

3 Churches News

www.3churches.org

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Sunday December 6th 2015 Second Sunday of Advent (YEAR C) Issue 47/15

ARCHBISHOP STACK ON THE YEAR OF MERCY

'*Miserando atque Eligendo*' are the rather enigmatic words of the episcopal motto of Pope Francis. They are variously translated as: Lowly but chosen; By having mercy and choosing him; Through pity and choosing him. They are taken from the commentary of the great English saint, Bede the Venerable, on the call of Matthew the tax collector by Jesus. "*Jesus therefore saw him, and because he saw him by having mercy and choosing him, said to him 'Follow me'. And he got up and followed him*".

That sentence contains a deep truth about our relationship with God – and perhaps more importantly, God's relationship with us. It is through the eyes of mercy that, like Matthew, we are forgiven and chosen to share in God's life through Jesus Christ. Even though we may feel unworthy and even unforgiveable, the measure of God's love for us is the measure of our need for forgiveness, even when we do not realise it ourselves. How far does the love and mercy of God stretch? 'This far' says Jesus, with arms outstretched on the cross.

These thoughts take us to the mind and heart of the life and ministry of Pope Francis. They are summed up in the word 'Mercy'. The Year of Mercy which he will open in Rome on 8 December will be a gradual unfolding of the mystery of God's love and mercy and an invitation to each person to enter into the realm of mercy. Pope Francis will open the Holy Door at St. Peter's this Tuesday. The Holy Door at our St. David's Cathedral will be opened on 13 December to inaugurate the Holy Year in the Diocese of Cardiff. Four other churches have been designated as places of welcome and pilgrimage in different parts of the Diocese. These are: Belmont Abbey, St Mary's Merthyr Tydfil, St. Mary's Bridgend and St. Mary's Newport. Each one will have a 'Holy Door' through which pilgrims are invited to enter, remembering the words of Jesus:

'I am the door; if anyone enters through me he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture' (John 10:9)

'The Light of the World' is the title of a famous picture by William Holman Hunt, painted in 1853. It is often referred to by words from the Book of Revelation: *'Behold I stand at the door and knock'*. There are two sides to every door. In this picture the door is closed, with no handle on the outside. It can only be opened from within. Jesus does not impose. Does not demand. Does not restrict our freedom. He waits to be invited in. *'If you hear my voice and open, I will come and we will sit side by side, and share a meal together'* (Revelation 3:20).

