

NEWSLETTER

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

Today's Hymns

St Catherine's	St John's	St Luke's
557	527	527
282	282	282
527	565	531
655		

Collect:

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. Amen.

Psalm Response:

Show us your mercy O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

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)



WE NEED to find God in Advent, and he cannot be found in noise. God is the friend of silence. See how nature grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and sun, how they move in silence. Is not our mission to give God to the poor? Not a dead God, but a living, loving God. We need silence to be able to touch souls. The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says to us and through us.

Mother Teresa writing about Advent.

Prepare God's Way! - Advent 2

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

St John's - 8:00 Eucharist; 9:15 Sung Eucharist;

St Luke's - 10:30 Sung Mass; **6:00 pm Benediction**

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

Today's Readings

Isaiah 40.1-11, Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3.8-15a, Mark 1.1-8

Psalm 85:

Lord, you were gracious / to your / land : you re/stored the / fortunes of / Jacob.

You forgave the of/fence of your / people :and / covered / all their / sins.

I will listen to what the Lord / God will / say :

for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,

that they / turn • not a/gain to / folly. Truly, his salvation is near to / those who / fear him :

that his / glory may / dwell • in our / land. Mercy and truth are / met to/gether :

righteousness and / peace have / kissed each / other;

Truth shall spring / up from the / earth : and / righteousness look / down from / heaven.

The Lord will indeed give / all that is / good : and our / land will / yield its / increase.

Righteousness shall / go be/fore him : and di/rect his / steps • in the / way.

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

Benefice Notes:

The **2020 Conversation Days** about our faith identity began yesterday in St Catherine's. It was a very valuable exercise and it is hoped that it will lead to a renewed sense of vision and purpose for our benefice. Once each 'conversation' has taken place we will publish the results and seek further consultation on the key ideas and strategies that emerge. The next dates are: this coming Saturday, 13 Dec at 11:00 am in [St Luke's](#); and next Sunday 14 Dec at 4:00 pm in [St John's](#) (please note that there will be no 'Explore' that evening). Please join us if you can.

Christmas Carols in Victoria Park - Please join us this Wed 10 Dec for a special service of carols in Victoria Park at 6:00pm.

Advent Bible Study - Continues this Thursday 11 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

Benefice Noticeboard - If you would like to include something in the notes please send it to linsaycoolhouse@hotmail.com.

Messy Church - The next event is Messy Christmas, on SATURDAY 20 December at 4:00 pm. There will be a planning meeting in St John's later today at 4:15 pm.

Christmas Flowers: Help towards costs would be much appreciated. Please hand your donation to Sue Parsons, Cynthia Fowler or Brenda Shewring.

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.

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.

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.

St John's Notes:

Christmas Tree Festival - The final chance to see the special trees in this year's festival is today from 2-4pm.

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

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

St Luke's Notes:

St Luke's Meditation Group - The next meditation session will be on 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.

Conversation Day - Please join us in St Luke's next Saturday at 11:00 am to discuss the future vision of our church.

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

Recently Departed: Jean Allen, Margaret Sanders, Mary Bellamy, Maureen Thomas, Barbara Monks

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

Sun 7 ADVENT 2 Aberdare, St Fagan, Richard Green (V); Kinkizi, Uganda;

Mon 8 Cwmbach, Christopher Smith (PinC); Congo and Kinshasa;

Tues 9 Hirwaun, Cerion Rees (PinC); Kirinyaga, - (Kenya);

Wed 10 Church Organists and Choir Leaders; Kisangani (Congo),

Thur 11 Mountain Ash and Miskin; Kita Kanto (Japan);

Fri 12 Penrhiwceiber, Matthewstown and Ynysboeth, Andrew Holmes (PinC); Kitale, Kenya; **St Ambrose**

Sat 13 Pontypridd Deanery, Michael Gable (AD); Kiteto, (Tanzania); **St Lucy;**

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

7th December 2014 – Advent 2

First Reading

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Isaiah 40:1-11

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm (Psalm 85.1–2, 8–13)

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins. **R**

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

2 Peter 3.8–15a

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel:

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,”’

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

Mark 1.1–8

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.