

3 Churches News

www.3churches.org

Christ the King
Newborough Avenue
Llanishen Cardiff



St Brigid's
Crystal Glen
Cardiff



St Paul's
Cyncoed Road
Cardiff

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Sunday December 18th 2016 Fourth Sunday of Advent (YEAR A) Issue 47/16

MERRY AND MESSY

At Christmas we often go to great lengths to try to make everything perfect. Exactly the right present for auntie Flo, new lights on our houses just a bit better than the family down the street, special little extras at our Christmas dinner to make it better than last year's, a perfectly shaped Christmas tree... and, of course, perfectly planned Christmas services. But we only need to look at the news to see that reality is not always like that. So many people are living with suffering of one kind or another. Problems both far away and closer to home, sometimes in our own lives, tell us that our world is often, well, messy.

This points us to something very important about the original Christmas story, the birth of Jesus. It, too, was not entirely neat and tidy. Mary and Joseph had a very difficult journey to Bethlehem. They probably walked, or rode a donkey as tradition says, about 90 miles, with Mary heavily pregnant. There was not a warm welcome from the people of Bethlehem, and, of course Mary had to have her baby where the animals were. To cap it all, they then had to get out of Bethlehem and escape to Egypt as refugees. That all sounds *very* messy to me.

Two lessons then... If we find ourselves running round at home, dashing to the shops, trying to get everything right, and feeling rushed and tired, we shouldn't be too hard on ourselves. We're allowed to not get it quite right, it's absolutely OK to be messy, and who said that we always have to be happy - all the time?

Secondly, let's take our cue from the Baby whose birth it is really all about. He could have chosen to be born in a luxurious palace or a bright shiny hospital. But he didn't. He plunged straight into the chaotic world of human life, complete with its joys - and its problems. He set about trying to put it right, and that's a challenge to all of us, to do likewise, to help lift each other's burdens and clear up at least *some* of our world's mess.

Have a happy, if messy, Christmas!

