



The Parish of St David and St Patrick, Haverfordwest

Serving the Community of

The Immaculate Conception, Narberth.

9, Fountain Row, Barn Street, Haverfordwest, SA61 1SX

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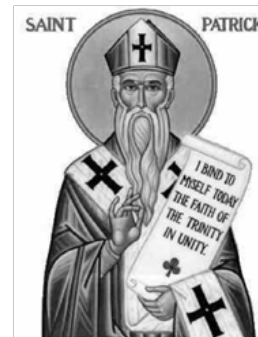
Parish Priest: Fr Owen McGreal

Assistant Priest: Fr Liam Bradley

Deacon: Rev. Tony Lawrence (01437) 454381

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WEEKLY SERVICES FOR:

Week 15th in Ordinary Time

12th July 2015

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday: (Vigil Mass) 6.00pm at Haverfordwest.

Sunday: 10.00am at Haverfordwest, and 5.00pm at Narberth.

6.00pm at Holy Cross Abbey, Whitland, celebrated by Fr Fewell.

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Mon: No Mass, **Tue:** 09.30am Holy Cross Abbey, Whitland and 2.00pm at the Hospital, **Wed:** 10.00am and 1.30pm funeral of Jim McHugh, **Thu:** No Mass, **Fri:** 10.00am.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday: 5.15pm – 5.45pm at Haverfordwest

Sunday: before Mass at Narberth.

Exposition on the Blessed Sacrament takes place every Monday from 10.30am – 11.30am at St David and St Patrick Catholic Church, with daily exposition every weekday from 7.00 – to 8.00am. Entry to the church is via the front door only. There is exposition in Narberth most weekdays at 12 noon.

Welcome: This weekend we welcome Canon Laurence Pelosi to our parish as Fr Owen is on holiday and Fr Liam has a wedding commitment.

Sea Sunday: This weekend is Sea Sunday where we pray for those who spend time at sea. There will be a second collection for the work of the Apostleship of the Sea (AoS). In our own diocese there are three priests who, in addition to their parish duties, work as port chaplains to the AoS. They cover the ports of Swansea/Port Talbot, Pembroke and the refineries at Milford Haven.

POW Parish Trip: Tuesday 28th July is the parish trip to Henllan Bridge POW Camp. The cost is £8 and to book a place call Corinne on 764061 or chat with her at the sweet stall after Sunday Mass. The bus leaves Rifleman Field at 9:15am and lunch is available at a local Italian Restaurant.

Youth News: Caldey Island youth trip from 18th to 20th July. Please take a permission slip home to be signed and remember to bring it back. (The cost of the trip is £90 but this has been covered by fundraising and the parish – so there's no charge to you). The summer walk and picnic will be on 3rd August, please bring a packed lunch. Transport will be provided at 10am from Haverfordwest to where we'll start the walk. Fr Liam will join us later in the day to say Mass on the beach.

The Big Car Wash: on Saturday 15th August there will be a fundraising car wash at Mary Immaculate school at 10am. Come along with your dirty car and our youth will make it sparkle again. For those youth taking part please bring a bucket, sponge and some lunch.

Meals on Wheels: if any younger members of the parish are able to help with from the 17th to 28th August, please let Dominic, Gwen or Ann know.

Ladies trip to Caldey: Any ladies who wish to take part on a retreat to Caldey Island from 7th to 10th August, please attend a meeting on the 14th July at 7.00pm at Ann Harris's house – tel 01437 769228. There are limited places and the full-board cost is £130 (which includes the cost of a return sailing).

Police Chaplaincy: There is no Mass on Thursday as Fr Liam is taking part in a training day at Dyfed-Powys Police HQ at Carmarthen. Please keep our police and all emergency service personnel in your prayers as they continue to work for our safety and security.

Funeral Mass: The Funeral Mass of Mr Jim McHugh will take place on Wednesday at 1.30pm in St David and St Patrick's Church. The Mass will be followed by burial at City Road cemetery. Jim's brother, Hugh McHugh, also died just a few days before Jim so please keep all the family in prayer at this time of a double bereavement.

Trip to Rome: Fr Liam is hoping to lead a trip to Rome in the February half-term holidays of 2016. Costs and exact timings will follow in the next week or so but, in order to get an idea if there is any interest in the parish for an overseas trip, please sign the list in the porch leaving a contact number.

