18th January 2026 **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 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 MSSCC TEL: 01685 723336. Mobile 07376610747
ASSISTANT PRIEST : FATHER MORGAN OPARA MSSCC
Deacon: Rev. GARTH TASKER 07939 310176

Response to the Psalm:	**Gospel Acclamation:**	**Website: www.merthyrrc.co.uk**
Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will	**Alleluia! Alleluia!** ***The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.*** **Alleluia!**	**Email: merthyr@rcadc.org** **Tel: 01685 723336**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILLIATION
We will be holding penitential services on a Saturday morning at 11.30 in St Mary's Church starting on Saturday 17th January.

Saturday 17th January		**Vigil – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A**
4.30pm	St Benedict's	Bill Hughes; Claire Price; Pat Lee; Speedy Recovery Veronica and Frank Molloy and Janet Lewis
6.30pm	St Aloysius	Bernard & Mary Corcoran; Jimmy Mullan; Patricia Buckley; Anthony Hughes;
Sunday 18th January		**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A**
9.30 am	St Illtyd's	Carol Payne (Anniv); Eileen and Vera Veale; Peter Raffetty; Thomas Moran;
11.30am	St Mary's	Ron Morgan. Bernard McCormack, Paul and Stuart Bartz; Cotteral Family; Thanksgiving and The Sullivan and Ronan Families ;Kate and Bill Foran; Evan Kinsey; Olive McCarthy;Nancy and Louis Conally;
Monday 19th January		
10.00 am	St Illtyd's	Raymond Price (South Africa); Robert Scrivens; Millie Thomas
Tuesday 20th January		**St Fabian , Pope and Martyr; St Sebastian Martyr**
10.00 am	St Mary's	Lorraine and John Sweet; Clare Livingstone (Anniv & B'Day);
Wednesday 21st January		**St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr**
10.00 am	St Mary's	The Conversion of the People of Britain ;Special Intention
Thursday 22nd January		**St Vincent, Deacon and Martyr**
10.00 am	**St Mary's**	John Price (Anniv);
Friday 23rd January		
10.00 am	St Illtyd's	Amelia Thomas;
12.30 pm	**St Illtyd's**	**FUNERAL SERVICE – JOHN SYDNEY WALDRON**
Saturday 24th January		**Vigil – Third |Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A**
4.30 pm	St Benedicts	Bill Hughes; Claire Price; Pat Lee;
6.30	St Aloysius	Bernard & Mary Corcoran; Jimmy Mullan; Patricia Buckley;
Sunday 25th January		**Third Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A**
9.30 am	St Illtyd's	Betty and Tom Summers Irene Budding; Patricia O'Connor;
11.30 am	St Mary's	Ron Morgan. Bernard McCormack, Paul and Stuart Bartz; Ceri and Grahame Vaughan; Thanksgiving and The Sullivan and Ronan Families; Mary William and Colin Hughes; Olive McCormack;
INFANT BAPTISMS		*Registration for Infant Baptisms will take place after Sunday Mass at St Illtyd's and St Mary's. Baptisms will then take place after mass on a Saturday at St Illtyd's and on a Sunday at St Mary's.*

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; Paddy Sullivan; Helen Golden; Olive McCormack;

Requiescat in pace; Dennis Hynes; Agnes Healy; Mary Theresa Fitton; Tommy Rees; John Sidney Waldron;James Michael Kehely

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in Peace. Amen.

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR -A

The readings for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time remind us of the call to holiness and the mission to serve. In Isaiah, we hear about the servant who was called by God from the womb. This shows that each person has a special bond with God from the moment of conception. It also reminds us that God gives each of us a purpose in His plan. The psalm expresses both trust in God and a desire for His help in times of need.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. This shows Jesus as the sacrifice who restores us to God. When we pray the "Lamb of God" at Mass, we remember His great love for us and the dignity of all human life. These readings call us to follow Jesus in holiness and service, recognizing His sacrifice and sharing His love with others.

St Illtyd's Lottery 11th January	**St Mary's Lottery 11th January**
Numbers 10, 12, 22, 24 No Winner:	Numbers; 9, 14, 19, 20 No Winner
Next Draw 18th January (£1150)	Next Draw 18th January (£5350)

SPONSORED WALK FOR HCPT 102

Kevin Canavan along with friends will be walking from St David's Metropolitan Cathedral , Cardiff to St Illtyd's Church, Merthyr Tydfil a total of 27 miles in support of HCPT Group 102 who take children with additional learn ing needs and isabilities to Lourdes each year for a life changing pilgrimage.. These trips rely entirely on donations and every penny helps make this incredible experience possible . Please support this cause . Your generosity will bhelp bring joy, healing and hope. Buckets will be placed at the back of churches, there is a QR code to scan or donations can be given to me or Caitlyn Budding ,or via the link: **https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DnF8DxtM8/**

ST ILLTYD'S ROSARY PRAYER

Would you like to help lead our Rosary prayer each Sunday? If you can, come to St Illtyd's 20 minutes before Mass begins. Please contact Kevin Canavan to join our rota.

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.

BATTERY RECYCLING

Boxes are available at the back of each church so that parishioners can recycle batteries.

CRIB OFFERINGS

There is still time to apply for a share of this year's **Crib Offerings**, which support projects working with people experiencing homelessness or poverty.If you are running an existing project, or have an idea you are trying to get off the ground, we invite you to submit a short description outlining: what your project does (or hopes to do), and what funding or support you are seeking.Please email your proposal by **31 January 2026** to **caritas@cardiffmenevia.org**, using the subject line **"Crib Offering Bid"**.
Successful projects will be awarded funding from this year's Crib Offerings.

JOB VACANCY

The Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia is seeking a Safeguarding Officer to support safe parishes across South, West & Mid Wales and Herefordshire. Role includes managing Offender & DBS plans, audits, and training.
Requirements: Safeguarding or multi-agency/investigative experience; flexibility for travel and some evenings /weekends.**Salary:** £34,500 | **Hours:** 35/week | **Leave:** 30 days + public holidays
Apply/Info: HR@cardiffmenevia.org | Info: Chris Mullane, 02920 379480
More details: https://rcadc.org/vacancy-safeguarding-officer/
Open-ended closing; early applications encouraged.

THANK YOU

Father Francis and Father Morgan would like to say thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas masses and to all parishioners for their generous gifts, cards and for the Christmas Offering.

SECOND COLECTION 17th / 18th JANUARY (This weekend) FOR THE WHITE FLOWER APPEAL