(edited from this Sunday's pastoral letter)



~~~~ Second Sunday of Advent ~~~~



Response to Psalm **What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.**  
Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, Alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Baruch 5: 1-9 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 1: 3-6. 8-11 Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6

St. Brigid's and Christ the King are parishes of the Archdiocese of Cardiff. A Registered Charity No. 242380.

**Parishes of Christ the King, Sts Brigid and Paul Page 1**

## 3 Churches

### Father's News

#### ADVENT INTO CHRISTMAS

The **Year of Mercy** starts this Tuesday. The next day, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> we in the Northern Arc of parishes, celebrate an **Evening of Mercy**. 3 priests will be in St Brigid's for Confessions 6.30pm until 7.30pm. We will then concelebrate Mass for the beginning of the Year of Mercy. All are welcome.

**God's Word** Read the accounts of the Christmas story in the opening chapters of the Gospels of St Matthew and St Luke. Move on to the first chapter of St John to see his wonderful meditation on those same events. Use the various publications and online resources that are available to help you.

**3 Churches Carol Service** this year is at St Paul's on Tuesday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm.

**Christmas Masses** Christmas Eve 6pm at all three churches. **10pm** at Christ the King and St Brigid's. Christmas morning 9am St Paul's, **10am** Christ the King, **11am** St Brigid's. There will be Midnight Mass at St Philip Evans.

#### R.I.P.

The Requiem Mass for **Peter O'Brien** will take place this Thursday at 1.30pm at Christ the King. Our thoughts and prayers are with Marie and her family, Bart and Sheila and all relations at this time. As many are expected at this funeral, please arrive in good time. Pray also for the repose of the soul of **Margaret Dyson**. Her Requiem will be at St Brigid's on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am. We remember Paul and his family in our prayers.

*Eternal rest grant to them, Lord.*

#### PILGRIMAGE

There are only a few places left on next year's September Pilgrimage to the two great shrines of Santiago de Compostela and Fatima. Santiago has been the goal of pilgrims for many centuries, while Fatima has become one of the great Marian shrines of the world since the apparitions there in 1917. For details see Fr Matthew or tel organizer Billy Gill on 2059 3555.

#### Lay Ministries –

##### 9am Mass – Christ the King

Following the confirmation of the new Sunday Mass schedule, the rotas for lay ministries of Welcoming, Reading and Eucharist at 9am Mass at Christ the King are being reorganised. The base line will be to include the people on the existing 8:30 and 10:30 rotas.

Please could existing lay ministers let us know if they do not wish to be included in the new 9am rotas. If you are not currently on the existing rotas and would like to join one of them please also let us know. This invitation is also open to anyone from St Brigid's who has/is intending to change the Mass they normally attend as a result of the new schedules. The new rotas will operate from Sunday 3 January 2016. If you wish to leave or join any of the rotas please could you contact Bernard Adshead on [bernard@adshead.me.uk](mailto:bernard@adshead.me.uk) or 2076 2189 not later than Sunday 13 December.

#### UCM

Members of the UCM will be selling raffle tickets following all Masses this weekend (5/6 December). They will be raffling a Christmas Hamper and several other prizes. The raffle is in aid of their two charities for this year.

#### **St David's Catholic College Community Mass and Christmas Tea Party**

The annual St David's Catholic College Community Mass and Celebration takes place at the college on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 12 noon until 3pm. Following the Mass, a buffet and a full entertainment programme with prizes and small gifts will be provided. For the housebound, it is a lovely opportunity to meet new friends. For the more active, it is an entertaining and vibrant social occasion where young and old enjoy each other's company. If you would like to go, please leave your name and contact number on the list at the back of the church and indicate if you need help with transport.

#### CAFOD

CAFOD is currently looking for a Community Participation Coordinator based at our volunteer centre in Cardiff to cover CAFOD's work in the dioceses of Cardiff and Menevia. This is part time (17.5 hours per week), fixed term contract to 31 July 2017. To read more and to apply please visit [cafod.org.uk/Work-with-us/UK-Jobs/CPC-South-Wales](http://cafod.org.uk/Work-with-us/UK-Jobs/CPC-South-Wales) and complete our online application form by the closing date of 3 Jan 2016. Contact CAFOD South Wales for further details on 2034 4882 or email [southwales@cafod.org.uk](mailto:southwales@cafod.org.uk)

#### CWL

The C.W.L. Annual Christmas Dinner is at Cardiff Golf Club on Tuesday 8 December. The cost is £25 p.p. Any ladies of the 3 Churches who would like to go please contact Yvonne (2075 1881) or Bridget (2048 5713)

