

The Liturgy of the Word.

Collect:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Isaiah

61. 1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. 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. and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126

Response: The Lord hath done great things for us and we rejoiced.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongues with shouts of joy; (R)

then it was said among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
The Lord has done great things for us.
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord;
like the watercourses in the Negeb. (R)

May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves. (R)

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

5. 16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. John

1. 6-8, 19-28

Glory to you, O Lord.

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. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Church News

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

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

Christmas Prize Draw 2023

will take place on Wednesday 20th December at 7pm in Neuadd S. Catwg's Hall. Everyone is welcome!

Christmas Eve - 24th December

CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST "Early" Midnight Mass – St. Catwg's, Gelligaer - 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST Midnight Mass – St. Margaret's, Gilfach- 10.00pm

Christmas Day - 25th December

Holy Eucharist – St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach, - 9.00am

Holy Eucharist – St. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer, - 10.00am

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

Mothers' Union	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!!	
<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

Parish of Gelligaer Facebook page

llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk

churchinwales.org.uk

S. Catwg

17th December 2023

S. Margaret



District of Gelligaer

Priest: Fr Gary Powell

Reader: Carolyn Corbin

THE THIRD 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.

Your friend and priest, Fr Gary Powell.

I hope that I find you well. This week has been busy with school concerts, carol services and recording the children playing their Christmas music for the families to see and hear via the schools media platform. To see the smiles on the children's faces as they prepare to perform is priceless. Following the Candle to Remember Services, the lead up to Christmas continues with this evening's service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.00pm in St Catwg's church, followed by refreshments. It will be lovely to see people coming together from both the churches and the community.

Carolyn

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.***