



St Dyfrig's Catholic Church

treforest.pontypriddRCdeanery.org.uk

A Parish of the Archdiocese of Cardiff
Registered Charity no. 242380

Year (A) Weekdays: Cycle II
Psalter Week 4
**EIGHTH SUNDAY
OF ORDINARY TIME**

PARISH NEWS

ASH WEDNESDAY During Lent our focus shifts from what we consider to be the 'everyday season' into a more reflective and penitential preparation for the joyous season of Easter. Lent is our opportunity each year to examine ourselves and identify the things in our life that come between us and God. The readings over the past few weeks have challenged us to recognise that the call to love of Jesus is a demanding one. Lent is a time for change and renewal in our life, drawing us closer to Christ himself. The 'penances' we take on should be life changing **and** life giving. Ash Wednesday is the day we are invited to come before God and make our promises face to face. The imposition of ashes is a long standing tradition that goes back to the Old Testament, reminding us that our time on earth is limited and our focus should be on the 'greater' things. There is ample opportunity on this day to start Lent as we mean to go on. There will be two Masses, one morning, one evening, and you are actively encouraged to attend one of them as we journey together through Lent. Our schools will also be having services to mark the day.

**RECONCILIATION/FIRST CONFESSION
PRAYER PARTNERS** Well done to our First Reconciliation/First Eucharist Candidates

on their commitment. We enjoy our Wednesday sessions as we work together to a fuller understanding of living in God's family. On Saturday March 8th at 10.30am we will conduct a Service of Reconciliation during which the children will make their First Reconciliation. You are welcome to join us in this celebration. As part of our parish commitment to support our children in their preparation you could devote some time each day to pray for them. Please have a look at the display at the back of Church for "Prayer Partners".

THE RITE OF ELECTION OF THE RCIA. Every year those from the parishes of the Archdiocese who are preparing to be baptised or received into the Church at the Easter Vigil are presented to the Archbishop at a special ceremony at St David's Cathedral on the First Sunday of Lent. ALL parishioners are most welcome to join this celebration at 3.00pm NEXT Sunday 9th March.

CONFIRMATION The next session will be on Thursday 6th March from 6.30pm – 7.30pm in the Annexe.

THE NEXT BAPTISM COURSE will be held on the 18th and 25th March at 7.30pm. We already have some couples who have expressed an interest. Please note that there won't be another session until

September. Please contact Margaret (01443 404553) or Brenda (01443 202959).

IRISH NIGHT 22nd March - Music from 'Cheatin' Hearts'. Bar available; bring your own food. Doors open 7:30pm. Tickets: Adults - £5.00; Children - £2.00; proceeds to Church Restoration Fund. Telephone: Dave Rossiter (01443) 491397 or Christy Cleary (01443) 409083.

APF MISSIO Ann Hobbs is retiring as Secretary of Missio (Red Box Collection). If there is anyone who would like to take over from her, would they please contact Fr Allan or telephone Ann on 406277 for more information

PARISH DIRECTORY Please send items to **Roland Fletcher** fletcherfletcher@btinternet.com or the parish email, or hand them in to the presbytery.

NO MORE BOTTLE TOPS REQUIRED at the moment. Many thanks for all those collected so far!

CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING on Tuesday 11th March 2014 from 4.00pm – 7.00pm. Our sixth form open evening will provide an opportunity for students and parents to meet with our tutors; to discuss the range of courses on offer and see the facilities available. The open evening will be held at our new sixth form centre based at the Nantgarw Campus of Coleg y Cymoedd.

PONTYPRIDD CHRISTIANS TOGETHER - LENTEN LUNCH 2014 Once again at St. Dyfrig's we are hosting the first of the

Lenten lunches and were very grateful for the help given by people last year as it is a very busy few hours. There will be a list in the Narthex for anyone able to give at least 1 hour's help again this year on Friday 7th March, between 11 am and 2.30 p.m. The proceeds from the lunches go to Christian Aid. Thank you.

7th March: St. Dyfrig's RC (Treforest)

14th March: St John's (Graig)

21st March: Castle Square URC (Treforest)

28th March: St. David's (Hopkinstown)

4th April: Bethel Baptist (Hawthorn)

11th April: Coedpenmaen Baptist (Trallwn)

18th April: St. Catherine's (Pontypridd)

Suggested Donation £2.50

Fairtrade Stall at Each Venue

The next meeting of the PCT will be held on Wednesday 19th March at 7.30pm in St Dyfrig's church hall annex.

