

NEWSLETTER

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

Today's Hymns

| St Catherine's | St John's | St Luke's |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| 701 | 605 | 99 |
| 428 | 714 | 605 |
| 399 | 54 | 419 |
| 54 | | |

Collect:

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Psalm Response:

The Lord of Hosts, he is the king of Glory.

Gospel Acclamation:

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

St Luke's: **Alleluia Alleluia, alleluia, opening our hearts to him, singing Alleluia, alleluia, Jesus is our King!**

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.



Blessing Candles on this feast day is all about giving thanks to God for light. Not only the physical light that makes life possible in homes, churches, and workplaces during the winter months but also Christ's light which has illumined the hearts and minds of people since his birth. The prophecy we hear of in the gospel is truly fulfilled. Not least in those who receive Holy Communion today.

The Presentation of Christ - Candlemas

St Catherine's - 10:30 Sung Eucharist ;

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

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

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

Today's Readings

Malachi 3:1-5; Psalm 84; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

Psalm 84

1 How lovely / are thy / dwellings: O / God thou / Lord of / hosts. **2** My soul hath a desire and longing * to enter into the / courts • of the / Lord: my heart and my flesh re-/joyce • in the / living / God. **3** The sparrow findeth / her an / house: and the swallow a nest, where / she may / lay her / young; **4** Even so have the singers a / home at • thine / altars: who stand ever praising thee, * my / King / and my / God. **5** O Lord / God of / hosts: blessèd are / they that / dwell in • thy / house. **6** Blessèd are they whose / strength • is in / thee: whose heart is set up-/on the / highways • to / Zion. **7** Who, going through the dry valley, * find a well where- /of to / drink: yea the early rain shall / cover it • with / pools of / water. **8** They will go from / strength to / strength: and the God of gods shall be / seen of / them in / Zion.' **9** O Lord God of hosts / hear my / prayer: give / ear O / God of / Jacob. **10** Shew favour O God unto / our de-/fender: and look upon the face of / thine an-/ointed / king. **11** Truly one day / in thy / courts: is better than a / thousand • in / mine own / dwelling. **12** It were better to be a door-keeper in the / house of • my / God: than to / dwell • in the / tents of • un-/godliness. **13** For the Lord God is a de-/fence and / shield: the Lord will give grace and honour, * and no good thing shall he withhold from them that / live a / godly / life. **14** O Lord / God of / hosts: blessèd is the man that / putteth • his / trust in / thee

Next week's readings: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Cor 3:1-9; Matt 5:21-37

Benefice Notes:

Candlemas and Communion - We celebrate Candlemas today, when candles for the coming year will be blessed. Also, some children and adults will receive Holy Communion for the first time (after a time of preparation during January). This will be in St Catherine's at 10:30 and St John's at 9am.

Messy Church - Messy Church resumes next Sunday 12 February in St John's at 4pm.

Youth Club Games Night - St Catherine's hall on Friday evenings from 7-8:30pm. It is open to children in school years 5 & 6. For details see the website or email Sarah on burton-sarah@hotmail.co.uk

Electoral College - Please keep in your prayers over the next few weeks the members of the C. in W. Electoral College as they work together, under the guidance of God's Spirit, to discern the next Bishop for our diocese of Llandaff.

Confirmation Preparation - Our confirmation programme is now open for new candidates - we meet on Saturdays in either the Vicarage or in St John's at 11:30am for an hour. Confirmation is open to children in year 5 or above.

Mothers' Union Monday 6 Feb 2pm in St John's. Speaker - Mr O'Sullivan : Around Wales to Music

Visiting Clergy - thank you to the following clergy who will be helping out during February: Fr Jesse Smith, Fr Chris Lee, Fr David Sheen, Fr Mark Dimond and a continual thank you to Fr Keith who still helps us each week.

Service Times Change This Week - Considering recent news we will trial some changes to Sunday morning service times beginning this Sunday: only one 8am Eucharist each Sunday alternating between St John's (1st and 3rd Sundays) and St Catherine's (2nd and 4th Sundays). Also, St John's 9:15 service from now on will begin at 9:00 am.

Lent Courses - We have a few additional options for Lent this year. Churches Together in Canton will be meeting on Monday evenings to offer a lent course with a focus on healing and diversity (details of church venues and leaders will follow soon) - it will be in a different church each night with different speakers. Bishop David is also offering a Lent course called 'Upping our Game' in St Isan's Church, Llanishen, CF14 5JX on Wednesdays at 7:30pm. (see our website for details).

Diocesan Quiet Day - Rev. Canon Dr. Sarah Rowland-Jones will be leading this at All Saint's Church, Southerndown on Feb 18. Bring own lunch, tea and coffee provided. £10 - everyone welcome. Also, there will be a day on **Celtic**

Spirituality led by Esther de Waal at Llangasty on Feb 28. For details contact Diana (M) 07754179373

Youth Bible Study and Pizza - Every Sunday evening at 6pm in St John's vestry from 6-7:30pm. It is for youth (11+) and is an informal and friendly exploration of faith issues. For details contact Sarah burton-sarah@hotmail.com.uk.

St Catherine's Notes:

Hall Bookings - To book the Hall contact the clergy or email Bev on hall.stcatherines@gmail.com.

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

St John's Notes:

Ty Bronna - This month's collection for the Ty Bronna centre is for pasta and sauces (more details on our website).

Midweek Services: Holy Eucharist Thursday at 10:30 am

St Luke's Notes:

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and Quiz - St Luke's hall from 7pm on 28 February. This will be a Ministry Area social event.

Holy Communion - Next Sunday St Luke's will welcome some children to first Holy Communion.

Midweek Services: Masses at 10:00 am on Tuesdays; 6:00 pm on Fridays; and 10:30 am on Saturday

Recently Departed: Vernon Couch,

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

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Sun 5 | Hirwaun, Ceirion Rees (PinC); Lomega - (Sudan); PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (Candlemas) |
| Mon 6 | Mountain Ash and Miskin, Michael Jones (V); Diocese of London; Sts Paul Miki and Companions; |
| Tues 7 | Penrhiwceiber, Matthewstown & Ynysboeth, Ben Rabjohns (PinC); Long Island (USA); |
| Wed 8 | Dept for Youth, Sarah Rogers; Louisiana (USA); |
| Thur 9 | Deanery of Merthyr Tydfil, Stephen Kirk (AD); Luapula (Central Africa); St Teilo |
| Fri 10 | Bargoed & Deri w Brithdir, Vacant; Lucknow (India); St Scholastica |
| Sat 11 | Dowlais & Penyardarren, Caroline Owen (PinC); Lui (Sudan) |
| Sun 12 | Gelligaer, Gary Powell (PinC); Lusaka (Central Africa); 3rd Sunday before Lent |

Sat 11th Feb - Dowlais & Penydarren: Caroline Owen (PinC) Lui - (Central, Sudan)

Sun 12th Feb - THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT Gelligaer: Gary Powell (PinC) Carolyn Corbyn(Reader)

Lusaka - (Central Africa)

2 February 2017 – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Collect of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ 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 Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3.1-5

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 24.7-10

R The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

'Who is the King of glory?'

'The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle.'

R

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
'Who is he, this King of glory?'

'The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.'

R

R The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hebrews 2.14-18

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.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Luke 2.22-40

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes
to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.