

PARISH NEWSLETTER

St Arvans with Penterry, Itton, Devauden & Kilgwrrwg

Welcome to the Newsletter for our group of parishes during the period when, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our churches are closed.

Sunday readings are included so that we may join spiritually in the Church's offering of the Eucharist, which will now take place in private.

Please help to keep us informed of anyone who is in need or is isolated over the next weeks and months, and anyone in need of our prayer and support
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12th April 2020
EASTER SUNDAY

Fr Michael will be at St. Arvans Church and 'Live Streaming' the Easter Eucharist At 10.00am On Easter Sunday With Renewal of Baptismal Vows

You can view this Live

On Facebook : St Arvan's Parish group - or you can click on this link

https://www.facebook.com/pg/vicaragecello1/videos/?ref=pag_e_internal

On Instagram: starvanschurch

On Twitter: St Arvans Church @Arvanschurch

The Collect

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **AMEN**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles [10; 34; 37 - 43]

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

*Reader/ This is the Word of the Lord
Response / **Thanks be to God***

Psalm 118. 1-2, 14-24

**R/ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
This is the day the Lord has made.**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever. Let Israel now proclaim, 'His mercy endures for ever.'

**R/ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
This is the day the Lord has made R**

The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous: 'The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! the right hand of the Lord is exalted! the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!'

**R/ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
This is the day the Lord has made**

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. The Lord has punished me sorely, but he did not hand me over to death. Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.

**R/ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
This is the day the Lord has made**

'This is the gate of the Lord; whoever is righteous may enter.' I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation.

The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner-stone.

**R/ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
This is the day the Lord has made**

This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes. On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

**R/ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
This is the day the Lord has made**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians [3; 1 - 4]

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Reader/ This is the Word of the Lord
Response / Thanks be to God

Alleluia, alleluia, (Alleluia)
I am the first and the last,
says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold
I am alive for evermore.
Alleluia, alleluia, (alleluia)

The Lord be with you:
And also with you

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St John [20, 1 - 9]

R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must

rise from the dead.
This is the Gospel of the Lord

R/ Praise to you, O Christ

Thought for the Week

"Jesus' resurrection makes it impossible for the human story to end in chaos - it has to move inexorably towards light, towards life, towards love."
- Carlo Carretto -

For Your Prayers

Those throughout the world suffering from the Coronavirus
Doctors, nurses and all medical staff, medical scientists and researchers.
All who are isolated and alone, those anxious for their health and well being and those of their loved ones.
For those in government throughout the world, that they may make informed, wise and compassionate decisions for the good of all

For the Church:

For the bishops of the Church:
John, Archbishop of Wales;
Cherry, Bishop of Monmouth, Philip, 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.
All bishops, priests and deacons and all baptised Christians
For the reunion of all Christians: for Pope Francis, for Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew, & for the leaders of the Reformed traditions

For the Sick & those in need:

Roy Staples, Ralph Hamilton, Patricia Hamilton; Sylvia; The Revd Helen Rodwell; Amanda Morgan; Naomi; Kim; Elisabeth; Kerrie; Trevor; Helen; Cliff Edwards; Peter Anderson; Kate Lewis

For the Departed:

The recently departed: our own departed relatives & friends, & those whose anniversaries of death fall at this time: Joe Dunn; Evelyn Price; Audrey Sherwood; Roger Colthart Barzil Jenkins

