

Collections for Last Sunday

Parish	Gift Aid	Loose	Levy	Total	At Mass
Immaculate Conception	£202.50	£72.25	£80.31	£355.06	47 37
All Saints	£189.00	£81.16	£89.63	£359.79	90
St. John's	£160.00	£16.50	£21.00	£197.50	27
				£912.35	201

Grateful thanks to everyone for all your contributions and support.

The Sunday night tea/coffee in St John's has raised £375 for parish funds.
The Christmas lunch in the Moose Hall raised £380 for parish funds.
Grateful thanks to those who organised and supported.

Parish news:

Coming up:

Advent Retreat in Maesteg on 14th December. Rosary at 9:30, Mass at 10 followed by Reflection, Adoration and confession. Lunch at 12 o'clock.

Mass times for Christmas

Christmas Eve: All Saints 6pm; Immaculate Conception 8pm; St John's Midnight mass. **Christmas Day:** Immaculate Conception 10am.

There will be Carol singing before each mass.

All Saints

- * Please hand your Red APF boxes money to Mary Taylor or to the Sacristy.
- * We have a selection of Christmas Cards, thanks to the Ladies at the Craft Class. Please give them your support by purchasing the cards. Thank you.

Immaculate Conception

- * Christmas Prize Draw. Please take some tickets. All proceeds for the upkeep of our church.

St Johns Christmas Coffee Evening will be held in Rhymney hall on Saturday 14th December at 2pm. Everyone is welcome.

Bishop Hedley Join us for our School Community Lunch on 12th December 2019 from 1-5pm. Please contact the school for your place on 01685 358160.



Pastoral Area of Immaculate Conception, Tredegar

All Saints, Ebbw Vale and St John's, Rhymney

Parish Priest: **Fr. Richard Aziati**

The Presbytery, Crossways, Dukestown, Tredegar NP22 4AT

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Second Sunday of Advent

Mass Book Year A Page 85 8th Dec 2019

Saturday 7th	5:30pm	Immaculate Conception	
Second Sunday of Advent	9:00am	Immaculate Conception	
	10:30am	All Saints	Lionel Lewis RIP Bill Worthington RIP Private Intention (ML) For the Church (SVP)
	5:30pm	St John's	May McCarthy RIP John Davies RIP
Mon 9th	10:30am	St John's	
Tue 10th	11.15am	All Saints	Funeral Service Pat Tagg RIP
	6:30pm	Immaculate Conception	
Wed 11th	9:30am	All Saints	Adoration/Kath Cutters wellbeing
	1:30pm	Immaculate Conception	Funeral Service Brent Cavender RIP
Thurs 12th	-	-	
Fri 13th	6:30pm	Immaculate Conception	
Sat 14th	10:00am	All Saints	Intentions of the Lynch & Bell Family
Saturday vigil	5:30pm	Immaculate Conception	Catherine Parry RIP Elizabeth, Micky, Charlie & John O'Connell family
Third Sunday of Advent	9:00am	Immaculate Conception	
	10:30am	All Saints	Michael Buckley RIP Barbara Hickey RIP Michael McCarthy RIP For the Country (SVP)
	5:30pm	St John's	Mary & Gwyn Morgan

CHURCH LAMPS

All Saints: *Our Lady* Wellbeing of All within our Pastoral area
All Saints: *Sacred Heart* All our deceased relatives and friends
All Saints: *St Joseph* The aged, the Sick and housebound
Imm Conception: *Our Lady* The clergy, Religious & Seminarians
Imm Conception: *Sacred Heart* The Pope, Cardinals & Nuncios

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

All Saints: After Mass on Wednesday / Saturday
St. John's: Before Mass on Sunday and Monday
Immaculate Conception: Before Mass on Saturday and Sunday

A (strong) Reflection on today's Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

After listening to John, it's tempting to look at the Advent Wreath with its lit candles, and see Advent as merely the countdown for Christmas.

John the Baptist overturns the secular definition of Advent as a number of shopping days left until Christmas. John's version of Advent is number of repentance days left until Judgement.

We know Christmas came last year. It will come again this year just like it has for almost 2000 years. It's only a few weeks away. So maybe we can dismiss John's message?

Perhaps we hear the message and think about all those other people to whom it applies. You know, the Pharisees and the Sadducees; someone other than us - - - but we can't do that.

The Church says this sermon of John's is the gospel, the good news of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. For most of us, though, anger, threats and judgement are not good news. We would rather hear and think about sweet baby Jesus.

But John's not preaching a Christmas sermon. John doesn't mention a beautiful night with a bright shining star to guide us. There are no humble and gentle shepherds guarding their flocks by night. No wise men bearing gifts from afar. John's not looking at a manger scene where the little Lord Jesus lays down his sweet head. He seems to have forgotten the innocent but faithful Virgin. And Jesus isn't even mentioned in today's gospel.

This is Advent, the season when wrath, axes, and unquenchable fire are talked about as good news!!

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† *Please pray for the Parishioners of our Pastoral Area:*

whose anniversary occurs at this time:

Veronica Crawley, Thomas Clarke, Bessi Gough, Patrick Murphy, Emily Burke, Bill Worthington, Margaret Hockney. Pauline Mary Thomas, Rosamond Jean Davies, Veronica Yandle, Glenys Simmons

for the sick and housebound:

St John's: Mary Benjamin (Thomas), Peter Cavendar, Maria Roberts

All Saints: Maureen Matthews, Norma Beecher, Margaret Williams, Maureen Hague, Susan Lewis, Joan Neville, Jennifer, Margaret Beecham, Norman Beecham, Mary Hillier, Ann Williams, Maria James

Immaculate Conception: Kath Thomas, Pam Williams, Mavis Garrett, Jeanette Badham, Yvonne Brown, Doris Norris, Kath Williams, Louis Moorhead, Baby Isla, Rowan Jay Powell, Keyon Hughes, Gavin Hughes.

† Eternal Rest

Please pray for the Happy Repose of the soul of Pat Tagg.
Pat's Funeral Service will take place in All Saints on Tuesday at 11:15 am.
Also: for Michael Buckley formerly of All Saints Parish.

The Funeral Service of Brent Cavender will take place
in Immaculate Conception on Wednesday at 1:30pm
Please keep them and the families in your prayers. RIP

Anima Christi

**Soul of Christ, sanctify me
Body of Christ, save me
Blood of Christ, inebriate me
Water from the side of Christ, wash me
Passion of Christ, strengthen me
O good Jesus, hear me
Within Thy wounds hide me
Separated from Thee let me never be
From the malicious enemy defend me
In the hour of my death call me
And bid me come unto Thee
That I may praise Thee with Thy saints.
Forever and ever Amen**

Prayer to St Michael the Archangel

**St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in the day of battle.
Be our safeguard against the
wickedness and snares of the
Devil.
May God rebuke him, we
humbly pray and do thou,
Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
cast down to hell Satan,
and all wicked spirits,
who wander through the world
for the ruin of souls. Amen**