



# St. Helen's Church Barry

St Helen's Presbytery, Court Road, Barry CF63 4ET

Telephone: 01446 735051

Parish Priest: Canon Pat O'Gorman



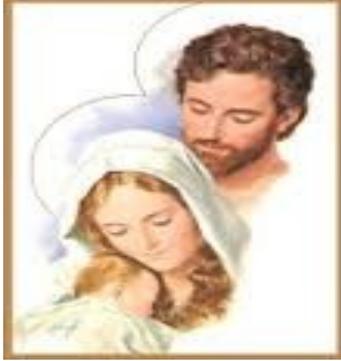
E-mail: sthelensbarry@btinternet.co.uk

www.sthelensrccchurch.co.uk

Registered Charity No 242380

## Sunday 25th December 2016

Christmas Night/Dawn/Day page 98ff  
Preface of Christmas I page 66  
Eucharistic Prayer I Page 18



Standing before the crib we see Jesus, we observe and hear what Mary and Joseph are doing and saying; so we receive the divine light they shed on our lives as we bow in humble worship of their Son

## 25th December—Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Saturday	9.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	8.30am	All Our Families & Friends
	10.30am	For All People ( Children)

## Mary, The Holy Mother of God (solemnity)

Saturday	6.30pm	Mary Ellen Connoly
Sunday	8.30am	People of the Parish
	10.30am	Thanksgiving

Please pray for all the sick and elderly members of the Parish, their families, carers, and all their families.

## Parish Hall Events 2016

Monday	1..00pm	Parent & Toddler
Thursday	9.30am	Slimming World

**Sanctuary Lamp: Neil McAleer Harris Families**

## Weekday Masses Mon 26th December - Sat 31st December 2016

Monday St Stephen, 1st Martyr—Feast	10.30am	Maureen Wilson
Tuesday St John Evangelist & Apostle -Feast	10.00am  <b>10.30-12noon</b>	Wedding Anniversary Reji—Philip  <b>Adoration</b>
Wednesday The Holy Innocents— martyrs—(Feast)	9.00am	David Olney
Thursday 5th day within Octave of Christmas	9.00am	Gurwyn Yarr
Friday Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph— Feast	9.00am	Sheila Thomas
Saturday 7th day within Octave of Christmas	9.00am	Nora Davies
Saturday	<b>10am-11am</b>	<b>Confession *</b>

## Sacramental Events

**Baptism Preparation** on **7th and 14th December 2016 at 7pm** in the Presbytery

**Holy Communion, . Sunday 4th December**, Presentation of the Our Father at the **10.30am** Mass. **Wednesday 7th December** , 5.20pm in the Parish Hall

## RCIA

Rite for Christian Initiation for Adults. Each Thurs 7pm in the presbytery.

## Cleaners and Counters

**Wendy & Eileen**

**Counters** This week **C** next week **D**

St Helen's Infant and Nursery  
St Helen's Junior  
St Richard Gwyn

Mrs Kathy Giernalczyk (Acting Head)  
Mrs Michelle Clawson (Acting Head)  
Mr Stephen Grech (Head Teacher)

01446 732874  
01446 740116  
01446 729250

## †Christmas Greetings

What has taken place in Germany and Turkey, in the past week, may leave us with the feeling what is there to celebrate in our world at this time. The darkness of evil must not overshadow the light of goodness. Though evil may dramatically impinge itself upon us there is a lot to celebrate. The world is full of good people quietly and gently reaching out to their fellow brothers and sisters. We all know someone who is doing good no matter how small that act of kindness may be. This is done because we, as a people, in general still believe in the goodness and dignity of the human person and we possess a hope that the inherent beauty in each one of us will ultimately break through. This hope is based on the reality we now celebrate, the birth of Jesus Christ. Let Christ be our focus not the perpetrators of evil.

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

At Christmas, when the child Jesus is born, God the Father has someone to love in an infinite way because Jesus is together man and God. But not only Jesus, but us together with him. We are included in this love, having become members of the body of Christ, “sons in the Son.” John’s prologue reminds of this: “To those who welcomed him he gave the power to become sons of God.”

Therefore, Christ did descend from heaven “for our salvation,” but what moved him to come down for our salvation was love, nothing else but love.

Christmas is the supreme proof of God’s “philanthropy,” as Scripture calls it (Titus 3:4), that is, of God’s love (philea) for man (anthropos). John too responds to the why of the Incarnation in this way: “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that whoever should believe in him would not die but have life everlasting” (John 3:16).

Fr. Raniero Cantalamassa

## Dates for you Diary

### †Ladies Circle

We will meet again in the new year, keep a look out for details in the newsletter. Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year—2017.

### †A Time to Pray for Mercy

Thursday 29th December the church is open from 9.30am—12noon for the parishioners to have the opportunity to pray for God’s mercy throughout the world.

### †Miraculous Medal Novena

Friday 30th December Novena to the Miraculous Medal 9.30 – 12noon in Our Lady’s Chapel.

### †Christmas Crib Offering

**For the Children & Mothers of Bethlehem.**

This year’s crib offerings is for the Children’s Relief Bethlehem. In 2015 the Caritas Baby Hospital provided medical assistance to almost 40’000 children. Our modern facility accepts any child – irrespective of religion, nationality or social background. The care they receive here helps each child get a fair start in life.

### †Archdiocese Year Books 2017

The Directory & Year Books of Cardiff, Menevia, Wrexham & Herefordshire are now on sale in the porch for £3.00 and £4.00 for the spiral bound.

### †Centenary Souvenir Brochure

The Souvenir Brochure marking the Centenary of the Archdiocese of Cardiff has been published to coincide with the visit of the Prince of Wales to open The Cornerstone on 16 December. It contains many articles and photos recapitulating the rich history of the last one hundred years. Please encourage your parishioners to support this important element of recording the history of the Diocese.

### †Quote

Why should there be rich people that have more than they need and poor who don’t have anything? God didn’t plan it that way. He planned for us to be equals. That’s why we have to build a society where everyone has the right to live a decent life.... Maybe it sounds like I have my head in the clouds. But I’ve heard about these astronauts in the United States who’ve gone into outer space. And I figure, hell, if these astronauts can get to the moon, then why can’t ordinary folks like us learn to share the earth?

- *Elvia Alvarado, Honduran human rights advocate*

### †St. Stephen’s Day (Patron St. Of Altar Servers)

Each year, on the day after Christmas, the liturgy celebrates the feast of St. Stephen, deacon and first martyr. The Book of Acts presents him as a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:8-10, 7:55); in him the full promise of Jesus recounted in today’s Gospel passage is fulfilled, which is that believers who are called to bear witness in difficult and dangerous circumstances will not be abandoned or left defenceless: The Spirit of God will speak to them (Matthew 10:20). The deacon Stephen, in fact, worked, spoke and died animated by the Holy Spirit, bearing witness to the love of Christ to the point of extreme sacrifice. The first martyr is described, in his suffering, as a perfect imitation of Christ, whose passion is repeated even in the details.

Pope Benedict XVI