

St Saviour's Church

6 December 2020 - Advent 2 (PREPARATION)



What John does ought to astound us. Would any modern leader with numerous enthusiastic followers — disciples, even — see another leader emerge and think it was time to make way for someone greater? That is not mere modesty on John's part; it is sheer, beautiful honesty. He has the integrity to know that he is the Forerunner (as some Christian traditions call him); his function is to show people the way to the truth who is life, and then to recede: "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25.23). (Cally Hammond, Church Times 8229)

Parish Notes:

Next Sunday - Reserve your seat at St Saviour's mass via Liz on 07718018846. Please adhere to posters and advice from sides people about keeping safe and adhering to social distance, face masks (compulsory) as well as hand hygiene.

Weekday Services - Usual times this week except for Tues in St Saviour's which will be at 09:30 this week only. Funeral of Rita Smith in St German's this Tues at 1pm.

Advent Prayer - The Church in Wales will pray a simple prayer each evening of Advent at 6pm. If you'd like to join in, the prayer text is on our website.

Christmas Card Display - We hope to have our display of cards (as last year). Instead of sending individual cards why not consider our display which is kinder to the environment and supports our church. Donations please to St Saviour's.

Christmas Flowers - We're considering having Christmas flowers as in previous years. Please speak to Gwyneth for more details.

Llandaff Matters - In place of Croeso the diocese has moved to a weekly online update on life and ministry in the diocese. It is called Llandaff Matters and we are encouraging everyone to sign up to the weekly email list. Details on our website and on a poster at the back of the church.

Benediction - this evening at 6pm in St St German's. Next Sunday Dec 13th we will have a shortened nine lessons and carols service in St Saviour's at 6pm. Carols will be sung by a small group of up to six singers which complies with current government guidance.

Foodbank - Is now back to normal and the normal opening times. There is a box for food donations at the back for all those who'd like to support this crucial ministry.

Advent and Christmas - Please take a copy of the Advent and Christmas services flyer from the back of the church. It will be crucial to book a place in advance for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and so there will be a services sign up page at the back of the church for current congregation members. If you are inviting family please also fill in their names. Priority will go to current church members yet we want to also keep some space for those who only visit once a year or so.

Recently Departed - Rita Smith RIP

This week:

Sun 6 - Advent II

Pray for:
Pyle & Kenfig, Duncan Walker (V); Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain
St Saviour's:
9:30 Sung Mass;
St German's:
11:00 am Mass
18:00pm Benediction w Music for Advent

Mon 7:

18:00 Mass (St G)
St Ambrose

Tues 8:

09:30 (St S)
13:00 Funeral (St G)
Immaculate Conception of the BVM

Wed 9:

10:00 (St G)

Thur 10:

17:45 (St S)

Fri 11:

No Mass

Sat 12:

No Mass (St S.)

Sun 13 - Advent III

Pray for:
Pyle & Kenfig, Duncan Walker (V); Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain.
St Saviour's:
9:30 Sung Mass;
18:00 Nine Lesson & Carols
St German's:
11:00 am Mass

Parish Priest:

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Churchwardens:

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www.saintgermanwithsaintsaviour.org

READINGS THIS WEEK

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11
Ps 85:9ab+10, 11-12,
13-14
2 Pet 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Isa 61:1-2a, 10-11
Luke 1:46-48, 49-50,
53-54
1 Thess 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

PSALM RESPONSE

'Let us see, O Lord,
your mercy, and give
us your saving help.
(3vs)

TODAYS HYMNS:

Here in this place
Hills of the North Rejoice
On Jordan's Banks
God is working his purpose out

COLLECT:

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his

arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Isaiah 40

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help

I will hear what
the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near
for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R/**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **R/**

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **R/**
Psalm 85

SECOND READING:

A reading from St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where

righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

2 Peter 3:8-4

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and peoples shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Mark.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”’, John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Mark 13:33-37