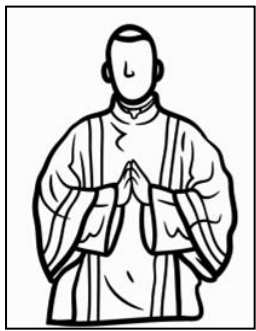




Catholic Churches serving southern RCT
Parishes of the Archdiocese of Cardiff
Registered Charity No. 1177272

To Contact Pastor Gareth,
Email: gareth.leyshon@rcadc.org
Call: 01443 402439

Pastor Gareth writes: **FOUR CHURCHES. ONE FAMILY OF FAITH. WHERE DO I FIT IN?**



In the busyness of preparing for Christmas, it's already time to keep one eye on the year ahead. We're going to launch 2024 with a guest speaker on Monday 8th January 2024, and you're all invited!

Allegra Mutanda is *Director of Leadership and Evangelisation* at the parish of St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs (which is, unsurprisingly, in Winchester). Allegra writes:

'The era in which we live with the rise of secularisation is probably one of the hardest eras we find ourselves in in the history of the Church. Yet God has a plan and purpose for each one of us if we are willing to say 'yes' to Him as He calls us to be today's labourers in the vineyard. Will you let God dream bigger for you and your parish community?'

Allegra's talk will be at 7 pm in All Hallows on Mon 8 Jan. The following day, Allegra will be leading a retreat day for the Pastorate Leadership Team (PLT). This currently consists of myself, Sr Berenice (the resident sister in Tonypany), Marita Fernandez and Teresa Bressington (All Hallows) and Joe Biddulph and Teresa de Ste Croix (St Dyfrig's). A Rhondda parishioners will be joining the PLT for a trial period in the New Year. The PLT is the main planning body for spiritual and pastoral matters across our four churches; there are separate bodies looking at Buildings and Finance for each parish. A full organization chart showing members of all of these bodies will shortly be published on our parish blog.

A few reminders of things mentioned last week:

The *Crib Offering* basket gifts will be send on to Archbishop Mark who will divide them *Friends of the Holy Land* and the *Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem* (both of which help impoverished Christians in the Holy Land) and *Caritas Cardiff* and *Menevia* which supports Catholic charities working with needy souls at home.

Rather than giving me any personal gifts this Christmas I humbly invite you instead to make a donation to the Presbytery Renovation Fund; you can give to the same cause by writing "PR Fund" on an envelope or when making an on-line donation at: app.goodhub.com/st-dyfrigs-church-treforest – and please indicate if you are registered with the church for Gift Aid because this kind of donation can be Gift-Aided; you will need to give your name on the envelope for this.

Upcoming events:

Children's Christmas Party	All Hallows' Hall	Sunday 17 th December (after morning mass)
Carol Service	Pick and Shovel	Sunday 17 th December at 4pm
Youth Advent Service & Celebrations	St Dyfrig's Church	Monday 18 th December 6:30pm – 8:30pm
School Carol Service	Ss Gabriel & Raphael Church	Tuesday 19 th December 5:30pm
Church Cleaning	All Hallows' Church	Wednesday 20 th December at 10:30am
Mass with enrolment of Altar Servers	St Mary Magdalene Church	Tuesday 26 th December at 3pm
Worship to see in the New Year <i>Followed by midnight mass</i>	St Dyfrig's Church	Sunday 31 st December at 11:30pm
<i>Ways of Praying</i> (Anna Mayer)	ZOOM	Monday 15 th January 2-3 pm
<i>Following Christ</i>	ZOOM & St Dyfrig's Church	Monday 22 nd January 7-9 pm (Session 1)

For more information on any of these events, please contact treforest@rcadc.org – also contact if you wish to book a place on the *Ways of Praying* or *Following Christ* courses.

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B

Entrance Antiphon: ***Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice!***

Psalm response: ***My soul rejoices in my God.***

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord has been give to me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: ***Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.***

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

1st Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Please pray for the recently deceased in our churches:

Diorioa Albu

Peter A. Anzani

Mike McCarthy

Please also remember in prayer all our sick and housebound.