**A Meditation
for Easter Sunday**

At Easter we want to talk about new life - we want to talk about sunshine and the glories of the returning spring. The symbols of Easter we are most familiar with - even if its only in the form of chocolate and soft toys - all speak to us about life - eggs, chicks, lambs, spring flowers. But we need to go back a step or two first, because our celebration of Easter has very little meaning without what comes before it. During the strangest and most worrying Lent most of us can remember, we sought to follow Christ through self-denial, prayer and acts of service to others. In Holy Week we have tried in whatever ways we could this year to walk alongside him through his betrayal, scourging and mocking, his sentence of crucifixion, his carrying of the cross and his horrific death. Now on this Easter Sunday we joyfully and gratefully share with him in the victory of the Resurrection. Without the Resurrection, Christ's life and sufferings are meaningless - just another statistic witnessing to the cruelty and injustice of the world. Over the last few days we have witnessed the collision of light and darkness, what happens when God's holiness comes up against the darker side of human nature, But Christ's death also reveals God's compassion towards us despite everything. And Christ's Resurrection shows that the love and forgiveness he displayed in his life and in his death leads to glory and new life. In Christ, death and resurrection can't be separated. In various ways we have tried at home in worship and prayer to follow Jesus through the last week of his life, but it can't be the same for us as it was for this first followers. Because we knew how the story would end. They didn't. All along we were aware that on the third day he would rise again. They had no idea. For them, his death was the end. Their hopes had ended in

bitter disappointment and despair. Now the Gospels do say that Jesus warned his twelve Apostles, the inner core of those who followed him, that he had to suffer and die, and that on the third day he would rise. But the Gospels also say that they simply didn't get it - they had very little inkling of what he was talking about. So while we can share in the Apostles' and disciples' Easter joy at the Resurrection, we can't share in their Easter shock. We can also probably share in their doubts and fears - faith is like that, strong one moment, a bit wavering at others - particularly perhaps at times of great stress and worry - but we can't share in their sheer sense of terrified incredulity. We have a bit of a tendency to underestimate and patronise sometimes those who lived so long ago in a largely pre-scientific age. We tend to think they would have a tendency to believe virtually any supernatural thing going. But that's not what we see in the Gospels at all. The first reaction of those who are told the news of the resurrection at second-hand is to dismiss it. They simply don't believe that someone can come back from the dead - particularly when they had seen a death as gruesome and final as that of Jesus. And in all the Resurrection appearances of the Risen Christ in the Gospels there is this mixture on the part of those who were there of belief and unbelief, of slow recognition and incredulity, of being sure, but not completely sure. He was the same and yet transformed. They hesitated; it seemed all too good to be true. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus didn't even recognise him until he broke the bread for them, and vanished. Later, when they had returned to their fishing boats and were having their breakfast of fish and bread on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, St John says: 'None of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?"', because they knew it was the Lord' We see the same shock, the

same strange mixture of doubt and hope and dawning recognition. Our own celebration of the Resurrection is missing something if we discount the shock and the mystery of it. We tend to think it's natural to associate fear and bewilderment with Christ's death, and then joy and new life immediately coming hand in hand with the news of his Resurrection. Of course, that is true up to a point - there's an element of that - but only up to a point. The Gospels tell us that those who heard the news - even those who encountered the Risen Christ himself experienced the Resurrection as a reality which burst in on them without warning, filling them with bewilderment, terror and incomprehension. It's natural that we who know the story will tend to 'domesticate' the Resurrection, talking about it as something almost inevitable, something familiar, safe and comfortable, a bit like sunrise inevitably following night. But this doesn't do justice to what we are celebrating today at all. There is nothing familiar, safe or comfortable about the Resurrection either for those who witnessed it then, or for us who share in it now. And in these days of anxiety, there's something strangely reassuring about that too. +

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS AT EASTERTIDE

(This replaces the Nicene Creed on Easter Sunday)

Dear friends, through the Pascal mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism so that we may rise with him to new life. Now that we have completed our Lenten observance, let us renew the promises we made in baptism when we rejected Satan and his works, and promise to serve God faithfully in His Holy Catholic Church.

And so I ask you:-

DO you reject Satan? **I do**

And all his works? **I do**

And all his empty promises? **I do**

Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth? **I do**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? **I do**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting? **I do**

God, the all powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

[In church the priest would then sprinkle those present with blessed water as a reminder of the water of baptism.]