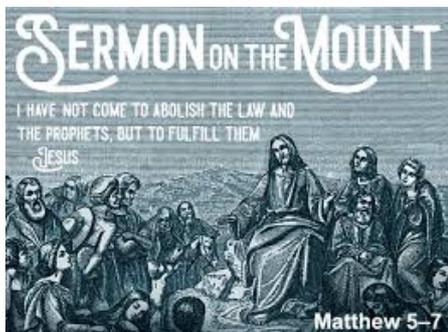


# St German's Church

16 February 2020 - Sexagesima (OT 6)



Jesus addressed the crowds who were in hurry to listen to His teaching. They are amazed with His authority. He speaks to them with strong demand and points out that we are children of God and brothers and sister to each other, in the attempt to give the full meaning of the precept of the Jewish law.

The evangelist, in locating the first discourse of Jesus on the mountain, wished to draw the attention to the readers the image of Moses giving the Law on Mount Sinai. This teaching takes place as Jesus is seated, a position that recalls the attitude of the Jewish rabbi interpreting Scripture to his disciples. It is difficult to capture the richness of the themes that run through long speech, as some scholars prefer to call it "the evangelical words of Jesus"(cf. 7:28). Our call is to hear them afresh, as if directed at each of us directly, as if we too were on that mountain listening to Jesus, our teacher, our Rabbi.

## Parish Notes:

**Welcome Back & Thank You** - to Fr Chris Lee for preaching and presiding today.

**Social Committee** - The next social event will be Irish Coffees after mass on 15 March in honour of St Patrick. Thanks to Richard H. for hosting last Sunday's drinks.

**Church Times** - recent editions are available to take away at the back of the church.

**I Ffordd Tangnefedd** - this evening in St German's at 6pm for a Compline Service. We begin with coffee at 6pm followed by a time of reflective prayer and then, hopefully, a visit to a local pub for fellowship. Lectio Divina next week.

**Weekday Services** - No weekday masses in St German's this week only.

**Ash Wednesday and Lent** - we will have mass with Ashes as usual on Wed 26 Feb and that Stations of the Cross begin on Mondays of Lent after the evening mass.

**Nightshelter** - Rota for February and March now available. Nightshelter finishes at the end of March. Many thanks to all who give generously of their time.

**Easter Vestry** - The AGM for our Church will be on Sunday 15 March after the Sunday mass 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 before then to allow members to vote at the vestry.

**Book Group** - Continues in St German's after mass on Monday 24 February (6:30pm). The book is 'The Impact of God' by Iain Matthew. Open to all and is ideal for those St John of the Cross as well as a closer look at his life and spirituality.

**Messy Church** - The next Messy Church will be in St Saviour's on 1 March at 4pm. Theme: St David of Wales. All are welcome.

**Recently Departed:** Kenneth Lewis, Marina Williams *RIP*.

## This week:

**Sun 16:**  
**Sexagesima (OT6)**

**St Saviour's:**

9:30 Sung Mass;

**St German's:**

8am Nightshelter Mass

11:00 am Sung Mass

6:00pm I Ffordd

Tangnefedd - Compline

**Mon 10:**

No Mass (St G)

**Tues 11:**

10am Mass (St S)

**Wed 12:**

No Mass (St G)

**Thur 13:**

5:45pm Mass (St S)

**Fri 14:**

No Mass

**Sat 15:**

11am Mass (St S)

Chair of Peter

**Sun 16:**

**Quinquagesima (OT7)**

**St Saviour's:**

9:30 Sung Mass;

**St German's:**

8am Nightshelter Mass

11:00 am Sung Mass

6:00pm IFT - Lectio

Divina (Contemplative

service)

## Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,

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(day off is Friday)

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## Churchwardens:

Peter Lovitt

02920 763754

Richard Hill

07519 352840

## READINGS THIS WEEK

Sir 15:16-21

Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18,  
33-34

1 Cor 2:6-10

Matt 5:17-37

## READINGS NEXT WEEK

Lev 19:1-2, 17-18

Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8+10,  
12-13

1 Cor 3:16-23

Matt 5:38-48

## PSALM RESPONSE

They are happy who  
follow God's law  
(vv.4)

Today's hymns: 392 Let us with a gladsome mind; 19 All my hope on God is founded; 343 Jesu, lover of my soul; 695 To God be the glory; Mass Setting: Rizza (955).

## COLLECT

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

This is the word of the Lord.

*Sirach 15*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**They are happy who follow God's law!**

They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!  
They are happy who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. **R/**

You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.  
May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. **R/**

Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.  
Open my eyes that I may see the wonders of your law. **R/**

Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.  
Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. **R/**

*Psalm 118*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the 1st letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: *the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.* These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

*1 Cor 2*

## GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 'You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not murder";

and "whoever murders shall be liable to judgement." But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, "You fool", you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

'It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord." But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be "Yes, Yes" or "No, No"; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

*Matt 5*