

PARISH NEWSLETTER

St Arvans with Penterry, Itton, Devauden, & Kilgwrrwg

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE

St Arvan's Church is open for worship at 10 a.m. on Sundays. Places must be booked and social distancing maintained in the building and following services. Again, we stress there is absolutely no obligation to attend in person, and that your own safety and health & those of others must remain paramount. Our broadcast services will continue as follows: Sunday Eucharist at 10. a.m. and a reflection & celebration of Night Prayer on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. are live-streamed on the St Arvans Parish Group page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/vicaragecello1/> and are available to watch at any time

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
Parish Priest (Vicar / Rector):
Fr Michael Gollop,
The Vicarage, St Arvans
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17th October 2021 The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

The Collect

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he

bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

[53. 4-12]

Reader / This is the Word of the Lord

Response / Thanks be to God

Psalm 91: 9-16

R/ The Lord shall give his angels charge over you

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your habitation; No evil shall happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

R/ The Lord shall give his angels charge over you

For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

R/ The Lord shall give his angels charge over you

You shall tread upon the lion and adder; you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet. Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.

R/ The Lord shall give his angels charge over you

He shall call upon me and I will answer him; I am with him in trouble, I will rescue him and bring him to honour. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

R/ The Lord shall give his angels charge over you

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews [5; 1-10]

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honour, but takes it

only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.' In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

[Gradual Hymn]

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Son of Man came to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you:
And also with you

[Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Mark](#)

Glory to you, O Lord.

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.' When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John.

So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

[St Mark 10.35-45]

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love you above all things,
and I long for you in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
As though you have already come,
I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

(The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament)

For Your Prayers

That our vocation may be that of service to others

Those who are suffering the effects of climate change throughout the world
Those throughout the world who continue to suffer from the Coronavirus pandemic - for doctors, nurses and all medical staff, all carers, medical scientists and researchers.

All who are 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 Church:

For the bishops of the Church:
Cherry, Bishop of Monmouth, Philip, Episcopal Visitor of the Society of the Holy Cross in Wales, 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; Kim; Elisabeth; Helen Herbert; Dave; John; Sue; Marion Webster; Mady Gerard; .

For the Departed:

The recently departed; Kevin Brennan; Cynthia Harris; Joan Green; Shirley Capp; Josef Chatham; John Blackburn, Derek Young and Denis Richards, priests; our own departed relatives & friends, & those whose anniversaries of death fall at this time: Lewis Webster; Eric Henderson; George Hodgkinson

The Jereboam Interview

We continue our series of extracts from the Jerusalem and Galilee Gazette, an imaginary first-century newspaper. Week by week the correspondent Jereboam interviews various people whose lives have been affected in some way by Jesus Christ and his teaching.

Thanks to the Parish of St Catharine's Chipping Campden & to the author for permission to reproduce 'Jereboam'

Gideon

Jereboam: Good morning, Gideon. I understand that you're somewhat disillusioned with Jesus and his teaching.

Gideon: Too right: I'm fed up with it all. You know the latest thing? He's telling everyone to act like servants. Look, as you very well know, our nation has a long history of suffering at the hands of powerful enemies. Just at the moment we're plagued by these Romans taking over our land, polluting our way of life, polluting our traditions, polluting our religion. People can't find work, they can't earn money, they're going hungry..... Finally we hear that a saviour from the line of David has come to free us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. What does this great saviour tell us to do? To give in and act like servants! We've done that for hundreds of years already. We want renewal; we want leadership; we want power. You remember the psalm: "the nations all encompassed me; in the Lord's name I

crushed them.” Note that it doesn’t say, “I anointed their hair for them.”

Jereboam: I’ve heard rumours that some people believe that Jesus is the son of God.

Gideon: And a wretched nuisance all that is too. You’d be amazed what rubbish people will accept when they think they’re in the presence of God’s messenger. There’s a certain group of them that just won’t listen to sense. It’s exasperating, I can tell you.

Jereboam: But I get the impression that six months ago lots of people were very happy with Jesus...

Gideon: Absolutely: we’d been lumbered for years with these useless leaders like the Pharisees, quibbling over trivial points of ritual and doing nothing. Jesus put them in their place all right. Then when he has the chance to offer something better, this clown lets us all down with his weak-minded rubbish. He’s just as useless as they are.

Jereboam: I’m going to be provocative, Gideon.

Gideon: I’m used to it, mate; don’t worry.

Jereboam: It strikes me that you were happy enough when Jesus was criticising the Pharisees -- saying what he disagrees with. As soon as he starts saying what he actually does agree with, you reject it. Maybe you just like people who complain.