JUMBLE SALE Saturday 8th March 1pm in the Hall. Proceeds to the **Little Way for Syria**. We should be very grateful for any help before, during or after the event. Please meet at the Hall from 2pm on Friday. Jumble can be left at the back of church, outside the hall from Weds on or at the Presbytery from 8.30 – 1pm, Tues, Weds and Thurs. Contact Anne on 842825

YOUTH CLUB will restart on Friday 14th March

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY – Friday 14th March.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

22nd/23rd Feb 2014: Gift Aid: £183.01; Loose Collection: £331.94 Thank you all very much indeed.

FUNDRAISING GROUP Many thanks to those who came along to the fundraising meeting last week. We held a meeting to discuss ways to raise enough money to repair, refurbish and decorate our parish buildings. As you know applications to the Big Lottery Fund, the Welsh Churches Fund and other organisations are ongoing. You also know that various activities have been arranged and have raised a lot of money for parish funds. I am most grateful on your behalf for all of the hard work that has already been done. The fundraising group will note how much has been raised and this will be “ring-fenced” so that it will set aside for the redecoration of the church. We have already been informed that the repairs etc to the Church alone will now cost more than £35,000. The money that has already been raised so far is not sufficient to begin repairs and redecoration. As well as applying for grants we may NOW also make application to the Archdiocese. (This has not always been possible). However, if we do, we will need to promise to pay back a certain amount, each quarter of the year. In the light of our weekly collections (and even the great amounts that have already been raised) **this has not been possible and this is the reason why no work has yet begun.** It will be necessary to justify the amount we borrow from the Archdiocese. The fundraising group have various things planned and original ideas, and I am sure that they will keep us informed as we here in St Dyfrig’s continue in our journey of faith.



CHAPLAINCY AT THE MEETING HOUSE

St Dyfrig’s is the base for the Catholic Chaplain, Fr Allan.

There won’t be mass at the Tramsheds Building this week. However, there will be mass at the Meeting House Treforest Campus at 12.15pm on Thursday. The “AWAKEN” Retreat/Conference for the young people of Wales takes place NEXT Weekend at St David’s Catholic College, See the poster for details. Most students will already know that we are in the process of trying to set up a Catholic Society in the University. A Constitution has been drafted and will be submitted. Thank you to Daniel Luxton for all his hard work. Thanks to him and Zoe White for agreeing to become committee members! For future events at St Dyfrig’s see the newsletter and for other events, see the University website: chaplaincy.southwales.ac.uk

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY If you know of any project, person or group of people who need SVP support please let us know. Please be aware, that there is also a holiday fund available through the District SVP. Also there is an SVP box in the narthex and details of projects, people or groups that need help can be placed in this box. Everyone is more than welcome to come along to the meeting and find out more about the Society. Many thanks for your continued support

FRIENDS OF ST DYFRIG – February 2014

1st Mahrie McDonald; 2nd Mrs Coakley 3rd

*Maureen O'Shea; 4th Lesley Hughes;
5th Mr E Granger*

OTHER NEWS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND will be held in the Emmaus Centre, Bristol on 7th – 9th March. Weekends are catholic in origin but all married couples are welcome. If you want to book, please visit the website: wwme.org.uk. Further details: Ian & Teresa MacCallum 01249 656145 or email iandtmaccallum@talktalk.net

ECUMENICAL CELEBRATION OF FAMILY LIFE A special service will be held in St David's Cathedral, Charles St, Cardiff on Saturday March 8th at 12 noon, to celebrate God's love at work in our everyday life. All are very welcome. If you would like to take a special part by reading or carrying a symbol to the altar please contact 029 20212821 or flc@rcadc.org

COME AND SEE WHAT RELIGIOUS LIFE IS ALL ABOUT: A day for women who would like to learn more about becoming a Sister. Take time to pray, reflect and ask questions with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy on 8th March 2014 in Newport. Contact Sr. Marianne for more information ssjavocations@hotmail.com or Tel. 01633 252321.

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL An Adult formation Programme will be held at the Cornerstone, St David's Cathedral every Tuesday at 1.45pm – 3.15pm. Bring a packed lunch. Free Tea and Coffee will be served.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU is an initiative for Lent whereby most priests of the Archdiocese will endeavour to be available to hear confessions every Wednesday during Lent. For a full list of participating parishes see <http://rcadc.co.uk/the-light-is-on-for-you.html> Please note however that on one of those Wednesdays there will be a Deanery Station Mass here in St Dyfrig's.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE From 5th March – 13th April you are invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You are also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil opposite the BPAS clinic in St. Mary's street Cardiff from 8am to 8pm. For more information or to volunteer to help, contact Clare Jackson 07580 275698; clare40daysforlife@gmail.com or visit www.40daysforlife.com/cardiff. There will also be a talk by Robert Colquhoun, 40DFL UK Campaign Director in the Cornerstone, St. David's Cathedral this Sunday 2nd March after 11am Mass. Light refreshments available. On Monday 3rd March from 9.00am – 6.00pm there will be **Eucharistic Adoration** to pray for the unborn and their families also at St. David's Cathedral Charles Street Cardiff.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF

PASTORAL LETTER FOR LENT

The Eighth Sunday of the Year 2 March 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters

On March 13th we shall celebrate the first anniversary of the election of Pope Francis as Bishop of Rome. What an extraordinary year it has been! He has made an impact not only on the Catholic Church but on the wider world, reaching out to all men and women of goodwill. In gestures, words and actions he has conveyed the gospel message of his patron Francis: the poor have a unique place in the heart of God.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Holy Season of Lent. Our churches will be crowded for the blessing and distribution of ashes. Pope Francis continually reminds us that words and symbols which do not result in action are simply empty gestures, perhaps pure emotion, maybe even nostalgia. Conversion, turning back to God, lies at the heart of the Christian life. The words which accompany the ashes ceremony are both a comfort and a challenge. *“Remember you are dust”*. *“Repent, believe in the gospel”*. Those words contain the meaning of Lent.

In his first Lenten message, Pope Francis spells out what this conversion means. He tells us that Jesus became poor for our sake. He emptied Himself and became human so that we might experience divine life in this world and the next. The life of prayer, the life of grace, and the sacramental life. Each of these expresses our sharing in Christ's life. That is why during Lent we are called to deepen the ways in which we enter the mystery of how and why God shares his life with us. Stations of the Cross, Lenten devotions, spiritual reading, daily Mass. They all help us to “do something for Lent”.

But another great theme of the teaching of Pope Francis is expressed during Lent. It is that we become more truly like Jesus if we are not preoccupied or identified with material possessions. We become poor, like him, by living in solidarity with those who are deprived of the good which they deserve. We become poor when we trust in God. Fasting and Abstinence, Lenten Alms, giving to charity. These are not optional extras for the follower of Jesus. They are the very condition of being his disciple. *“The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Blessed be the Lord.....”* (Psalm 34) By placing the ashes on our foreheads we undertake to confront the injustice of poverty and suffering. The work which goes on in our parishes to care for those who are in material and spiritual poverty depends on every member of the Church. We are all parts of the one Body of Christ. That is one reason why I ask once again that Lenten Alms are collected in parishes and sent to the Diocese so that we may help those who are in need.

In addition to the economic challenges we still face, it is the poverty of spirit which haunts so much of 21st century life. Isolation, loneliness, individualism and depression. These are familiar realities not just in the world beyond us, but often in our own world too. Reaching out in compassion to a lonely neighbour, to the bereaved, to a family needing support or someone suffering. This is giving the precious gift of time during the season of Lent.

Spiritual poverty is part of the reality which our society faces too. The need to forgive and be forgiven lies at the heart not just of the spiritual life but of the whole of human life. Forgiveness is something we all need.

Every one of us carries burdens and has things that trouble us, and also things that we regret. As Lent begins, receive and know that in a special way the 'Light is On' for you in many of our churches throughout the Diocese. It offers a space to speak to God heart to heart, to seek his healing and help, and to get off your chest anything that you'd like to be forgiven. Priests will be present in churches to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, also called Confession.

It might be that you were baptised Catholic but for different reasons, no longer or rarely practice your faith. Come along. Everyone is very welcome and no one will judge you. We are all journeying to God's Light in our own way, at our own pace. It is a way of starting afresh, healed by the power of God's love and mercy.

Confession is one of the gifts of love and healing that is offered by the Church. Through it God's forgiveness and mercy are celebrated when we turn to him and present our brokenness, shortfalls and failings. No one is perfect and we all need the Sacrament of Reconciliation to strengthen and renew us. This Lent make this the gift you seek for yourself. The Light of Christ is waiting to heal and enliven your heart once again. The Sacrament of Reconciliation gives this assurance of forgiveness. It reminds us, in the words of Pope Francis "*...that God never tires of forgiving us, and through the ministry of a priest offers us an embrace that regenerates us and allows us to continue on our journey*"

Each Wednesday of Lent, starting on 12th March until 16th April, many parish churches in the Diocese of Cardiff will be open from 7pm to 8pm for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For more detailed information please visit the diocesan website or look at your church notice board.

Each of you will make your own intentions for a Lenten exercise. Whatever it is, may this be a fruitful time of growth and development for us as individuals as well as members of our family, school, local community and parish. My wish is for a Holy Lent and a Happy Easter.

With every blessing

+George Stack

Archbishop of Cardiff

**To be read and distributed in the churches of the Archdiocese of Cardiff on 1/2 March 2014,
The Eighth Sunday of the Year**

LETTER OF POPE FRANCIS TO FAMILIES – PUBLISHED TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

Dear families,

With this letter, I wish, as it were, to come into your homes to speak about an event which will take place at the Vatican this coming October. It is the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which is being convened to discuss the theme of “pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelization”. Indeed, in our day the Church is called to proclaim the Gospel by confronting the new and urgent pastoral needs facing the family.

