

PARISH NEWSLETTER

St Arvans with Penterry, Itton, Devauden & Kilgwrrwg

30th November 2014



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with hymns at S. Deiniol's, Itton

5th Sunday liturgy for all our parishes

6 p.m. Evening Prayer, Exposition of the Bl Sacrament and Advent meditation at St Arvans

Please help to keep the clergy informed of anyone who is sick. Home Communion (from the Reserved Sacrament), the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confessions) and the Anointing of the Sick are administered on request in time of need. Baptisms & Weddings are celebrated by arrangement with the clergy. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved at St Arvans and at St James', Devauden.

Thought for the Week

"The times we find ourselves having to wait for others may be the perfect opportunities to train ourselves to wait on the Lord."

For Your Prayers

For a good Advent preparation for the Christmas Season: for a deeper commitment to our prayer, worship and the service of God

For the Church:

For the bishops of the Church: Richard, Bishop of Monmouth, Lindsay, Episcopal Visitor of the Society of the Holy Cross in Wales, Jonathan, Bishop of Ebbsfleet; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury. For all who hold and teach the Catholic faith that comes to us from the apostles.

For the reunion of all Christians: for Pope Francis, for Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew & the leaders of the Reformed traditions.

For the Sick:

Roy Staples, Anne Kelway-Bamber, Pam Murray, Marian Price, Ruth White, Ralph Hamilton, Pauline Francis, Keith Jones, priest; Daphne Richards; Jenny Tseng; Natalie; Maureen Richards; Sylvia, Faye Duerr; Rita Harris; Rene Watson; Martin Flower; Barbara Bevan and Dennis, Haydn Thomas.

For the Departed:

The recently departed: Gwen Mayo; Tony Luce; for our own departed loved ones, and for those whose year's minds fall at this time: Edward Priddis; Nancy Stephens

NEXT SUNDAY

7th December 2014

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Itton (1662)
BCP readings
10 a.m. Sung Eucharist at St Arvans
11.15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Penterry

Daily Masses at St Arvans

Monday: St Andrew 8 a.m.
Tuesday: 7 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m.
Thursday: 7 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m.
Saturday: S. Nicholas 10 a.m..

Parish Priest (Vicar/Rector):

Fr Michael Gollop, SSC.
The Vicarage, St Arvans
01291 622064;
mobile 07867803479
Parish Deacon:
Fr Mark Zorab
Oak Cottage, Itton Road
01291 626222

Thursday

10.30 – 12 noon

Coffee Morning at St Arvans Schoolroom

Friday: Penterry Committee at the Vicarage 2 p.m.

Friday:

Advent Prayer & Praise

A liturgy with music & readings for Advent led by **The Martin Singers.**

St Arvan's Church 7 p.m.

Saturday

Seasonal Concert with the St Woolos Players at St Deiniol's, Itton 7 p.m.
Chamber music, readings & carols

£12 (under 16s free)

Proceeds to church funds

Hope Joy
Peace Love
Advent
This Week

Sunday is the beginning of a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent. The first reading is from the Prophet Isaiah as the people repent before God: *“Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways!”* St Mark's gospel offers the image of the fig tree which puts forth leaves when summer approaches. *‘Watch therefore’*

During the first part of Advent - until December 17 - our meditative focus is perhaps more on the first reading. This week it is from the Prophet Isaiah. These readings are about promises. Isaiah is consoling, building up and preparing his people to have hope. “In the days to come,” he says over and over. And, “They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.” Even though King David's line is almost wiped out, Isaiah proclaims hope: “On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.” Who would believe even a peace in nature - lion lying down with the lamb? “There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.”

Even Jesus' own statement about his mission is seen in the powerful images Isaiah uses to give us courage and hope: “On that day the deaf shall hear ... the eyes of the blind shall see ... the lowly will ever find joy in the LORD ...” “On the day the LORD binds up the wounds of his people.”

