

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
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14th November 2021

**The Third Sunday
of the Kingdom**

2nd Sunday before Advent

Remembrance Sunday

St Deiniol's, Itton at 10.30am

The Collect

Almighty everlasting God, who sent your Son to die that we might live, grant we pray, eternal rest to those who gave themselves in service and sacrifice for their country; through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **AMEN**

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be an affliction, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his elect, and he watches over his holy ones. [3. 1-9]

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

Psalm 130

R/ My soul waits for the Lord

Out of the depths have I cried to you,
O Lord; Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you shall be feared.

R/ My soul waits for the Lord.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;
in his word is my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord,
more than the night watch for the morning,
more than the night watch for the morning.

R/ My soul waits for the Lord.

O Israel, wait for the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy;
With him is plenteous redemption
and he shall redeem Israel from
all their sins.

R/ My soul waits for the Lord.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans [8. 31-39]

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Alleluia, alleluia!

It is my Father's will, says the Lord,
that I should lose nothing of all he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you
R/ And also with you

**Listen to the Gospel of Christ
according to St John**

R/ Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said,
 "All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me; and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

[St John 6, 37 - 40]

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

For all who gave their lives in the two world wars and subsequent conflicts
 For peace throughout the world and all who strive for peace and understanding
 Those who care for the environment and the natural world
 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; Marion Webster; Mali

For the Departed:

The recently departed; Mady Gerrard; Shirley Capp; Johnny Morris; Stuart Moles; Robert Pring; our own departed relatives & friends, & those whose anniversaries of death fall this week: John Kenneth Gravelle; Douglas Higgs

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'

Jereboam today is based on the ordinary time Sunday readings for the 2nd Sunday before Advent

Veronica

Veronica: Hi! You're Jereboam, aren't you?

Jereboam: Yes, Madam, I am.

Veronica: Ah, I've read several of your articles. The name's Veronica, by the way.

Jereboam: Delighted to meet you, Veronica.

Veronica: Yes. Tell me, this Jesus fellow: is he rather unstable?

Jereboam: Unstable? I don't think I've heard anyone describe him like that before. What gives you that idea?

Veronica: Well, I was just speaking to one of his men, and apparently Jesus tells them that the world could come to an end at any moment and that we all have to be on our guard. I mean, honestly, what's the fellow playing at?

Jereboam: I suppose we can't really argue with him. Clearly none of us does know when the world will come to an end.

Veronica: Yes, but that's not the point. Look: I am a spiritual person. I resonate with the eternal goodness of the world. I inhale with every breath the wondrous rapture of the divine creation. Frankly, I find this Jesus fellow rather disheartening.

Jereboam: I suspect that Jesus also lays greater emphasis on the question of good and evil.

Veronica: Ah, for me, Jereboam, there is no good nor evil, only spiritual and unspiritual.

Jereboam: I think you've hit on a significant difference between yourself and Jesus there. He consistently speaks of the conflict between good and evil, and how, at the end of the world, God will judge us according to our actions. At least that's how I understand him.

Veronica: It all sounds rather like a farmer sorting out the sheep from the goats.

Jereboam: Funnily enough, Jesus has used that very image himself.

Veronica: So he believes in some sort of hell, does he? It sounds like it.

Jereboam: He does speak about that, yes.

Veronica: Hardly encouraging, is it?

Jereboam: On the contrary, Veronica, many people seem to find the concept highly motivating...coupled, of course, with the alternative prospect of heaven.

Veronica: I do tend to forget that so few people have my spiritual gifts.

Jereboam: Maybe I should just add that Jesus reckons that it will be God who judges us. He doesn't offer his listeners the option of passing judgement on each other - in fact, he positively discourages it.

Veronica: Oh, really...how extraordinary. Goodbye.

Jereboam: Goodbye, Veronica. It was a pleasure to meet you.

Thought for the Week

“There is one case when we must resist evil forcefully. It is when it is not a case of defending ourselves but of protecting others. It takes forcefulness to defend the weak and the innocent when their oppressors wrong them. The spirit of peace is not a spirit of weakness but a spirit of strength.”

Bl Charles de Foucauld
(1858 – 1916)

This Week

Today we keep as Remembrance Sunday: we remember at the altar those who have died in conflict and we resolve to work for a better world in which peace will prevail.

In the readings in ordinary time, we hear the familiar and powerful parable from St Matthew's Gospel about the servants who are each given a sum of money to invest. We are all called upon to use the gifts we have received as gifts, and to return them, fully developed and utilised.

Wednesday is the feast day of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, religious.

During these last two weeks of the Church's year, the first readings are taken from the Book of Revelation, with its intensely mystical imagery. Written for readers who were familiar with apocalyptic writings, the writings send a hidden message of salvation to the earliest communities of Christians, and to us. St Luke's Gospel offers the story of the blind man who hails him, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" An unpopular tax collector, Zacchaeus, climbs a tree to get a glimpse of Jesus and is given personal recognition as Jesus says, "Zacchaeus, today I must stay at your house." Luke's version of the parable of the talents offers praise for the servant who has invested the ten coins and earned another ten. "Well done, good servant! You have been faithful in this very small matter; take charge of ten cities." He weeps over Jerusalem: "If this day you only knew what makes for peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes." Jesus drives out the

sellers from the temple while the chief priests plot against him. Religious leaders try to trap him with a trick question about a woman who marries seven brothers but Jesus refutes them.

