

NEWSLETTER

St Catherine's | St John's | St Luke's

Today's Hymns

St Catherine's	St John's	St Luke's
255	265	259
221	303	221
656	631	683
419		

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 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Psalm Response:

The Lord has done great things for us and we are glad indeed.

Gospel Acclamation:

St John's Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord; Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name. Speak to us, Lord, your servant hear. You have the words of eternal life.

St Luke's: Alleluia x4 (Celtic)



The **Third Sunday of Advent** is sometimes called **Gaudete Sunday**, from the latin phrase 'rejoice ye!'. It is a command not an option. Yet, Christians are often so distracted that they forget the source of their joy. This day, we ask God to remind us of the many blessings we have received and most of all the blessing beyond all blessings, the birth of Jesus, our brother, our Saviour and our God. John the Baptist never forgot that he was just a voice, who was called to draw us to the ultimate Word, Jesus, the eternal Son of God.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing!

St Catherine's - 8:00 Eucharist; 10:30 Sung Eucharist

St John's - 8:00 Eucharist; 9:15 Sung Eucharist; **4:00 Conversation Day**

St Luke's - 10:30 Sung Mass;

For Weekday Services and Regular Events see the Website or Church Notice boards for times and days.

Today's Readings

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Psalm 126: 1 When the Lord restoreth the / fortunes · of / Zion; then shall we be like unto / them · that re-/new their / strength.
 2 Then shall our mouth be / filled with / laughter; and our / tongue with / shouts of / joy.
 3 Then will they say a-/mong the / nations; 'The / Lord hath · done / great things / for them.'
 4 Yea the Lord will do / great things / for us; where-/of we / shall be / glad.
 5 Restore our / fortunes · O / Lord; like as when streams refresh the / deserts / of the / south.
 6 They that / sow in / tears; shall / reap with / cries of / joy.
 †7 He that goeth forth weeping, * and taketh the / seed / with him; shall come again with gladness, as he / bringeth / home his / sheaves.

Next week's readings: 2 Sam 7:1-11,16; Magnificat; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1.26-38

Benefice Notes:

The **2020 Conversation Days** are almost complete with only St John's meeting remaining. If you missed one of these events then please join us this afternoon in **St John's at 4:00 pm in St John's**. The conversations have mostly focused on our mission and identity as Christians and a community within the Church in Wales and so they are very inclusive. We hope to publish the findings of these meetings for further consultation and comment from everyone in the benefice. It is our hope that these views will inform us about what our priorities should be in the short to medium term. Please join us this afternoon if you can.

Christmas Services - leaflets available at the back of the church. Please take one.

Christmas Flowers: Help towards costs are needed please. Donations to Sue Parsons, Cynthia Fowler or Brenda Shewring.

Advent Bible Study - Continues this Thursday 18 Dec from 7-9pm in St John's vestry. The course is a weekly informal exploration of the Advent readings. All are welcome! Contact Andrew for details maxsims@hotmail.com 02920344641

Messy Church - The next event is Messy Christmas, on SATURDAY 20 December at 4:00 pm. The theme is about how deliberately messy the birth of Jesus was and how God didn't mind at all. One of the activities is making Donkey Dung. To discover what this is all about please join us next Saturday.

Benefice Magazine - Articles for the Winter Edition must be in by Tuesday 16 Dec. If you would like to put a greeting in this edition please fill in the forms on display in the churches. It costs £5 which will be donated to charity.

Confirmation - Our confirmation classes for young people and adults begin in the New Year. This year the preparation programme will be over a longer period of time but will be less intense: meeting once a month to discuss the various topics and issues with the confirmation ceremony in Advent 2015. If you would like to be confirmed contact the clergy.

Benefice Pilgrimage to Assisi, Montecasino and Rome 6-10 July 2015. If you are interested please contact Fr Phelim for more details and likely costs. Price would include flights, transfers, transport within Italy and staying at the Irish College. See www.irishcollege.org for more details about the Irish College.

St Catherine's Notes:

Hall Bookings - To book the Hall please contact Angharad Elias 07989 747026 hall.stcatherines@gmail.com

Lessons and Carols for Christmas - In St Catherine's on Sunday 21 December at 4:30 pm. Please join us for a very memorable service that will draw us to appreciate in a deeper way the great mystery of Christ's Incarnation.

Christmas Services: Midnight Mass at 11:15 pm on 24 December; 10:30 am Choral Eucharist on Christmas Day.

St John's Notes:

Conversation Day - Please join us in St John's later today at 4:00 pm to discuss the future vision of our church.

Christmas Services: Crib Service at 5:00 pm on 24 December; 9:15 am Sung Eucharist on Christmas Day.

Ty Bronna - In December we'll be collecting toiletries for the Ty Bronna Hostel for young people, run by the Church Army.

Christmas Tree Festival - Many thanks to everyone who made the festival such a success this year. Altogether, £1355 was raised. A special thanks goes to the Brownies for their generosity.

St Luke's Notes:

Christmas Services: Midnight Mass at 11:15 pm on 24 December; (N.B. no morning mass on Christmas day).

St Luke's Meditation Group - The next meditation session will be this coming Friday, 19 December, at 5.30 at St Luke's. Why not join us, unwind and enjoy 30 minutes of silence? For details, contact Diana (02921 400367)

St Luke's Lunch on Sun Jan 18th tickets on sale from today 3 COURSE MEAL £8.50

Shrove Tuesday Banger and Bingo - A family fun night on Tuesday 17 Feb 2015. Tickets on sale after Christmas.

Hall Bookings - To book the Hall please contact Jackie or Haydn Page on 029 2091 3808 haydnpage@hotmail.co.uk

Recently Departed: Hazel Ware, Mary Bellamy, Maureen Thomas, Barbara Monks

This Week in the Benefice: (Diocesan Prayer / Anglican Prayer Cycle / Events and Services)

Sun 14 ADVENT 3 Llantrisant, Vivian Parkinson (V); Kitgum, Uganda;

Mon 15 Llantwit Fadre, Philip Gulidge (V); Kitui (Kenya)

Tues 16 Pontypridd St Catherine, Peter Lewis (V); Kivu (Rwanda)

Weds 17 The Director of Ministry, Rt Rev'd David Wilbourne; Kobe (Japan)

Thurs 18 Pontypridd, St Matthew & Cilfynydd w Llanwynno Koforidua; (Ghana) - (West Africa)

Fri 19 Glyntaff, Rhydfelin & The Graig Michael Gable (V); Kolhapur- (North India)

Sat 20 Pwllgwaun & Llanddewi Rhondda; Kondoa- (Tanzania); **Messy Christmas at 4:00 pm in St John's**

Sun 21 ADVENT 4 Rhondda Area Dean Hadyn England-Simon; Kontagora-(Lokojo, Nigeria)

14th December 2014 – Advent 3**Collect of the Day**

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 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN**

First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the LORD said: 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.

Isaiah 61.1–4, 8–11

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 126

Response: **The Lord has done great things for us and we are glad indeed.**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. **R**

Then they said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'
The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. **R**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord like the watercourses of the Negev.
Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. **R**

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

My brothers and sisters, 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.

1 Thessalonians 5.16–24

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hear the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John

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.

John 1.6–8, 19–28

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.