



ST. JOSEPH'S & ST. MARY'S



PENARTH

PARISH GAZETTE

Archdiocese of Cardiff, Registered Charity no. 242380

DINAS POWYS

Third Sunday of Advent (B) (Gaudete Sunday) 14th December 2014

1st Reading	Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11	Hope can feel a little bit like fear, the sort of joyous fear the bride and groom feel on their wedding night.
Lk 1: 46-50.53-54	R/	<i>My soul rejoices in my God.</i>
2nd Reading	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Where there is peace, there is God. Where there is God, there is peace.
Acclamation		<i>Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!</i>
Gospel	John 1:6-8. 19-28	God sent John. We are part of that sending. To be a Christian is to have a mission.

Parish Advent Carol Service – TODAY Sunday

Our annual Advent Carol Service will take place **TODAY Sunday 14th December** at 3pm in St. Joseph's Church. It features Years 3 & 4 children of our Primary School. Please come along to support the children and the School.

Confirmation Group Advent Service

The Advent service for our young people will be on **Monday 15th December at St Mary's at 7pm**. All those wishing to be confirmed this year and those who were confirmed last year, together with their families and any parishioners who would like to join them for this candlelit service, are very welcome.

Confirmandi, please note this is a week later than the original published date.

Christmas Masses and Service Cards

Cards are now available at the back of both our churches showing Mass and Service times over the holiday period. **Please take one and display it prominently in your home.** Why not invite a friend to come to Mass with you, especially perhaps someone who has not been to church for sometime?

'Walk with Me: A Journey of Prayer for Advent and Christmastide 2014'

Our first allocation of this popular booklet has sold out, but Canon Joe has managed to acquire a few more copies to satisfy popular demand. The booklet contains prayers and reflections for Advent and Christmas 2014. Archbishop George Stack, Bishop Tom Burns (Menevia) and Bishop Peter Brignall (Wrexham) have written a foreword for the booklet and recommend it as an aid to prayer. **Walk with Me** costs £1 – a few copies are available at the back of both churches.

"The Light is ON for You", invites practising and lapsed Catholics to go to Confession this Advent. In common with other dioceses across England and Wales, we are reaching out to those who may have wandered from the life of the Church and those Mass-going Catholics who have been away from Confession for some years. Participating Catholic Parish Churches in the Archdiocese of Cardiff will be open from **7pm to 8pm on this coming Wednesday** for Catholics to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Priests hearing confessions in the local area are rotating as follows - :

Penarth:	Wed. Dec. 17 th - Fr A. Bord
Barry:	Wed. Dec. 17 th - Fr Bogdan Wera
Canton:	Wed. Dec. 17 th - Canon Boardman
Grangetown:	Wed. Dec. 17 th – Canon O'Gorman

The Advent Wreath – Gaudete Sunday Candle

In the midst of the shopping, decorating, cooking, writing Xmas cards, and other activities of the holiday season, the custom of the Advent wreath is an excellent way for families and communities to keep the real meaning of Christmas in perspective.

You may have wondered what the Advent wreath represents as we light a candle at the beginning of our Advent Masses. The four candles on the wreath represent the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are coloured purple, they are a reminder of the spirit of penance and prayer that marks the Advent season. **One candle is coloured rose, for the Third Sunday of Advent, "Gaudete Sunday", a name that comes from the opening words of that Sunday's liturgy 'Rejoice in the Lord always'**. The round wreath itself symbolises the eternity of God and the Father's presence throughout human history Evergreen branches and leaves decorate the wreath, are reminders of eternal life of God in Christ.