

The Liturgy of the Word.

Collect:

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 61.10 - 62.3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148. 7-14

Response: Praise the Lord for his glory is above all heav'n and earth.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command! **(R)**

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds! **(R)**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together! **(R)**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord! **(R)**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians 4. 4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let us praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Luke 2. 15-21 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Church News

Thank you all and every blessing for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year

I would like to thank you all for your very kind cards and gifts this Christmas. I hope that you have had a blessed week.

*My prayers are with you all for the coming year.
Every blessing from your priest and friend Fr Gary.*

<p>Mothers' Union The Mothers' Union will meet again in the new year. Merry Christmas to all our members.</p>	
<p>Community Dance Group Meet each Monday at 10.30am at St. Margaret's Church. All are welcome!!</p>	<p>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!!</p>
<p><i>Everyone is welcome to join us for any of our groups and social meetings.</i></p>	

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

31st December 2023

S. Margaret



District of Gelligaer

Priest: Fr Gary Powell

Reader: Carolyn Corbin

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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.

This week we continue our Christmas celebrations. Luke tells us of the visit of the Shepherds and of the time, according to Jewish custom and law, Mary and Joseph take Jesus to be circumcised at the age of eight days. As the angel had instructed Joseph the child is named Jesus which means, "God saves" because "he will save the people from their sins." Jesus is the Saviour, the one who through his own sacrifice of himself on the cross will save all people and restore to us the fullness of our relationship with our heavenly Father.

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.***