

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**Reading Cycle B****Psalter Week 1****Sunday 3RD DECEMBER 2023****Chaplain: Rev. Peter Davies****peter.davies4@wales.nhs.uk**

Safeguarding Rep: C German

e-mail: Cge7618946@aol.com

**ST PATRICK'S GRANGETOWN****CARDIFF CF11 7 LJ****Tel No: 20253514****Parish Priest: Fr Valentine Mobuogwu****Fr Malachy Orjibele and Fr Solomon Ugwumadu****grangetown@rcadc.org****www.stpatrickscardiff.co.uk**

Facebook Page|:

Friends of St Patrick's Grangetown -**www.stpatrickscardiff.co.uk****MASSES AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK**

SAT	2 ND	DEC	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	6.30pm	Bernadette Stenson R.I.P
SUN	3 RD	DEC		10.00am	Lu Mooney R.I.P Abraham and Vivian (Anniversary)
MON	4 TH	DEC			
TUES	5 TH	DEC	Weekday in the First Week of Advent	6.30pm	David Hutchinson R.I.P
WED	6 TH	DEC	Weekday in the First Week of Advent	6.30pm	People of the Parish
THURS	7 TH	DEC	MEMORIAL OF ST AMBROSE	10.00am	People of the Parish
FRI	8 TH	DEC	SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	10.00 am	Peace in places of conflict
SAT	9 TH	DEC	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	6.30pm	Denis McCarthy + R.I.P
SUN	10 TH	DEC		10.00am	Joseph Long R.I.P

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, ANNIVERSARIES AND THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED:

We pray for those in our families or in our Parish Community who may be sick, housebound, worried or in need. We ask that the love of the Lord be with them during the coming week. To all our parishioners who are indisposed we ask that they may receive every grace and blessing.

We also pray for Maria Pratt, Josef Kowalewski, Joseph Moon, John Roberts, Catherine Feeney, Alma Davies, Elvina Drakatis, Gino Dimech, Antonin Kawycz, Doreen McGrath, Antonio Aviles, Raymond Udry, John Harris, Jane Goodridge, Gloria Jean Webber, Fr Dewi Davies, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Susan Crabtree who passed away recently. May she rest in peace.

Do not forget to pray for all those who have died and for their families, particularly those who have no-one to remember them.

CANDLES You can buy a 7 day candle (£5.00) which will be left either at the Sacred Heart and Our Lady's Altar for the duration of a week. **This week's candles will be lit for Margaret Salter and a Special Intention**

If you choose to light a T-Light (20p each) please start from the top row down on the votive stands and light them with care.

SVP CHRISTMAS COLLECTION TODAY This will be a retiring collection. Please give generously.

WEEKDAY MASSES: Now that the weather is getting colder, most of our weekday Masses will be celebrated in the Sacristy.

COFFEE, TEA AND CAKE !. Everyone is welcome but please give a monetary donation toward the cost of the refreshments. All donations are most welcome.

RAFFLE NEXT WEEK in the café. Even if you can't stay for a coffee, please buy a ticket.

MISSIO RED BOXES - I will be collecting Red Boxes from now until the beginning of December. This will be the final collection for 2023. Thank you for your support for Missio throughout the year and for remembering them in your prayers. Gerry McCarthy

MASS INTENTIONS At the back of the Church there are envelopes for you to put your donation and the details of when you would like a Mass and for whom. Please put your envelope in the Offertory Bag or the Brown Box at the back of the Church. The new Mass Diary for 2024 is now open.

CATHOLIC YOUTH RETREAT: 13-18 years Saturday 16th December Stella Maris Convent Swansea. £10 for the day. Please see poster at the back of the Church for more details.

NEW TO THE PARISH? If you have been coming to St Patricks for some weeks and would like to be listed as a new Parishioner please complete the proforma at the back of the Church and give it to one of the priests.

CONFIRMATION: Names are being taken for Preparation Classes for the Sacrament of Confirmation (Year 8 and above). Please give your name to Mary Taylor or Chris.

BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: If you would like these occasions to be celebrated in Church, please put details on the sheet and Chris will put it in our new 'Celebrations Book'

FOOD AND TOILETRIES APPEAL : Thank you to all who are helping to support the Fair-Priced Food Shop with donations of tinned goods and toiletries. Goods can be left by the table at the back of the Church and then they will be taken to the School.

SAFEGUARDING: Please click on the link for Helplines and Information on the Parish Website Homepage

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: As usual for those who wish to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), may do so at the END of each weekend Mass NOT before Mass.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL? Cardiff & Vale Hospital Chaplaincy 02921 843230 (new number) Please let the Hospital know that you are a Catholic and would like a visit from the Chaplain.

PIETY STALL: Christmas Stock . There are packs and boxes of Christmas Cards, Diaries, and many gift ideas, Please take care if you wish to look in the glass cases. There is a step !

ONLINE DONATIONS: On the Home page of the Website is a link to enable you to donate directly to St Patrick's. Many of us are not using cash as much as we once were and if this is helpful please try it. Gift Aid can be automatically added with no cost to you.

GIFT AID If you pay Income Tax, St Patrick's can collect Gift Aid with no cost to you at all. This is an extra 25p for every £1 you give. All you have to do is sign a consent form. Please consider this.

QR CODE: Many of you will have seen the poster displaying the QR Code for the Parish. This is another way you can donate to the Parish. You will need a QR Code reader on your Phone.

HOUSEBOUND COMMUNIONS: If you know of a parishioner wishing to receive Holy Communion or if you need help please contact Frs Valentine, Solomon or Malachy

PARISH WEBSITE Each day there is something new to read.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: 18TH/19TH-- £643. 87 25TH/26TH -- £600. 32

WEEKLY MESSAGE

Today we begin the Season of Advent. Advent is more than a time of waiting for Christmas. It is a time for us to long, to yearn and to prepare ourselves for the coming of our God. These days, sadly many have forgotten the real meaning of Christmas and yes great preparations take place, but for presents, food and socialising. The promise of the birth of a Saviour for the World is very much a second thought. What a pity that the true gift given to us can be so easily overlooked.

Today we light the First Candle on our Advent Wreath. This Candle, a purple one, represents Hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

Most likely God's coming will not be spectacular. God is more likely to come in quiet, unobtrusive and peaceful ways. However, this means we need to consciously look for God each day. We need to be aware of the small things in life. God may be where we least expect! We need to be awake so we will not be "sleeping" when God comes to us!

The Advent readings are filled with hope, anticipation and the promise of Jesus' coming! The temptation for us may be to think we only need to look for the coming of God during the Advent season. We need to have open eyes and hearts and look for the coming of God each and every day

Today may we open our minds, hearts and eyes and consciously "look" for God! Be awake and alert! And perhaps, be surprised! God is always with us, we just have to open the door and let Him in.

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