

## CHRIST THE KING

### Sunday 23rd November - Christ the King

(Sat) 17:00 - Holy Mass: Maggie & Christy Keane, RIP  
8:00 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Regina Kowalczyk, RIP  
10:00 - Holy Mass: Angelika Spiteri, RIP  
11:15 - Holy Mass: Judge Patrick Curran, QC, RIP/Mary Xavier, RIP  
16:00 - Vespers and Benediction

### **Monday 24th November - St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc**

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls  
8:30 - Oratory Morning exercises  
09:30 - Holy Mass: Sabini Family, Int  
17:30 - Oratory Evening exercises

### **Tuesday 25th November - St. Catherine of Alexandria**

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Teresina & Elena Ianni & Marco Principe, RIP  
8:30 - Oratory Morning exercises  
09:30 - Holy Mass: Donor's Intentions  
17:30 - Oratory Evening exercises

### **Wednesday 26th November - Feria**

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Teresa Jonker, RIP  
19:00 - Holy Mass: Bridget Connors, Int

### **Thursday 27th November - Feria**

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Holly May, Int  
8:30 - Oratory Morning exercises  
09:30 - Holy Mass: Teresa Jonker, RIP  
17:30 - Oratory Evening exercises

### **Friday 28th November - Feria**

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Danilowicz Family, RIP  
8:30 - Oratory Morning exercises  
09:30 - Holy Mass: Teresa Jonker, RIP  
17:30 - Oratory Evening exercises

### **Saturday 29th November - Our Lady's Saturday**

08:00 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/ Glowacki Family, RIP  
16:30 - First Vespers  
17:00 - Holy Mass: O'Shea & Finegan Families, RIP

### Sunday 30th November - First Sunday of Advent

8:00 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Jozef Dolhan, RIP  
10:00 - Holy Mass: Frances & Maureen Maunder, RIP  
11:15 - Holy Mass: David Reid, RIP  
16:00 - Vespers and Benediction

### CONFESSION TIMES

Sundays: 15 minutes before and during all Masses  
Weekdays: 7:15 to 7.30am ; 9:00 to 9:30am

Since the time of St. Philip Neri, the Fathers of the Oratory have made themselves available for Confessions during daily Mass. Outside of these set times, there is a Confessional Bell positioned in between the two Confessional Boxes in the Church. Ring to alert a Priest.

### ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT



Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9.00- 9.30am  
Wednesday 6.00 - 7.00pm

### HOLY ROSARY

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday: 5:30pm  
Wednesday: 6:00pm

*The community pray the Rosary daily for the intentions of the Parish, for those who are sick and have died recently. If you would like an intention added to the list please let one of the community know.*



### VENERATION OF THE RELIC OF ST. PHILIP NERI

Friday: After morning Masses

*The veneration of the relic of St. Philip Neri is a long-standing Oratory custom. When we pray before his relic, we ask for his intercession and strength to live more faithfully as Catholics.*

## **PRAYERS REQUESTED for the SICK**

*Please join the Cardiff Oratory Fathers and Brothers in praying daily for the sick and those who have care for them.*

Len Reece, Dooley, Sian Haffield, Dylan Barry, Dianna Ward, Mike Grant, Shirley O'Leary, Victoria Sweeney, A.& N Xavier Philips, Kevin Harris, Kate, Pauline Cook, Daniel Doran, Robert Matthews, Rita Taylor, John C. Keenan, Dennis Kassimi, Shirley Thomas, Neil B. Anne, Daniel, Sarah Caswell, Mary May Cassidy, Rosa Tannorella, Veronica Williams, Gary Britton, Clare Schwartz, Martin Flynn, Darren, Summer Hutchinson, Johnnie Doherty, Patricia Yarwood, Libby Conway, Elizabeth Conway, Summer Arnesen, Dianne, Laura, Jane, Lucy Iacobucci, Dorotka Sookanadenchetty, Jason Benedito, Gareth Bowen, Ann Henry, Sarah, Claire Hawkey, Danielle Camilleri, Jane Morris, Jonathan Bowen.

