

14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent – Year A

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES OF MERTHYR TYDFIL

*Worshipping together*

**St Aloysius**, Chestnut Way, Gurnos, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 9SB

**St Benedict's**, Merthyr Vale CF48 4RF

**St Mary's**, Pontmorlais West, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8RG

**St Illtyd's**, Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 3BT

**PRIEST IN CHARGE** :FATHER FRANCIS ONU m.ss.cc

TEL: 01685 723336.

**ASSISTANT PRIEST** : FATHER MORGAN OPARA m.ss.cc

**Deacon:** Rev. GARTH TASKER 07939 310176

<b>Response to the Psalm:</b> <b>Come, Lord and save us.</b>		<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b> <b>Alleluia! Alleluia!</b> <b>The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.</b> <b>Alleluia!</b>	<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.merthyrcc.co.uk">www.merthyrcc.co.uk</a>  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:merthyr@rcadc.org">merthyr@rcadc.org</a>  <b>Tel:</b> 01685 723336
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Vigil Third Sunday of Advent(Gaudette Sunday) – Year A</b>	
4.30pm	St Benedict's	Bill Hughes; Claire Price; Pat Lee; Michael Crotty; Martin Skelley;	
6.30pm	St Aloysius	Bernard & Mary Corcoran; Jimmy Mullan; Patricia Buckley; Evelyn Llewellyn;	
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudette Sunday) – Year A</b>	
9.30 am	St Illtyd's	Agnes Lewis ; Jeannette Herbert; Kathleen Herbert; Gwylfa Thomas; Betty Lawlor (Wrexham); Lillian Tomsett Good Health; Millie and Gwylfa Thomas; Jemima and Jeremiah Donovan; Pholomena Pudota; Kathleen Jones; Teresa Sheehan; O'Sullivan Family;	
11.30am	St Mary's	Ron Morgan. Bernard McCormack, Paul and Stuart Bartz; Immaculate Kelechi Igwe and Justina Igwe's soul rest in the bosom of God Almighty, May His perpetual light shine on them; Louise Hopkins;Bell, Egan and Quinlan Families; Royston Lamb;	
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>10.00 am St Illtyd's ( BCA -St Illtyd' School Mass)</b> Mayo, Ron and Stephen Fealey; Mary and Ernest Galleozzie;Jeannette Herbert; Kathleen and Stanley Herbert;	
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>10.00 am St Aloysius (BCA -St Aloysius School Mass)</b>	
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>10.00 am St Mary's (BCA – St Mary's school mass)</b>	
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>10.00 am St Mary's</b>	
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>10.00 am St Illtyd's</b> Raymond Price(South Africa); O'Donnell Family;Evans and McNamara Families;	
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Vigil – Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)</b>	
4.30pm	St Benedict's	Bill Hughes; Claire Price; Pat Lee; Martin Skelley;	
6.30pm	St Aloysius	Bernard & Mary Corcoran; Jimmy Mullan; Patricia Buckley; Thomas Jeffrey and Lorraine Keohane; Marion Lee (B'Day);	
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>		<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)</b>	
9.30am	St Illtyd's	Agnes Lewis ; Pholomena Pudota; Kathleen Jones; Teresa Sheehan; O'Sullivan Family;Thomas Moran Jnr; Flora Richards; Kitty Walsh; Betty Lawlor (Wexford);	
11.30am	St Mary's	Ron Morgan. Bernard McCormack, Paul and Stuart Bartz; Immaculate Kelechi Igwe and Justina Igwe's soul rest in the bosom of God Almighty, May His perpetual light shine on them; Wendy James and Family; Jason Watkins (Anniv); Rose Mires; Mary Morgan (90 <sup>th</sup> B'Day);David O'Keefe; Ceri and Graham Vaughan;Connie Green; Roy Price;	

**Please remember in your prayers:** Peggy Vaughan, Tony Crawford, Beryl & David Keefe, Steven Denton Thomas, Teresa Jones, David Lewis; Veronica Rowlands; Paula Williams; Linda Sproles; Sylvia Williams, Jimmy Llewellyn; Ann Evans; Mary Wade; Marlene Chambers; Phillip James; Gerald Harrington. Dennis Preece; Sheila Duffield;Josie Egan;

### Joy grows in the waiting

The 3rd Sunday of Advent Year A is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice." This Sunday reminds us that even while we wait, we can be joyful. Advent is a time of hope and preparation. But this week, we pause to smile, sing, and take heart.

