

St German's Church

21 June 2020 - 2nd after Trinity (Ordinary Time 12)

You are valuable to God

"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."
(Luke 12:6-7; NIV)



The words of this week's gospel are all about encouragement. Jesus is encouraging his followers and especially the twelve to not be afraid to speak about him and bear witness to the 'good news'. Part of this is reminding them of where our ultimate hope and security comes from - the love and esteem of God which underpins all that we are, and all that we build and all that long for both in this world and the next. We are indeed valuable in God's eyes. However, the challenge to churches and communities of faith is to remind others of how valuable the human person is. Much of our work in social justice is a direct response to a society that has forgotten that every individual life matters to God, and so, should always matter to us, his church on earth.

Parish Notes:

Parochial Church Council - Next meets on Zoom this Monday 22 June at 7pm. Usual updates will be discussed as well as lockdown transition and compliance. We will look especially at how we might respond to the latest news allowing our church to be open for private prayer with the processes and risk assessment associated with this.

Farewell to Geraint - Geraint is now in the final run up to his ordination as deacon and has been told to say farewell. He has written a letter saying just that and expressing his gratitude. Copies of this are available as well as on our website. We hope to have a formal 'do' when we can all say a proper 'thank you' for his ministry with us later in the year when lockdown has eased. In the meantime we wish him *ad multos annos* and every blessing in his future ministry.

Sts Peter & Paul - Petertide (next Sunday 29 June) is traditionally the time when many ordinands are ordained deacon & priest. Please pray for all those training for ministry and those currently discerning a call to diaconal and priestly ministry.

Memorial Garden - if any church households would like a safe place to meet then St German's Memorial garden could be a perfect venue. The garden is open for local residents and church members each day. There is a lot of work to be done in maintaining the garden as well as potentially getting it ready for outdoor services later in the summer. Again, this will be discussed further at the next PCC.

Zoom Coffee Afternoon - St German's next meets on Tuesday 30 June at 2:30 pm. If you'd like to participate please let Fr Phelim know. If you need help on the day and time please call Fr Phelim on the landline.

Lift Up Your Hearts - Spiritual Support during the pandemic. This week's reflections are from Chine McDonald, an activist with Christian Aid and trustee of Greenbelt.

Faith Nurturing - The next faith nurturing group will be a book group looking at 'In Search of a Way' by Gerard Hughes SJ. This will begin in July, via Zoom.

Recently Departed - Dudley Walwyn, Bernard Lewis (RIP)

Llandaff Diocese

Prayer Cycle:

Sun 21 - 2nd after Trinity (OT12)

Merthyr Tydfil Christ Church, Mark Prett (PinC)

Mon 22:

Merthyr Tydfil St David Abercanid, Mark Prett (PinC), Charlotte Rushton (C)

Tue 23:

Treharris, Trewleis, Bedlinog & Llanfabon, Gareth Coombes (PinC)

Wed 24:

Diocesan Registrar Nativity of John the Baptist

Thur 25:

Troedyrhiw w Merthyr Vale, Stephen Barnes

Friday 26:

Ystrad Mynach & Llanbradach, Steven Kirk

Saturday 27:

RB Eglwysilan & Caerphilly, Mark Greenaway-Robbins, (TR), Pauline Smith (TV), Andrew Highway, (AP) Ed le Brun Powell (C)

Sun 28 - Saints Peter & Paul

Pontypridd Deanery, Michael Gable (AD)

Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare, 02922 411229, phelimohare@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

Peter Lovitt 02920 763754
Richard Hill 07519 352840

Online Services:

Sunday Mass from each church is recorded each week and links to these are available on Sunday morning.

READINGS THIS WEEK

Jer 20:10-13
Ps 69:8-10, 14+17, 33-35
Rom 5:12-15
Matt 10:26-33

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Acts 12:1-11
Ps 34:2-9
2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18
Matt 16:13-19

PSALM:

In your great love,
answer me, O Lord.
(3vv)

COLLECT

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, 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 prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah said:

I hear so many disparaging me, "Terror from every side!"

Denounce him! Let us denounce him! All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall, 'Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we will master him and take our revenge!'

But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.

But you, O Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you.

Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.

This is the word of the Lord.

Jer 20

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

In your great love, answer me, O Lord.

It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons. I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me.

This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour. In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails: Lord, answer, for your love is kind; in your compassion, turn towards me.

The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains.

Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

This is the word of the Lord.

Romans 5

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and lived among us: to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Matthew 10