### **THIS WEEK'S VIGIL LAMPS**

*Please use the dedicated candle envelopes in church to make a donation for your vigil candle. If you would like to have one of the vigil lamps burn for a loved one's anniversary or for some special intention or in thanksgiving please use the candle envelopes or write the name on an envelope and drop it in the plate or the sacristy. For a donation of £4.50, to pay for the candle, your intention will be remembered by the whole Parish for one week.*

- Blessed Sacrament: Daniel Rees, RIP
- Sacred Heart: Anne McConkey, RIP
- Divine Mercy Chapel: Glowacki & Szczech Families
- The Lady Chapel: Lucy & Mary Lockhart, Int
- Chantry of Our Lady: Charles & Betty Smith, RIP
- Our Lady of Pity: Judge Patrick Curran, QC, RIP
- St Joseph: Children of Year 5/6 in St. Alban's
- Our Lady of Walsingham: David Woolf & the Order of St. Lazarus

### **EVENTS THIS WEEK**

**Monday 24th November**

**Tai Chi with Jeanette**

11:00-12:30

Jeanette who teaches the low-impact Chinese martial art. Great for improving balance, breathing and for relaxation. Suitable for all ages.

**Friday 28th November**

**LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

4:30pm

This year, the tree lights will be switched accompanied by the singing of Christmas carols. Father Christmas will be joining us too, ready to collect letters from children with their Christmas wishes.

**Saturday 29th**

**PARISH CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

10am - 1pm

Join us for a delightful day of festive treats, handmade gifts, and seasonal cheer. Tables are available for just £10 to sell crafts and other Christmas treats.

## CALL TO ACTION



### **CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE** OF ENGLAND AND WALES

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has launched an e-action campaign encouraging Catholics and all people of goodwill to contact their Members of the Senedd regarding the proposed legalisation of assisted suicide through Westminster's Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill.

As health is devolved, Members of the Senedd will soon be asked whether to give Legislative Consent for this Bill to apply in Wales. Last year, the Senedd voted against the principle of assisted dying, and this vote will again be a significant moment for our nation.

The Bishops are asking the faithful to urge their MPs to reflect carefully before granting consent, and to support continued investment in compassionate palliative care, mental-health provision, and the protection of the most vulnerable.

Archbishop Mark has said, "Wales has always valued compassion, care, and the protection of the vulnerable. This Bill risks eroding those values by suggesting that some lives are less worth living. True compassion means accompanying people in their suffering, not ending their lives."

"I encourage everyone of goodwill to make their voices heard – to urge Members of the Senedd to reject this Bill and to support better palliative care and mental health provision, so that every person in Wales can live their final days surrounded by love, not despair."

In these days, we are being asked once again to safeguard the dignity of every human life in our nation. The proposed Terminally Ill Adults Bill would open the door to the legalisation of assisted suicide.

Our Bishops remind us that true compassion never means ending a life, but standing faithfully with those who are suffering. Archbishop Mark has called on all people of goodwill to raise their voices, urging the Senedd to choose care, not killing; accompaniment, not abandonment; hope, not despair.

The Archbishop, with your Parish clergy, encourages every parishioner to take part in the Bishops' Conference e-action, which makes it simple to contact your MP and express your support for better palliative care, mental-health provision, and the protection of the vulnerable.

Please take a moment to visit the link below and make your voice heard:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/oppose-assisted-suicide-in-wales/>

*If you need assistance in accessing this website please speak to a member of the community.*

Let us pray that Wales remains a nation that cherishes the dignity of every person from conception to natural death. May the Holy Spirit guide our lawmakers, strengthen our families, and console all who are carrying the heavy burden of illness.

Our Lady of Penrhys, Pray for Wales.  
St. Joseph; Patron of the dying, Pray for Wales.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOOD PARCELS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

The Oratory Parish will be assembling Christmas Hampers for Families in need from those in our School and in the local community.

The parcels will be assembled on  
Saturday 22nd Dec.

Could we all bring some items and place them in the basket at the back of the church.

May God reward you.



## Volunteers wanted for Night Shelter

St Peter's Night Shelter will be operating from 5<sup>th</sup>  
December – 29 March 2026.

