

NEWSLETTER

for the Churches of St Arvans, St Mary, Penterry,
St Deiniol, Itton, St James, Devauden & Holy Cross, Kilgwrrwg
forming part of the Severn Wye Ministry Area

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE

St Arvan's Church is open during the day both for worship and private prayer, **Our live-streamed services are as follows: Sunday Eucharist at 10. a.m., and a reflection & celebration of Night Prayer usually on Wednesdays at 8 p.m.** They can be accessed on the St Arvans Parish Group page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vicaragecello1/> and are available to watch at any time The St Arvans Parish website can be found here:

<http://www.starvanschurch.org.uk/>

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
Fr Michael Gollop,
The Vicarage, St Arvans
01291 622064;
Mobile 07867803479
E-mail: frmichael1@aol.com

2nd June 2024

kept as **Corpus Christi**

The Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
we thank you that in this wonderful Sacrament you have given us the memorial of your passion:
grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may know within ourselves and show forth in our lives the fruits of your redemption;
for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed

be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

[14, 18 - 20]

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

Psalm 116 10-17

R/ I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things he has done for me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

R/ I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his servants.
O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant
and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

R/ I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord.
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.
In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Alleluia!

R/ I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [11. 23 - 26]

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my

body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Gradual Hymn

Alleluia, Alleluia!
I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord.
He who eats this bread will live for ever
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.

Jesus said: 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.' The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'

[6, 51 - 58]

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

For Your Prayers

That we may live our lives eucharistically in thanksgiving witnessing to the reality of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and in our lives

For all pilgrims to the holy places of the faith and all who support them

All who are caught up in war or conflict

All those without adequate food or shelter

The peoples of Gaza and Israel

& for lasting peace in the Middle East

The people of Ukraine and a just and

peaceful end to the war there

Those who suffer as a result of the climate emergency

For responsible stewardship of our planet

For compassion and responsibility in

those elected to govern us.

For migrants & refugees, and all forced

to flee from their homelands

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 Severn Wye Ministry Area,

for its priests, licensed lay ministers

and all its people.

For the Sick & those in need:

Roy Staples, Ralph Hamilton, Sylvia;

The Revd Helen Rodwell; Elisabeth;

Anne-Louise; Helen; Mary; Peter;

Kenneth Cameron; Ken Reece; Margaret;

Margot Davies, Margi; Althea; Eira &

Naylor Firth; Ivor Cavill; Jenny Sherwood;

James Burnam; Anne Octon..

For the Departed:

The recently departed: our own departed relatives & friends, and those whose

anniversaries of death fall at this time:

Lilian Baynton; Simon Moore; Paul

Belcher; Jeanette White; John Humphries

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)

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'

Daniel

Jereboam: To be honest, I didn't recognise you, Daniel.

Daniel: It was thirty years ago that we met. I was about twelve or thirteen at the time.

Jereboam: I do remember our conversation though, now you mention it. You were the lad who offered loaves and fish to feed all those people gathered to hear Jesus.

Daniel: That's right. It was an extraordinary day: the spiritual and the material in perfect combination. That happened all the time with Jesus, of course.

Jereboam: Would you still count yourself as one of his followers?

Daniel: Certainly: once I had experienced his love and authority, I could never turn away from it. The life we lead can be difficult at times, but, as I say, I could never reject the source of such goodness, such wholeness. Once you encounter something like that, you can't dismiss it and leave it in your past: it's too valuable to lose. I've just had to allow myself constantly to be replenished by Jesus.

Jereboam: Through prayer, presumably...

Daniel: Yes, but also by receiving his Body and Blood. That's bound up with prayer too, of course. It's also bound up with that old story of the loaves and fish – "my " story, if you like.

Jereboam: What's the particular connection?

Daniel: Well, that day Jesus was able to transcend normal reality, to share my food with everyone. He saw to it that we all had what we needed. In the same sort of way he offers himself to his followers whenever we revisit his sacrifice through the Eucharist. Again he gives to any number of people what they most need and desire: somehow the usual material laws are suspended to make this possible. It's a wonderful process. Just don't ask me to explain it. I don't understand it any more than I understood what went on with the loaves and the fish. I just know it happens, that's all, and that it's very, very beautiful.

Jereboam: Thank you, Daniel. Maybe you'll give us another update in another thirty years' time?

Daniel: Maybe...

