



**Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence**

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Fr Patrick Hutton - Retired

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Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger

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St Joseph's Convent – Sr Eileen Gorman DHS - 01234 711267

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<b>25<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b> <b>Psalter Week: 2</b>	<i>Second Sunday of Lent (Year B)</i>	
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18</b> <i>The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith</i>	
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>St Paul to the Romans 8:31-34</b> <i>God did not spare his own Son.</i>	
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: "This is my Son, the Beloved, Listen to him!" Glory and praise to you, O Christ!</b>	
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Mark 9:2-10</b> <i>This is my Son, the Beloved.</i>	
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February +</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass - (For the Parish)</b>
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Bridie Keenan RIP)</b>
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Blessed Robert Drury, Martyr</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Mass – (Fr Michael Butler RIP)</b>
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>St Gregory of Narek, Abbott &amp; Doctor</b>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Mass – (Margaret Leavey RIP)</b> <b>Mass – (Fr Patrick Egan RIP)</b>
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Lent Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass – (Fr John McKeon RIP)</b>
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Lent Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Service of Word &amp; Holy Communion</b>
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b> <b>ST DAVID, Bishop, Patron of Wales</b>	<b>2.30pm</b> <b>6.15pm</b> <b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b> <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Mass – (Canon Michael Griffiths RIP)</b>
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b> <i>Lent Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Ben Mannion RIP)</b> <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>With Rosary &amp; Confessions</b>
<i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>		
<b>Saturday – 2<sup>nd</sup> March +</b>	<b>5.45pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confession</b> <b>Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)</b>
<b>Sunday – 3<sup>rd</sup> March +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Lynda Ferguson RIP)</b>

**SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND – CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY**

## Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £399.76

DGP – £10.00

Average Standing Orders: £464.00

**Total: £873.76**

**THERE WILL BE MASS ON MONDAY AT 7.00PM, AN EXTRA MASS ON TUESDAY AT 7.00PM, MASS ON WEDNESDAY AT 10.00AM AND MASS ON FRIDAY WILL BE AT 7.00PM**



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### Stations of the Cross

Throughout Lent we will be praying the 'Stations of the Cross' each **Friday** afternoon at **2.30pm** here at Our Lady's – please do come if you can.

**Second Sunday of Lent – Gospel Reflection Mark 9:2-10** - Throughout our time in the desert this Lent, Bishop David will accompany us each week with a short reflection on the Sunday's Gospel. You can view/listen to this via the Diocesan website: <https://northamptondiocese.org/>



### Something special for Lent: 'Laudato Si' Study Group

Our parish study group on Pope Francis's encyclical letter 'Laudato Si', written to encourage care for God's creation, our environment. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm** in the parish hall, please add your name to the Sign-Up sheet in the church porch (narthex) or email [graham-ryan@sky.com](mailto:graham-ryan@sky.com). Everyone is welcome.

**TRAINING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** To complete training for giving out Holy Communion at Mass and to the sick, we will have a final training session on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30am**, aiming to end by 1.00pm.



### CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION

#### *Passing on the Faith*

You may be interested to learn that fourteen people were present at our first meeting at the end of January. We were very grateful for the refreshments provided on our arrival. We prayed together and introduced ourselves as well as sharing our experiences of our contacts with our grandchildren and the difficulties to be surmounted in passing on our faith. Our love for them is all important but that love needs also to be translated into action. Recognising the importance of the historical setting of family membership, we were invited to prepare for our February meeting by drawing our family trees, our ancestry, to show our

grandchildren's roots. All are welcome to our second meeting on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 2.00pm** in the Parish Hall.

**Helping Hands** – We need support with the cleaning of the church. At present there is only a small team doing this. We have a beautiful church but it needs a thorough clean once per month. If you are able help or require further information, please contact Julia Scott: [julia\\_scott22@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:julia_scott22@yahoo.co.uk) as they say, 'Many hands make light work.'

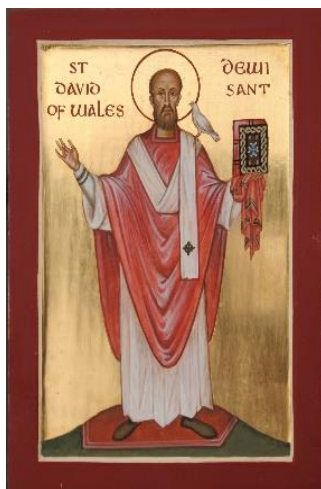


## Parish Social Group

On **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** the Social Committee will be hosting a Lenten Breakfast after the 10:00am Mass. Please do join us for a light breakfast and raffle. All proceeds to go to **Mary's Meals** a global charity that aims to provide nutritious meals for children in an educational setting. Everyone welcome. Please fill in the sheet at the back of church just so we have an idea of numbers. Transport can be arranged. For those unable to make the breakfast raffle tickets will be available to purchase in advance.

