

# NEWSLETTER

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

## The Third Sunday of Advent

We hear the advice of the apostle Paul: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." As we wait for the coming of the Lord, let us come before God with our prayers and praises.

### 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. AMEN

### Today's Readings

**First Reading** Isaiah 61:1-4. 8-end

God promises a joyful restoration and a time of prosperity and peace.

**Second Reading** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

St Paul urges believers to be ready for the coming of Christ.

**Gospel** John 1:6-8. 19-28

John the Baptist speaks of the one who is to come, whose way he prepares.



## Third Sunday of Advent

**St Catherine's:** 10.30 am Holy (Said) Eucharist with Canon Wilcox  
4.30pm A Festival of Lessons and Carols with Nativity Play

**St John's:** 8.00 am Holy Eucharist; 9.00 am Sung Eucharist with Fr Keith Kimber  
**Today's Hymns:** 527, 265, 631

**St Luke's:** 10:30 am Sung Mass  
**Today's Hymns:** 259, 221, 683

**Psalm response:** **The Lord has done great things for us and we are glad indeed.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** **Wait for the Lord whose day is near. Wait for the Lord, keep watch take heart.**

**Newsletter:** for any items to be included in this newsletter please email Sue Jones ([office@beneficeofcanton.org.uk](mailto:office@beneficeofcanton.org.uk)) Deadline is 12 noon on Fridays. For an email copy of the newsletter please contact Sheila at [mgsmkelly1@gmail.com](mailto:mgsmkelly1@gmail.com)

**Cardiff Night Shelter** – the Benefice is again planning to support the work of the Cardiff Churches Night Shelter every Thursday night / Friday morning at Calvary Baptist Church on Cowbridge Road and we are keen to encourage more volunteers to join us. We have a particular need on the Breakfast Shift! We provide dinner, bed and breakfast in a warm, safe environment to homeless people during the cold winter months from the week commencing 18 December (our first night would be 21/22 December) usually through until mid-end March. The newsletter from last year can be accessed via the link <http://www.cantonchurches.org.uk/night-shelter.html> to give you some understanding but if you are interested in learning more, please contact Fiona Robinson (St Catherine's Church) on 07957 104356 or [fiona.robinson@tesco.net](mailto:fiona.robinson@tesco.net)

**Christmas Flowers:** donations towards Christmas flowers are a great way to help at Christmas time. Our churches always look resplendent during the Christmas season and the floral arrangements enhance this. Please give donations to Jean Pritchard in St Catherine's, Cynthia Fowler in St John's and Brenda Shewring or Margaret Charles in St Luke's. Thank you.

**Benefice Pastoral Assistant Training** Beginning on 7<sup>th</sup> January at 5.00pm in St Luke's, we will be running a short training course for those interested in becoming lay pastoral assistants. This is an important ministry and you will be trained to visit the sick and take Holy Communion to the housebound. If you have any questions, please speak to Fr Mark, Br Dominic, Samuel or Dylan or come along to the first evening.

**St Catherine's Notes:**

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

**A Festival of Lessons and Carols** will take place on today in St Catherine's at 4.30pm. During the service children from our Sunday Club will be presenting scenes from the Christmas story.

**Tree Improvement Project:** Leaflets are available explaining how you can support this work. Please take copies and share with family, friends, and work colleagues

**Midweek Services:** Wednesday 11.00 am

**St John's Notes:**

**Ty Bronna:** We are collecting sweets and chocolates throughout December. Please leave in the box in church.

**Midweek Services:** Holy Eucharist Thursday 10.30 am.

**St Luke's Notes:** Midweek services: **Said Mass** Tuesday 10.00 am; Friday 6.00pm; Saturday 10.30am.

**Recently Departed:** Gary Biggin, Robert Rothwell, Manuel Tercero

**Christmas Services:**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December The Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve**

10.30 am Benefice Eucharist for Advent 4 in St John's

5.00 pm Crib Service in St John's

11.15 pm 'Midnight' Mass of Christmas in St Catherine's and 11.15 pm 'Midnight' Mass of Christmas in St Luke's

**Christmas Day**

10.30 am Sung Eucharist for the Benefice in St Catherine's

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December – St Stephen's Day**

10.30 am Mass in St Luke's

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December: St John the Evangelist's Day**

10.30 am Holy Eucharist for the Feast of our Patron in St John's

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December – The Holy Innocents**

10.30 am Holy Eucharist in St John's Church

*There are no services on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December*

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December – The Sunday after Christmas**

10.30 am Benefice Together Eucharist in St John's *No other services today*

**Diocesan and Anglican Prayer Cycle**

Sun Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Rectorial Benefice of Canton, Cardiff: Canon Mark Preece (R)	<i>Wyoming</i>
Mon Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	DEANERY OF PENARTH AND BARRY Area Dean: Andrew James	<i>Minye, South Sudan</i>
Tues Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	Rectorial Benefice of Barry: Ministry Area Benjamin Andrews (R)	<i>Myanmar</i>
Weds Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Board of Finance: Mike Lawley (Ch)	<i>Loryko, South Sudan</i>
Thurs Dec 21 <sup>st</sup>	Penarth, All Saints: Penarth Ministry Area Peter Cox (V)	<i>Yewa Nigeria</i>
Fri Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Penarth and Llandough: Mark Jones (R)	<i>Bahr El Ghazal, South Sudan</i>
Sat Dec 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Penmark with Llancarfan with Llantrithyd: Canon Derek Belcher (PinC)	<i>Yokohama - (Japan)</i>