

St German's Church

3 December 2017 - Advent 1 (HOPE)



The Advent wreath is a symbol of advent, the season of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Jesus Christ. The wreath is made of a circle of evergreens with different coloured candles that symbolise the following: **1. Candle of Hope** - that God is faithful and keeps his promises to us; **2. Candle of Preparation** - or getting ready to welcome God made flesh in Jesus Christ; **3. Candle of Joy** - that God is with us - our light in the darkness; **4. Candle of Love** - God sent his only Son to earth to announce the good news of the Kingdom out of a deep and everlasting love for us. **5. The Christ Candle** - the moment of Christ's birth at Christmas.

Parish Notes:

Cardiff Churches Nightshelter There will be a training session on Mon 11 Dec in St German's Hall at 7pm for all our helpers.

Advent Carols by Candlelight - This evening at 6pm in St German's. Please join us for a service of lessons and carols to celebrate the beginning of advent.

Bishop June Osborne - We are delighted to welcome Bishop June to St German's to preside and preach next Sunday of Advent (10 December). It will be a momentous occasion and it would be great to see as many as possible to greet her.

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 about donations. **NB** No more toiletries needed.

Rome - No weekday masses this week in St German's because of the pilgrimage.

Cardiff Foodbank - Urgent items: tinned tomatoes, fruit juice (concentrate), rice pudding tins, sponge pudding, tinned fruit. Not needed: beans, cereals, tea, pasta.

Advent Benediction - St Saviour's at 6pm next Sunday 10 December. Please join us.

Reconciliation Service - St Saviour's at 7pm on 13 December. A chance to reconnect with the mercy and forgiveness of God in time for Christmas.

Praying the O Antiphons - in the week before Christmas we will have some quiet reflections at 7pm, inspired by the O Antiphons (prophetic titles of Christ).

Contact the Elderly Christmas lunch afternoon and so no tea or coffee after mass.

Church Cleaning for Christmas - Working party needed for 21 Dec from 10:00am

Christian Unity - the week of prayer for Christian Unity is 18-25 January 2018.

There will be a Churches Together meeting in St Alban's Presbytery on Tues 12 December at 2pm for those interested in Ecumenism and this year's joint service.

This week:

Mon 4:

No mass this week
(St G) St John
Damascene

Tues 5:

10am Mass (St S)

Wed 6:

No mass this week
(St G) St Nicholas

Thur 7:

5:45pm Mass (St S)
St Ambrose

Fri 8:

6pm Mass (St S)
Immaculate

Conception of BVM

Sat 9:

11am Mass (St S.)
St Francis Xavier

Sun 10: Advent 2

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;
6:00pm Benediction w
Music for Advent

St German's:

11:00 am Sung Mass
with Bishop June;

Keep in touch:

Parish Priest:

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Churchwardens:

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READINGS THIS WEEK

Isa 63:16b-17, 19b;
64:2-7
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
1 Cor 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11
Ps 85:9ab+10, 11-12,
13-14
2 Pet 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

PSALM RESPONSE

'God of hosts bring us
back; let your face
shine on us and we
shall be saved' (3vs)

COLLECT:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymns: 263 Hark a herald voice; 405 Lo he come; 67 Be still for the presence; 480 O come, O come

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, 'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand..

Isaiah 63

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord come to our help. **R/**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

God of hosts, turn again we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has
planted. **R/**

May your hand be on the man
you have chosen,
the man you have given your
strength.
And we shall never forsake you
again:
give us life that we may call upon
your name. **R/**

Psalms 80

SECOND READING:

A reading from St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

GOSPEL:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Mark.

'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may

find you asleep when he comes
suddenly. And what I say to you I
say to all: Keep awake.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Mark 13:24-37