The readings for the 3rd Sunday of Advent Year A are full of life. Isaiah tells us the desert will bloom. James encourages us to wait with patience. Jesus reminds us of the signs that God's kingdom is near. These words give strength to those who are tired or uncertain. This Sunday points us toward joy. Not because everything is perfect, but because Jesus is near. His coming brings healing, justice, and peace. Even now, we can see signs of that in the world.



St Illtyd's Lottery 7 <sup>th</sup> December	St Mary's Lottery 7 <sup>th</sup> December
Numbers 7, 9, 10, 16 No Winner:	Numbers; No Winner 6, 15, 18, 20
Next Draw 14 <sup>th</sup> December £ 1050	Next Draw: 14 <sup>th</sup> December £5100

### FOOD BANK

Thank you for your continued support of the Food Bank.. The food bank are looking for the following items;-Tinned carrots, tinned meat, tinned fruit, tinned soup, tinned tomato, tinned rice pudding, long life milk, long life fruit juice, jams, mashed potato, cooking sauces, pot noodles, dog food. Also, with Christmas coming please consider chocolates, biscuits

### ORGANIST FOR ST ALOYSIUS

We are looking for an organist for St Aloysius. If anyone is interested, please contact Father Francis.

### ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Raffle sheets are available at the back of the church. Please take one and support our fund raising. The draw will take place after Mass on 21 December.

### CAROLS IN THE COMMUNITY

St Illtyd's campus would like to welcome all parishioners, family & friends to our 'Carols in the Community' afternoon. Monday 15th December at 2:00pm in St Illtyd's Campus hall. Free of charge! Please join us for some festive cheer.

### SIMBANG GABI

All Parishoners are warmly invited to attend Simbang Gabi (Church-going at night) a much loved Filipino custom. Mass at 5pm at St Illtyd's on Friday 20th December. Refreshments after Mass in the Father Carroll Centre.

### CANON BARRY FAREWELL GIFT

Last Sunday Canon Barry visited for a Parish Farewell Lunch, where he thanked everybody for their support over his 13 years in Merthyr Tydfil, and also said how grateful he was to receive so many cards and gifts, including the collection of £1625 from across the four churches, which was presented to him at the lunch.

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December all children are invited to a day of prayer, to be held at ST Illtyd's with the Sisters of Charity. Father Francis will be there to hear their confession. The children will need to arrive by 11.15 and they will need to bring a packed lunch. Also on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> December we will have a children's Christmas party and they will be performing a Nativity play for parents. This will also take place in ST Illtyd's.

### ST ILLTYD'S – PENITENTIAL SERVICE

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December, at 6.30pm we will be holding a Penitential service followed by Christmas Confession. This will be held at St Illtyd's

### CANON BARRY

Canon Barry would like to thank you for your warm welcome to him and his family at the lunch last Sunday. He thanks you for all your cards, gifts and presents and would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

## AMENDED CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES (2025)

### CHRISTMAS EVE

5.00 pm - St Benedicts

7.00 pm - St Illtyd's

### CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30 am St Mary's

11.00 am = St Aloysius

**ST MARY’S CHURCH 2025 CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**  
**MAIN PRIZES CHRISTMAS HAMPERS**  
**PLUS OTHER PRIZES**

20p A LINE      DRAW TAKES PLACE SUN 21 DEC 2025

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2			14				
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Sellers  
name