

# NEWSLETTER

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

## Today's Hymns

St Catherine's	St John's	St Luke's
527	527	702
259	195	633
633	282	610
282		282

## Collect:

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## Psalm Response:

Blessed be the Lord, who sets his people free.

## Gospel Acclamation:

St John's:  
Alleluia ...  
Speak Lord your servant is listening, you have the words, you have the words of everlasting life.  
Alleluia ...

St Luke's: Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart.

*If you know of a church member, or anyone, who is unwell or would appreciate contact from our priests, please inform the clergy at the earliest opportunity.*



A voice in the wilderness - The wilds of Palestine were more often than not deserts and hostile to life. Yet they could also be beautiful in their emptiness. Both aspects are drawn on in today's readings. Our preparations draw us deeper into the wilderness of our own souls as we await the birth of our messiah. We seek to become more open to the graces of God at this time. We are also directed outwards to be, as John the Baptist was, God's voice to those who need us. Perhaps this week we might be called to be one both consoling and challenging voices of God.

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

St John's - 8:00 Holy Eucharist; 9:15 Sung Eucharist and Church Parade

St Luke's - 10:30 Sung Mass; 4-6pm Advent Stations Reflections

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

## Today's Readings

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

### The Benedictus (Luke 1)

1 Blessed be the Lord / God of / Israel: for he hath visited, / and re-/deemed his / people:  
2 And hath raised up a mighty sal-/vation / for us: in the / house of • his / servant / David;  
3 As he spoke by the mouth of his / holy / Prophets: which have been / since the / world be-/gan:  
4 That we should be / saved • from our / enemies: and from the / hands of / all that / hate us;  
5 To perform the mercy promised / to our / forefathers: and to re-/member • his / holy / covenant;  
6 To per-/form the / oath: which he / swore • to our / fore-father / Abraham:  
7 That we being delivered out of the / hands of • our /enemies: might / serve • him with-/out / fear;  
8 In holiness and / righteousness • be-/fore him: all the / days / of our / life.  
9 And thou, child, shalt be called the / Prophet • of the /Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the / Lord • to pre- / pare his / ways;  
10 To give knowledge of salvation / unto • his / people: for the re-/mission / of their / sins,  
11 Through the tender mercy / of our / God: whereby the dayspring from on / high hath / visit-ed / us;  
12 To give light to them that sit in darkness,\* and in the / shadow • of / death: and to guide our feet / into • the / way of / peace.

Next week's readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

## Benefice Notes:

**Meetings** - Youth Team - Tuesday 8 Dec at 6pm at the vicarage; Messy Christmas Planning - Sun 6 Dec in St John's at 4pm.

**Messy Christmas** - Next Messy Church is in St John's on 13 December at 5:30 pm. It

is a bring and share occasion: if your surname begins with A to M could you bring something savoury and N to Z something sweet. If you can't bring food don't worry, just come along anyway, there will be enough to go round.

**Meeting with Archbishop Barry** - There will be a Llandaff deanery Eucharist in St Peter's Church in Fairwater this Wednesday 9 Dec at 10:15 am. Afterwards there'll be a chance to meet and chat with the archbishop before he meets with the deanery clergy. As a consequence of this there'll be no Wednesday morning mass this week in St Luke's.

**Night shelter** - Many thanks to all who volunteered to help with the night shelter. The next step is a training evening at Calvary Baptist on 7 December at 7pm. For more details: <http://www.cantonchurches.org.uk/night-shelter.html>.

**Advent Group:** 4 week bible study and exploration of faith through scripture and C.S Lewis 'The Lion The Witch and the Wardrobe Advent in Narnia starts this Thur 26 Nov 7-9pm in the vestry at St Johns. Contact Andrew Sims (see next item).

**Living Faith Study Group** - Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in St John's. For info: Andrew Sims [maxsims@hotmail.com](mailto:maxsims@hotmail.com) 029 2034 4641

**Newsletter Email** - If you'd like an email copy of the newsletter and readings please ask Sheila on [mgsmkelly1@gmail.com](mailto:mgsmkelly1@gmail.com)

**Lectionary 2015-2016** - If you'd like a list of the Sunday readings we use throughout the year please contact the clergy.