### Praying for our Neighbours

Please remember in your prayers this week our neighbours in **Portfield Crescent (part of), & Llanon Road (part of)** who have received prayer cards in the last few days.

**Adoration for the unborn and their families will be at St. David's Cathedral from 9am-6pm next Thursday 10th December. Mass will be at 12.45pm and Benediction at 5.30pm.**

### ***A Christmas Evening 'At the Hop'***

- songs you will have forgotten but will love to sing along to  
Friday 11 December 7.30pm  
St Brigid's Hall  
2 Course Hot Supper  
Bar, Raffle  
All proceeds to Huggard  
Tickets £10 available  
after Sunday Masses  
or please tel: 2076 6318

## **Christ the King**

### **Stapling for LINK**

Stapling will take place in the parish centre on Friday 11 December at 9.15am.

### Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

The Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at Christ the King will be a Family Mass. If any child or young person would like to take part, please leave your name and contact number on the list at the back of the church or contact the parish office  
[ckadmin@3churches.org](mailto:ckadmin@3churches.org)  
Tel: 2075 3945

### Baptism

This weekend we welcome Harry Garner into our parish community as he is baptised. Please pray for Harry and his parents and godparents.

### **QUIDENHAM CARDS**

There is a selection of Quidenham cards for sale in the church porch, bottom shelf of table - left side of church door.  
Please feel free to browse and purchase. There is an Honesty Box with prices along with the other plastic card containers on the bottom shelf of the table.

### **CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

There will be a collection for Christmas flowers after both Masses on the weekend of 12/13 December. Thank you all for your generosity.

### Poinsettias

As always we hope to decorate the area surrounding the crib with poinsettias.

If you would like to remember a loved one by donating a poinsettia please leave them in the porch before the 24th December.

### Junior Club

Please note there will be no Junior Club until after Christmas.

## **St Brigid's & St Pauls**

### ***Parish Advisory Council Meeting***

The minutes of the recent PAC Meeting are now displayed at the back of both churches for parishioners to read - the following are some outcomes from the meeting which you are asked to be aware of -

### **DISABLED PARKING AT ST BRIGID'S**

If you are a blue badge holder who usually parks in one of the two disabled spaces during Mass please consider whether you could park elsewhere in the car park and leave these spaces for those parishioners with less mobility and who need to park near the Church door.

### **FLOWER**

### WELCOMERS AT ST BRIGID'S

St Brigid's Welcomers are asked to remind parishioners, especially those new to the parish, to take a Hymn Book, Mass Book and a Pew Card as they arrive for Sunday Mass.

Welcomers are also asked to ensure that all inner and outer doors are opened before and after Sunday Masses to enable all parishioners to enter and leave the church safely

### TEA/COFFEE AFTER 11am MASS

Help is needed with teas after this mass- If you can help out, your turn would be on a rota every 4-5 weeks. Phone Mary Cosslett (2076 6192)

### **REMINDER - PREPARATION FOR SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION AND HOLY COMMUNION 2016**

Application forms for the 2016 preparation classes for St Brigid's and St Paul's are now available at the back of both of the churches. These should be returned to the Presbytery by 18 December 2015. Preparation classes will begin in January 2016.

Children in Year 3 or above are welcome to take part.

Further information is available from Philippa Widnall (2048 1351) or email [pipcole@btinternet.com](mailto:pipcole@btinternet.com)

### **ST PAULS CLEANING ROTA**

We are about to complete the Rota for 2016 but some of our ladies have done far more than their fair share and they now need to hang up their mops! If you think you could help with this very important ministry then please sign the list at the back of church.

The only commitment is about 1 hour every 6 weeks. We all like the church to look lovely but perhaps you could be that someone who helps!!!

**Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

|        |         |             |                                                                                         |                                  |
|--------|---------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sat.   | 6.30pm  | C the K     | <b>David Michael Rowe (S Williams) &amp; Forrest Family (A Forrest)</b>                 |                                  |
| Sun.   | 9am     | St Paul's   | <b>Terrence Carroll (Black)</b>                                                         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent |
|        | 9am     | C the K     | <b>George &amp; Jean Richardson (M &amp; L Halloran) &amp; Peter O'Brien (C Bailey)</b> |                                  |