If you are interested in volunteering at the shelter on a Friday evening or Saturday morning, please contact Peter Sullivan on 07906 101 015

## The Light is on for you

During the first week of Advent, extra opportunities for Confession will be provided to prepare ourselves for the great solemnity of Christmas. This will take place at the following churches; St Paul's, Cyncoed, St Patrick's, Grangetown, St Francis's, Ely, St David's Cathedral, and here at St. Alban's

Times will be announced in next week's edition of the newsletter.

## St. Alban's Rugby Report



There was mid-week cup action as St. Alban's took on a former rival in Clwb Rygbi Caerdydd in the Mallett Cup. To make it more special it was played under the lights of Cardiff Arm Park. Both teams braced the cold weather and produced a classic match. St. Alban's haven't faced Clwb since being promoted two years ago, in the meanwhile Clwb have been promoted to league two.

The Buns started the game stronger, scoring two tries, but with a penalty and two tries, Clwb took the lead. An injury to one of the backs for the Buns made the game have a little stoppage before half time, where St. Alban's scored another try to be ahead at the break.

The Buns started the second half stronger by increasing their total racing to a 35-18 lead with just ten minutes left to play. St. Alban's took the foot off the gas and allowed a tense finale. Clwb scored quickly off three kick offs leaving the score 35-30, thankfully they missed the conversion from the last try otherwise the closing moments would have been more tense.

The defense held strong and St. Alban's won the cup game. The draw for the next round will take place in the coming weeks. There is no more first XV action until after the November internationals but the seconds play Llanrumney away this weekend. A local derby always provides a close spectacle. I would probably prefer to watch St. Alban's play over Wales as I know that the Buns probably won't be a walkover.



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### NOVEMBER

#### YOUNG ADULTS OPEN MIC

**Sunday 30th from 6pm-9pm in the Parish Hall**

After the success of the last Open Mic, the young adults have asked for another one to be held. Those 18-35 are encouraged to come along and show off your talents, whether singing or storytelling. There will be refreshments available. Tickets are £2.

### DECEMBER

#### WREATH MAKING

**Saturday 6th 2:30pm in the Parish Hall**

To get into the festive spirit, there will be a wreath making event in the Hall. All you have to bring is your own decorations and the greenery with expertise will be provided. Tickets are on sale, £10 per person.#

### LESSONS AND CAROLS

**Friday 12th 7pm in the Church**

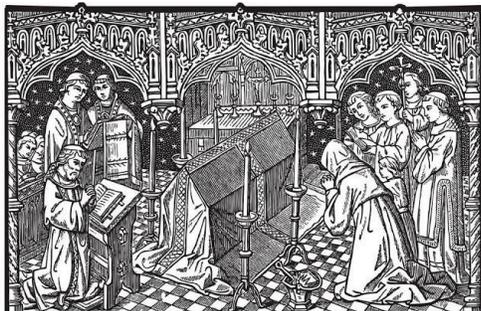
The Annual festival of Lessons and Carols is another highlight of the Christmas season. His Grace, the Archbishop of Cardiff-Menevia will preside this year.

### CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

**Saturday 20th starting at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall**

The Christmas Social is always a jolly occasion where there will be Carols, Pantomime Sketches and the Christmas raffle draw.

### MONTH OF NOVEMBER FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED



**VESPERS FOR THE DEAD  
- MONDAYS 17:30**

## MASS AND TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF  
THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER  
7PM  
ST. ALBAN'S ON THE MOORS  
CF24 2NT**



This week, I read  
*'Imprudent King: A New Life of Philip II'*,  
by Geoffrey Parker.

No-one who has studied sixteenth-century English history (as most of us did at school) can fail to remember King Philip II of Spain. Married to Queen Mary I of England from July 1554 until her death in November 1558, and for some years thereafter the suitor of her half-sister and successor, Elizabeth I, it was Philip who sent the ill-fated Spanish Armada against England in the summer of 1588.

