

PARISH NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE

St Arvan's Church is now open during the day both for worship and private prayer, Again, we stress there is no obligation while Covid-19 infection rates remain high to attend in person, and that your own safety and health & those of others must remain paramount.

There is now no legal obligation to wear masks in church, but please do so if you wish. If you feel unwell with Covid-like symptoms, or have tested positive, please take part in our church services online rather than attend in person.

Our live-streamed 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
01291 622064;
Mobile 07867803479

5th June 2022
PENTECOST
Whitsunday

The Collect

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, 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 Acts of the Apostles

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in their native language. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.'

[2; 1 - 21]

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

Psalm 104, 25 - 37

**R Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.**

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

**R Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.**

Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number,
creatures both small and great.
There move the ships, and there is that
Leviathan, which you have made for the
sport of it.

**R Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.**

All of them look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it to them, they gather it; you open your hand and they are filled with good things. You hide your face and they are terrified; you take away their breath and they die and return to their dust.

**R Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.**

You send forth your Spirit and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth. May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in all his works. He looks at the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke.

**R Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my being. May these words of mine please him; I will rejoice in the Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia!

**R Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the Romans [8; 14 - 17]

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

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

Gradual Hymn

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love
Alleluia!

The Lord be with you:
And also with you

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

R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

Philip said to Jesus, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.'
Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you..... I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.' [14: 8 - 17; 25 - 27]

This is the Gospel of the Lord
R/ 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

On this Pentecost Sunday we give thanks
for the gift of the Holy Spirit and we pay
that we may be lead into all the truth.
As we celebrate her Platinum Jubilee, we
give thanks also for the example of duty
and service shown by Elizabeth our
Queen to our country and its people,
The well-being of the earth and everything
which lives on it.
The people of Ukraine.
The peace of the world
Those killed and injured in Ukraine
Those without adequate food and shelter
For all migrants, refugees, and all forced
to flee from their homelands
Those here and throughout the world who
continue to suffer from the Coronavirus
pandemic - for doctors, nurses, all
medical staff, carers, medical researchers.
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; Marion Webster;
Lorna; Michael; Lisa; Anne-Louise;
Abigail; John Metivier, priest;
David Nicholson, priest.

For the Departed:

The recently departed: Maurice (Mike)
Menage; our own departed relatives &
friends, & those whose anniversaries of
death fall at this time: John Humphries;
Leslie Harry Farley;

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.*

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

Silas

Jereboam: Well, Silas, it seems
only a few days since everyone was
mourning the loss of Jesus after his
Ascension. People were searching for the
strength and inspiration to continue his
work.

Silas: That's right: we felt quite
unequal to the task.

Jereboam: But the mood seems
different now.

Silas: Yes – everything
changed very suddenly. This was about
three or four days ago now. To begin with,
only Jesus' closest friends were involved,
but then word was sent round, and we all
gathered together and experienced this
extraordinary shift in our lives. I want to
use the word "upheaval", but that doesn't
really convey the sense of joy that came
over us. It was very dramatic. People were
expressing our salvation in all sorts of
wonderful ways.

Jereboam: It certainly does sound
extraordinary.

Silas: I can only compare it to
something I'd experienced with my
children. That was on a much more
intimate scale, obviously, and much more
gradual. You have children, don't you?

Jereboam: Yes.
Silas: Well, you might recognise what I mean. When my children were young, I often used to remember my own upbringing. I'd try to emulate my parents. I didn't necessarily do everything in the same way as they had done, but somehow in an equivalent way. I found the means to communicate what I had experienced myself. So that's what it was like the other day. The more we all fixed our attention on what Jesus has given us, the more we found our own ways to express that to others – to draw them into our experience, if you like. It felt like inspiration, but closely bound up with our relationship to Jesus and our memories of him. And there was a sense of urgency about it.

Jereboam: What do you mean?

Silas: You know how now and again everything seems totally absorbing and significant? You tell yourself that life can't always be like that, that you're just passing through a short phase of intense experience...