Our Churches:

St Dyfrig's, Treforest

Email: treforest@rcadc.org

Call: 01443 402 439

Address:

St Dyfrig's Catholic Church,
Treforest,
Pontypridd
CF37 1DB

St Mary Magdalene, Ynyshir

Email: rhondda@rcadc.org

Call: 01443 421 929

Address:

St Mary Magdalene
4 Gynor Ave,
Porth
CF39 0NH

Ss Gabriel & Raphael, Tonypany

Email: rhondda@rcadc.org

Call: 01443 421 929

Address:

S.S. Gabriel and Raphael
13 Trinity Road,
Tonypany
CF40 1DQ

All Hallows, Miskin

Email: llantrisant@rcadc.org

Call: 01443 228 866

Address:

All Hallows' Catholic Church
School Rd, Miskin,
Pontyclun
CF72 8P

The Pope's Prayer intentions:

During December, Pope Francis says: "Let us pray that people with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions offer inclusion programs that enhance their active participation."

Parish Directory

Baptism	Wendy Marsh
Becoming Catholic	
Confirmation	Lizzy de-Ste-Croix (St Dyfrig's office)
First Communion (St Dyfrig's)	Teresa (07500668424) & Alan de-Ste-Croix
First Communion (All Hallows')	Sarah Horton (07447456824)
First Communion (Rhondda churches)	Through St Gabriel and Raphael School
Weekend Club	Marita Fernandez (07960206916)
Hall Hire (St Dyfrig's)	Treforest Office (or Sue Cleary)
Hall Hire (All Hallows')	Pamela Harding (01443556796)
Maintenance (All Hallows')	Shamus Harding (01443556796)
Marriage	Pr Gareth
Mass Intentions	Individual Parish Administrator
Music Ministry (All Hallows')	Teresa Bressington (07599155418) Anne Thomas (organist)
Music Ministry (SS Gabriel and Raphael)	Bridget Green (organist) David Hoban (folk group) (07811707458)
Music Ministry (St Mary Magdalene)	Joachim Biddulph
Music Ministry (St Dyfrig's)	Chidie Ejiogu (07950642266)
Newsletter	Parish Offices
Safeguarding (St Dyfrig's)	Maggie White (01443 410593) or Roy Mayo (01443 209850)
Safeguarding (All Hallows')	Suzy Stacey (07734 701449) or Diane Franks-Herbet (07999 891 009)
Safeguarding (Rhondda churches)	Maria Hughes (07811011674)
UCM – Union of Catholic Mothers	Suzy Stacey (07734 701449)

HOSPITAL CARE

To arrange communion for someone in hospital, contact:

Royal Glamorgan (RGH)

Marita Fernandez,
mfwhat58@hotmail.com
07960 206916

Llwynypia Hospital

Sr Berenice (Parish Sister for the Rhondda Parishes)
Via Tonypany Parish

Cardiff Hospitals (UHW)

Call 02920 747 747 and ask for the on-call Catholic Chaplain

Collection figures (10th December):

St Dyfrig's

Gift Aid: £
Loose Plate: £
Standing Orders: £239.41

All Hallows'

Gift Aid: £767.05
Loose Plate: £129.07
Non Gift Aid: £15.00

Ss Gabriel & Raphael

Gift Aid: £146.00
Loose Plate: £95.82
Standing Orders: £140.50

St Mary Magdalene

Loose Plate: £41.00

Here are the latest articles on our parish blog: [amdg.page](#)

- ❖ Some resources for [Family hoping to grow in Faith](#) together
- ❖ More information on the 2023 [Crib Offering](#)
- ❖ The [Foot of the Cross](#) latest podcast episode to view
- ❖ A workshop on the [Synodal Mission Church](#)
- ❖ Some words from those in Bethlehem. ["Hear Angels Cry"](#)

Our local Catholic Schools:

Cardinal Newman RC Secondary, Rhydfelin 01443 494110

Email: headteacher@cardinalnewman.co.uk

S.S. Gabriel and Raphael RC Primary, Tonypany 01443 433094

Email: admin@ssgabrielraphaelrcprimary.rctcbc.cymru

St Michael's RC Primary, Treforest 01443 570090

Email: admin@stmichaelsrcprimary.rctcbc.cymru

The Latest News

Christmas Offerings

By a longstanding tradition, the Christmas Mass collection is given to the Parish Priest as part of his annual income. (In the Rhondda Masses it will be split equally between Pastor Gareth and the Sisters' fund). The Government allows parishes to claim gift aid on such gifts. But to do this, and for accountability, the money must be paid through the parish account. So if making a gift by cheque, the cheque must be payable to "St Dyfrig's Parish", the "Rhondda Parishes" or "All Hallows".

