

St German's Church

15 March 2020 - Lent III



Jesus Meets the Samaritan Woman at the Well

Samaritans were a despised minority, and this woman is marginalised even in that group, coming to the well at the hottest point in the day, when no one else would be likely to be there. Tired and thirsty, Jesus asks her for a drink. Having no home, he is constantly dependent on the hospitality of others (Matthew 8.20). In this encounter, we see the fruit of such vulnerability. By approaching the woman as someone who bears a gift that he needs, Jesus builds up the confidence of someone who is used to being overlooked and ostracised. By the end of the story, she bears a much greater gift to her neighbours. (*Church Times 8191*)

Parish Notes:

Vestry Meeting - The AGM for our Church will be after the mass today when we hear reports from the incumbent, wardens, treasurer and also elect our PCC for the coming year. We also need to renew the Electoral Roll by next Sunday to allow members to vote at the vestry.

Social Committee - The next social event is Irish Coffees after mass today in honour of St Patrick whose feast day is on 17 March. Many thanks to Richard Davey for supporting this.

Coronavirus Precautions - The Church in Wales has issued new guidance on how we as a community should respond to this latest crisis. See our website for the full document. In light of this advice we will discontinue sharing the peace until further notice. Likewise communion will be offered under one kind until further notice. The celebrant alone is to receive from the chalice. For more details please see Fr Phelim.

Holy Week 2020 - Please take a copy of our Holy Week services page at the back of the church. Rehearsal for the Triduum on Monday 30 March at 7:15pm - all servers invited.

Lenten Charity - We encourage everyone to follow Christian Aid's count your blessings prayer cycle during Lent. We also have our Friday Soup Lent lunches in support of Christian Aid with reflections from Fr Malcolm (12pm).

Stations of the Cross - Praying the stations of the cross during Lent helps us walk with Christ in our pilgrimage back to our heavenly Father. As we walk and pray we realise he is already walking with us. Mondays in St G's after the evening mass.

I Ffordd Tangnefedd - IFT, our new Sunday evening services, will pause during Lent for a time of reflection and consolidation before a bigger launch later in the spring (26 April).

Nightshelter - Nightshelter finishes next weekend (22 March). Many thanks to all who give generously of their time. If you helped we'd welcome some feedback on 'even better if'.

Recently Departed: Samantha Ewers, Pauline Williams, Harry Rohman *RIP*.

This week:

Sun 15: Lent III

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

8am Nightshelter Mass

11:00 am Sung Mass

Mon 16:

6pm Mass (St G)

6:30pm Stations of the Cross (St G)

Tue 17:

10am Mass (St S)

6.45m Stations of the Cross (St S)

St Patrick

Wed 18:

10am Mass (St G)

Thur 19:

5:45pm Mass (St S)

Fri 20:

No Mass

12pm Lent lunch (St G)

St Joseph

Sat 21:

11am Mass (St S)

Sun 22: Lent IV

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

8am Nightshelter Mass

11:00 am Sung Mass

Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,

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Churchwardens:

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READINGS THIS WEEK

Exod 17:3-7

Ps 95:1-2, 6-7b, 7c-9

Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39

40-42 - Samaritan Woman

READINGS NEXT WEEK

1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Eph 5:8-14

John 9:1-41 - Man Born Blind

PSALM RESPONSE

O that today you would listen to his voice. Harden not your hearts. (vv.3)

Today's hymns: (302) I bind unto myself; (310) I heard the voice of Jesus ; (303) I cannot tell; (70) Be Thou my vision; Mass Setting: Murray.

COLLECT

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?'

Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' the Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

This is the word of the Lord.

Ex 17

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts.'**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R/**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us:
for he is our God and we

the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **R/**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work.' **R/**

Psalm 95

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. And this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Rom 5

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Lord, you are really the saviour of the world: give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a

drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

John 4