

# BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

## St Catherine's - St John's - St Luke's 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT



Jesus says "unless you repent you will all likewise perish". Of course, this death he is speaking of is separation from God. As God is the source of our life and all that is good in our universe, distance and separation from him is akin to death. This spiritual death is caused by sin yet also by a reluctance to repent for the sins we commit. Jesus was addressing this to the Pharisees who had a supreme confidence in their own righteousness. The idea of repenting like a common sinner was unthinkable to them. Our challenge is to look deeply at our own lives for the signs of this pharisaism and, if/when spotted, to do as Jesus tells us: repent sincerely.

<b>St Catherine's</b> - 8:00 Holy Eucharist; 10:30 Choral Eucharist;	<b>Hymns:</b> 252, 156, 82, 205 1st
<b>St John's</b> - 8:00 Holy Eucharist; 9:15 Sung Eucharist; <b>4:00 pm Explore;</b>	<b>Hymns:</b> 19, 332, 511
<b>St Luke's</b> - 10:30 Sung Mass;	<b>Hymns:</b> 161, 539, 511

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

**Today's Readings:** Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-9; 1 Cor 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

### Psalm 63 vv 1-9

- 1 O God / thou • art my / God: right / early / will I / seek thee.
- 2 My soul thirsteth for thee, \* my flesh also longeth / after / thee: as in a barren and dry land / where no / water / is.
- 3 Thus have I looked upon thee in thy / holy / place: that I might be-/hold thy / power and / glory.
- 4 Because thy loving-kindness is better than / life it-/self: therefore my / lips shall / give thee / praise.
- 5 As long as I live will I / magni•fy / thee: and lift up my / hands / in thy / name.
- 6 My soul is satisfied, \* even as it were with / marrow • and / fatness: and my mouth praiseth / thee with / joyful / lips.
- 7 When I remember thee up-/on my / bed: and think of thee in the / watches / of the / night,
- 8 How that thou hast / been my / helper: and under the shadow of thy / wings have / I found / refuge,
- †9 Then hangeth my / soul up-/on thee: thy / right hand / doth up-/hold me.

**Next week's readings:** Mothering Sunday: 1 Samuel 1:2-28; Psalm 34:11-20; 2 Cor 1:3-7; Luke 2:33-35

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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.

**Psalm Response:** My soul thirsts for you, O my God

**Gospel Acclamation:** St John's - Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory, praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.  
St Luke's - Silent Surrendered Calm and Still (see hymn 941)

## Benefice Notes:

**Sunday Schools / Club** - Only adults who have been through our safeguarding procedure and been cleared by the DBS and the Church in Wales are able to attend our Sunday Schools or club. For more details on this contact the clergy.

**Messy Church** - The next Messy Church is 13 March at 4:00pm in St John's. The theme will be 'Easter and Springtime'.

**Explore** - The next Explore will be this afternoon at 4pm in St John's. This time Archdeacon Peggy will be leading us in prayer, scriptural readings and movement for Lent. The Messy Church planning meeting follows at 5:15pm.

**Confirmation Programme 2016** - This year's confirmation programme of classes, discussion groups and worship services will be launched soon. If you would like to be confirmed this year please contact the clergy for details.

**Youth Club** - Is now open to young people in school year 6 and over. The programme of activities for the Friday night meetings up until the May half term is now available to see on our website.

**Lenten Quiet Day** - please join us this coming Sat 5 March for a quiet day of prayer, talks, quiet worship for Lent. This will be based in St Luke's. If you are interested in attending something like this please contact the clergy. The day starts with Mass at 10:30 and ends at 3:30 pm.

**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

**Lent Course** Thursdays 7-9pm in St John's. Theme: Life Balance- a 5 week course in rest, work & play. These rich, practical explorations of new Sabbath principles can help us re-order our time, refocus our priorities and refresh our spirits.

**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)

**Newsletter items** - any items for inclusion in the newsletter please send to Linsay Jones [linsaycoolhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:linsaycoolhouse@hotmail.com). Space is always limited so keeping it brief avoids us editing your message.

## St Catherine's Notes:

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

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

## St John's Notes:

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

**Lent Lunches** in St John's have now begun and will continue for the duration of the season of Lent.

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

## St Luke's Notes:

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**Lent Lunch** at St Luke's today at 12:15pm. Tickets £5-soup and bread, quiche and salad. All welcome.

**Easter Flowers** - All donations to help with the cost of our Easter Flowers would be most welcome. Please see Brenda.

**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)

**Midweek Services:** Masses at 10:00 am on Tues and Wed; Fri at 6:30 pm; and 10:30 am on Saturday.

**Recently Departed:** Mary Graham, Bobby Hammacott, Michaela Dymott

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

**Sun 28** Gabalfa, Bob Capper (V); Central America; **4:00pm Explore in St John's**

**Mon 29** Llandaff Deanery, Michael John (AD); Bangor;

**Tues 1** Caerau and Ely, Jesse Smith (V); Christopher Lee (C NSM); Banks and Torres, Melanesia; **St David, Patron of Wales;**

**Wed 2** Staff of the Diocesan Office; Rowena Small (diocesan secretary); Bari, Nigeria;

**Thurs 3** Fairwater, Coin Sutton (V); Barrackpore, India;

**Fri 4** Glan Ely, Jan Gould (PinC); Bath and Wells; **Women's World Day of Prayer;**

**Sat 5** Llandaff Cathedral Parish, Gerwyn Capon (D), Graham Holcombe (RC); Ceirion Gilbert (C); Bathurst, Australia; **St Non**

**Sun 6** Pentyrch w Capel Llaniltern, Michael John (V); **Lent IV Mothering Sunday;**

## 28 February 2016 – Third Sunday of Lent

### Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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.

### First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD says this:

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

*Isaiah 55.1-9*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 63.1-8*

**R My soul thirsts for you, O my God.**

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.  
Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory. **R**

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.  
So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name. **R**

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,  
When I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches. **R**

For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast. **R**

**R My soul thirsts for you, O my God.**

## Second Reading

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

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

*1 Corinthians 10.1-13*

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.**

There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’

Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”’

Luke 13.1-9

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.****Post Communion Prayer**

Merciful Lord,

grant your people grace to withstand the temptations

of the world, the flesh and the devil,

and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.