**Benefice Magazine** - Article for the Winter Edition of the magazine to be with Jean Williams by Tuesday 8 December.

**Carols in Victoria Park** - This Wednesday at 6:30 pm around the Bandstand with music from Salvation Army Band.

## St Catherine's Notes:

**Christmas Carols** - Please join us on Sunday 20 Dec at 4:30 pm for our service of 9 Lessons and Carols for Christmas.

**Collection counting** - If you are able to help once every two months with collection counting for 10-15 minutes after the morning service, please see Diana or email her [dianafletcher@hotmail.com](mailto:dianafletcher@hotmail.com) Likewise, if you no longer can help us.

**Bookings** - To book the Hall contact the clergy or email [hall.stcatherines@gmail.com](mailto:hall.stcatherines@gmail.com).

**Logs** - contact Clive 07931522683, Gareth 07527268461 or Diana 07909961256. From £5 per boot (depends on volume).

**Midweek Services: Holy Eucharist at 11:00 am on Wednesday.**

## St John's Notes:

**Christmas Tree Festival** - Today 2pm to 4pm - Prize Draw 3.30pm. Please return all Prize Draw stubs and money by 2pm.

**Christmas Fair** - St John's Brownies are holding their Christmas Fair on Tuesday 8 Dec at 6.30pm in church. Please come and support them.

**Midweek Services: Holy Eucharist at 10:30 am on Thursday.**

## St Luke's Notes:

**The Advent Stations** - Today from 4-6pm 'drop-in' Stations of Advent— an interactive experience for all ages in St Luke's

**Hall Bookings** - To book the Hall please contact Jackie or Haydn Page on 029 2091 3808 [haydnpage@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:haydnpage@hotmail.co.uk)

**Sunday School** - Sun 13 Dec there's a Nativity play during the 10:30 service. Mulled wine and mince pies after the mass.

**Christmas Flowers** - If you could help us with donations towards our Christmas flowers please contact Brenda.

**Community Carols** - Monday 21 December 6.30 pm in St Luke's church carol service with the Elizabeth Singers.

**Midweek Services: Masses at 10:00 am on Tuesday; 6:30 pm on Friday; 10:30 am on Saturday.**

**Recently Departed:** Maureen Brooks, Tim Horrigan, Jean Margaret Evans,

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

**Sun 6** Margam; W. Louisiana; **St Nicholas; Advent 2**

**Mon 7** Newton Nottage, Porthcawl, Philip Masson (R), Craig Vaughan (C); W. Michigan; **St Ambrose;**

**Tue 8** Port Talbot, St Theodore, Mark Williams (V); W. New York; **St Cynidr;**

**Wed 9** Board of Nomination, Archbishop Barry, Canon Michael Komor; W. Tanganyika, Tanzania;

**Thur 10** Pyle and Kenfig, Duncan Walker (PinC); Wiawso, Ghana;

**Fri 11** Neath Deanery, Stephen Ryan (AD); Willochra, Australia;

**Sat 12** Codoxton-juxta-Neath and Tonnna, Andrew Meredith (PincC); Winchester;

**Sun 13** Cilybebyll, Helen O'Shea (R); Windward Islands; **Advent 3 Gaudete Sunday**

**6 December 2015 – Second Sunday of Advent****Collect of the Day**

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

**First Reading**

A reading from the book of the prophet Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,  
and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;  
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;  
for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name,  
'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;  
look towards the east,

and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies;  
but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low  
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,  
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory,  
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

*Baruch 5.1-9*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Benedictus: Luke 1.68-79*

**R Blessed be the Lord, who sets his people free.**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
for he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant, David.

**R**

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our forebears  
and to remember his holy covenant.

**R**

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

**R**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
to give his people knowledge of salvation,  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

**R**

In the tender compassion of our God,  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**R**

**R Blessed be the Lord, who sets his people free.**

## **Second Reading**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Phillipians.

My brothers and sisters, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

*Philippians 1.3-11*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

Hear the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

*Luke 3.1-6*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Post Communion Prayer**

Father in heaven,

who sent your Son to redeem the world

and will send him again to be our judge:

give us grace so to imitate him

in the humility and purity of his first coming

that, when he comes again,

we may be ready to greet him

with joyful love and firm faith;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.