Jereboam: Yes, I suppose so.

Silas: Well, this experience was absorbing all right, except without that sense of holding yourself in check. It feels like a permanent sense of significance.

Jereboam: We live in exciting times: thank you for sharing your thoughts with us again, Silas.

Thought for the Week

“Everything that breathes, breathes by air and cannot live without air; similarly all reasonable free creatures live by the Holy Spirit, as though by air, and cannot live without Him. "Every soul is quickened by the Holy Spirit." Recognise that the Holy Spirit stands in the same relation to your soul as air stands in relation to your body.”

*St. John of Kronstadt,
 'My Life in Christ'*

This Week

Sunday is the great feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. The readings, and the whole Church, celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit among us, and his abiding presence with us. The Apostles who had been so terrified are now set on fire to

proclaim the Resurrection. Now they can speak clearly, so everyone can understand them. In St John's Gospel, Jesus breathes on his disciples and tells them, "Peace be with you" and fills them with courage, giving them the mission to forgive and sending them to carry out his desire that we all be one.

Monday is the feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church.

Saturday is that of Saint Barnabas.

During the week, we begin a three week period of looking at the Books of the Kings. Elijah follows the Lord's direction and changes the hearts of many. The week ends as Elijah calls Elisha into service for the Lord.

This week we begin the Gospel According to St Matthew, starting with the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus is the new Moses, and offers us a new and radical teaching. It begins by his telling a small group of followers that they are blessed - not because they have their acts together, but because they are spiritually poor, meek, those desiring justice, the merciful, the clean of heart, the peacemakers and the persecuted. Salt and light explain who they are as disciples. They are to obey the law and prophets which Jesus came to fulfill. Whereas the law forbade killing, Jesus calls his disciples to be reconcilers. The law forbade adultery, but Jesus warns about lust and whatever is an occasion for sinning. The law forbade taking false oaths, but Jesus calls his disciples to a deeper fidelity and integrity.

Next Sunday is Trinity Sunday. We celebrate the great revelation of the mystery of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A Homily for Pentecost Sunday

+ It's the first Sunday of June already, and whether it's the increasing hours of daylight, or the rapid rate at which everything in the natural world is growing after a rather cool Spring, time gives the illusion of accelerating. And time is essentially what this morning's feast is all about. Today is the great feast of the *gift* of the Holy Spirit, the gift of the one who communicates to us all the benefits of the Son's passion, death and resurrection here at the end of Eastertide. Pentecost makes Easter a reality for all time. Today sums up what we have been celebrating for the last 50 days. Today is the Birthday

of the Church, in many ways the birthday of the faith itself.

Eastertide is summed up and it's made part of our own experience in the gift of the Spirit and today's first reading offers us an insight into what the experience of the first Pentecost meant to those who were there at the time. It doesn't dwell very much on what we could call the sound and light effects, but it does speak at length about the experience of the devout men and women who were living in Jerusalem from every nation on earth. They heard these people from Galilee - the Apostles - speaking foreign languages, so that each one of them was able to hear them really preaching in their own language about the marvels of God. The point of the story? Again and again the Gospels make the point that the person and the message of Jesus is meant for all people, all times and all places. The Holy Spirit makes that possible. We are being shown the Church here at its beginning as being the reversal of the myth of the Tower of Babel and intended to be truly universal, for all peoples and cultures, not confined to national boundaries or locally shared human languages, but a place - a spiritual space - where there is room for everyone, somewhere where we experience the life of God in a common home, speaking the same language of faith, by means of a common spiritual life..

And today at Pentecost we find out that the Resurrection and Ascension are not the end of the story of Jesus and the redemption and re-creation of the world through him. Today we celebrate the next great surprise in the unfolding Christian story -- Pentecost, the day God, in sharing with us the Holy Spirit, enables us to be united to God's own life and find the possibility that our own human life can be transformed into a likeness of Christ. Like much of our faith, Pentecost is literally a very real 'down-to-earth' event, the sharing of Christ's overcoming of sin and death. We give thanks today for the gift of the Holy Spirit, but we shouldn't complain about the way the Spirit is given to us, always having to be worked out in the confusion of history, in the messiness of our own lives, in a truly 'human way'. From the God who comes in the Incarnation both to share our human nature and to redeem it, we can, expect nothing else.

