

Church News / Notices.

Dates for December *A Candle to Remember*

3.00pm Sunday 14th December, S. Catwg's Church
6.00pm Wednesday 17th December, S. Margaret's Church

Carols By Candlelight

A service of Nine Lessons and Carols
6.00pm Sunday 21st December, S. Catwg's Church

Christmas 2025

24th Christmas Eve,
Christmas Eucharist 'Early Midnight Mass', 7.00pm St. Catwg's.
Christmas Eucharist, at 10.00pm, St. Margaret's Gilfach.

25th Christmas Day,
Holy Eucharist at 9.00am St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach.
Holy Eucharist at 10.00am St. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer

Church groups and Community groups – what's on!

Friends of Gilfach Hold their monthly Coffee Morning on Tuesday 11th November at St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach at 10.30am	Friends of Gilfach
Community Dance Group Meet each Monday at 10.30am at St. Margaret's Church. All are welcome!!	Bargoed Community Choir. We meet each Thursday, during term time, at St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach 10.00 to 11.30 am. All are welcome!!
<i>Everyone is welcome to join us for any of our groups and social meetings.</i>	



Scan to view our website.

**DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL AND OTHER USEFUL
INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE FOLLOWING
WEBSITES:**

www.pariahofgelligaer.org.uk (scan the QR Code)
Parish of Gelligaer Facebook page
llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/ churchinwales.org.uk

St. Catwg

District of Gelligaer

St. Margaret

**SUNDAY 14th December 2025 -
THE THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT**



We are a welcoming Christian community serving the people of the District of Gelligaer.

Priest: Fr Gary Powell

Reader: Carolyn Corbin

Dear friends,

I hope that you are all well and that you have all had a good week. We extend a warm welcome to everyone. Please join us for worship. Please keep this newsletter and see our parish website and parish Facebook page which for information of our weekly services and forthcoming events and devotional aids.

Your friend and priest, Fr Gary Powell

In today's Gospel we read how Matthew describes John the Baptist, imprisoned, questioning Jesus' identity as the Messiah by sending disciples to ask, "Are you the one...or should we look for another?". Jesus responds by telling them to report His miracles (blind see, lame walk, lepers healed, deaf hear, dead raised, poor receive good news) and praises John as the greatest prophet, yet notes that even the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than him, fulfilling prophecy as the messenger who prepares the way for the Lord.

Carolyn

Worship Through the Week.

S. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer: Sunday 11.00am Sung Eucharist Thursday 10.00am Holy Eucharist	S. Margaret's Church, Gilfach: Sunday 9.30am Sung Eucharist Wednesday 10.00am Holy Eucharist
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Everyone is welcome to join us for worship during the week and our social groups and meetings. Further details on the back of this newsletter.

Priest: Fr Gary Powell, The Rectory, Church Road, Gelligaer, CF82 8FW

Telephone: 01443 832119 / Email: GaryPowell@cinw.org.uk

Please do not hesitate to contact Fr Gary in the event of sickness or other need.

For enquires regarding Baptisms and weddings or spiritual guidance please contact Fr Gary.
We are here to help.

*'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.

The Liturgy of the Word.

Collect: O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings, Psalm and Gospel for Today.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

35. 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146 5-10

Response: I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long as I live.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea,
and all that is in them;
who keeps faith for ever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry. **(R)**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous. **(R)**

The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. **(R)**

The Lord will reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
O, praise the Lord! **(R)**

A reading from the Book of James

5. 7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist;

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Matthew.

11. 2-11

Glory to you, O Lord.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.