THIS WEEK

On Sunday we keep Corpus Christi, our celebration of the Body and Blood of Christ, given to us in the Eucharist. The first readings this week are from the pastoral epistles, The Second Letter of Peter and The Second Letter to Timothy. St Mark's Gospel this week gives us stories of how Jesus is in the midst of a struggle with the religious leaders in Jerusalem who do not like them. He tells them the Parable of the tenant farmers, telling them that the stone rejected by builders has become the cornerstone. They almost arrest him. His opponents try to ensnare Jesus with question about the temple tax, but he isn't trapped by them. When they question him about the resurrection, Jesus tells a parable which teaches that God is the God of the living. When asked which is the first commandment, Jesus gives two - highlighting the equal importance of love of God and neighbour. Jesus is both Son of David and Messiah and Lord. Jesus warns of those who abuse widows on spiritual pretexts and tells his disciples to

notice the widow who gave from her poverty.

Next Sunday Jesus tells us in the Gospel: "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

A Homily for Corpus Christi

+ When we come to church, we don't necessarily *expect* any surprises. And in a way that's the point and how it should be. Worship isn't another form of entertainment and it's not meant to be about us at all, not about what we get out of it, but about what we offer to God. That's not where most people are, of course. We live at a time when the words "modern" and "old" carry more than a purely descriptive meaning. "Modern" is good and "old" is, if not bad, very definitely not as good as new. It's hard sometimes for a faith which is concerned with passing on the authentic good news of Jesus Christ from one generation to the next to engage with a culture which believes in the virtue of novelty in anything other than a superficial way. The work of mission and evangelism is about how we get people to that stage of realisation to begin with. We have to begin, of course, by convincing others of the difference our faith makes to the way we live our lives. In the week after the Feast of Corpus Christi, we tend to reflect upon the gift of the Eucharist, the gift the Lord Jesus made of himself on the night he was betrayed. Generation after generation the Church has celebrated the Eucharist, obedient to his command to 'do this in memory of me'. So we Christians are a repetitive people. By our nature we have to be. These days we see that as a problem. For many people, doing the same thing over and over again helps to make life dull and uninteresting. As a culture we seem to need more and more new and better ways to ward off the demons of boredom and tedium. But if we think about it much of our lives whether at home or at work or whatever consists of having to do the same predictable actions again and again. Most churchgoing families these days know the struggle to get children out of bed on a Sunday morning; we tend to believe that free time is for escaping from routine into

spontaneity, not finding more repetitive things to do.

But - and it's a big but - repetition isn't always a negative experience. Small children who are only just learning to use their imagination love to repeat the games they play games over and over, crying 'Again!' until the adult is exhausted and begging to stop. They take delight in the present so much that they can replay it again and again.

There may at times be an element of this in our eucharistic lives. At the Eucharist we anticipate our final home in God the Holy Trinity, when we shall dwell in the eternal moment of the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit.

But there is another aspect of repetition, that of our *characteristic activities* - the ones are so significant they define us. The kind person is one who can be relied upon to be kind not just in occasional spontaneous moments but over and over and again.

And to get to know someone and understand them is in a way I suppose the process of finding out how they are repetitive -- what sort of things they are known for doing. The generous person gives; the prayerful person is one who keeps praying, not one who prayed only once for a long time. Not all repetition enslaves us

These kind of repeated actions make us who we are. Just imagine having to cope with someone who was utterly unpredictable, never doing the same thing twice, never having the same reactions!

The word sociopath springs to mind although it's probably the wrong one! So like it or not Christianity is repetitive.

Those responsible for liturgy and worship in our re-organising diocese and province please note! Christians have literally been doing the same thing over and over again for 2000 years. St Paul writes of the mystery which was handed down to him, and which he is himself handing on, namely, how the Lord Jesus had anticipated the shedding of his blood by offering the cup of that blood to his disciples, and had offered his body to them as food.

In the Gospels, calling to mind the long history of Israel; the offering by Melchizedek of bread and wine; the blood of the Passover lamb which won freedom for the enslaved people of God; the manna rained down from heaven into the

barren desert, Jesus was gathering a history of repetition together and offering a new ritual interpretation of all those events. All the events far back in history, lived and remembered again and again in prayer and sacrifice, these events find their fulfilment in the meal celebrated in the upper room by Jesus and his disciples.

And from that upper room a new repetitiveness streams forth, flowing down the generations of the Church: Do this in remembrance of me.

Do this over and over again, not as you would a mindless chore, not even as a young child would repeat a joyful game, but as that which gives meaning and shape to your life: we must become what we do here. And this sacred repetition of our Thanksgiving reminds us that the Eucharist like the Christian faith itself is not 'all about me' but it's all about God. Here we are drawn to the presence of the greatest reality of all.

Throughout the liturgical season of Lent and Easter we celebrated the Lord Jesus crucified, risen, ascended and glorified. And at Pentecost the Easter mystery found its fullness in the confession that the Jesus who is enthroned at the Father's right side is with us in the mission of the Holy Spirit. The Jesus who passed through death into life is with us: the Lord of all time is truly present in our world and our lives.