For all that, I was conscious of knowing relatively little about the man himself, so I welcomed the opportunity to read a biography of this colossus of sixteenth-century Europe. Philip's inheritance was truly remarkable. His father was the Emperor Charles V, who had inherited the Spanish crowns (which included large parts of Italy and the many Spanish possessions in the New World) through his mother (the elder daughter of Ferdinand & Isabella), as well as Austria and the Holy Roman Empire through his paternal grandfather, and The Netherlands through his paternal grandmother. Although Philip did not inherit all of it, he still found himself ruling Spain, much of Italy, The Netherlands, and the New World; and that was before he inherited the Portuguese crown through his mother. It was an empire upon which the sun never set; and, since lines of communication were relatively slow, governing so many disparate peoples was an enormous challenge for one man. Indeed, Philip rejected his father's advice to divide his inheritance, which was surely a mistake.

Unfortunately, large parts of this book are set out thematically, rather than chronologically, which meant that I found myself losing sight of the overall sequence of events.

One moment a certain person was alive and active, the next he was dead, and then one found him alive and active again. I dare say Parker had a good reason from setting out the book in this way, but I am afraid those reasons were lost on me.

On the plus side, the book does provide many excellent insights into Philip and the world in which he lived and worked. Far from having a grand existence, Philip worked extremely hard and lived very modestly (often recording in a letter he was writing that he had just noticed how late it was, how he had not eaten, and was extremely hungry). Although Philip was undoubtedly talented, Parker identifies what were his two greatest weaknesses, both of which were to dog his long reign. First, he placed matters of faith at the absolute centre of all his policies, thus leaving himself absolutely no room for the kind of pragmatism to which all successful rulers must resort from time-to-time. For example, by refusing to allow any kind of religious toleration across far-flung lands, Philip forced some of his peoples into open rebellion, and then found himself exhausting his considerable resources on fighting wars which a wiser ruler would have avoided. Second, Philip insisted upon trying to micro-manage his empire, which was both unrealistic and, ultimately, disastrous. For example, the Armada might well have succeeded if Philip had not tried to micro-manage every aspect of the enterprise (paying more attention to the faith and morals of his sailors than making sure they were properly supplied etc.).

This book is thoroughly researched, drawing heavily from contemporary sources, and the author provides a painstaking and thought-provoking analysis of all the key issues. Moreover, his assessment of Philip the man and the ruler is well-balanced. Notwithstanding the fact that I struggled with the way in which parts of the book are structured, therefore, I still got what I had hoped from it.



## SCHOOL NEWS - 17th-21st November



Y1/Y2 have been using their understanding of the Saints they've learnt so far by playing a game of matching the picture of the Saint to the correct description! They have also been retelling the story of the Annunciation and Visitation through storyboards and scene building! They have been learning all about Our Lady, St. John Bosco, St. Alban, and St. Philip Neri. Using the pictures they can associate a story with them to help the children to learn about their virtues.

The Governor's Wellbeing Committee met this week to discuss pupil wellbeing and to see what was learned in the previous week. Year 5/6 pupils shared their Anti-Bullying Week learning and presented a child-friendly version of the school's anti-bullying policy highlighting the power of pupil voice in building a kinder school. The year group reenacted their assembly which contained Raps, small scenes, and creative posters, thus spreading the important message of being an upstander not a bystander.



### Children's Liturgy

Each Sunday there is Children's Liturgy in the Lower Sacristy during the 10am Mass.

The Children learn about that Sunday's Gospel and how to put it into practice.

Speak to Theresa about your child joining.



## Dead list 2025

*Below are the new names that have been added to the St. Alban's Beloved Dead list. The full version will be seen in the Pieta chapel.*

