



The Oratory of St. Philip Neri at Cardiff - Charity number 1170563

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 7th December - Second Sunday of Advent

(Sat) 17:00 - Holy Mass: Terry & Hazel O'Brien, RIP
8:00 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Stasia Klaptu
10:00 - Holy Mass: Angelika Spiriteri, RIP
11:15 - Holy Mass: Judge Patrick Curran, QC, RIP
16:00 - Vespers and Benediction

Monday 8th December - Immaculate Conception

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Mariangela & Raffaele Zurlo, RIP
8:30 - Oratory Morning exercises
09:30 - Holy Mass: Pro Populo
17:30 - Vespers
***19:00 Holy Mass and Procession:** Terese Aghedo, Int

Tuesday 9th December - St. Juan Diego

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls
8:30 - Oratory Morning exercises
09:30 - Holy Mass: Hayden Cotter, RIP
17:30 - Oratory Evening exercises

Wednesday 10th December - St. John Roberts

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Bogumila Dolhan, Int
19:00 - Holy Mass: Antonio Moncada, RIP

Thursday 11th December - St. Damasus I

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/ Veronica I. Matthews, RIP
8:30 - Oratory Morning exercises
09:30 - Holy Mass: Irene Matthews, RIP
17:30 - Oratory Evening exercises

Friday 12th December - Our Lady of Guadeloupe

7:30 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/David Reid, RIP
8:30 - Oratory Morning exercises
09:30 - Holy Mass: Angela Thomas, RIP
17:30 - Oratory Evening exercises

Saturday 13th December - Our Lady's Saturday

08:00 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Karolina Piekos, Int
16:30 - First Vespers
17:00 - Holy Mass: Maggie & Christy Keane, RIP

Sunday 14th December - Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 - Holy Mass: Holy Souls/Zbyszek Glowacki, RIP
10:00 - Holy Mass: Angelika Spiriteri, RIP
11:15 - Holy Mass: Judge Patrick Curran, QC, 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.

Sharon Gristock, Marilyn Maunder, Len Reece, Dooley, Sian Haffield, Dylan Barry, Dianna Ward, Mike Grant, Shirley O'Leary, Victoria Sweeney, A.& N Xavier Philips, Alun Edwrads, 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: Judge Patrick Curran, QC, RIP
- Sacred Heart: Daniel Rees, RIP
- Divine Mercy Chapel: Glowacki & Szczech Families
- The Lady Chapel: Mollie Parsons, Int
- Chantry of Our Lady: Sid Williams, RIP
- Our Lady of Pity: David Gallivan
- St Joseph: Bro Fabian Trevethick, Int
- Our Lady of Walsingham: David Woolf & the Order of St. Lazarus

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday 8th December

Tai Chi with Jeanette

11:00-12:30

Great for improving balance, breathing and for relaxation. Suitable for all ages. This week there will be some entertainment with a singer coming to get attendees in the festive mood.



12th December

7pm

THE ORATORY | YR ORATORI
SWINTON STREET, CARDIFF

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. The Lord Mayor of Cardiff will also be in attendance.

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 5th 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

200 Club Winners

*Drawn on the 2nd December at the
Coffee Morning*

1st Prize: No. 140

Paul McManus

2nd Prize: No. 48

John Dymond

3rd Prize: No. 89

Eileen Jones

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Every year we encourage people to bring Poinsettia's to St. Alban's to help decorate the church and the crib scenes. The Poinsettia's are usually left in memory of our loved ones.

If you wish to bring your own please leave them by the sacristy or give them to a member of the community.



ST. ALBAN'S CHRISTMAS

HAMPER RAFFLE

Tickets will be on sale from this weekend (6th/7th December) for the annual Hamper Raffle.

£1 a strip.





DATES FOR THE DIARY

December

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.

January

St. Joseph Vaz Curry Night

Saturday 17th starting at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall

To celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph Vaz, Oratorian and Apostle to Sri Lanka, we are holding a Curry and Bingo night. Tickets will be available after Christmas.