St Dyfrig's Newsletter

We are looking for volunteers to fold the Newsletter for St Dyfrig's on a Thursday (daytime). If you think that you'd be able to volunteer to help us then contact Lizzy in the office via treforest@rcadc.org

Foodbank – Nile Street [Pontypridd 01443 404 692](tel:01443404692) and [Taff Ely Foodbank 01443 520 730](tel:01443520730)

All Hallows Church: We would like to make an appeal for more donations please. An item per family would fill the weekly box. Thank you for your generosity. The box at All Hallows is emptied every Wednesday.

St Dyfrig's: Thank you to everyone who has donated the foodbank, the Christmas parcels are starting to go out to families in Pontypridd and Treforest. We are still giving out the regular food parcels and are running short of: Packets of biscuits, jars of curry sauce, jars of jam or peanut butter, tins of meat. Thank you again for your continued support.

St Dyfrig's Christmas Raffle

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas raffle last weekend. A total of £501 was raised and a full list of winners is displayed on the notice boards in the narthex and the Annexe. Thank you.

Friends of St Dyfrig's November winners

Congratulations to all the winners of last month's draw, you can collect your prizes from the St Dyfrig's Sacristy.

- 1– Ann Perrot (117) (£50)
- 2 – Maureen Carter (58) (£20)
- 3 – Bryn Hughes (79) (£10)
- 4 – Chris Thomas (35) (£10)
- 5 – Allan Reeves (100) (£10)

Christmas Masses

We need stewards at the Christmas masses. If you would like to volunteer, please make yourself known (at St Dyfrig's to the Ushers, at All Hallows to Marita, in the Rhondda churches to Sr Berenice). If anyone needs a lift to mass especially over Christmas, please ring Lizzy at St Dyfrig's parish office, and leave a message stating clearly the church and mass time you wish to attend, where you live and how we can contact you.

CAFOD letter to the Rhondda

A letter of acknowledgement has been received from CAFOD thanking the parishioners of Ss Gabriel & Raphael & St Mary Magdalene Churches for their generous donation of £290.56 received on 28th November. This contribution has been greatly appreciated. Letter from CAFOD on notice board.

All Hallows Tea Dancers

Another successful tea dance was held by All Hallows Tea Dancers last Sunday. The total amount raised in 2023 is £1189 which the UCM has donated to various charities. Many thanks to Kathy and Tony Jacobs who organise the Tea Dances and to the UCM Members who have supported each event by making teas and coffees.

Christmas Hamper Raffle

Raffle tickets will be on sale this weekend for a Christmas Hamper. The draw will take place on Sunday December 24th during tea and coffee after mass and all proceeds will go to Ty Hafan.

All Hallows Children's Christmas Party

The Weekend Club and Children's Liturgy in conjunction with parents and children will be having a Children's Christmas party on the 17th December after Sunday Mass until 1pm in the Hall at All Hallows. Invitations are available. If you would like your child/ren to attend please see Suzy or any member of the children's liturgy team during weekend mass. We need you to RSVP to make sure that we can prepare for the right number of children.

Youth Advent Service:

The seekers and young disciples team are coming together to host a Youth Advent Service for all primary and secondary kids. Come along as we meet some key people from Biblical history and prepare for the coming of Christ. Monday 18th December at 6:30pm in St Dyfrig's Church. There will also be a party in the hall afterwards with fun games, food and more... Please bring some food for a bring and share meal.

All Hallows' Church Cleaning

We are organising a "Big Clean for Christmas" at All Hallows on Wednesday 20th December at 10.30 am. Many hands make light work. Help us to prepare our church in readiness for the Christmas Services.

St Dyfrig's Church Cleaning

We will be cleaning the Church on Wednesday 20th December in readiness for Christmas from 10.30 am. Anyone who can spend an hour or two to help will be most welcome. Tea, coffee, biscuits and even mince pies will be available in thanks for willing hands.

Cardinal Newman Christmas Service

Cardinal Newman's annual Christmas Service is **Wednesday 20th December at 6pm**. This is always very thought provoking and a lovely way to enter the spirit of Christmas. All are welcome to join us. Further details on the school website.