Fr Matthew (edited from this week's Wednesday Word)



~~~~ Fourth Sunday of Advent (Sunday 18 December 2016) ~~~~



Response to Psalm **Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.**

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, Alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, A name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 1: 1-7 Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24

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

#### THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

*This Tuesday 20 December*

**3 Churches Carol Service** 7pm at St Brigid's Church. Mince pies and mulled wine to follow. Donations of home-made mince pies would be very welcome

*Saturday 24 December* **Christmas Eve Masses** 6pm Mass at each of our 3 Churches. 10pm Mass at Christ the King and St Brigid's

*Sunday 25 December* **Christmas Day Masses** Normal Sunday times: 9am at Christ the King and St Paul's, 11am at St Brigid's. No Sunday evening Mass.

#### CRIB OFFERING

Our archdiocese is to house at least one Syrian refugee family. Archbishop Stack writes: "In the light of the suffering being endured not least by children in Aleppo and Mosul, and in support of our attempts to care for Syrian refugee families coming to the Diocese, I suggest that this year's crib offerings be designated for the 'Syrian Families Refugee Fund'. There will be an article on the Diocesan website shortly reflecting on this important work."

#### DRIVEWAYS AND CORNERS

From time to time neighbours of our 3 Churches ask us to remind parishioners to avoid parking across drives or on corners. We appreciate that sometimes space is limited and also it is often visitors who do the inconveniencing. However, please respect our local communities.

#### Christ the King Primary School - Reception Class 2017 Applicants

Applications now available for children due to start Reception Class in September 2017. Contact the school (2075 4787) or download an application from website [www.schoolswire.org](http://www.schoolswire.org) use our postcode CF14 5AS to gain entry. Applications must be received by 9 January 2017.

#### Christ the King Candlelight

A reminder that Christ the King Church is open Friday evenings (except 23/30 December) from 6.30 - 7pm for anyone who's passing by to drop in for a brief moment of silent reflection or just respite from the stresses of the outside world.

#### First Holy Communion

If any children in the 3 churches, Christ the King, St Brigid's or St Paul's, wish to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion next May 2017 please send an email with your child's name and Parish to [ThreeChurchesCommunion@hotmail.com](mailto:ThreeChurchesCommunion@hotmail.com) Classes will start in January and continue until May.

#### Watch The Surprise

A wonderful play by Catholic author GK Chesterton this Christmas. Friday 23 December 9 - 11pm online- [www.ewtn.co.uk](http://www.ewtn.co.uk) or Sky 589. For GK Chesterton Prayers see [www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk](http://www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk)

#### Christmas - The Story

The story of the Nativity is being performed at Tabernacl Welsh Chapel, The Hayes, Cardiff until 22 December with performances every 40 minutes from 10am. Entry is free

Diaries and calendars are much appreciated by the prisoners who attend weekly mass in Cardiff prison. There is a collection box in each church for donations of 2017 diaries and calendars.

For further information contact Elizabeth Taylor (2075 1401)

#### "Do You Love Me?" - a Spiritual Tour

In 2014, the Bishops of England & Wales issued a book of spiritual reflections, entitled, "Do You Love Me?", an invitation to explore many different kinds of prayer.

One of the authors of that book, Kathryn Turner, will be visiting the Archdiocese of Cardiff in February: Abergavenny on the morning of Friday 3 February, Belmont Abbey the same evening, and at St David's Sixth Form College, Cardiff, on Saturday 4 February. She will offer a taster session on how the book can be used to deepen our prayer.

The Abergavenny event also includes recent research on why committed Catholics become committed Catholics, with suggestions on how this can help shape what we offer our young people. The Cardiff event is also an invitation to everyone offering spiritual activities in the Archdiocese to come and share something about their work.

**Please note: next week will be a double edition of this newsletter to cover Christmas Day and The Holy Family (24/25 & 31 December/1January).**

## 3 Churches

### Hospital Chaplaincy Changes

There have been some changes at the University Hospital of Wales in the provision of chaplaincy care to Catholics. Two Catholic Chaplaincy Volunteers, Simone Strinati and Benny Augustian, have been appointed to work with Bro Brian Butler. If you know of a Catholic patient who would like sacramental support or maybe just a visit, please contact the UHW Chaplaincy Department on 2074 3230

## Christ the King

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

An A3 sheet will be available in the Church porch at Christ the King, for Readers, Welcomers and Eucharistic Ministers to place their name and contact in the applicable slot for the three Masses of Christmas. It is extremely important that you populate this sheet if you would like to offer your services, in order for the appropriate arrangements to be made in advance. The three Masses taking place in CTK are: 6pm Vigil, 10pm Mass (24th) and 9am Mass (25th). The 6pm Vigil Mass will require Welcomers and Eucharistic Ministers (readers already arranged). Please don't forget to do this, as you leave Mass today!

***The Flower Group would like to thank all those Parishioners who generously donated towards this year's Christmas flowers. We very much appreciate your support***

### Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

Children attending the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass are invited to wear nativity costumes if they wish. The church will be open from 5pm and there will be a video link to the parish centre where people will be directed to once the church is full. **Please park sensibly as not to block the car park or surrounding roads. Extra car parking will be available at the Wolf's Castle pub.**

