Collect: Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Proverbs

8.1, 22-31

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth - when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104. 24-35 Response: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord, how manifold are you works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. **(R)**

There go the ships and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it. These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. **(R)**

When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground. **(R)**

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works – who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke. **(R)**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord. **(R)** Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. O praise the Lord! (R)

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians 1. 15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers - all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Hail,

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory. **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint John 1. 1-14 Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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Church News

PALM CROSSES

Ash Wednesday this year falls on Wednesday 14th February. If you have any palm crosses at home could you please return them to Church by Sunday 11th February so that they can be burnt to produce the ash with which we will be anointed on Ash Wednesday.

CAWL EVENING

Our cawl evening this year in celebration of S. David will take place on Wednesday 6th March in Neuadd S. Catwg's Hall. Tickets available soon.

S DAVID'S CONCERT

Bargoed Male Voice Choir are holding a S. David's Concert in conjunction with the YMCA on Tuesday 27th February at 7pm in Gilfach YMCA

MINISTRY ARFA COUNCIL

The next Ministry Area Council meeting takes place on Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7.00pm in S. Tyfaelog's Church Hall, Pontlottyn.

Mothers' Union monthly meeting Takes place on Tuesday 6th February at St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach at 6.00pm.	
<i>Community Dance Group</i> 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!!
Everyone is welcome to join us for any of our groups and social meetings.	

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

parishofgelligaer.org.uk llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk Parish of Gelligaer Facebook page churchinwales.org.uk

S. Catwo 4th February 2024 S. Margaret TAF RHYMN TAFF RHYMNEY MINISTRY AREA District of Gelligaer Priest: Fr Gary Powell Reader: Carolyn Corbín

Second Sunday before Lent - Creation Sunday

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.

On this Second Sunday before Lent we celebrate Creation Sunday. We are reminded in our collect prayer that God creation is a gift of God to us who God created in his own image. The image of God is most perfectly revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ, the Word made Flesh, who John introduces us to in the prologue to his Gospel. In his life of unwavering faith to God Jesus provides us with a model for our own lives as he calls us to follow him in his ways giving honour and praise to God in whom we live and have our being.

Your friend and priest, Fr Gary Powell.

WORSHIP THROUGH THE WEEK

S. Catwg's Church Gelligaer Sunday 11.00am Thursday 10.00am

Sung Eucharist Holy Eucharist

S. Margaret's Church, Gilfach: Sung Eucharist Sunday 9.30am Wednesday 10.00am Holy Eucharist

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 Please do not hesitate to contact Fr Garv 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.