearsal for the children making their 1st Reconciliation is on Friday next at 4pm in St. Mary's church.**

### 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

<b>10th December</b>	<b>1st Reconciliation Celebration</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>St Marys</b>
18th December	Carol Service	4pm	St Mary's
18th December	Carol Service	4pm	Holy Family
<b>Christmas Masses</b>	St Mary's Christmas Eve <b>9pm.</b>	Christmas Day	10am and 12noon.
	Holy Family Christmas Eve <b>6pm</b>	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.		

### First Holy Communion Preparations



The 8th Alpha meeting for 1st Communion Parents was well attended with good interaction in the various groups. May I thank all those who faithfully followed the programme. The next session will be on January 11th at 7pm in Holy Family Hall. The theme will be "Does God heal today" Keyston Rd, Fairwater, Cardiff CF5 3NP.