

Church News / Notices.

Lent Groups 2025

Our Lent Groups this year will reflect on the experiences of those who travelled with Jesus to Jerusalem. I know it can be difficult for people to attend every meeting and so each session will be a "stand alone" session. The sessions will be shared between S. Catwg's Church and S. Margaret's Church.

Our remaining meetings are:

St. Catwg's Church on Thursday 27th March 11.00am
 St. Catwg's Church on Thursday 3rd April 11.00am
 St. Margaret's Church on Wednesday 9th April 6.30pm

THE MINISTRY AREA COUNCIL

**will meet next at 7.00pm Wednesday 26th March
 in S. Margaret's Church.**

Our Annual Quiz Night.

Will be held on Wednesday, 2nd April, 7.00pm at Neuadd St. Catwg church hall.
 Entrance fee is £5.00. Please give names to June at St. Margaret's or Cheryl at St. Catwg's.
Please bring a plate of food.

Church groups and Community groups – what's on!

<i>Mothers' Union</i>	<i>Mothers' Union</i>
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.	



Scan to view our website

DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

www.parishofgelligaer.org.uk (scan the QR Code)
 Parish of Gelligaer Facebook page
llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk / churchinwales.org.uk

St. Catwg

District of Gelligaer

St. Margaret

**SUNDAY 23rd March 2025 -
 THE THIRD SUNDAY of LENT**



We are a welcoming Christian community serving the people of the District of Gelligaer.

Priest: Fr Gary Powell

Reader: Carolyn Corbin

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 continue our Lenten journey with Jesus as he travels towards Jerusalem for the last time. Last week we saw Jesus weeping and lamenting over Jerusalem for her refusal to hear the Word of God brought them by the prophets. This week Jesus challenges the Galileans to look deeper into themselves. In speaking to the Galileans Jesus speaks also with us. He challenges us to look deep into ourselves, to recognise and repent all the times when we fall short of his teaching, when we fail to hear his voice or take his words to heart. All the ways we help to bring him to the cross. The reward of doing so is a share in the glory of his risen and eternal life.

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 thisnewsletter.

Priest: Fr Gary Powell, The Rectory, Church Road, Gelligaer, CF82 8FW

Telephone: 01443 832119 / Email: GaryPowell@cinw.org.uk

*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.*

*'Taff Rhymney Ministry Area registered as charitable incorporated organisation in England & Wales.
 Registered Charity No. 1208522*

Principal Office: The Vicarage, Cedar Way, Ystrad Mynach, CF82 7DR.

The Liturgy of the Word.

Collect: Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings, Psalm and Gospel for Today.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

55. 1-9

Lo, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63. 1-8

Response: My soul thirst for you, O God as in a dry and weary land.

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and
weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better
than life, my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name. (R)

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings
I sing for joy. My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me. (R)

A reading from the first letter of S. Paul to the Corinthians

10. 1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

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

"Worship the Lord your God", says the Lord. "Serve only him."

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

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke

13. 1-9

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.