



# St. Helen's Parish

Barry, Rhoose, Sully

St Helen's Church, Wyndham Street, Barry CF63 4EL

Parish Priest: Canon Pat O'Gorman

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Registered Charity No 242380

## Sunday 24th December 2017

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### 4th Sunday Of Advent

**'Nothing is impossible  
to God'**

### 24th December 2017, 4th Sunday Of Advent

Saturday	6:30pm	People Of The Parish
Sunday	8:30am	Patryk Sliwinsky
	10:30am	Geraldine (Gerry) Sellick



**'Today in the town of David  
a saviour has been born to  
you; he is Christ the Lord.'**

**'Glory to God in the highest  
heaven'**

### 25th December 2017, The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

<b>Sunday (24th)</b> <i>(First Mass of Christmas day)</i>	8:30pm	<i>Carols before Mass</i>
	9:00pm	People Of The Parish
Monday (25th)	8:30am	All Our Families & Friends
	10:30am	For All The Children

### 31st December 2017, The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday	6:30pm	People Of The Parish
Sunday	8:30am	Johnny Verling
	10:30am	Nora Davies

### Cleaners and Counters

**Church Cleaners**— Colette, Kieron & Brian  
**Counters-** This Week **C** next week **D**

## 4th Sunday Of Advent

### Weekday Masses: Tues 26th Dec – Sat 30th Dec 2017

Tuesday St Stephen, The First Martyr (Feast)	10:30am	Frank Clements  <b>Adoration</b> <b>9:30am—10:30am</b>
Wednesday St John, Apostle And Evangelist (Feast)	9:00am	Eileen Lenthall
Thursday The Holy Inno- cents, Martyrs (Feast)	9:00am	David Olney  <b>Church Open For Prayers</b> <b>9:30am-12 Noon</b>
Friday Fifth Day Within the Octave Of Christmas	9:00am	Maureen Wilson  <b>Miraculous Medal Church</b> <b>Open 9:30am-12 Noon</b>
Saturday Sixth Day Within the Octave Of Christmas	9:00am  <b>10am-11am</b>	Sheila Thomas  <b>Confessions/ Reconciliation</b>

### Sacramental Events

**Baptism Preparation-** On 10th & 17th January 2018 at **7:00pm** in the **presbytery**.

**First Holy Communion**— Christmas break. Will resume on Wednesday 10th January.

**Confirmation Preparation**— Will begin on Wednesday 10th January, Parents/Guardians, sponsors and Candidates at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall

**R.C.I.A**— Rite Of Christian Initiation Of Adults, break for Christmas until **Thursday 11th January**.

**Sanctuary Lamp: John & Kath Nolan**

St Helen's Catholic Primary School  
 Foundation Phase Site 01446 732834  
 St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School

Mrs Kathy Giernalczyk (Head Teacher)  
 Key Stage Two Site 01446 740116  
 Mr Stephen Grech (Head Teacher)

01446 729250

### Christmas Greetings

The Angel Gabriel greets Mary with the words, "Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

Seeing Mary is disturbed he said to her, "Mary do not be afraid; you have won God's favour." Each Christmas the Church asks us to rejoice for we are a blessed people, a privileged people. We have the honour, the favour of being called God's people. Indeed, St John in his First letter writes, 'Think of the love that the Father has lavished upon us, by letting us be called God's children ; and that is what we are (1 John 3:1). It was through the Son of God becoming Man that it became possible for us to become the sons and daughters, the children, of God. Christmas is part of the process through which God expresses his love for us in the person of Jesus Christ. The beauty of this is God never stops loving us. The annual celebration of the birth of Christ is a constant reminder of God's faithful paternal love for us. As we are favoured with the grace that allows us to call God Father, like Mary, let us put aside whatever fear that may be within us. God asked Mary to do something very extraordinary. He did not leave her to do it alone. His grace and favour were with her. God asks that we love him and love one another. In whatever way he wishes us to love he will let his grace and favour rest upon us. Let us not be afraid. Let the priceless gift of love be the first gift we offer to each other this Christmas

Enjoy your Christmas. Rejoice in the company of your family and friends. Let peace reign in your hearts, joy shine on your face and love radiate from your eyes. Have a beautiful Christmas and may we all be the better for celebrating the birth of our Saviour.

**Canon Pat**

### +Ladies Circle

The Ladies Circle would like to thank everyone involved in the Coffee & Carols event at St Richard Gwyn. The musical talent and kindness was overwhelming and we look forward to joining you again next year. You are all a credit to your school and families. Also we would like to wish a happy and peaceful Christmas to all the ladies in our Ladies Circle and all the parishioners of St. Helen's. Meetings will resume in January.

### +Christmas Crib Offerings

The offerings at the crib this year will be given to support Welfare Charities for Children in Wales which help children at risk and in need of physical, emotional and spiritual support.

### +Year Books

The 2018 year books are now available to buy at the cost of £4 at the back of the church.

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The story of Mary, Joseph and the child Jesus is analogous to the experience of many people who are poor and powerless today.

Mary and Joseph are subject to the whims of the powerful as they have to travel to Bethlehem for the census. The Holy Family is homeless when they arrive in Bethlehem. They become refugees in Egypt to escape the danger of death in Israel. As the child is born, most people are going on with their daily lives and do not recognize the presence of God. Only the shepherds are able to detect the presence of God in the child that is born to a homeless family in a stable.

At Christmas time we encounter many temptations. There is the temptation to be sentimental. There is the temptation to get too involved in elaborate gift giving. There is the temptation to focus just on our small circle of family and friends. There is the temptation to make Christmas into a celebration of our prosperity. There is the temptation to impose too many expectations on this holiday and forget what we are celebrating.

The fact that Jesus was born poor and homeless calls us to be aware of these temptations. More than that, the details of Jesus' birth challenges us to be engaged with those who are poor and powerless today – with those who are living the human experience of poverty or injustice. We are called to reflect on those who are suffering from the realities of violence and death, in war zones or even in our nation.

We are invited to see how the experience of those in the Christmas story is not unlike the experience of millions of refugees and displaced people in our world today, of children born into poverty, of parents who are frustrated by their poverty as they desire to provide for their children, of agricultural workers who have no land of their own, of the poor or unemployed who are losing their benefits, of the those who are homeless, of those who are caught up in the events of war and terrorist acts, of those who lost loved ones in acts of violence, of those who are still among the millions living in some form of slavery, of those denied basic human rights, of those whose lives are controlled by the power of large corporations and impersonal governments, of those who go on with their busy lives without any significant awareness of the presence and goodness of God in the ordinary things of life.

*Centre of Concern*

# HAPPY CHRISTMAS!