

The Liturgy of the Word.

Collect:

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern us in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 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 first book of the Kings.

3. 5-12

At Gibeon, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 119. 129-136

Response: Lead me, O Lord in the path of your commands.

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.
The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.
With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments. **(R)**

Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your custom towards those who love your name.
keep my steps steady according to your promise,
and never let iniquity have dominion over me. **(R)**

Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.
Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.
My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept. **(R)**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

8. 26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes

for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. Matthew.

13. 31-33, 44-52

Glory to you, O Lord.

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.' 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Church News

Samaritan Purse Shoebox Appeal 2023

Shoeboxes are now available for this year's Samaritan Purse Shoebox Appeal. If anyone is interested and would like to fill a box or would like more information, please speak to Joan Jenkins in St Catwg's church on 01443 450483 or Jeanette in St. Margaret's church.

District of Gelligaer Quiz night

Our social committee are holding the annual district quiz. It takes place in Neuadd St. Catwg's Hall on Wednesday 13th September at 7.00pm.

TAFF BARGOED FOODBANK

At the last meeting of the Ministry Area Council Fr Gareth reported that during the current cost of living crisis demand for help from the foodbank which serves our Ministry Area through St. John's Church in Nelson has been rising while donations of food have been falling. As a church we support the work of the foodbank at Harvest-time. It would be good if we could give more consistent support for those less fortunate than ourselves throughout the year. If you are able to make a donation please bring your gifts to Church and we will ensure that they are delivered to St. John's Church. Many thanks.

Mothers' Union Meeting

Tuesday 1st August St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach at 6.00pm.
All are welcome!!

Bargoed Community Choir.

We meet each Thursday, during term time, at St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach – 10.00am to 11.30am. **All are welcome!!**

Community Dance Group

Meet each Monday at 10.30am at St. Margaret's Church.
All are welcome!!

Flower Group

Our flower group will meet on the third Friday of each month. at 10.00am in St. Margaret's Church.

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. Catwg

30th July 2023

S. Margaret



District of Gelligaer

Priest: Fr Gary Powell

Reader: Carolyn Corbin

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY after TRINITY

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

In this week's Gospel, Jesus speaks once again of seeds and their growth - of how they grow from something minute to a large culmination. As we read and hear this parable, we realise that Jesus is using these seeds as a positive symbol of growth and permeation in the Kingdom. As Christians, we have the opportunity to do as Jesus would hope we would do and speak of his love and our faith and increase his Kingdom.

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.