

St German's Church

17 December 2017 - Advent 2 (JOY)



Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand; have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. Lord, you have blessed your land; you have turned away the captivity of Jacob.

Gaudete means 'You must rejoice!' and it is a softening of the Advent penitential focus symbolised by the rose coloured vestments, candle and altar decorations. It is an opportunity in the midst of waiting and expectation to consider the source of our joy as Christians and the command from God that we become a joyful people because our Saviour, Jesus Christ, is alive and well in our midst.

Parish Notes:

Praying the O Antiphons - each night this week we will meet for reflections on the prophetic titles of Christ as found in Isaiah. It is quiet prayer, part Bible study and a stilling of heart, mind and soul in preparation for Christmas. In many ways it reflects the prayer and preparation for Easter in Holy Week. Please join us.

Cardiff Churches Nightshelter Begins this week. Please keep all those involved in your prayers. If you would like to help please contact Fr Phelim.

Christmas Services - Please note that masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent will be a vigil mass this Saturday at 5:30pm plus the 8am Homeless Mass on Sunday 24th.

Christmas Day - Because of the Crib Service mass and Midnight Mass next Sunday there won't be a day mass on the 25th in St German's. St Saviour's Christmas day mass will be at 9:30am

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.

Church Cleaning - Help us prepare the church for Christmas after this week's Wednesday Mass.

Ysgol Glantaf - Will be visiting the Church this Tuesday and we need as much help as possible around 9:30pm to help put away chairs etc. Please help us if you can.

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 joint service in St Alban's RC Church at 6pm on Sunday 21 January 2018.

Mon 18:

6pm Mass (St G)
7pm O Antiphon Prayer -
O Adonai (St G)

Tues 19:

10am Mass (St S)
7pm O Antiphon Prayer -
O Radix Jesse (St S)

Wed 20:

10am Mass (St G)
7pm O Antiphon Prayer -
O Clavis David (St G)

Thur 21:

5:45pm Mass (St S)
7pm O Antiphon Prayer -
O Oriens (St G)

Fri 22:

6pm Mass (St S)
7pm O Antiphon Prayer -
O Rex Gentium (St S)

Sat 23:

11am Mass (St S.)
5:30pm Vigil Mass for
Advent 4
7pm O Antiphon Prayer -
O Emmanuel (St G)

Sun 24: Advent 4

St Saviour's:

4pm Crib Service & 1st
Mass of Christmas

St German's:

8:00 am Mass for the
Homeless
6pm Crib Service & 1st
Mass of Christmas
11pm Midnight Mass

Parish Priest:

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Churchwardens:

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READINGS THIS WEEK

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

READINGS NEXT WEEK

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Ps 89
Rom 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

PSALM RESPONSE

'My soul rejoices in
my God.' (3vs)

COLLECT:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymns: 265 Hark the glad sound; 282 Hills of the North rejoice; 326 In the Bleak Midwinter; 631 Tell out my soul

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

‘I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

‘For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Isaiah 61

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God,
my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her
nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me
blessed. **R/**

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **R/**

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **R/**

SECOND READING:

A reading from St Paul’s First letter to the Thessalonians.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

This is the word of the Lord.

1 Thess 5

GOSPEL:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord”’, as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

John 1