### ***Volunteers Needed Christmas Eve Morning***

Volunteers are needed to come and help set up the parish centre for the video link for the Christmas Eve Mass. Please come to the parish centre at 10.30am on Saturday 24 December. This will involve putting out chairs and should not take long. The more volunteers we have the quicker the job will be done. Thank you

### Christ the King Eucharistic Adoration

There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesday 27 December, and Tuesdays 3 & 10 January. We will resume on Tuesday 17 January 2017.

### **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 **24 December**.

### Petition Book

Letters for parishioners who are praying for those in the petition book are available at the back of the church. Do take yours as soon as possible. Many thanks for the time you give to this much appreciated aspect of parish life.

## St Brigid's & St Pauls

### ***Baptism***

We welcome into the Church through Baptism this Sunday at 11am Mass at St Brigid's Hugh Alexander Crichton-Smith

### First Communion Catechist

Would you like to help our young parishioners grow in their faith and prepare for their First Reconciliation and Communion? We need some catechists from the St Paul's/St Brigid's area to join our team. Please contact Fr Matthew ASAP if you are interested.

**£190 was raised from the tea and coffee served after Mass on Sundays at St Brigid's, this has been match funded by The Jane Hodge Foundation £ for £ so the impressive total is now £380. Well done everyone**

### Eucharistic Adoration

There will be no Adoration in St Paul's on Wednesdays 21 & 28 December, and 4 & 11 January. Adoration will resume Wednesday 18 January 2017. Adoration will continue on Thursday evenings 8/9pm at St Brigid's. We wish you all a very Happy & Holy Christmas and New Year.

**Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

|        |                    |                                                                                                         |                                  |
|--------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|        | 6pm C the K        | <b>John Foley (M Murphy)</b>                                                                            |                                  |
| Sun.   | 9am St Paul's      | <b>Alicia Long</b>                                                                                      | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent |
|        | 9am C the K        | <b>Luis Urtiaga (A Davies)</b>                                                                          |                                  |
|        | 11am St Brigid's   | <b>Baptism: Hugh Alexander Crichton-Smith.<br/>Pat &amp; Ernie Skrines (Thorne);<br/>Gordon Cormack</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>Peter Hughes (Doreen)</b>                                                                            |                                  |
| Tues.  | 9.30am C the K     | <b>Shirley Needs (L Barry)</b>                                                                          |                                  |
|        | 7pm St Brigid's    | <b>3 Churches Carol Service</b>                                                                         |                                  |
| Wed.   | 9.30am St Paul's   | <b>David &amp; Tim Cole</b>                                                                             | St Peter Canisius                |
| Thurs. | 9.30am C the K     | <b>Cath Hatto (J Rendle)</b>                                                                            |                                  |
|        | 7.30pm St Brigid's | <b>Maureen Muscat</b>                                                                                   |                                  |
| Fri.   | 9.30am St Paul's   | <b>Josephine Camilleri</b>                                                                              |                                  |
| Sat.   | 9.30am St Brigid's | <b>Dec'd Hunt Fam.</b>                                                                                  |                                  |

**Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**

|      |                  |                                                   |               |
|------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Sat. | 6pm St Paul's    | <b>People of the Parish</b>                       | Christmas Eve |
|      | 6pm St Brigid's  | <b>Len Perry</b>                                  |               |
|      | 6pm C the K      | <b>Christmas Eve Vigil Children of the Parish</b> |               |
|      | 10pm St Brigid's | <b>People of the Parish</b>                       |               |
|      | 10pm C the K     | <b>People of the Parish</b>                       |               |
| Sun. | 9am St Paul's    | <b>Grace Lemass (Harrington)</b>                  | Christmas Day |
|      | 9am C the K      | <b>Sister Kathleen Brown (B Brown)</b>            |               |
|      | 11am St Brigid's | <b>Thomas Anthony Sherry</b>                      |               |

Praying for our Neighbours  
 Please remember in your prayers  
 this week our neighbours in  
**Ffordd Bodlyn, Clos Edno**  
**Oakridge**  
**Three Arches Avenue**  
 who have received prayer cards in  
 the last few days.

**3 Churches  
Parish Council Chairs**

**Sts Brigid & Paul**

Maria Thompson  
07989 404730  
mariathompson1  
@hotmail.co.uk

**Christ the King**

Chris Stevens  
2074 7730  
chris.stevens01  
@btopenworld.com

**Christ the King**

Primary School  
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**

Resumes 18 Jan 2017

**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** £ 871.60

**Non Gift Aid** £ 478.85

**Total** £ 1350.45

**S/O month av.** £ 846.77

**Christ the King**

**Gift Aid** £ 453.95

**Non Gift Aid** £ 388.74

**S/O weekly av.** £ 330.54

**Total** £ 1173.23

**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, John Campbell, Maureen Carroll, Sian Clark,  
 Mary Clarke, Terry Culbertson, Agnes Davies, Emily, Anna Forrest, Bobi Gower, Maria Hill,  
 Evelyn Lloyd, Caitriona Lovell, Joseph (Benny) Lynch, Charles McDevitt,  
 Katrina Meades, Fr Modest, Vernon Morgan, Sarah Morris, Peter Murphy, Maureen O'Driscoll,  
 Kieran Ollin, Rona Perry, Rita Purcell, Valentino Rascon, John Reardon,  
 Claire Richards, Adela Rogers, Tessie Stamp, Shaun Stone, Dewi Thomas,  
 Emma Warlow, Dorothy Warren & Pat Watkins.