This important meeting will involve all the People of God – bishops, priests, consecrated men and women, and lay faithful of the particular Churches of the entire world – all of whom are actively participating in preparations for the meeting through practical suggestions and the crucial support of prayer. Such support on your part, dear families, is especially significant and more necessary than ever. This Synodal Assembly is dedicated in a special way to you, to your vocation and mission in the Church and in society; to the challenges of marriage, of family life, of the education of children; and the role of the family in the life of the Church. I ask you, therefore, to pray intensely to the Holy Spirit, so that the Spirit may illumine the Synodal Fathers and guide them in their important task. As you know, this Extraordinary Synodal Assembly will be followed a year later by the Ordinary Assembly, which will also have the family as its theme. In that context, there will also be the World Meeting of Families due to take place in Philadelphia in September 2015. May we all, then, pray together so that through these events the Church will undertake a true journey of discernment and adopt the necessary pastoral means to help families face their present challenges with the light and strength that comes from the Gospel.

I am writing this letter to you on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. The evangelist Luke tells us that the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, in keeping with the Law of Moses, took the Baby Jesus to the temple to offer him to the Lord, and that an elderly man and woman, Simeon and Anna, moved by the Holy Spirit, went to meet them and acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah (cf. Lk 2:22-38). Simeon took him in his arms and thanked God that he had finally “seen” salvation. Anna, despite her advanced age, found new vigour and began to speak to everyone about the Baby. It is a beautiful image: two young parents and two elderly people, brought together by Jesus. He is the one who brings together and unites generations! He is the inexhaustible font of that love which overcomes every occasion of self-absorption, solitude, and sadness. In your journey as a family, you share so many beautiful moments: meals, rest, housework, leisure, prayer, trips and pilgrimages, and times of mutual support... Nevertheless, if there is no love then there is no joy, and authentic love comes to us from Jesus. He offers us his word, which illuminates our path; he gives us the Bread of life, which sustains us on our journey.

Dear families, your prayer for the Synod of Bishops will be a precious treasure, which enriches the Church. I thank you, and I ask you to pray also for me, so that I may serve the People of God in truth and in love. May the protection of the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph always accompany all of you and help you to walk united in love and in caring for one another. I willingly invoke on every family the blessing of the Lord.

From the Vatican, 2 February 2014 Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

FRANCIS

† Liturgy/Masses for 1st– 8th March 2014

Saturday 1st March

<i>St David, Patron of Wales</i>	10.00am	Mass (<i>Clara Silva Rosa</i>)
	5.15pm	Reconciliation
<i>First Mass of Sunday</i>	6.00pm	Vigil Mass (<i>John Davies</i>) Mass will be followed by a Concert by Cor Meibion at 7.30pm

Sunday 2nd March 8th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

10.30am	Mass (<i>The People of the Parish</i>)
	Refreshments after Mass

Monday 3rd March **9.00am** Mass (*Chris Silva Rosa - Birthday*)

Tuesday 4th March **9.30am** Morning Prayer
9.45am Mass (*Maria Jefferies & Family*)

Wednesday 5th March **9.30am** Morning Prayer
Ash Wednesday **9.45am & 7.00pm** Mass (*Angelo & Rita Vello and Special Intention*)

Thursday 6th March **9.30am** Morning Prayer
9.45am Mass (*Joe, Josephine & Amely Sultana*)

Friday 7th March **9.30am** Morning Prayer
Sts Perpetua & Felicity **9.45am** Mass (*Sheila Cotter – Get Well*)
Exposition will take place after mass and will end at 4pm with the Divine Mercy prayers and Benediction

Saturday 8th March **9.30am** Mass
St John of God **10.30am** Celebration of First Reconciliation
First Mass of Sunday **5.15pm** Reconciliation
6.00pm Mass (*Shirley Tovey*)

Sunday 9th March 9th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

10.30am	Mass (<i>The People of the Parish</i>)
	Refreshments after Mass

Parish Priest: Father Allan Davies-Hale

Deacon: Michael Doyle

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Safeguarding Representative: Mrs Maggie White 01443 410593

Parish Hall Bookings: Mrs Julia Gilbertson 01443 205041

Schools:

St Michael's Primary (Acting Head: Mr M Chapple) 01443 486840

Cardinal Newman Comprehensive (Head: Mr J O'Sullivan) 01443 494110

Hospital Chaplains:

Royal Glamorgan Chaplain: Fr Silvio (01443 421929 or 07711 804733)

The Heath, Cardiff Chaplain: Br Brian (029 2074 3230)