February

Murder Mystery Dinner: A Royal Encounter

Saturday 17 starting at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall

Another who dunnit! This time Kings and Queens will be attending to enjoy an evening of fine dining and intrigue. Tickets will be available after Christmas at £10.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT ST. ALBAN'S

24TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE

16:30 CHRISTMAS CAROLS

17:00 HOLY MASS

23:30 CHRISTMAS CAROLS

25TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY

00:00 MIDNIGHT MASS

08:00 HOLY MASS

10:00 HOLY MASS

11:15 HOLY MASS

16:00 VESPERS



MASS AND TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER

7PM

ST. ALBAN'S ON THE MOORS

CF24 2NT

Two Great Feasts of Our Lady

Each December, we celebrate two great Marian feasts within the span of just a few days. These days draw us into a deeper contemplation of who Mary is, and how she continues to accompany the Church on her pilgrimage of faith.

December 8th – The Immaculate Conception: Mary Prepared from the First Moment

We celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, one of the most profound mysteries of God's saving plan. Here the Church professes that Mary, from the first instant of her conception, was preserved by a singular grace from the stain of original sin, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race.

This feast is not about Christ's conception, but Mary's. It is the proclamation that God prepared His mother—not because she was worthy on her own, but because He wished to give Himself to the world through a vessel perfectly open to His grace. Mary's Immaculate Conception is the first dawn of the Redemption: the first victory of Christ's grace applied in advance to the very one who would carry Him in her womb. In her freedom from sin, we see humanity as God intended it to be. Mary is the new Eve, standing at the beginning of a new creation, reminding us that holiness is not an unreachable ideal but the destiny to which we are called.

December 12th – Our Lady of Guadalupe: Guardian of the Unborn and Evangelizer of the Americas



Four days later, we turn our eyes to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the loving Mother who appeared to St. Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill in 1531. Where the Immaculate Conception speaks of Mary at the beginning of her life, Guadalupe shows us Mary in the heart of the Church's mission. She came to Juan Diego as a tender mother, clothed in the symbols that speak about her pregnancy, in indigenous apparel, and standing on the moon showing her superiority to the Aztec gods. Her words to Juan Diego still echo across the centuries: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?"

In her image printed miraculously on the tilma, the cloak Juan Diego was wearing, Mary reveals herself as the one who brings Christ to the peoples of the Americas. Through her intercession, millions embraced the faith. She is patroness of the unborn, the vulnerable, and all who seek the mercy of God

Taken together, these two feasts reveal a coherent portrait of Our Lady:

- **Immaculate Conception** shows us Mary *as God prepared her*—all pure, full of grace, all openness to His will.
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe** shows us Mary *as God sends her*—as a mother, close to the little ones, caring for us and leading us to her Son.



School news
1st-5th December

It was a joy to welcome the pupils of St. Alban's to Mass last Sunday to celebrate the beginning of the season of Advent. The pupils are a credit to their parents and their teachers as they read beautifully. The Advent wreath was blessed during the Mass and in the week Fr. Iltyd M went around the classrooms to bless the cribscenes. The Children are also preparing for Christmas spiritually as they had a penitential service on Wednesday.



The children have also been practicing their Christmas carols. On Tuesday, some pupils came to the coffee morning to sing for those who were there.

The carols were printed out so that everyone could join in. The children were rewarded by some chocolate from the ladies who organise the coffee morning to thank them for their wonderful performance.

They have also been singing carols at the Tesco in Pengam Green raising money for charity.

On the academic side, Year 5 & 6 began exploring algebra through hands-on activities with colourful Cuisenaire rods. Pupils used the rods to visualise variables and equations, building confidence and discovering that algebra can be creative, interactive, and fun. They have also been looking at the way patterns can help understand difficult sums and multiplications.



The Ordination of Rev. Br Fabian Trevethick, Cong.Orat.

Of your charity please pray for Br. Fabian Trevethick of the Manchester Oratory, who will be Ordained the Sacred Priesthood this Friday.

Br Fabian has been a member of the Manchester Oratory since 2018 and completed his seminary studies at St. Philip's in Toronto with Fr. Illtyd M. It will be a great blessing for the people of Manchester to have a new priest to work in the vineyard of the Lord.

The community in Manchester is located at St. Chad's in Cheetham Hill, the first Catholic chapel built in the area after the 'Reformation' in the eighteenth century. Please pray for their community and for vocations to the Oratory.



