

## *The Liturgy of the Word.*

**Collect:** O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 book of Jonah**

**3.10 - 4.11**

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.' But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 145. 1-8**

**Response: I will bless you and praise you for ever. My God and King**

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name for ever and ever.

Every day I will bless you, and praise your name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, his greatness is unsearchable. **(R)**

One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

On the glorious splendour of your majesty,

and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. **(R)**

The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,

and I will declare your greatness.

They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,

and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. **(R)**

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The Lord is good to all

and his compassion is over all that he has made. **(R)**

### **A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians**

**1. 21-30**

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

"The last will be first," says the Lord, and the first shall be last."

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

**20. 1-16**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# Church News

## Harvest Thanksgiving

Our Harvest Thanksgiving takes place on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October.

This year we will be celebrating with a Harvest Lunch which will take place in Neuadd S. Catwg's Hall after our services on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Please join us, tickets will be available shortly.

As usual our Harvest gifts will go to support our local Food Bank which provides invaluable assistance to those in need

## THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONFERENCE

takes place this week. It will be our first real opportunity to hear from our new Bishop, Bishop Mary and we are looking forward to hearing what she has to say in her first Presidential Address. One of our representatives will report back from the Conference in our next magazine.

### *Mothers' Union*

Quiz Afternoon will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> September at St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach at 2.00pm

### *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!!

### *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](http://parishofgelligaer.org.uk)

[llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk](http://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk)

Parish of Gelligaer Facebook page

[churchinwales.org.uk](http://churchinwales.org.uk)

S. Catwg

24th September 2023

S. Margaret



District of Gelligaer

Priest: Fr Gary Powell

Reader: Carolyn Corbin

## THE SIXTEENTH 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.

In our readings today Jesus continues to teach us about the Kingdom of Heaven, it's characteristics and the principles on which it is built. Today Jesus emphasises that in God's Kingdom all are equal, all are equally loved, all are equally welcome no matter how long we have lived with Jesus and no matter how long we have been working for his Kingdom. "The first will be last", says the Lord "and the last will be first." It is this measure of equality that must characterise the life of the Church, the manifestation of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

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.*