Gideon: Look, what we need here are people who deliver on their promises: people who don’t just talk, but actually do something useful. We want people who make a difference.

Jereboam: Thank you for your opinions, Gideon. I shouldn’t be surprised if you start a heated debate.

This Week

Today’s Gospel tells the story about two of Jesus’ closest friends, the brothers James and John, who want seats of honour in “the Kingdom” they envisage Jesus bringing into being.. We can almost see Jesus shake his head in dismay that they could have missed his point so badly once again. He does not let his disciples get sidetracked into jealousy but calls them together again to give them his message: “Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Monday is the Feast of St. Luke, Evangelist, the author of the Gospel which bears his name and of the Acts of the Apostles.

We continue with the second of four weeks of weekday readings from St Paul’s letter to the Romans. This is Paul’s longest letter and was written from Greece as he prepared to visit Rome.

The Our gospels continue with readings from St Luke, and multiple stories of Jesus exhorting us to be prepared, to beware of greed and that our “life does not consist of possessions.” Jesus’ mission is to bring peace and healing. We are to be prepared for the times our Lord comes to us. Much is expected of us who have been entrusted with so much. Jesus has come to set a fire among us, which will probably also place us at odds with others, even others we love. Yet, Jesus calls us to read the signs of our times and to make peace with our opponents if we can. We are being fertilized to bear fruit.

Next Sunday we are offered a vision of comfort and healing. In the reading from the prophet Jeremiah, we see the Lord gathering “his people” - the blind, the lame and the helpless innocents, bringing them together to console and guide them. In St Mark’s Gospel, Bartimaeus, the blind beggar has the courage to beg for healing from Jesus. He is hushed by the crowd but continues to call loudly for Jesus, who hears him and heals him. “*Go your way; your faith has saved you.*”

A Reflection for Trinity 20

+ People don’t really change, we are told. Very often we hear people using that rather cynically pessimistic saying, ‘a leopard doesn’t change its spots’ to express their rather deterministic view that we are stuck with how we are, and we can’t do very much about it. Now it’s certainly true that we should treat with a lot of scepticism all the philosophies and political programmes which take for granted that human beings are perfectible – because that’s not what we see around us. The Christian faith is both optimistic and pessimistic at the same time. On the one hand we believe that human nature is - to use some traditional language - in some way ‘fallen,’ out of kilter with what it should be and could be, and that we are alienated from our best possibilities: we have a tendency to miss the mark. On the other hand we are committed to a belief that humanity was originally created in the image and likeness of God and that that image hasn’t been erased. Not only that, but in salvation and redemption: that God himself has provided us with a way out of the constant cycle of sin, alienation and disappointment which otherwise seems to be our destiny. With God, as last week’s readings reminded us, ‘all things are possible,’ and change is not only a possibility but it is something which is actually demanded of us as a condition of being disciples of Jesus Christ. So not only then do we believe that the leopard *can* change its spots, we might even think it can end up as quite another kind of animal altogether. Change, transformation, “amendment of life” as the Prayer Book put it is at the very heart of the Gospel. God accepts us as we are in order to transform us into what he wants us to be. It’s not surprising then that the Gospels are full of stories of those who encounter Christ and come away from the experience transformed, their lives set on a different trajectory altogether. We heard in today’s Gospel reading that the Apostles James and John rather fancied themselves as big names in the life of the kingdom of heaven and our first reaction is to be shocked both by their presumption and by the way they completely misinterpret what it is Jesus has been teaching them. But if we find ourselves thinking how completely obtuse they were, we certainly ought also to be thinking that

Thought for the Week

“Above all, always see Jesus in every person, and consequently treat each one not only as an equal and as a brother or sister, but also with great humility, respect and selfless generosity.”

Bl Charles de Foucauld (1858 -1916)

