

St German's Church

9 December 2018 - Advent 2



Fleeing to the wilderness has always been associated with those yearning for religious freedom. John did it (and so did many monks and Christian communities ever since). With John though he becomes the 'voice' from the desert experience which is prophetic and challenging to all who hear: repent and believe. Turn back to God.

Parish Notes:

Advent Benediction - Benediction with Music for Advent this evening at 6pm in St Saviour's. All are welcome.

Nightshelter - We will have an information and training evening for this year's Nightshelter tomorrow night, Mon 10 Dec at 7pm. This is open to new volunteers as well as to those who helped last year. Its purpose is to update everyone on procedures for this year.

Carols and School Services for Christmas in St German's:

Wed 12th Tredegarville Primary School at 9:30 and Ysgol Glan Morfa at 6pm;

Thur 13th Cardiff & Vale Youth Choir at 7:15pm;

Mon 17th Local Cluster Schools at 6pm (Willows);

Tues 18th Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf at 7pm;

Messy Church - the next Messy Church will be in St German's at 4pm on Christmas Eve. We will need lots of help. Please let Fr Phelim know.

Healing Service - this week's healing service in St Saviour's has been postponed to next Wednesday 19 Dec at 6pm.

Advent and Christmas - Copies of the services for Advent and Christmas are available at the back of the Church. A highlight of this is a return for the series of prayer reflections on the 8 days before Christmas following the ancient 'O Antiphons' of the Church (begins next Sunday).

Advent and Christmas Magazine - Now available. Please take a copy (or copies) home or for sharing with extended family.

Recently Departed: Brian Gunstone RIP

This week:

Sun 9 Advent 2

9:30 Sung Mass (St S)

11am Sung Mass (St G)

6pm Benediction (St S)

Mon 10:

11:30am Mass (St G)

Tues 11:

10am Mass (St S)

St Damasus I

Wed 12:

No Mass Today

9:30am School Concert

(Tredegarville) (St G)

Thur 13:

5:45pm Mass (St S)

St Lucy

Fri 14:

6pm mass (St S)

St John of the Cross

Sat 15:

11am Mass (St S)

Sun 16: Advent 3

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass

7pm O Antiphons

St German's:

11:00 am Sung Mass

7pm - O Antiphons (O

Wisdom)

Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,

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(Day off - Friday)

Churchwardens:

Peter Lovitt

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Richard Hill

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READINGS THIS WEEK

Baruch 5:1-9

Ps 125

Philippians 1:4-11

Luke 3:1-6

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Zeph 3:14-18a

Isa 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6

Phil 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

PSALM:

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. (4vv)

Hymns: 527 On Jordan's Banks; 265 Hark the glad sound; 405 Lo, he comes with clouds descending; 406 Long ago prophets knew. (Mass setting: Rizza 955)

COLLECT:

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING

The First reading is from the prophet Jeremiah.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.' Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory

with his mercy and integrity for escort.

This is the word of the Lord.

Baruch 5

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **R/**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **R/**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **R/**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **R/**

Psalm 125

SECOND READING

A reading from the 1st letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ

Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Phil 1

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Luke 3