

# NEWSLETTER

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

### Today's Hymns

St Catherine's	St John's	St Luke's
557	557	664
631	631	265
128	265	63
108		295

### 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.

### Psalm Response:

**My soul rejoices in God my saviour.**

### Gospel Acclamation:

St John's: **Alleluia ...**

**Speak Lord your servant is listening; 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.*



"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom...". This is the opening line of our first reading today and introduces the theme and tone of this third Sunday of Advent: rejoicing. Our Advent preparations now look towards the joy that is to come. Not just the joy that comes with the birth of the Messiah but also the joy of God's transformative power throughout all ages. Over and over in our readings we hear about the command to rejoice - it is not an option. Yet, is joy and rejoicing something that can be simply turned on? Can one choose to be joyful even when life is difficult? Our answer: All things are possible with God.

## Advent 3 - Gaudete (Rejoice ye!)

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

**St John's** - 8:00 Holy Eucharist; 9:15 Sung Eucharist; **4pm Messy Church**

**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 25:1-1-; Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matt 11: 2-11**

**My** soul proclaims the / greatness • of the / Lord :my spirit re/joices in / God my / Saviour;

**Who** has looked with favour on his / lowly / servant :from this day all gener/ations • will / call me / blessed;

**The** Almighty has done / great things / for me : and / holy / is his / name.

**God** has mercy on / those who / fear him : from gener/ation to / gener/ation.

**The** Lord has shown / strength with • his / arm :and scattered the / proud in / their con/ceit,

**Casting** down the mighty / from their / thrones : and / lifting / up the / lowly.

**God** has filled the hungry with / good / things : and has / sent the / rich • away / empty.

**He** has come to the aid of his / servant / Israel : to re/mem/ber his / promise • of / mercy,

**The** promise / made • to our / forebears :to Abraham / and his / children for / ever.

**Next week's readings:** Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80: 1-7,17-19; Romans 1:1-17; Matt 1:18-25

### Benefice Notes:

**Messy Christmas** - Today at 4pm we will celebrate Messy Christmas in St John's. Please consider becoming a volunteer to help with our Messy Church.

**Newsletter items** - any items for the newsletter please send to Linsay Jones [linsaycoolhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:linsaycoolhouse@hotmail.com) . For an email copy ask Sheila on [mgsmkelly1@gmail.com](mailto:mgsmkelly1@gmail.com)

**Holy Communion** - From now on it is permitted for those who are baptised to receive Holy Communion. We will have a renewed focus on the meaning and practice of celebrating the Eucharist in the coming months.

**Advent course** now running at St Johns on Thursdays from 7-9. "Someone To Believe In" is a series of reflections based around the festive film Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street. All welcome! Contact Andrew Sims please note new number (02920215472).

**Flowers for Christmas:** Donations towards the cost of flowers for Christmas would be much appreciated. Please hand your gift to Jean (St Catherine's), Cynthia (St John's) or Brenda (St Luke's). Thank you.

**Youth Club Games Night** - From 20 Jan 2017 the Canton Churches Youth Club returns to St Catherine's hall on Friday evenings from 7-8:30pm. It is open to children in school years 5 and 6. We will focus on table tennis, chess, backgammon and other games with the usual tuck shop and chill zone. This event can only go ahead if we have enough adults available to supervise. For more details ask Fr Phelim or Sarah Burton [burton-sarah@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:burton-sarah@hotmail.co.uk).

**Confirmation Christmas Outing** - To winter wonderland on Friday 30 December meeting at 1:00pm in St John's. This is open to those who were confirmed this year and last year plus their families. Contact Sarah Burton for details (see above).

**Free Concert** - Tuesday 13 Dec 2pm at CHAPTER Live Music Now Wales musicians Triptych will perform songs inspired by Roald Dahl stories with pupils from Ysgol Abercynon. Contact [claire.cressey@livemusicnow.org](mailto:claire.cressey@livemusicnow.org) for free tickets.

## St Catherine's Notes:

**Vestments** - Some of our vestments are in need of renewal and we are hoping to do this in the new year. If you would like to make a contribution towards new vestments for the clergy and servers please contact the wardens or clergy.

**Christmas Lessons and Carols** - Please join us next Sunday 18 December at 4:30 pm in St Catherine's for a service of 9 lessons and carols. The lessons are short Bible readings that tell the story of our salvation from the fall of humanity to the birth of Jesus our Saviour. Carols are sung between the readings. Refreshments will follow afterwards in the hall.

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

**Midweek Services:** Holy Eucharist this Wednesday at 11:00 am

## St John's Notes:

**Christmas Tree Festival** - Continues today in St John's and ends at 3pm. Please come along to see the different trees.

**Ty Bronna** - This month's collection for the Ty Bronna centre is for sweets and chocolate.

**Vestments** - Some of our vestments are in need of renewal and we are hoping to do this in the new year. If you would like to make a contribution towards new vestments for the clergy and servers please contact the wardens or clergy.

**Church Booking** - To book the church please contact the clergy. For concerts contact Gill Winton (see website).

**Midweek Services:** Holy Eucharist this Thursday at 10:30 am

## St Luke's Notes:

**Elizabeth Singers** - an evening of Christmas music with carols and refreshments on Tuesday 20 December at 7.00 pm. Tickets £5 in aid of the St Luke's Centenary building projects.

**Hall Bookings** - To book the Hall please contact Jackie Page on 029 2091 3808.

**Midweek Services:** Mass at 10:00 am on Wed; Masses at 6pm on Friday; & 10:30 am on Saturday

**Recently Departed:** Rhona Hannigan, Gethin Abraham Williams, Ann Powell, Angela Brown

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

**Sun 11** Porthkerry and Rhoose, Melanie Prince (PinC); Derek Belcher (AP); Kericho (Kenya); **Advent 3 Gaudete Sunday**

**Mon 12** St Andrews Major & Michaelston-le-Pit Andrew James (PinC) Jon Ormrod (AP) Khartoum (Sudan)

**Tues 13** Sully & Wenvoe & St. Lythans: Jon Ormrod (PinC), Andrew James (AP); Kibondo - (Tanzania); **St Lucy**

**Wed 14** The Mothers' Union, Lyn Davies (pres.), Ruth Moverley, (chap.); Kibungo (Rwanda); **St John of the Cross**

**Thur 15** The Archdeaconry of Margam; Kigali - (Rwanda)

**Fri 16** Bridgend Deanery, Michael Komor (AD); Kigeme (Rwanda)

**Sat 17** Ewenny & St Brides Major; Kigezi (Uganda);

**Sun 18** Laleston & Merthyr Mawr w Penyfai, Anthony Beer (PinC); Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh (Ireland); **Advent 4**

Team Rector: **Canon Mark Preece;** 029 2056 2022 [rector@beneficeofcanton.org.uk](mailto:rector@beneficeofcanton.org.uk) (Day off - Monday)

Team Vicar: **Fr Phelim O'Hare;** 029 2021 0732 [vicar@beneficeofcanton.org.uk](mailto:vicar@beneficeofcanton.org.uk) (Day off - Thursday)

## 11 December 2016 – Third Sunday of Advent

### 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.

### First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Isaiah 35.1-10*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Magnificat** (*Luke 1.46-55*)

**R My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant;  
from this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name. **R**

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit. **R**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things  
and the rich he has sent away empty. **R**

He has come to the help of his servant, Israel,  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our forebears:  
to Abraham and his children for ever. **R**

**R My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

## **Second Reading**

A reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*James 5.7-10*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

*Matthew 11.2-11*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Post Communion Prayer**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.