The Gospels for this first part of Advent are chosen to match the first readings and to show that the promises are fulfilled in Jesus. He brings healing, raises up the childlike and calls and sends the twelve Apostles to continue his ministry.

Next Sunday we hear Isaiah write of a voice that cries out in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!”



A Meditation for Advent

“....Our holy seasons always ought to be something special. They are really holy mysteries, and they should awaken a mystery as echo, as consideration, as prayer, in our minds and in our hearts. The theme of this advent is that, somehow, man will be confronted with the Last things, will be placed in the final order, will face the definitive questions, and definitive answers will be expected of him. Whenever the Church dons solemn purple vestments, it always means that serious questions are being set forth and we are facing the great connections, the principles of universal validity. Indeed, after all, the ultimate and deepest meaning of this coming feast, this Christmas and Coming-of-the-Lord for which we are preparing ourselves, is that the created being, man, actually finds himself in the presence of the Absolute Ultimate. Moreover, the basic reading of our souls for this feast of the coming lord is that we now consider the ultimate reality. This means that we think about man, about ourselves, from the perspective of the ultimate reality and, in so doing, become ready – really ready – to encounter and respond to Him, the Ultimate, in an appropriate way, as befits a creature encountering the Ultimate. It means really being ready to meet him in this way. Therefore, that should be our theme for these Advent reflections: man from the perspective of the ultimate reality; what ultimately is, and what ultimately will be. The ultimate reality cannot be affected in any way by any whirlwind, any turmoil, any arrogance or hubris. It cannot be shaken in its own validity, and, when it is tampered with, those raising a hand or a fist against it only affect themselves.....”

Fr Alfred Delp S.J. (from the collection of his writings: *‘Advent of the Heart’*)

The Jereboam Interview

We continue our series of extracts from the Jerusalem and Galilee Gazette, an imaginary first-century newspaper.

Hemor

Jereboam: Isn't that a marvellous sight? Just a moment ago that lamb was fast asleep, or seemed to be anyway. Now it's bounding away over there with the others. You'd think they'd show some fear

so close to the precipice, but no, it's almost as if they don't realise it's there. Either that or they're just supremely confident in their own abilities. It's wonderful to behold: such energy, such accomplishment, such simplicity too. It reminds me somehow of that old psalm-text: “Like the deer that yearns for running streams...” I know that refers to a different animal, but there's still the same sense of pure desire. Don't you think?

Hemor: Sorry? Oh, excuse me,

Jereboam: I was miles away.

Jereboam: I was just admiring the beauty of those young lambs over there.

Hemor: Yes. Good animals, aren't they?

Jereboam: Excuse me for asking, Hemor, but is everything all right? You don't look quite yourself today.

Hemor: Yes, yes, I'm fine, thank you...just a bit tired, that's all. I'm having problems sleeping at the moment. Ever since we had that burglary the other week, I've been lying awake for hours every night.

Jereboam: How frustrating for you...You know, it was only recently that I heard Jesus telling people to stay awake at all times.

Hemor: Well, the irony of it is that I don't stay awake at all times. I seem to spend half the day unable to concentrate, dozing off, as you saw just now.

Jereboam: You poor chap...Look, I'm sorry if I seemed a bit flippant when I mentioned Jesus.

Hemor: Not at all.

Jereboam: Anyway, I imagine that he's got nothing against people sleeping. It's a perfectly natural process, after all. I know that one can sleep too much, and Jesus wouldn't encourage anyone to be lazy or anything like that, but I imagine that he's really telling people to stay alert - on their guard, if you like. I suppose, spiritually speaking, he wants people to be like those lambs, full of life, aware, sensitive, fast in the best sense. By the way, have you ever tried doing some gentle exercises before you go to bed? I often find that helps me to sleep more soundly. Hemor? Never mind, we'll talk another time...

With grateful thanks to the author & to the parish of St Catherine, Chipping Campden