|        | 11am    | St Brigid's | <b>Maria O'Driscoll (Regan)</b>                                                         |                                  |
|        | 12.30pm | C the K     | <b>Baptism: Harry Garner</b>                                                            |                                  |
|        | 6pm     | St Brigid's | <b>People of the Parish</b>                                                             |                                  |
|        | 7.30pm  | St Brigid's | <b>Sunday Praise</b>                                                                    |                                  |
| Mon.   | 9.30am  | St Brigid's | <b>O'Brien Family (Stone)</b>                                                           | St Ambrose                       |
| Tues.  | 9.30am  | C the K     | <b>Peter A Fry &amp; Gillian E Matthews</b>                                             | Immaculate Conception            |
|        | 7.30pm  | C the K     | <b>UCM Quarterly Mass</b>                                                               |                                  |
| Wed.   | 9.30am  | St Paul's   | <b>Brendan Black</b>                                                                    |                                  |
|        | 7.30pm  | St Brigid's | <b>Mass for the Year of Mercy</b>                                                       |                                  |
| Thurs. | 1.30pm  | C the K     | <b>Requiem: Peter O'Brien</b>                                                           | St John Roberts                  |
|        | 7.30pm  | St Brigid's | <b>Tony Jackson</b>                                                                     |                                  |
| Fri.   | 9.30am  | St Paul's   | <b>Teresa Harrington</b>                                                                | St Damasus                       |
| Sat.   | 9.30am  | St Brigid's | <b>Shelagh Powell</b>                                                                   |                                  |

**Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

|      |        |             |                                                                |                                  |
|------|--------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sat. | 6pm    | C the K     | <b>Angela Williams (O'Brien) &amp; Henry Fortt</b>             |                                  |
| Sun. | 9am    | St Paul's   | <b>Michael Nicholls</b>                                        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent |
|      | 9am    | C the K     | <b>Luis Urtiaga (A Davies) &amp; David Scanlan (D Scanlan)</b> |                                  |
|      | 11am   | St Brigid's | <b>Mary Gosnell</b>                                            |                                  |
|      | 6pm    | St Brigid's | <b>People of the Parish</b>                                    |                                  |
|      | 7.30pm | St Brigid's | <b>Sunday Praise</b>                                           |                                  |



**Please send items to [luke.todd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:luke.todd@yahoo.co.uk) by Wednesday afternoon at the latest!**

**PRAYERS**

*Please remember the following in your prayers, who are unwell at this time:*

Mary Amugan, Chris Babu, Brian Bermingham, Maureen Carroll, Sian Clark,  
 Mary Clarke, Terry Culbertson, Agnes Davies, Emily, Anna Forrest, Bobi Gower, Maria Hill,  
 Caitriona Lovell, Joseph (Benny) Lynch, Dean Maguire, Charles McDevitt,  
 Katrina Meades, Fr Modest, Vernon Morgan, Sarah Morris, Peter Murphy, Maureen O'Driscoll,  
 Kieran Ollin, Alan Paines, Rona Perry, Rita Purcell, Valentino Rascon, John Reardon,  
 Rhian Reardon, Cath Rees, Claire Richards, Adela Rogers, Dewi Thomas,  
 Emma Warlow, Dorothy Warren & Pat Watkins.

**3 Churches  
Parish Council Chairs**

**Sts Brigid & Paul**

Nigel Tuck  
 029 2076 6837  
 nigelgtuck  
 @btinternet.com

**Christ the King**

Chris Stevens  
 2074 7730  
 chris.stevens01  
 @btopenworld.com

**Christ the King**

**Primary School**  
 Acting Headteacher  
 Mrs R Woodward  
 2075 4787

**Corpus Christi**

**High School**  
 Acting Headteacher  
 Mrs A Thomas  
 2076 1893

**St David's College**

Principal  
 Mark Leighfield  
 2049 8555

**Safeguarding**

**Representatives**  
**Sts Brigid & Paul**  
 Pat Williams (St B)  
 2061 7374

Carl French (St P)  
 2075 4418

**Christ the King**

Heulwen Egerton  
 2068 9416  
 heulwen21  
 @hotmail.co.uk

**Eucharistic Adoration**

**Christ the King**  
 Tuesday 10am-1pm  
**St. Paul's**  
 Wednesday 10am-3pm  
**St. Brigid's**  
 Thursday 8-9pm

**Sacrament of**

**Reconciliation**

**St Brigid's**  
 Saturday 10-10.30  
**St Paul's**  
 Friday before/after  
 9.30am Mass  
**Christ the King**  
 Saturday 5.30pm

**Last Week's Collection**

**Sts. Brigid & Paul**  
**Gift Aid** £ 624.90  
**Non Gift Aid** £ 503.71  
**Total** £ 1128.61  
**S/O month av.** £ 846.77

**Christ the King**  
**Gift Aid** £ 428.30  
**Non Gift Aid** £ 359.28  
**S/O weekly av.** £ 304.04  
**Total** £1091.62