## The Liturgy of the Word.

**Collect:** God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our Saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A reading from the second book of Samuel 7. 1-11. 16

That same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?'I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever. The king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.' This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Canticle: Magnificat (Luke 1. 47-55)

Response: The mighty one has done great things for me and holy is his name

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed:

for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him, from generation to generation. (R)

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; (R)

he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever. (R)

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

16. 25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Luke Glory to you, O Lord.

1. 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you. but she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her. This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

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# Church News

May the Blessings of Christmas bring peace, joy and hope to you all.

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve

S. Catwg's 7.30pm "Early" Midnight Mass

S. Margaret's 10.00 Midnight Mass

Monday 25th December Christmas Day

S. Catwg's 10.15am Holy Eucharist

S. Margaret's 9.00am Holy Eucharist

# Merry Christmas to you and your families From Fr Gary

#### Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union will meet again in the new year.

Merry Christmas to all our members.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for your very kind cards and good wishes this Christmastide.

Thank you to everyone for all that you do for our Church family.

Fr Gary.

## 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!!

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. Catwa

24th December 2023

S. Margaret



District of Gelligaer

Priest: Fr Gary Powell Reader: Carolyn Corbin

### THE FOURTH 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.

Today we are almost at the end of our Advent Journey, Bethlehem is in sight. Over the last three weeks we have reflected on God's growing and deepening relationship with his people which will be revealed most fully in the birth of Jesus Christ as God comes among us and shares our lives. This morning we give thanks for the Blessed Virgin Mary who accepted God's call to be the mother of his Son. Her faithfulness is an example to us all. As Mary bore the Son of God in her womb so we pray that we might bear him to the world in our hearts bringing him to birth in our words and actions.

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.**