

St German's Church

13 January 2019 - The Baptism of the Lord



All four gospels tell the story of the baptism of Jesus. In Luke the details of the baptism has less emphasis than the main event: the descent of the Holy Spirit and the voice from heaven. Luke is also the only gospel that refers to Jesus praying when all this happens. Thus, the event is a powerful religious experience which ultimately leads to a new commitment and public action: the call from above for Jesus to begin his public ministry. Prayer and openness to the intrusion of God into our lives often prepare the way of our own calling to ever deeper discipleship and our pursuit of God.

Parish Notes:

Week of prayer for Christian Unity Begins this Friday and runs from 18-25 Jan. There will be prayer resources for individual use during the 8 days and also laminated copies in each church for people to pray when visiting the church. The joint service this year will be in St Saviour's at 6pm on Sunday 20th Jan 2018. The theme this year is 'Only Justice'. All are welcome.

Nightshelter Appeal - We are now four weeks in to this year's provision and it is time to ask for your help in other ways. We are looking specifically for coats (male and female) that are in a very good condition (new or nearly new). We are also in need of gloves. Please see Fr Phelim or the wardens for details. The 8:00 am mass is open to all but is focused mainly on provision for our night shelter guests and helpers.

First Aid - There are some limited places available for first aid training to help us become more safe and healthy as churches. If you are interested please let Fr Phelim know.

Treorchy Male Voice Choir - Concert in St German's on Sat 23 March 2019. For details about tickets etc. please contact Angela (more details in February).

PCC Meeting - the Parish Council next meets on Mon 4 Feb 2019 at 6pm for mass with the business items at 6.45 pm.

Recently Departed: Fr John Griffiths, Arthur Humphries, Bert Hopkins RIP

This week:

Sun 13 Epiphany

8am Said Mass (St G)
9:30 Sung Mass (St S)
11am Sung Mass (St G)

Mon 14:

6pm Mass (St G)
St Raymond

Tues 15:

10am Mass (St S)
Requiem for AH

Wed 16:

10am Mass (St G)

Thur 17:

5:45pm Mass (St S)
St Antony

Fri 18:

6pm mass (St S)
Week of prayer for
Christian Unity begins

Sat 19:

11am Mass (St S)

Sun 20: Epiphany 3 (OT1)

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass
6pm Ecumenical
Service

St German's:

8am Said Mass
11am Sung Mass

Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,
02922 411229,
phelimohare@gmail.com
(Day off - Friday)

Churchwardens:

Peter Lovitt
02920 763754
Richard Hill
07519 352840

READINGS THIS WEEK

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11
Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Isa 62:1-5
Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8,
9-10
1 Cor 12:4-11
John 2:1-11

PSALM:

**Bless the Lord, my
soul! Lord God, how
great you are. (4vv)**

Today's Hymns: 114 Come down O love divine; 417 Lord of our life; 625 Take my life and let it be; 259 Hail to the Lord's anointed. (Mass setting: Rizza 955)

COLLECT:

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant that we who are born again by water and the Spirit may rejoice to be called your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING

The First reading is from the book of 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Isa 40

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servant.

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill.

You hide your face, they are dismayed;
you take back your spirit, they die.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

Psalm 104

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to *set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own* and would have no ambition except to do good.

But when the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous

actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

This is the word of the Lord.

Titus 2

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Luke 3