their conversion to what they became was enormous and totally authentic, John, whose profound reflections in old age about the nature of the God who is love and the Incarnation of the Word stand at the heart of the New Testament and James, his brother, who gave his life for Christ only a few short years after the resurrection. It is James, a particular favourite of mine for obvious reasons - who in art and iconography who is always portrayed as a pilgrim with a staff in one hand and the scroll of the Gospels in the other. We are all pilgrims on the road to the kingdom. And like James and John we all have to travel an enormous distance spiritually from the time of our first glimpse of the Lord, however it comes in our own lives, to that place where we hope we will see him face to face. We are all called to constant conversion of life, from being earthly-centred to being heavenly-centred, or at least centred on the values of the Kingdom of God, and so the life-stories of these first disciples with their mistakes and compromises become for us sources of encouragement and consolation when inevitably we mess up in our own discipleship. Today's Gospel presents us with James and John and their worldly pride, but, as we said, James died for his faith in Christ and the Apostle John, in his old age, according to St Polycarp who knew him well, would repeat to his followers over and over again, "Brothers and sisters, love one another." The Gospels, far from being the propaganda they are sometimes accused of being, are completely devoid of what we might call now "spin." They are disarmingly and transparently honest about the human faults of those who were leading the Church at the very beginning. The frailty and even stupidity of the Apostles only points all the more clearly to the transforming power of the Lord's death and resurrection. If they could make mistakes like that, then there really is hope for all of us. The real challenge to us all is to allow ourselves to be constantly confronted by the Gospel, confronted by the grace of the sacraments. (in other words challenged and confronted by the person of Christ - as James and John were) - confronted, corrected and changed. We might not think so, but we are called to do something fairly dramatic in our lives. We may not think so, neither necessarily do those around us. But the

Christian life is a huge challenge, a great journey of exploration from being earthly-centred to being heavenly-centred, a process which puts everything we are, all our good qualities all our best hopes and ambitions to the test and ultimately finds them not really enough for the task. That's not meant to be a cause for despair or to instil in us a sense of perpetual failure, but only to remind us that we can never get to the life of the Kingdom purely by ourselves, by our own merits or our own goodness, but by grace - only hand in hand with the God who himself in Christ comes to find us. As he come to find us here this morning [in Word and Sacrament] to challenge and change and heal us and make us to use a fairly awful buzz-word "fit for purpose." And we have to view our human failures, both our own and those of others, with a merciful understanding and also from the point of view as being opportunities for growth and renewal - for transformation - *metanoia* - the New Testament calls it. And that's true of where we are as regards society, too. The Church carries on and she always has, through bad periods and good periods, through friendly times and unfriendly times, from tragedy and disaster to rebirth and renewal. None of us is absolved from participating in the historical process, living in the *real world* as some people might say, and in fact, we must take part in it in order to sow the seeds of eternal hope. Christ himself enters human history to get involved in the real world, God himself in Christ comes among us to lead us back to him. He does it by showing us - as a human being like us - the true meaning of love and life itself. We all - each one of us - are all part of that process by which the Church is built, really the only community - despite its foolishness and its weakness and its historical compromises - around which we can build a firm foundation of faith and life. Nothing happens which isn't foreseen by God - and that's just something which goes with the territory. The Church, we ourselves, work under the direction of the same Master who through his cross brings resurrection and new life and fresh hope. He invites us today in union with the apostles and saints of all the ages to share in His life and to share in his mission of service and suffering so that the world can be redeemed and transformed +

Saint of the Week

18th October

St Luke

Church tradition attributes the authorship of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles to Luke.

His name is not mentioned in the Gospels, which indicated he was a later follower of Jesus and possibly a follower of St Paul and seems to have joined his company at Troas. He is mentioned in Colossians (4:14) and is described here as the 'beloved physician', who sends his greetings to the church that St Paul is writing to. Paul also mentions Luke in his letter to Philemon (1:24) and the second letter to Timothy (4:11), which suggest that Luke was known to these churches. Apart from these mentions, we know very little about his life.

There is a tradition, dating from the 8th century, that states that Luke was the first icon painter and painted icons of the Virgin Mary with child, but this cannot be verified.

From the Gospel and Acts we know that forgiveness and God's mercy to sinners is of importance to Luke. Only in Luke do we hear the story of the Prodigal Son welcomed back by the overjoyed father. Only in Luke do we hear the story of the forgiven woman disrupting the feast by washing Jesus' feet with her tears. Throughout Luke's gospel, Jesus takes the side of the sinner who wants to return to God's mercy.

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Ministry Area Prayer

Dear Lord, we thank you for the opportunity to work together as a Ministry Area.

May we engage with each other with faith and encouragement. May we manage each situation with wisdom and mutual respect.

May we serve with integrity,
creativity and purpose.

May we speak with openness
and gentleness.

May we offer our gifts, time
and finances with generosity.

May we face each challenge
with courage and the desire
to grow through it.

May we all be drawn deeper
into our relationship with You
and be known as your disciples.

Help us to show your love,
proclaim your Good News
and grow your Kingdom in this place.

We ask this in the name of Jesus
Christ, our Lord and Saviour. **AMEN**