Next Sunday is the Solemnity of Christ the King, the Sunday before Advent. Jesus tells a parable about how we will all be judged - as a shepherd separates sheep from goats, based upon our care for the poor: "*Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.*"

A Reflection for Remembrance Sunday

Today is a serious day. It's meant to be a time when we remember, when we reflect and when we try to draw lessons from the past.

Unfortunately, we live in a trivial era, one dominated by glib, instant comment, divisive language and a narcissistic desire to look good.

Let's take the symbol which in Britain at least has come to represent Remembrance, the representation of the Flanders poppy. It stands for the poppies which grew even in the midst of the war-devastated farmland of Belgium and Northern France – it also stands for the blood of those who were slaughtered in their hundreds of thousands because military tactics had failed to keep up with the devastating power of new weaponry. And above all it says to us 'lest we forget.' In other words, 'Do not forget.'

The poppy, then, isn't a marketing opportunity – what we are doing today isn't plugging the commercial gap between a resuscitated Hallowe'en and an ever-advancing Christmas season. Today must not be trivialised.

And it shouldn't be trivialised either by those who try to use today for their own darkly ideological purposes. It's not about flags and military parades and national pride and glory – "*the old lie,*" as the war poet and serving infantry officer Wilfred Owen put it so memorably. He was killed in action just as the Great War was ending.

No. Today is a *serious* day. We are here to honour those who died, and to remember their sacrifice. Look at the names of the fallen, and who they were. For the most part they weren't

professional soldiers, or sailors or airmen, but civilians whose lives weren't that different from ours. They either volunteered or were called up to serve in the hugely expanded, mass armies of the twentieth century in the two world wars. They were those who left their real lives, their families, their homes, their jobs, and occupations and professions in response to a call to defend what was most dear to them. And when we look at our war memorials here and the war memorials in every town, city, and village throughout Europe, we can see that many of them never came back. It's not possible to visit the war cemeteries without a feeling of shock and horror at the sheer numbers of those who lie buried there.

Again. "*Lest we forget.*" In other words, don't let it happen again.

It's vital that the global conflicts of the last century – and the devastation and sorrow they brought to so many lives – isn't allowed to pass out of our memory, as those who took part in them and witnessed them now leave this life for the next. We have a need to remember both as individuals or more collectively as a society. We need to understand their history and understand it properly. We mustn't forget the legacy of those who died, which wasn't the military glory but the forging of a new peace. We need to remember the benefits of the peace they died to build and not grow complacent about the darkness in human hearts which always seeks to overturn it, to divide, to hate, to exploit.

The poppy represents the resilience of nature, and the resilience of the human spirit – it also speaks to us eloquently about what happens when we forget or become complacent about the quiet, enduring values of peace, and international cooperation, and the ties that bind us all together as human beings whatever our superficial differences. Peace has to begin with us. It has to begin in our own minds and hearts.

For the Church and for those of us who follow Christ - or who try to - the word 'remembrance' evokes a lot more than just memory. At the altar when we celebrate the Eucharist, we "do this in remembrance," and remembrance here means much more than just a mental recollection. It means a bringing of what has happened in the past into the present. And as we offer Christ's perfect sacrifice

to the Father, we bring the living events of his death and resurrection into our present reality. As we “do this” today, we are offering those saving events particularly for the fallen – all the fallen. We honour the duty and service of those who died, but we make this offering in full knowledge of the messiness of human life and the mixed motives and confusions of human thoughts and actions. We offer Christ for the reality, not the illusion, or any approved version of events, whether our own or anyone else’s. We make this offering in penitence and contrition, we ask for mercy, forgiveness and new life. *Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.* +

Saint of the Week **St Margaret of Scotland** *16th November*

Margaret of Scotland is sometimes also known as Margaret of Wessex. Her father was an English prince, but she was born in exile in Hungary, the country of her mother’s birth in 1045, and she grew up in the Hungarian court. The family returned from exile to England, but faced further persecution after William of Normandy conquered England after the battle of Hastings in 1066. The family fled north to Northumbria and Margaret found refuge with King Malcolm III of Scotland, who she married and together they had eight children. Margaret was regarded as a strong and pious woman who spent much time in prayer, and she had a great deal of influence over her husband. She reformed the royal court, founded monasteries and supported major reforms of Church life as well as considerable works of charity. She died in Edinburgh on 16 November 1093. She is remembered for the happiness of her marriage, for her devotion to prayer and learning, and especially for her generosity to the poor.

God, the ruler of all, who called your servant Margaret to an earthly throne and gave her zeal for your Church and love for your people that she might advance your heavenly kingdom:

mercifully grant that we who commemorate her example may be fruitful in good works and attain to the glorious crown of your saints; 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**

PLEASE NOTE:

The Requiem & Act of Remembrance for our parishes this year will be held at St Deiniol’s, Itton at 10.30 today – 14th November

There will also be an outdoor Remembrance service on the village green at Devauden at 10 a.m.

**Sunday November 21st
*(Christ the King)***

As requested by Bishop Cherry & the Diocese, there will be a joint celebration of the Eucharist for the new Ministry Area at 10 a.m. in St Mary’s Church, Chepstow, All are very welcome indeed to attend.

The next Sunday morning service at St Arvans will be on 28th November, the First Sunday of Advent, at 10 a.m. and will be live-streamed as usual,