

The Liturgy of the Word.

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.

A reading from the book of Isaiah

64. 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 80. 1-7

Response: Let your face shine, o God, that we might be saved.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. (R)

Stir up your might and come to save us!
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
O Lord God of hosts how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full
measure. (R)

You make us the scorn of our neighbours;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved. (R)

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

1. 3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

"Keep Alert," says the Lord. "for you do not know when the time will come."

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Mark

13. 24-37

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said. '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.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Church News

THE DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL

will meet next on Wednesday 6th December 2023
at 7.00pm in S. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer.

"A CANDLE TO REMEMBER"

We offer the opportunity to remember our departed loved ones at Christmas with a special service of prayer and reflection and the invitation to light a candle in remembrance of loved ones.

St. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer: Sunday 10th December. 3.00pm
St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach: Wednesday 13th December 6.00pm

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Our annual carol service takes place in St. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer on
Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm

BARGOED MALE VOICE CHOIR

will hold their Annual Christmas Concert at 7.00pm on Friday
15th December in S. Margaret's Church

*** Dates or times of events may be subject to change. We will keep you updated with any changes. ***

Mothers' Union <i>The Mothers' Union will hold their next monthly meeting in S. Margaret's Church on Tuesday 5th December.</i>	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!!
Community Dance Group Meet each Monday at 10.30am at St. Margaret's Church. All are welcome!!	Christmas Prize Draw 2023 will take place on Wednesday 20 th December at 7pm in Neuadd S. Catwg's Hall. Everyone is welcome!
<i>Everyone is welcome to join us for any of our groups and social meetings.</i>	

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. Catwg

3rd December 2023

S. Margaret



District of Gelligaer

Priest: Fr Gary Powell

Reader: Carolyn Corbin

THE FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

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.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas we begin our Advent journey. Week by week we reflect on how God prepared his people for the coming of his Son while preparing ourselves to receive our Lord whenever he comes to us, at the same time looking forward to the time when he will come in glory and establish his Kingdom throughout the world. Today we honour the patriarchs, the likes of Abraham, Jacob and Moses, the first to hear and respond to God's word.

Your friend and priest, Fr Gary Powell.

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

*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 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.***