## Bring and Share Lunch

This year's bring and share lunch will be on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September** after 10:30 Mass to celebrate the birthday of Our Lady. Please save the date. More details nearer the time.



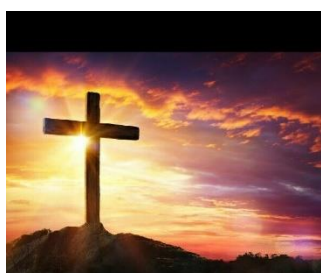
## St David, Bishop – Patron of Wales Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March

**St David** was probably born in Cardigan about the year 520, he received his early training from St Illtyd. He attracted many postulants to the monasteries he founded, all of which were remarkable for the austerity of their rule of life. Consecrated bishop, according to his biographer, in Jerusalem, he was recognised as primate of Wales and established his see at Mynyw (Menevia), the monastery of which he was Abbott and where he dies about the year 588.

**Special thoughts & prayers today for both Bishop David & Fr David on this feast day of their namesake.**

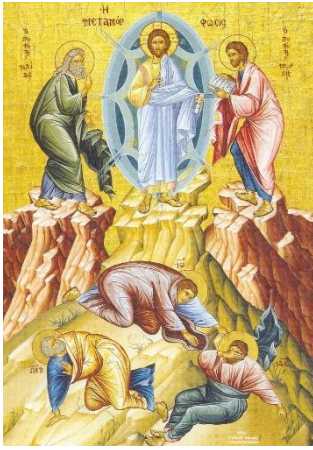
**HOW THE QUEEN'S CHAPLAIN BECAME A CATHOLIC** The following link will take you to a YouTube programme about how Dr Gavin Ashenden became a Catholic – after being an Anglican Chaplain to the Queen. It is well worth watching especially since he shows that it was Our Lady through the Rosary who led him into the Church:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/XbiQ4lxNbSU?si=dS3cmlxmPKh7xYlf>



*Thought for the week... O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen."*

Fr Henri Nouwen – Writer & Theologian



**From Fr David's desk...** Today's Gospel is the scene of Christ's Transfiguration, found in the Gospel according to St Mark. The following is taken from **a homily of Pope St Leo the Great** (Pope from 440 to 461).

The Lord reveals his glory in the presence of chosen witnesses. His body is like that of the rest of mankind, but he makes it shine with such splendour that his face becomes like the sun in glory, and his garments as white as snow. The great reason for this transfiguration was to remove the scandal of the cross from the hearts of his disciples, and to prevent the humiliation of his voluntary suffering from disturbing the faith of those who had witnessed the surpassing glory that lay concealed.

With no less forethought he was also providing a firm foundation for the hope of holy Church. The whole body of Christ was to understand the kind of transformation that it would receive as his gift: the members of that body were to look forward to a share in that glory which first blazed out in Christ their head.

The Lord had himself spoken of this when he foretold the splendour of his coming: *Then the just will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.* Saint Paul the apostle bore witness to this same truth when he said: *I consider that the sufferings of the present time are not to be compared to the future glory that is to be revealed in us.* In another place he says: *You are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.*

This marvel of the transfiguration contains another lesson for the apostles, to strengthen them and lead them into the fullness of knowledge. Moses and Elijah, the law, and the prophets, appeared with the Lord in conversation with him. This was to fulfil exactly, through the presence of these five men, the text which says: *Before two or three witnesses every word is ratified.* What word could be more firmly established, more securely based, than the word which is proclaimed by the trumpets of both old and new testaments, sounding in harmony, and by the utterances of ancient prophecy and the teaching of the Gospel, in full agreement with each other? The writings of the two testaments support each other. The radiance of the transfiguration reveals clearly and unmistakably the one who had been promised by signs foretelling him under the veils of mystery. As Saint John says: *The law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* In him the promise made through the shadows of prophecy stands revealed, along with the full meaning of the precepts of the law. He is the one who teaches the truth of the prophecy through his presence, and makes obedience to the commandments possible through grace.

In the preaching of the holy Gospel all should receive a strengthening of their faith. No one should be ashamed of the cross of Christ, through which the world has been redeemed. No one should fear to suffer for the sake of justice; no one should lose confidence in the reward that has been promised. The way to rest is through toil, the way to life is through death. Christ has taken on himself the whole weakness of our lowly human nature. If then we are steadfast in our faith in him and in our love for him, we win the victory that he has won, we receive what he has promised.

When it comes to obeying the commandments or enduring adversity, the words uttered by the Father should always echo in our ears: *This is my Son, the beloved, in whom I am well pleased; listen to him.*

May Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Peace, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, Blessed John Drury, St Gregory Narek, St David, pray for us all.

*With our love and prayers to you all - Fr David, Fr Patrick & Deacon Peter*