

St German's Church

10 December 2017 - Advent 2 (PREPARATION)



Prepare ye the way of the Lord! Yet, how does one do this? Is this command for me as an individual or for us as a community? These and other questions abound when we hear again the story of John the Baptist and his ministry of preparation. Advent (like Lent) is penitential in nature and tone in which we are called to look again at how we relate to God and God's activity in history, in the world today and in our own lives. We 'know' God is active yet we often forget and lose sight of this. Thus in Advent we feel the need to return to the Lord in moments of conversion, penitence and reconciliation.

Parish Notes:

Bishop June - We bid a warm welcome to Bishop June as she visits St German's today for the first time. We express too a sincere thank you for presiding and preaching for us.

Warm Clothes Appeal - We hope to have a small collection of clean, dry and warm clothing available of our Nightshelter guests this winter. Please see the wardens for details.

Advent Benediction - St Saviour's today at 6pm next Sunday 10 December.

Cardiff Churches Nightshelter There will be a training session tomorrow Monday 11 December in St German's Hall at 7pm for all our helpers. The initial Rota for those helping during December/January will be available next week. Please keep our Nightshelter guests and those who help out in your prayers this Advent and Christmas.

Reconciliation Service - St Saviour's this Wednesday at 7pm on 13 December. A chance to reconnect with the mercy and forgiveness of God in time for Christmas. This is very similar to penitential and healing services with a focus on renewing our desire to live in right relationship with God as a way of preparing spiritually for Christmas.

Tredgegarville School Nativity Concert - This Wed at 9:30 am. NB. No mass.

Willows High School Christmas Concert - this Thursday evening.

Livery Company Carols - Friday evening with a buffet afterwards.

Praying the O Antiphons - starts next Sunday, the week before Christmas, when we will have some quiet reflections at 7pm each evening, inspired by the O Antiphons (prophetic titles of Christ).

Cardiff Foodbank - Urgent items: tinned tomatoes, fruit juice (concentrate), rice pudding tins, sponge pudding, tinned fruit. Not needed: beans, cereals, tea, pasta.

Christian Unity - the week of prayer for Christian Unity is 18-25 January 2018. There will be a Churches Together meeting in St Alban's Presbytery this Tues 12 December at 2pm for those interested in Ecumenism and this year's joint service.

This week:

Mon 11:

6pm Mass (St G)
St Damasus

Tues 12:

10am Mass (St S)
Our Lady of
Guadalupe

Wed 13:

9:30 School Nativity
Concert (St G)
St Lucy

Thur 14:

5:45pm Mass (St S)
St John of the Cross

Fri 15:

6pm Mass (St S)

Sat 16:

11am Mass (St S.)

Sun 17: Advent 3

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;
7:00pm O Antiphon
Reflections 'O Sapientia'

St German's:

11:00 am Sung Mass

Keep in touch:

Parish Priest:

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READINGS THIS WEEK

Isa 40:1-11
Ps 85
2 Pet 3:8-15
Mark 1:1-8

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Isa 61:1-2a, 10-11
Luke 1:46-55
1 Thess 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

PSALM RESPONSE

'Let us see, O Lord,
your mercy, and give
us your saving
help' (3vs)

COLLECT:

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymns: 527 On Jordan's banks; 303 I cannot tell; 714 We hail thy glorious presence; 172 Fill your hearts

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Isaiah 40

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace,

peace for his people.
His help is near
for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

R/

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

R/

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

R/

Psalms 85

SECOND READING:

A reading from St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the

heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

2 Peter 3:8-4

GOSPEL:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Mark.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"', John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Mark 13:33-37