(Photo taken at Br. Fabian's Diaconal Ordination with Bishop Mario as the celebrant)

Bishop Mario Alberto Avilés, Cong.Orat.

On the first December the Holy Father appointed Bishop Mario to be the new bishop of Corpus Christi, Texas. Bishop Mario was originally of the Pharr Oratory and also was Procurator General for the worldwide Confederation of the Oratory. He was appointed titular bishop of Cataquas and auxiliary bishop of Brownsville, receiving episcopal ordination in 2018.

Please pray for him in his new ministry and for the diocese of Corpus Christi.

Pope Leo's Apostolic Visit.

Pope Leo XIV's recent apostolic journey to Turkey and Lebanon (Nov 27–Dec 2, 2025) marked his first trip abroad as Pontiff.



The visit began in Turkey, where Pope Leo commemorated the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea in İznik. Pope Leo joined the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I, for service to mark the anniversary. The Holy Father also spent time with the Orthodox Patriarch in which they signed a joint declaration to work towards a common date for the celebration of Easter.

Pope Leo then visited Lebanon where he prayed at the Beirut Port blast memorial. He also met with political and religious leaders, and urged reconciliation as the main goal of this age.

At the Monastery of St. Maron in Annaya, Pope Leo became the first pontiff to pray at the tomb of St. Charbel Makhoul, the revered Maronite hermit known for miraculous healings.

Together, the pilgrimage to St. Charbel and the ecumenical meetings embodied Pope Leo's vision, that unity must be lived through mutual respect and shared witness.



This week, I read 'Marie Antoinette' by Lady Antonia Fraser.

There can be few people in history who have been maligned more unjustly than Marie Antoinette. Born an archduchess of Austria, Marie Antoinette was just 14 years old when she was sent to France to be married to the then dauphin, the future Louis XVI (himself only a year older than his wife). These days, that would be called trafficking and abuse; but in 1770, it was a common fate for a European princess. By then, she was already becoming the subject of increasingly outrageous libels which, slowly but surely, began to turn the tide of public opinion against her. One of the most damaging fabrications had it that Marie Antoinette had commissioned a particularly expensive diamond necklace; but the queen (as she had become in May 1774) knew nothing of the so-called Affair of the Diamond Necklace, and was wholly innocent. Of course, it is entirely true that Marie Antoinette could be extravagant, but the reality was that she was no more extravagant than anyone else at the French Court. Moreover, she was under intense pressure to lead where others would then follow. As a young woman, and a foreigner, she stood very little chance against the pressures and demands of the world she inhabited. Although she is far from blind to Marie Antoinette's faults, Lady Antonia writes sympathetically and with a clear understanding of the impossible position in which the queen found herself. Attractive and vivacious, Marie Antoinette was made a scapegoat by revolutionaries who were hell-bent on shedding as much blood as possible. This book paints a picture of a woman who was far more intelligent – and certainly much more compassionate towards others, especially the less fortunate – than she is given credit.

Somehow, I felt that I had done the right thing by reading this book; that I was doing something to help clear the name and reputation of a woman who was innocent of all the many outrageous charges which were laid at her door. It is tempting to think that, if a person is rich and powerful, they are guilty already; but Marie Antoinette was anything but powerful. This is a compelling story, but a tragic one nonetheless.

St. Alban's Rugby Report



Thankfully the Autumn internationals have finished, though they should have finished a week earlier in my honest opinion. However, there was some action to distract St. Alban's from the national team. The second XV travelled not too far to take on local rivals Llanrumney. This game was significant for the home side as they were opening their newly refurbished clubhouse and pitch. This game was labeled as a friendly match so that both teams could get a run out after a few weeks break. With both teams raring to go the time for kick off arrived but the referee was still on his way to the pitch. Even though Llanrumney are in the bottom division of the Welsh league pyramid, they showed some promise by keeping it a close game. Any derby match brings out the best in a player so that they can have bragging rights for the year. This showed in the scoreline, no team really took control as both forwards pushed hard to score. In the end the match ended in a 12 all draw. A fitting way to end a close contest and to celebrate the new clubhouse for Llanrumney. Normal league action resumes this week as St. Alban's travel to Abercwmboi in their pursuit of topping the table.