



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST. MARY'S RETREAT, UNION STREET, CARMARTHEN, SA31 3DE
Tel: 01267 237205 Email: carmarthen@menevia.org
www.stmaryschurchcarmarthen.org Registered Charity No. 234168

Parish Priest: *Father Phillip Harries*

Times and Intentions of Holy Mass for the Coming week

Saturday 28th May <i>Vigil—7th Sunday of Easter</i>	NO MORNING MASS 5:00-5:20pm 5.30pm	Confessions Holy Souls
Sunday 29th May <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i>	10:30-10:50am 11.00am	Confessions Pro Populo (For the People)
Monday 30th May	11.00am	Anne—for healing (Mary Chance)
Tuesday 31st May <i>The Visitation</i>	NO MASS	
Wednesday 1st June <i>St. Justin</i>	11.00am	Ordination Thanksgiving
Thursday 2nd June <i>Sts Marcellinus and Peter</i>	11.00am	Mothers & unborn babies (Mary Dark)
Friday 3rd June <i>St. Charles Lwanga & companions</i>	11.00am	Sr Bridie RIP (Fran Smithson)
Saturday 4th June <i>Vigil—Pentecost</i>	11.00am 5:00-5:20pm 5.30pm	Mary Ann—Birthday (Fran Smithson) Confessions Holy Souls
Sunday 5th June <i>Pentecost</i>	10:30-10:50am 11.00am	Confessions Pro Populo (For the People)

Please pray for those who are unwell:

Mary Mitchell
Mgr Michael Lewis
Fr John Carroll

If you would like the name of a relative who is unwell added to our prayer list, please give their name to Fr Phillip

RIP anniversaries:

Marina Ulrica Osborne	Sarah Louise Hill
Peter Gallagher	Peter Francis Osborne
Sarah Helen Cone	Daisy Dodd
Pat Farr	John Shields
Eileen Mary Jones	Jason Morgan
Joanna Mochan	Trevor Jarret
John Kelly	James Doyle
Edna Birmingham	Jessie Cone
	Adrian Joseph Kane

The Sacred Heart Lamp is lit for the intentions of:

Thanksgiving



Our Lady's lamp is lit for the intentions of:

John Shields RIP Anniversary



Changes in our COVID-19 precautions in Church

Thankfully, the precautions we are being asked to observe in Church are changing and developing in accord with advice from our health and safety advisors and our insurers (based on medical advice given to them). While we are still asked to use sanitiser and to advise people to use face masks / coverings, **we are now able to reinstitute the collection being taken as normal** (with collection bags) and **also the bringing forward of the gifts of bread and wine together with the offertory.**

Each parish is still to have its own risk assessment that takes note of ventilation and space, but these small changes are very welcome and please God, the signs of a return to a safe normality.

Each week we can have elements of the Mass with singing (even though it's a bit of a challenge with a mask), but this is all good progress and should also be encouraging to those who may be nervous or cautious due to their own state of health, or that of those they care for. Let us continue to pray for all areas of the world that are still more adversely affected than ourselves by the virus. **Volunteers to bring up the offertory are very welcome!**

COVID-19 Guidelines are changing in Wales:

- ◆ **Please use hand sanitiser, if you can wear a face covering in the Church, and respect people's social distance as some are nervous of close contact. Let us help build people's confidence.**
- ◆ **The seating at the back 9 rows of the Church are NOT socially distanced, but the front 2 rows are. Thank you for your care and consideration of others.**

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Therese Passenger 079441 59039
St. Mary's Primary School: Acting Head teacher Mrs. Hannah Corcoran 01267 234297
St. John Lloyd's Secondary School Llanelli: Head Teacher Mr Ashley Howells 01554 772589

Fr Phillip writes..... I would like to thank you for your kind prayers and wishes of condolence at the funeral of my uncle, which I have passed on to my mother—it means a great deal to us. Also, it is so good to be back home! All of us need to be supported by the kindness and prayers of others, especially in difficult times—let us live our Christian vocation in the actions of daily life, as well as in our prayers together as a community of Faith. May our Faith bring us joy and hope!



Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday— 5th June

Our parish is truly blessed with a diversity of cultures, languages and nationalities, brought together in our faith—just like the early Christian community at the time of Pentecost. We will highlight this unity of backgrounds and culture as we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost by representing the different nationalities that make up our Community, by showing the different nations and their flags, and by incorporating different languages into the Mass.

After Mass on Pentecost Sunday, we will keep the Birthday of the Church, by a party in the Hall, so please bringing a plate of food representing maybe representing your own homeland. **Please bringing a plate of food to the Hall to share with the community as we celebrate together!** If you can read a bidding prayer at Mass, please tell Fr Phillip.

Collection / offering envelopes: please collect yours from the porch today if you have already signed up.  A big Thank you to all who have signed up to the GIFT AID SCHEME, which means we can reclaim TAX money back from the government at no charge to the donor—the Gift Aid over the past year has brought in a much needed **£5,096.29** to the parish account! If you are a tax payer, please consider joining the scheme, as it costs nothing, and helps a lot.

The Month of May: is dedicated by the Church to our Blessed Lady. Please pray the rosary each day during this Month of May (it is prayed 20 minutes before Mass), and please remember in your prayers, those of our Parish who are unwell or house-bound.



Please keep in your prayers the souls of the Children in Texas who tragically lost their lives in the recent School shooting. Also pray for peace in our world—we continue to pray for the people of the Ukraine, and all who suffer violence in their communities. *Our Lady—Queen of Peace pray for us.*



Tea and coffee after Sunday Mass:

for too long we have not been able to meet together after Mass to socialise. We need volunteers to set up and serve refreshments. Please consider being part of a rota to make this happen, and build up community in our parish. We will begin with a celebration for Pentecost Sunday, and hopefully weekly afterwards. Please sign up to volunteer on the list in the porch.



Many thanks to: Fr Liam Bradley for celebrating Mass last weekend while Fr Phillip was away, and thanks to the parish for giving him a warm welcome!

7 day Votive Lamps: If you would like a votive lamp lit for a particular intention, please complete one of the envelopes in the porch and post it in the presbytery. The intentions will appear in the newsletter each week. All proceeds to parish funds.



Bishop Mark O'Toole will be installed as Bishop of Menevia on 23rd June at 11:30am at St Joseph's Cathedral, Swansea.



Parishioners from every parish in our Diocese are invited to attend, however, as places are limited each parish has received limited invitations.

Carmarthen Parish has 6 invites for any parishioners who would like to be present at the Mass.

If you would like to attend, please speak with Fr Phillip, to have an invitation, and the instructions for practicalities for the day, which include a reception in the Cathedral hall after the Mass.

This is a joyous day for our Diocese, and it would be wonderful to have our parish represented as much as possible. For many who have to be in work, it is not possible, but for those who are free on that day, it promises to be an uplifting celebration. **Please respond as soon as you can to guarantee a ticket, and to welcome our new Bishop to our Diocese.**

The Bishop's Conference of England and Wales:

are inviting all Catholics to return to the celebration of Mass in person, by being physically present in the Church building, as opposed to joining via livestream. Please encourage those who have not returned to Church as yet to come along, and give them the bishops letter (in the porch) to encourage them.



The prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Front Pews, please remain in your place for Holy Communion. Back Pews, please come forward when invited. Please remove your face covering before receiving Holy Communion, and extend your fully open hands, so you may receive without contact. Thank you.

Collections for 15th/16th May: Main Offertory: £494.81 / Maintenance Fund: £107.00 / Priests' Training Fund: £155.35
Last Weeks' Collections: Main Offertory: £273.30 Maintenance Fund: £107.03

If you would like to make your offertory donation on line by BACS please contact the office for our bank details. Alternatively, there is a Standing Order form on our website if you wish to set up a regular payment to us. In the meantime all donations can be popped into the black post box on the table in the porch. **THANK YOU**

Supporting your parish: Please consider completing a direct debit mandate, so you can make your weekly offering via the bank, or alternatively place offertory donations in the black post box (on the table in the church porch) Thank you.