

St Arvans Church mid week Bulletin Wednesday 24th February 2021

Night Prayer: Tonight at 8pm – online only

Sunday Eucharist: at 10am every Sunday – online and in person

The church is now OPEN again for public worship. All our services also continue online via the links below. If you wish to come along in person, places MUST be pre-booked.

St Arvans online

Live service stream : https://www.facebook.com/pg/vicaragecello1/videos/?ref=page_internal

Facebook : St Arvan's Parish group – please like us and become a follower

Webpage at: www.starvanschurch.org.uk

Instagram: starvanschurch

Twitter: St Arvans Church @Arvanschurch

Please send any contributions to this bulletin to starvanschurchnews@btinternet.com

Please share it with others whom you think be interested, and invite them to contact us if they want to go on the mailing list at: starvanschurchnews@btinternet.com

Lent Courses

Tonight at 7.30pm is the first session of the weekly Lent Course. Tonight's meditation is on the theme of Lamentation, Repentance.

Further details can be found on the Diocesan website here:

[Lent 2021 - Monmouth Diocese \(churchinwales.org.uk\)](http://churchinwales.org.uk)

Let me know if you would like to join in, and I will send you the Zoom link.

Ministry Areas

The Church in Wales is reorganising all parishes into Ministry Areas. Our Diocese, Monmouth, is the last to get going on this. Many of you will have questions and concerns. There is some information on the Diocesan website here:

[Welcome to Monmouth Diocese - Monmouth Diocese \(churchinwales.org.uk\)](http://churchinwales.org.uk)

Our Ministry Area will basically comprise the parishes currently served by Rev Philip Averay (Chepstow and Bulwark), Rev Julian White (Mathern, Shirenewton, Mounton, St Pierre) and Father Michael. A series of meetings is being held via Zoom for people to ask

questions and learn more about the changes. If you would like to join one of these, the poster with information how to do so is in an attachment to this newsletter.

Prayer and Meditation

No one would remember the Good Samaritan if he had only had good intentions.

A Lenten message from the Archbishop

Someone might ask you in the next couple of days, “What are you giving up for Lent?”

Let me ask you a different question – “What you taking up for Lent?” By all means give something up, if it means not spoiling yourself, and put the money aside and give it to a good cause. But let me encourage you not just to give something up but also to take something up; to use Lent as a really positive and helpful time to grow more deeply into your faith. To understand that faith better and through the days of Lent to feel yourself being changed, renewed, transformed or whatever word you care to use in terms of the way you understand the practise of your faith and the impact that it ought to make on the way in which you live out your lives. It goes without saying that because of the current restrictions that are placed upon us, because of the ongoing pandemic, that many of us have more time on our hands than we might usually have for reflection and forethought and for sitting quietly and pondering. So use some of that time to reflect on your faith. Reflect on the scriptures. Reflect on your response to God's call to you to be one of his children. On our website there are materials that might help you in that process. Whatever you do, whatever you use, whatever opportunities you take, let me encourage you to take something up for Lent that will help you grow as a child of God, a disciple of the Lord Jesus. And at the end of Lent as we come to Easter - that celebration of new life - you may feel yourself to have been renewed and restored and refreshed. I wish you a positive, hopeful and a thoughtful Lent. God bless you all.

More Lenten resources are available at the Church in Wales website:

[Re:lent – beginning again - The Church in Wales](#)

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Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the LORD;

my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.
Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise. *Selah*
Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
As they go through the valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.
They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.
O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob! *Selah*
Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed.
For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.
For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
he bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does the LORD withhold
from those who walk uprightly.
O LORD of hosts,
happy is everyone who trusts in you.

The Gospel according to St Luke 12: 35-43

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?" And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives."

Music

This week's suggested hymn is Lord Jesus Think on Me, sung by the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral.

["Lord Jesus Think on Me" The Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral - YouTube](#)

A real musical treat is this Cambridge Singers rendition of the uplifting Cantique de Jean Racine, by Gabriel Faure.

[Cantique de Jean Racine - Gabriel Fauré, John Rutter, The Cambridge Singers, City of London Sinfonia - YouTube](#)

Literal translation:

Word equal to the Very High one, our sole hope
Eternal of both the Earth and the Heavens
Of this peaceful night, we break the silence
Divine Saviour, cast your gaze down on us!

Spread on us the fire of your mighty grace
So all of Hell flees upon hearing your voice
Dissipate the sleep of a yearning soul
Which leads us to forget your laws!

Oh Christ, be favourable to this faithful people
Now gathered to bless you
Welcome the hymns they offer to your immortal glory
And may they come back fulfilled!

Faure wrote this in 1865 when he was only 19, and deservedly won first prize in a composition competition at the [École Niedermeyer de Paris](#) (the school of church music, where he was a student). One of the judges of the competition was Camille Saint-Saens, Faure's teacher.



On the lighter side

A reminder that spring is just around the corner! These are in the church car park.