

The Liturgy of the Word.

Collect: Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant that all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, may reject those things that are contrary to their baptism, and follow in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Genesis 17. 1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 22. 23-31 Response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him: stand in awe of him,
all you offspring of Israel!
For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him. (R)

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.
May your hearts live for ever! (R)

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
For dominion belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations. (R)

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down
to the dust, and I shall live for him.
Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people
yet unborn, saying that he has done it. (R)

A reading from first letter of Paul to the Romans 4. 13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') - in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

'If any want to become my followers,' says the Lord, "let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Mark 8. 31-38 Glory to you, O Lord.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Church News

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

OUR LENT GROUPS:

Our Lent Groups/Courses meet this week. Each group will meet at the times shown below:
 Wednesday 6.30pm St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach
 Thursday 11.00am St. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer
A warm welcome to all.

<p>Mothers' Union Quiz Afternoon. <i>Takes place on Tuesday 27th February at St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach at 2.00pm.</i></p>	<p>Mothers' Union Meeting <i>Takes place on Tuesday 5th March at St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach at 6.00pm.</i></p>
<p>Community Dance Group <i>Meet each Monday at 10.30am at St. Margaret's Church. All are welcome!!</i></p>	<p>Bargoed Community Choir. <i>We meet each Thursday, during term time, at St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach – 10.00 to 11.30 am. All are welcome!!</i></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 Parish of Gelligaer Facebook page
 llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk churchinwales.org.uk

S. Catwg 25th February 2024 S. Margaret



District of Gelligaer

Priest: Fr Gary Powell

Reader: Carolyn Corbin

THE SECOND SUNDAY of LENT

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.

Throughout Lent we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ through Holy Week and Easter. This week we continue our preparations as our Lent Groups meet and we are reading our way through and studying Paul's letter to the Galatians. As we found in this week the Churches of Galatia faced many of the questions and challenges we, as a Church, face today and Paul has much to say to us. Please join us for our groups. Details on the reverse of the newsletter.

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.***