

**Parish of Our Lady and St David, Cwmbran**

(Registered Charity No. 242380)

**Parish Priest: Canon John Griffiths Tel: 01633 482346**

**Parish Deacon: Rev. Peter McLaren Tel: 01633 770754**

**Parish Sister: Sr Thecla Tel: 01633 483232**

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**SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015**

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A**

**PSALTER WEEK 4**

**Second Scrutiny**

When we get to Easter, there are two symbols of the resurrection that we use in Church: fire and light (the Easter Candle) and water (the Font). Last week we reflected on water, and this week there are passages all about light – true light, that defeats the blindness of sin. Again, this would have been offered to those preparing for Baptism, but speaks to all of us who have been baptised, inviting us to be renewed in the light of Christ at Easter. Remember that one of the oldest titles of the newly baptised was “neophyte”, which means “newly enlightened” There is a subtle link between the readings on this Sunday: in the first reading, David is anointed, and the Spirit of the Lord seizes on him. This anointing lights him along the right path - ‘no evil would I fear’ as the Psalm says. Then Paul tells us more about the marvellous story of the healing (by being ‘anointed’ with spittle) of the man born blind. Jesus is the light of the world

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading : Samuel 16: 6-7, 10-13**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14**

**Gospel Reading: John 9: 1-41**

**Psalm**

**The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.**

**Lenten Devotions  
Stations of the Cross:  
St David's: Thurs at 10.00am  
Our Lady's: Fridays at 9.30am**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

St David's : Tuesday 10.00am -11.30am  
Our Lady's: Friday 9.30am-5.00pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Our Lady's: 12noon -12.30pm  
St David's: 3.45pm-4.15pm

**Your giving to your Parish: many thanks**

Gift Aid	£462.43
Non Gift Aid	£751.50
Gift Aid Standing Order	£121.73
Total giving this week	£1335.66
Mass Count: 475	
CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY	£1185.66

**PARISH LITURGY AND DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK**

Morning Prayer: Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs 9.10am

Evening Prayer: Fri 4.40pm

Saturday	4.30pm	St David's	Mary and Fred Strutt (MM)
	6.00pm	Our Lady's	Hywel Jenkins (CG)
Sunday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Rose and Jack Clifford (MW)
	11.15am	St David's	Ints. Jean and Cliff Price (60 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)
Monday	9.30am	Our Lady's	The People of the Parish
Tuesday	9.30am	St David's	Danny Aherne (DO'B): Patrick Cunningham (MT) <i>St Patrick, Bishop,</i>
Wednesday	<b>9.30am</b>	Our Lady's	Mick, Chris, Mike John and Don Bradley (B)
Thursday	9.30am	St David's	James Lennon (ML): Patrick Mulvey (TM) <i>St Joseph, Spouse of the BVM</i>
Friday	9.00am	Our Lady's	Barbara Stephens (SA)
Saturday	4.30pm	St David's	Patricia Pay (A&BW)
	6.00pm	Our Lady's	Thanksgiving Mass (MV)
Sunday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Ints Friends of Angela Hanlon (AH)
	11.15am	St David's	The People of the Parish

**TEA,  
COFFEE,  
BISCUITS  
and a  
CHAT in  
St Anne's  
room  
after  
9.30am  
Mass  
today  
and  
every  
Sunday**

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK IS FOR EASTER FLOWERS**

### Parish Diary this Week

Tues	10.00am	St David's: Divine Mercy Group
Wed	2.00pm	Our Lady's: UCM
Thurs	10.00am	St David's: Choir Practice
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>St David's: Stations of the Cross</b>
	6.00pm	Our Lady's: RCIA Course's
Fri	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Our Lady's: Stations of the Cross</b>

### HOLY COMMUNION

If you are sitting by someone who is unable to walk to the sanctuary to receive Holy Communion please stand to indicate where they are for a Eucharistic Minister to bring Holy Communion to them.

### Catechesis

#### **First Confession and Holy Communion Programme.**

The course continues on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm in St Anne's room at Our Lady's. **It is expected that parents bring their children to a weekend Mass.**

### Lent Bible Studies 2015

This year's theme is "When Love Speaks" words from the Cross.

All studies at 11am at Cwmbran URC

**Lunch after each study, Soup and a Roll 12noon at The Salvation and Army, Wesley Street. See poster for details**

### Deanery Station Mass

The Station Mass for the our Deanery will be celebrated on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at Our Lady's and St Michael Church in Abergavenny at 7pm. The principal celebrant will be Archbishop George Stack. **The coach leaves Our Lady's at 6pm**

### The Call, the Journey and the Mission

Ahead of the forthcoming Ordinary Synod on the Family in October 2015, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has asked us to reflect with 'true spiritual discernment' on the themes relating to marriage and family life. We are asked to join together as a group to pray and reflect on this theme. **A meeting will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in St Anne's room at OLA**

### EASTER FLOWER COLLECTION NEXT WEEK END

On Saturday and Sunday the 21st/22nd there will be a collection for fresh flowers for Easter. Donations may be given to the flower arrangers at any time. At Our Lady's to Eileen Gilgunn or Veronica Williams and at St David's Geraldine Barry and Angela Ryan

### Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on **Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April** at 11.30am in St David's Cathedral, Charles St Cardiff. The blessing of oil is very ancient – there is documented evidence of this liturgy from the fourth century, but it is certainly of earlier origin. The Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens are plain olive oil – the Oil of Chrism is perfumed with balsam

Today the People of God, priests, deacons and the lay faithful, assemble at St. David's Cathedral, Cardiff for the Chrism Mass with the main celebrant the Archbishop of Cardiff. There is a long standing tradition that it takes place in the Cathedral, where the bishop is surrounded by the priests of his diocese, whose presence demonstrates their unity with him. This is followed by the blessing of oils and the consecration of Chrism. After the Mass, the deanery oil stocks are filled and taken back to the deaneries where the parish oil stocks are filled. They are collected so that they may be presented in each parish at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday evening.

### Station of the Cross (Cardiff)

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015; starting at 10.45am  
Meet at the front steps of the Cornerstone, opposite St David's Cathedral, Charles Street. Stations of the Cross through the streets of Cardiff. See [www.sdcrf.org.uk](http://www.sdcrf.org.uk) for more information.

### Pontypool Convent Girls School Reunion

There will be a reunion of girls who attended St Albans Convent, Pontypool on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015. It will be held in the Parkway Hotel, Cwmbran from 12noon-5pm. The last intake for the Convent School was September 1961. Any person interested in this event, please contact Molly MacDonald (nee Strutt) on 01495 758284.

### Admittance into Hospital

If you know of anyone who has been admitted into hospital please inform Canon John of their name, which hospital and ward name/number.

### Requiescat in Pace

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of George Epler who died recently and also for his family.**

### We Have Come – Youth 2000

A weekend retreat for young adults 16-35. From 24<sup>th</sup> April – 26<sup>th</sup> April at St David's College, Ty Gwyn Road Cardiff. See poster for further details.

### Parish Directory

PAC Chairman: Mrs. Paddy Landers 01633 868352  
Mrs S McCool, Head Teacher, Our Lady of the Angels School Tel: 484673  
Mrs J Bates, Head Teacher, St David's School Tel: 482580  
SVP: Dave Stroud 01633 838542

***"The best medicine against spiritual dryness is to place ourselves like beggars in the presence of God and the saints. And to go like a beggar from one saint to another and to ask for spiritual alms with the same insistence as a poor man on the street would ask for alms.***  
**St Phillip Neri (1515-1595)**