News and Events

Taff Rhymney Ministry Area - Remembrance Day Services 2026

Friday 6th November

Heolddu Comprehensive 6.00pm Service of remembrance.
Deri 10.30am - Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph.
Fochriw 11.00am - Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph.

Sunday 8th November - (** *at the Cenotaph)*

St. Gwladys, Bargoed 9.30am, Service of the Word
10.45am *Act of Remembrance.

St. John's Nelson 9.30am, Mass
11.00am Act of Remembrance Nelson War Memorial.

St. Matthias's Treharris 9.30am - Act of Remembrance.
Treharris Memorial Clock 11.00am - Act of Remembrance.
Bedlinog 11.45am - **Act of Remembrance.
Trelewis 12.30pm - **Act of Remembrance.

Holy Trinity, Ystrad Mynach 9.30am - Mass
10.45am Act of Remembrance at War Memorial.

St. Margaret's, Gilfach 9.30am Holy Eucharist with Act of Remembrance.
St. Catwg's, Gelligaer 10.50am Holy Eucharist with Act of Remembrance.

St. Tyfaelog, Pontlottyn 10.50am - **Act of Remembrance. 11.15am Mass.

Brithdir 10.45am **Act of Remembrance.
Troedrhiwfuwch 11.00am **Act of Remembrance. 10.00am
Tirphil 11.15am. **Act of Remembrance.

Wednesday 11th November

Garden of Peace, Gilfach 10.45am Act of Remembrance.

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ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH TÂF RHYMNI
TAFF RHYMNEY MINISTRY AREA

Our Ministry Area comprises of the following Communities:

Ystrad Mynach — Holy Trinity
Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog, Nelson & Llanfabon – St. John, St. Matthias, St. Mabon
Gelligaer & Gilfach — St. Catwg, St. Margaret
Pontlottyn — St. Tyfaelog, St. Aidan, St. Mary & St. Andrew
Bargoed, Deri & Brithdir — St. Gwladys





They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

The month of November.

Remembrance Sunday

In our churches and at our cenotaphs this Sunday the 8th of November, we will remember and honour all those who have given their lives for the peace and freedom we enjoy today. We will join with people across the nation to pause to reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave service men and women. Showing immense bravery, love and compassion they gave their lives in the cause of peace for all. As part of our services of remembrance, we will observe the collective act of silence as we stand together and reflect on the price of freedom. We will honour them and commit ourselves to building the kind of world for which they died.

'Taff Rhymney Ministry Area, registered as charitable incorporated organisation in England & Wales. Registered Charity No. 1208522
Principal Office: The Vicarage, Cedar Way, Ystrad Mynach, CF82 7DR.

November's Reflection

Annwyl Cyfeillion

November is the month of remembrances. It begins with the Festival of All Saints on the first. I am no fan of the present Halloween festivities, so I never fail to point out that the celebration of All Saints begins with the first Evening Prayer of All Saints, which is at 6pm on 31st October.

The commemoration of the Saints began with the early church building altars in the catacombs of Rome and elsewhere on the sites of the martyrs' tombs. Their deaths were recognised as a participation in Christ's sacrifice and at the Eucharist both the living and the dead are invited "with Angels and Archangels and all the company of Heaven". The Eucharist celebrated for over 2,000 years is our communion with Jesus, with each other and with all the Saints.

The date of 1/11 did not arise until early in the Seventh Century when the Bishop of Rome, Boniface IV, dedicated a chapel in St Peter's to All Saints. Within 100 years the day was observed in Britain and Ireland and so it has remained. Back in the Seventh Century the festival was for the martyrs known and named but more importantly for those who had sacrificed their lives in the service of Our Lord, who were unknown and unnamed. As the centuries passed, the festival was not restricted to honouring the martyrs but included all the Saints, the Saints in our lives and, in the words of St Paul, all those "called to be Saints" (Romans 1.7). We are all called to be Saints.

The Christian faith is the most persecuted of the world's great faiths. Christians are being martyred on a regular basis and they must be remembered. A church which does not remembers its dead "forgets its story". On the Saints Day we remember that we are bound together across time and across the world as the forgiven and sustained by hope.

On November 2nd, All Soul's Day, we remember the dead who have been and remain close to us. Their stories do not end on the point of death. We lose sight of our humanity and the sanctity of life when we fail to remember our forebears and loved ones who have died. Many churches hold "Services of Light" when the names of the deceased are read out and candles are lit. Silence follows when we enter a special presence. In mourning and grief "something Holy flickers into view".

The Silence is the high point of Remembrance Sunday (Sul y Cofio). The nation stops and we stand still in silence. There is an increasing fashion on sporting occasions for applause to honour the death of a club member or hero. It's as if people are frightened of silence. Rowan Williams has written "Any culture that is terrified – as ours is – of silence…is one in which the sense of human reality, human truth, is being eroded". He quoted T.S. Eliot in East Coker, that an unexpected silence brought about by a tube train stopping for too long between stations "leaves only the growing terror of nothing to think about".

We are at our best on Remembrance Sunday. The Church understands the need for silence. "As the Last Post fades into silence, we stand before a mystery that cannot be measured or recorded: the cost of love when it meets the cruelty of the world". (The Hopeful Ordinand in Church Times).

Pob bendith
Fr Lindsay.

News and Events

Cymun Bendigaid / Welsh Eucharist

Gwasanaeth 11.00am 7fed Mis Tachwedd 2026, Service 11.00am 7th November 2026, at St. John's Church, Nelson.

Samaritan Purse Shoebox Appeal.

S. Catwg's Church and S. Margaret's Church are organising this year's shoebox appeal. It is a wonderful scheme which brings real Christmas joy to the children who receive no gifts in the most deprived and difficult parts of the world. All are invited and are welcome to take part by filling a shoebox with gifts. If you would like a shoebox to fill or would like more information please contact Mrs Cheryl Pugh, Sub warden of S. Catwg's Church. Thank you. ***Many Thanks Fr Gary***

Ministry Area Treasurer

We're looking for someone who is able to spend once a month, with the Ministry Area Leader, Bookkeeper, and the finance committee, looking at the finances of the Ministry Area, as well as contributing updates to the Ministry Area Council. If you're at home with spreadsheets, and have an eye for detail, speak to Fr Rajiv for more information. Please do pray for this much needed, and important role, as we steward our resources with discernment and faith.

Preparation for Confirmation

We are planning a one-day (Saturday) retreat to prepare candidates for Confirmation; where we'll explore what Faith is, what the Gospel means for us, and what we believe. More details to follow. Please pray for all seeking confirmation, and for the candidates as they prepare.

Representation!

We need you! The Church in Wales is looking for lay (non-ordained) people to stand for elections to represent the people on the ground, at Diocesan and Church in Wales Governing Body forums. Is this a ministry God is calling you to? The future of the Church in Wales would be in your hands!

DBS Checks and Updates

As we grow into new ministries, all new roles will have DBS's completed, with the Church in Wales Provincial Team.

HOLY TRINITY - COMMUNITY CINEMA CLUB

26th of November In the Church Hall 4th Thursday of the Month at 1 pm, - Free Entry to All, Come and enjoy yourselves .
17th DECEMBER In the Church Hall 3rd Thursday of the Month at 1 pm, - Free Entry to All, Come and enjoy yourselves

With the exception of December, we normally meet on the 4th Thursday of the Month. This December we will be on the 3rd Thursday i.e. 17th