

St German's Church

23 February 2020 - Quinquagesima (OT 7)



A hero of nonviolence, Martin Luther King, wrote: "The oceans of history are made turbulent by the flow of always insurrecting revenge. Man never raised above the commandment of the lex talionis: "Life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot." In spite of the fact that the law of revenge does not solve any social problem, people continue to pursue its disastrous leadership. In this light Jesus introduces the sharpest piece of his new ethic and aggressive love for those who hate us. Our prayer today is for the divine grace to do just that.

Parish Notes:

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. We also hope to have our Friday Lent lunches as usual to raise funds for Christian Aid.

Social Committee - The next social event will be Irish Coffees after mass on 15 March in honour of St Patrick.

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.

I Ffordd Tangnefedd - this evening in St German's at 6pm for a Lectio Divina Service when we reflect in more depth on a passage from scripture. We begin with coffee at 6pm followed by a time of reflective prayer and then, hopefully, a visit to a local pub for fellowship. IFT will take a break for a few weeks of reflection and consolidation before a bigger launch later in the spring.

Weekday Services - usual times as normal for this week.

Nightshelter - Rota for 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.

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

This week:

Sun 23:
Quinquagesima (OT7)

St Saviour's:
9:30 Sung Mass;
St German's:
8am Nightshelter Mass
11:00 am Sung Mass
6:00pm I Ffordd
Tangnefedd - Lectio
Divina

Mon 24:
6pm Mass (St G)

Tues 25:
10am Mass (St S)

ASH WED 26:
10am Mass (St G)
7pm Mass (St S)

Thur 27:
5:45pm Mass (St S)

Fri 28:
No Mass

Sat 29:
11am Yr Offeren (St S)

Sun 1: Lent 1 (St David)

St Saviour's:
9:30 Sung Mass;
4pm Messy Church
St German's:
8am Nightshelter Mass
11:00 am Sung Mass

Parish Priest:

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Churchwardens:

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READINGS THIS 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

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 14+17
Rom 5:12-19
Matt 4:1-11

PSALM RESPONSE

The Lord is
compassion and love
(vv.4)

Today's hymns: 21 All people that on earth do dwell; 249 Great is thy faithfulness; 200 Gifts of Bread and Wine; 428 Love Divine; Mass Setting: Rizza (955).

COLLECT

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; 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 Leviticus.

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

This is the word of the Lord.

Lev 19

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord is compassion and love.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. *R/*

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. *R/*

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. *R/*

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. *R/*

Psalm 103

SECOND READING

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

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: *The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise.* So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the

world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

This is the word of the Lord.

1 Cor 3

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke.

'You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Matt 5