Peter & Merle Alexander, Gbolenen Rafiau Ajeul, Anyoju Family, Nancy & Thomas Ball, Vera Bradfield, Walter Bodham, Dorothy Bodham, Boleskaw Boruch, Zygmunt Boruch, Joan Brown, Pauline Bruno, Henry & Julia Burns, David Glyndwr Burke, John Burke, Margaret Burke, Patricia Burke, Thomas Burke, Veronica Burke, Barbara Burke, Mirosław Budnik, Walter Carbis, Tom Carbis, Richard Carbis, Anne Carbis, Jonny Carbis, Betty Carbis, Beatie Carbis, Walter & Mary Carbis, Paddy Cassidy, Eileen Cassidy, Cecelia Cashin, Maria Cristina Celli, Agnes Cheung, Teresa Cheung, Anna Chow, Brenda Chisnall, Jean Christopher, Francis Christelow, Polycarpo Disousa, Antoninho Disousa, Edgar Dicken, Dorothy Dicken, David Dicken, John Doherty, Mary Isroma Dobai, Joseph Devasia, Bridget De-Lloyd, Peter Delve, John Patrick Devine, Isobel Mary Devine, Alexander Devine, Paul Devine, Shane Devine, Margaret Devine, Mary Devine, Mary Devine, Rosie Dawson, Florence Drain, Bill Crothers, Archie Cruikshank, Haz Davies, Paddy Flynn, Tom Flynn, Clera Fernando, Neta Fernando, Dorris Morris, Gillian Herbert, Cecil Steven Hilton, Clive Hole, Doreen & Timothy Horrigan, Molly Hudson, Lawrence Ikenyei, Josephine Ikenyei, Patrick Ikenyei, Steve Ikenyei, Patrick Ibifoye Joseph, Patrick Shina Joseph, Shoji Joseph, Joseph Family, Hannah Jones, Gwenda Jones, Evalener Jonker, Teresa Margaret Jonker, Peter Kelleher, Cynthia Kelleher, Phillis Kelleher, Peter Kelleher, Kathleen Kilbane, Frankie Kirgan, Nick Hamilton, Jimmy Gray, Billy Gray, Ester Moloney Gray, James McCamphill, Mary Anne McCamphill, Anne McManus, Mary Mccluskey, McCarthy Family, Fr. Daniel McBride, Russell & Mary Mears, Katherine Wakeford, Ray Wakeford, Peter Wakeford, Shirley Maypothor, Trevor Maypothor, Cora May, Colin May, Agnes & Gerald Ghatt, Angela Lwugo, Barbara Lupton, Elzbeita Lebiest, Joseph Lloyd, Florence Drain, Joy & Partridge Uchechiwor, Clara Nondulum Uchechiwor, Roseline O Ulanmo, Nathan Saliba, Stephen Multon, Cecelia Multon, Katie Morgan, Chantelle Madona, James & Francisca Otigbah, James Snr Otigbah, the Otigbah family, Val O'Keefe & Family, Dennis O'Keefe, Kathleen O'Brien, Barry O'Reilly, Mary & Francis O'Reilly, Mattie & Mary-Jo O'Reilly, Beatrice & Charles Worthy, David Byrne, Bill Sullivan, Elizabeth Price, Tomboy Price, Teresa Reynolds, Jimmy Pratt, Kathleen Purcell, Jenny Randerson, Lindsay Watkins, Jeannine Walker, David Wheeler, Jim White, Daphne White, Zach Stubbings, Bobby Taylor, Lee Taylor, Roger Thompson, Janet Thomas, Fr Steer, Fr. Bogdan Wera, Fr John Maguire, Fr. Scott, Fr. Christopher Dallatt, Canon Thomas Vearncombe, Sophie Venner, George Warry, Joan Warry, David Glyndwr Burke, Gillian Herbert, Mark Phillips, Rita Lilian Phillips, Mateusz Pogorzelski, James McCamphill, Mary Anne McCamphill, Anne McManus, Mary Mccluskey, Frankie Kirgan, Florence Drain, Patrick Ibifoye Joseph, Patrick Shina Joseph, Gbolenen Rafiau Ajeul, James & Francisca Otigbah, James Snr Otigbah, William & Maria Do-Refos, The Do-Refos Family, Anyoju Family, Joseph Family, Georue P.D, Thesiama P.D, Thomas P.D, Sebastian P.D, Reetha P.D, Unborn Babies of the P.D Family. John Cowhey, Peter Grainger, Billy Cassidy, Kathleen Fury, Kathleen O'Brien.

God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life. Show compassion to your people in their sorrow. Be our refuge and our strength to lift us from the darkness of grief to the peace and light of your presence. Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying for us, conquered death and by rising again, restored life. May we then go forward eagerly to meet him, and after our life on earth be reunited with our brothers and sisters where every tear will be wiped away. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**