But we can see the immediate effects of the Holy Spirit in the difference he brings to the Apostles themselves; from a small group of frightened and bewildered men, they are transformed into the driving force of love, compassion and sheer conviction which led the Church in a few generations to spread to the ends of the known world. That was true of the Apostles and their immediate followers and successors, but how do we experience the Spirit, the Holy Spirit who brings the life of God to us, who unites us leads us into all the truth, according to the promise given to us? We find him not only in the power to draw others, but in the fire of the presence of God.

Now it's in many ways appropriate that these ideas of unity, vocation, service and discipleship should be the theme running through this Sunday's liturgy as we celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In her dedication to the vocation she received at her anointing at her coronation, she has clearly striven to exemplify this kind of unifying duty and service during the whole length of her long reign, now the longest in our history. Unusually in our contemporary society she doesn't seek to disguise or downplay the role her faith has played in her life, both personal and public. It is clear from what she says and the way she lives, that her Christian faith is absolutely central. We are very fortunate at an anxious time of division at home and international danger, not to mention the signal lack in high places of the values she has exemplified, to have her still, with her constancy and dedication, as our Head of State. The Holy Spirit leads us in the difficult task of trying to discern in all kinds of ways what it is God is really calling us to do and to be in the world of today. And I don't now mean - what the role of the Church should be in the modern world or any kind of ecclesiastical agenda, but what it means *for us*. We find God-given help for that here at the heart of the Church's life in the reality of the sacramental life of the Eucharist, we find it in prayer and contemplation, and in the hearing and the proclamation of the words of the Gospel itself - which is timeless yet always fresh and speaks directly to our hearts and minds.

Here we meet Christ - unlike us, the same yesterday, today and forever. And we are led to him by the Holy Spirit the source

and channel of the inexhaustible freshness and vitality of the life of God. From that fire of love, we are all given new life and new heart to follow where Christ is calling us, in whatever way that might be. Most of the time I think we are much too bothered about trying to set the world to rights and then despairing when we fail to do it. God puts us when and where we are to serve him in the love of our neighbour. There is only one place where we can begin and that's with ourselves. We can only learn to love God when and where we are. If we immerse ourselves in living the Gospel, if we commit each day to trying to live like Christ, then the Holy Spirit has a way of giving us a wholly different perspective.

"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love." +

Services in the Group: Pentecost Sunday

9a.m. Family Service at Devauden
10 a.m. Sung Eucharist at St Arvans
Hymns (*New English Hymnal*)
137, 140; 296; 367; 389
11.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Hymns
At St Mary's, Penterry
4 p.m. Evening Prayer at St Deiniol's, Itton

A Prayer for Ukraine

written by Ukrainain Christians

O Lord our God, look down with mercy on the Ukrainian people. Protect and save them from the unjust aggressors who seek to subdue them. Grant them steadfast trust in your mercy and protection.

O Mother of God, who gave us your miraculous icon at Zarvanytsia, intercede for the Ukrainian people, who run to the shelter of your mercy in their times of need.

O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Grant peace and protection to the people of Ukraine. Give them strength and courage to defend what is good, right, and holy. Keep them safe from harm and provide for all their needs, both temporal and spiritual.

Hear our prayers, O Lord, and deliver

us from distress, for You are merciful and compassionate and love mankind. To you we give glory: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, 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**

SEVERN WYE MINISTRY AREA

PRAYING TOGETHER

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." JAMES 5:16

Praying together for our ministry area and our local communities

**THE 2nd AND 4th MONDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
7.30 TO 8.30 PM
St Christopher's Church,
Bulwark, Chepstow**