

# St Saviour's Church

9 December 2018 - Advent 2



Fleeing to the wilderness has always been associated with those yearning for religious freedom. John did it (and so did many monks and Christian communities ever since). With John though he becomes the 'voice' from the desert experience which is prophetic and challenging to all who hear: repent and believe. Turn back to God.

## Parish Notes:

**Advent Benediction** - Benediction with Music for Advent this evening at 6pm in St Saviour's. All are welcome.

**Christmas Card Display** will be available from this Sunday.

**Las Posadas:** Today Mary & Joseph begin the journey around parish. Please sign up if you are able to offer the Holy Family hospitality for the night. You can follow their adventures on @Cardiff\_GandS

**Healing Service** - this week's healing service in St Saviour's has been postponed to next Wednesday 19 Dec at 6pm.

**Sanctuary Lamps:** Anyone wishing to sponsor The Blessed Sacrament Lamp or the Lamp to Our Lady should sign the list at the back of church and give your £4 donation to John. New dates have now been added.

**Christmas Flowers:** Last call for Floral Displays for Christmas. To sponsor flowers please give your order form with your dedication to Gwyneth with the payment.

**Eco Church** - Thanks to Bill & David for meeting Moorland's Eco Group this week. Some great ideas about how to improve our lives in school and church.

**Carols & a Cuppa:** Please do join us on Sat 22 December at 12 noon. Last year this was a great community success. Let's make this year even better. Spread the word!

**Nightshelter** - Information and training evening for this year's shelter tomorrow at 7pm in St German's. This is open to new volunteers as well as to those who helped last year. Its purpose is to update everyone on procedures for this year.

**Advent and Christmas** - Copies of the services for Advent and Christmas are available at the back of the Church and on our website.

**Recently Departed:** Brian Gunstone RIP

## This week:

### Sun 9 Advent 2

9:30 Sung Mass (St S)

11am Sung Mass (St G)

6pm Benediction (St S)

### Mon 10:

11:30am Mass (St G)

### Tues 11:

10am Mass (St S)

St Damasus I

### Wed 12:

No Mass Today

9:30am School Concert

(Tredegarville) (St G)

### Thur 13:

5:45pm Mass (St S)

St Lucy

### Fri 14:

6pm mass (St S)

St John of the Cross

### Sat 15:

11am Mass (St S)

### Sun 16: Advent 3

#### St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass

7pm O Antiphons

#### St German's:

11:00 am Sung Mass

7pm - O Antiphons (O

Wisdom)

## Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,

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(Day off - Friday)

## Churchwardens:

Bill Eastwood

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David Gibbins

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## READINGS THIS WEEK

Baruch 5:1-9

Ps 125

Philippians 1:4-11

Luke 3:1-6

## READINGS NEXT WEEK

Zeph 3:14-18a

Isa 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6

Phil 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

## PSALM:

**What marvels the Lord  
worked for us! Indeed  
we were glad. (4vv)**

**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**

**GATHERING:**

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh. Awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin: make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Saviour, Lord, our refuge and our great reward. Without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more. O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won, whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

**JESSE TREE SONG**

Hanging in the branches of this Jesse tree; see the love of Jesus and his family. Here we see his goodness and his light and power shining through the darkness 'til the final hour

Prophets, men and women all received his word: promise of the coming of the mighty Lord. Born into his family, in the church of God may we share the faith of God in flesh and blood.

So, in sign and symbol, so in branch and tree, may we tell the story of the One in Three. Through the Holy Spirit Christ is in our sight: Promise of the Father full of grace and light.

**OFFERTORY:**

I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship, should set his love upon the sons of men, or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the wanderers, to bring them back, they know not how or when. But this I know, that he was born of Mary when Beth'lem's manger was his only home, and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured, and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently he suffered, as with his peace he graced this place of tears, or how his heart upon the cross was broken, the crown of pain to three and thirty years. But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted and stays our sin and calms our lurking fear and lifts the burden from the heavy laden; for still the Saviour, Saviour of the world is here.

I cannot tell how he will win the nations, how he will claim his earthly heritage, how satisfy the needs and aspirations of east and west, of sinner and of sage. But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory, and he shall reap the harvest he has sown, and some glad day his sun will shine in splendour when he the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship, when at his bidding every storm is stilled, or who can say how great the jubilation when every heart with love and joy is filled. But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture, and myriad myriad human voices sing, and earth to heav'n, and heav'n to earth, will answer, 'at last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'

**COMMUNION:**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

**Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.**

**Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.**

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

**FINAL HYMN:**

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness, Sing and praise your God and mine! Great the Lord in love and wisdom, Might and majesty divine! He who framed the starry heavens Knows and names them as they shine Fill your hearts with joy and gladness, Sing and praise your God and mine!

Praise the Lord, his people, praise him! Wounded souls his comfort know. Those who fear him find his mercies, Peace for pain and joy for woe; Humble hearts are high exalted, Human pride and power laid low. Praise the Lord, his people, praise him! Wounded souls his comfort know.

Praise the Lord for times and seasons, Cloud and sunshine, wind and rain; Spring to melt the snows of winter Till the waters flow again; Grass upon the mountain pastures, Golden valleys thick with grain. Praise the Lord for times and seasons, Cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness, Peace and plenty crown your days! Love his laws, declare his judgements, Walk in all his words and ways; He the Lord and we his children, Praise the Lord, all people, praise! Fill your hearts with joy and gladness, Peace and plenty crown your days!

## FIRST READING

The First reading is from the prophet Jeremiah.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.' Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

This is the word of the Lord.

*Baruch 5*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.*

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. **R/**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **R/**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. **R/**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. **R/**

*Psalm 125*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the 1st letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

*Phil 1*

## GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the

region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*Luke 3*