The Surprise

"Watch The Surprise, a wonderful play by Catholic author GK Chesterton this Christmas. Sunday 24th December 3.30pm online www.ewtn.co.uk or on sky 586. For GK Chesterton Prayers see; www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk"

Eucharistic Adoration

The next eucharistic adorations at All Hallows will be on 6th and 20th **January 2024**. The church will remain open for private prayer after Saturday morning mass until 12 on 23rd and 30th December.

THIS WEEK'S MASSES AND SERVICES

	<i>Place</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service with intentions</i>
Saturday 16 th December	All Hallows, Miskin	10am	NO MASS TODAY
	Ss Gabriel & Raphael, Tonypandy	5pm 5:30pm	Confession Mass – The Keenan family
Sunday 17 th December 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B	All Hallows, Miskin	8:45am 9:15am	Confession Mass – John Karaisko <i>RIP</i>
	St Dyfrig's, Treforest	11:15am	Mass – Anne Parker <i>RIP</i>
	Penrhys Shrine	2:45pm	Rosary
	St Mary Magdalene, Ynyshir	3:30pm 4pm	Confession Mass for the orphaned souls
	St Dyfrig's, Treforest	7pm	Confession
Monday 18 th December	Ss Gabriel & Raphael, Tonypandy	9:15am	Morning prayer and Service of the Word
	St Dyfrig's, Treforest	11 am	Mass – John Gilbertson <i>RIP</i> <i>Followed by adoration until 12 noon.</i>
	St Dyfrig's, Treforest	6:30pm	Youth Advent Service
Tuesday 19 th December	St Mary Magdalene, Ynyshir	9:00am 10am	Adoration with 9.40 Morning Prayer Mass –
	Ss Gabriel & Raphael	5.30 pm	<i>School Carol Service – in the Church</i>
	From home	9pm	Rosary for the sick members of our parish
Wednesday 20 th December	Ss Gabriel & Raphael, Tonypandy	9:15am	Morning Prayer & word & Holy Communion
	All Hallows', Miskin	10am	Mass – Kim Davies-Stacey
	St Dyfrig's, Treforest	10am	Service of the Word with Communion <i>Church open for prayer until 2pm</i>
Thursday 21 st December <i>St Peter Canisius</i>	St Dyfrig's, Treforest	10 am	<i>Church open for prayer until 2 pm</i>
	All Hallows, Miskin	10:45am	Requiem Mass – Mike McCarthy
	Ss Gabriel & Raphael, Tonypandy	1.30 pm	End of Term Mass
Friday 22 nd December	Ss Gabriel & Raphael, Tonypandy	9:15am 10:30am	Morning Prayer and Adoration Mass –
	St Dyfrig's, Treforest	6:00pm	Adoration with praise music
Saturday 23 rd December	All Hallows, Miskin	10am	Mass – Healing for Angela Murray
	Ss Gabriel & Raphael, Tonypandy	5pm 5:30pm	Confession Mass –
Sunday 24 th December 4th Sunday of Advent, Year B	All Hallows, Miskin	8:45am 9:15am	Confession Mass –
	St Mary Magdalene, Ynyshir	9:15am	Mass -
	St Dyfrig's, Treforest	11:15am	Mass –
	Penrhys Shrine	2:45pm	Rosary
	Christmas Eve	St Dyfrig's, Treforest	4:00pm
Ss Gabriel & Raphael, Tonypandy		6:00pm	Christmas Eve Vigil – <i>(with carols from 5:30pm)</i>
All Hallows, Miskin		6:30pm	Christmas Eve Vigil – George Franks-Herbert <i>RIP</i>

The Christmas Obligation

Faithful Catholics are expected to go to Mass once to honour Sunday as the Lord's Day and again to honour the Lord's Nativity on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. This Christmas Eve weekend the SUNDAY obligation can be fulfilled on Saturday evening or any Mass on Sunday, even if it's a Christmas Mass.

The CHRISTMAS obligation can be fulfilled by attending Christmas Vigil, Midnight or Day Mass. You cannot go to just one evening Mass on Sunday 24th and count it for both obligations. But you can go to a Christmas Vigil to count as your Sunday Mass and again to Christmas Midnight or Morning to count as your Christmas Mass.