In every Eucharist we encounter this real presence of the Lord. But why the repetition? Because the Easter mystery of Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection is given to us not just as an activity we have to live out, but as a mystery we have to become. The way we do that is continually to share in it over and over again so that we may learn to live and breathe the atmosphere of heaven and ourselves to become a perfect offering of praise and love. +

SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES TODAY

2nd June 2024:

kept as **Corpus Christi**

10 a.m. Sung Eucharist at St Arvans

Hymns: (New English Hymnal)

146; 360; 343; 358

11.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

at St Mary's Penterry

4 p.m. All Age Eucharist

at St James', Devauden.

NEXT SUNDAY

9th June 2024:

**The Second Sunday
after Trinity**

10 a.m. Sung Eucharist at St Arvans

11.30 a.m. Liturgy of the Word

at St Deiniol's, Itton.

Readings at the Eucharist :

Genesis 3. 8-15;

Psalms 130;

2 Corinthians 4.13 – 5.1;

St Mark 3. 20-35

For all services in the wider Ministry Area
please see www.severnwyema.co.uk

St Arvans Drop in Tea & Chat

2.30–4 p.m. at the Meeting Rooms

Everyone Welcome

June 8th and usually
every second Saturday
of the month

Childrens activity table

For assistance or a lift
please ring Diane on 628084

Churches Unlocked Diary

Saturday 8th June:

“ Tea & Chat “

in Meeting Rooms as usual.

Please feel free to come over to the
church for a visit.

Monday 10th June:

“ Open Session “ for local
schools to visit.

Refreshments provided.

Tuesday 11th June 7 p.m.

Illustrated talk on

THE CAMINO

TO SANTIAGO

with INTERVAL for SPANISH
SNACKS!

with Father Michael

Wednesday 12th June:

Meditation Day.

St Arvans Church will be OPEN
all day for silent reflection or
meditation. Come and go as you
like. Take in the awe of our
beautiful church.

Refreshments will be available.

The day will end at 8.00 when
Father Michael will close with
Night Prayer.

Wednesday 12th June:

St Deiniol's Itton

at 2.30 p.m.

A Walk on the Wild Side

An illustrated talk on the history
and planting of the High Line

Garden in New York

Given by Lesley Kelly

Admission free

Followed by Tea and Cakes

Concert at Itton Thursday

13th June: 7.30 pm.

A Tale of Joy

With the Amalthea Ensemble

Chamber music including works

by Bach, Beethoven & Villa Lobos

in aid of Joy of Learning

Friday 14th: 7.30 pm.

Illustrated talk on **The**

Reverend Dr Arthur

Purchas by David Priddis who
has carried out extensive research
into this early missionary to New
Zealand who has was born in
St Arvans.

FREE ADMISSION/DONATIONS
TO ST ARVANS CHURCH
WELCOME.

**PLEASE SEE
NEWSLETTERS,
POSTERS/ & FLYERS
NEARER THE DATES
IN JUNE FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION ON ALL
EVENTS.**

ADVANCE NOTICE

**ST ARVANS PATRONAL
FESTIVAL CONCERT**

***With Kate Price, Charles
Matthews and friends***

A rare opportunity to hear a
live performance of

Schubert's

TROUT QUINTET

& other well-known classics

St Arvans Church

Sunday 23rd June 2024

at 7 p.m.

Tickets £20

Bar and light refreshments
available from 6.30 p.m.

The Ministry Area Annual

Vestry Meeting will take

place at St Christopher's

Bulwark on **Monday 17th**

June at 7.30 p.m.

All welcome

**The Severn Wye Ministry
Area Prayer Group meets
each Thursday at 7.30 p.m.
All are welcome!**

Coming Dates & Locations:

30th May St Pierre
6th June: St Peter's, Newchurch
13th June: St Mary's, Penterry
20th June; Holy Cross, Kilgwrrwg
27th June: St Christopher's
Chepstow
4th July St Mary's Priory, Chepstow
11th July St. Deiniol, Itton
18th July St. James, Devauden
25th July St. Arvans
1st August St. Thomas Becket,
Shirenewton
8th August St. Tewdric, Mathern
15th August St. Andoenus, Mounton
22nd August St. Peter, St. Pierre
29th August St. Peter, Newchurch
5th September St. Mary, Penterry
12th September Holy Cross,
Kilgwrrwg
19th September St. Christopher,
Chepstow
26th September St. Mary's Priory,
Chepstow
3rd October St. Deiniol, Itton
10th October St. James, Devauden
17th October St. Arvans
24th October St. Tewdric, Mathern
31st October St. Thomas a Becket,
Shirenewton

**The Ministry Area Bible
Study Group** meets at
Shirenewton Church Rooms
each Tuesday at 2.30 p.m.