Assisted Suicide Bill: on September 11th 2015, the House of Commons will debate and vote on a Private Member's Bill to legalise assisted suicide. This is something which the British Medical Association and the Medical Royal Colleges are opposed to, and something which the Catholic Church cannot condone. Every life is important and worthy of respect, not

termination. Those who are old and suffering pain can, with good palliative/hospice care, find comfort in their illnesses. Those who are younger need help and support in facing psychological problems, not access to physician-assisted suicide. Do we want to live in a country where doctors who presently try to heal and make good, are also asked to kill their patients? Also, what undue pressures might the elderly and disabled face from a society which may start to call them selfish for wanting to live? Our Parliamentarians have been given a free vote on this issue, which means that party whips will not force them to vote one way or another. As such, our MPs should vote according to how we, as their constituents, ask them. **Bishop Tom has strongly asked that we write to our MPs concerning this issue, asking them to vote against the bill.** For those living in the Haverfordwest area our MP is the Rt Hon. Stephen Crabb; for those living in the Narberth area our MP is the Hon. Simon Hart. Both can be written to at: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

A suggested text for the letter is:

Dear <name>

I am contacting you regarding Rob Marris MP's Private Member's Bill on Assisted Dying which is due to have its second reading in the House of Commons on Friday 11th September.

If passed, this Bill will have a profoundly negative impact on some of the most vulnerable people in our society. As my Member of Parliament, I hope that you will attend the debate and vote against the Bill at its second reading. I would be very grateful if you could let me how you intend to vote on this important matter and how you have taken my views into account.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely <signature>

Bishop Tom's Visitation: As mentioned last week, bishop Tom has some more detailed feedback from his tour of all the parishes of the diocese. Here are a few of his thoughts:

SYNOPSIS OF TOPICS RAISED: Mass attendance is declining, we need to look at ways to halt the adrift away from the church. More family masses are required where parents feel comfortable to bring their children, and where children can bring their parents. Our younger adults/youth need to be kept alive in the parish community by involving them more. Many younger people are happy to attend Mass at school, but are uncomfortable with older congregations where the same people do the same things each week. Parishes should encourage youth retreats and make some events "overnighters". The lapsed should be encouraged to return and should be assured of, and receive, a warm welcome. Participation in parish roles should be shared out more, to use everyone's gifts. Priests should be more engaging in homilies making use of humour and there should be no negativity killing initiatives, nor individuals who monopolise roles. Priests are grateful for links fostered between parishes and school and the 'Come and See' RE course is having a positive effect. School chaplaincies are essential.

Pope Francis has been greeted with enthusiasm because of his pastoral and practical approach to issues; this spirit needs to be found in our parishes. Many parishioners welcomed the pope's invitation to be a part of the questioning process in preparation for the October Synod on Marriage and family life. A significant number of Polish communities wanted their own priest and sacramental preparation programme (Fr Artur Strzepka, will take up the role of coordinating a Polish Mission from Townhill, Swansea from the start of July and Fr Andrzej Kuklinski will be based at Morriston from mid-July). "Vocations Stalls" were called for on school careers days to help with recruitment to priesthood and religious life. Many asked why can't clergy marry? Celibacy represents complete devotion to God. Maintenance of buildings and finance are topics nobody enjoys doing, but the work has to be done.

THE MAIN TOPICS THAT WERE COMMON TO ALL PARISHES WERE: Welcoming of families/youth/lapsed; inviting a greater involvement of the laity; sharing parish roles more widely; good use of microphones at Mass; holding consultative meetings more frequently; updating attitudes to marital breakdown; promotion of adult religious education courses.

INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS: Mass can over-emphasise listening, but we have 5 senses and they should all be used. The priest does too much himself and so more consultation/preparation/involvement of the laity is requested, not just those who always seem to be the first to volunteer; training for these roles, will lift services to a new level of appreciation, with fresh ideas. Themes of Masses could be announced and prepared in advance by different parish groups: for Families, Youth, Mothers, SVP, CAFOD, etc., particularly on the Sundays that are already dedicated to them. Clergy need to hone homilies to ensure that they are relevant and topical. Priests should explain and apply the Scriptures clearly, rather than resorting to extra-cerebral interpretations. Practical and experiential references have more impact. Some priests can be old fashioned - they have not even yet adapted to coming out from behind the altar. They sometimes appear unprepared; they stumble over words; they "lose" things around the sanctuary and wander off in search of them, even to the sacristy. Others, however, are brilliant, well prepared, communicative, listenable, AND humorous, without making entertainment the only experience that people remember. Priests and Readers should automatically accept they need to use a microphone. This makes all the difference in clarity, hearing, ease of listening, and linking into the Loop system for those who are hard of hearing. Every parish should have welcoming people at the door and many parishioners would be grateful if they did not have to pass through a minefield of hand-outs and collections on the way out of church. Music is important but can be too slow. Styles of music don't please everybody, but music groups and choirs seem to be deaf to other people's pleas, and continue their ways and choices oblivious to remarks made to them. At the same time, the choices made by other groups are just right, Styles of music need to be in balance, reflecting all tastes.

Sick and housebound: Please keep the sick and housebound of the parish in your Masses and prayers: Peter Fowler, Cath McHugh, Teresa Thomas, Peggy Webb, Paul Caulfield, Annie Carter, Toby Williams, Mary Philips, Bryn Hancock, Bill Selby, Pauline Hoggwell, Indra Singh and Canon Edmund Mulligan