

# 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.,** 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](mailto:frmichael1@aol.com)

**8<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
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.***

**P**hilip 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.***

## **For Your Prayers**

For the Church: that the Holy Spirit may lead us into all truth  
The government & people of Ukraine and a just and peaceful end to Russia's war of aggression there.  
All who are caught up in war or conflict  
All those without adequate food or shelter

The people of Gaza, Israel, Lebanon & Syria, & for lasting peace in the Middle East

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, & 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 Leo, 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 Jackson; The Revd Helen Rodwell; Elisabeth; Anne-Louise; Mary; Peter; Kenneth Cameron; Margaret; Althea; Naylor Firth; Margi Osborne, Yvette; Val Higgs, Marilyn;

### **For the Departed:**

The recently departed: Del Belcher; Jenny Vickers; John Yearsley; own departed relatives & friends, and those whose anniversaries of death fall this week: Leslie Harry Farley; Caroline Watkins;

## **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 people whose lives have been affected in some way by Jesus Christ and his teaching.*

### **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.

## THIS WEEK

The Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Easter returns us to the Last Supper as Jesus gives his followers a new way of living: "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." The Acts of the Apostles gives us Peter's vision at Joppa where he is shown that no food is unclean, and that dietary requirements will not be a barrier to the spread of the Gospel among the gentiles..

All week, we hear about the early development of the Church - with the acceptance of the good news by the Gentiles.

The Gospels this week continue the "last discourse" of our Lord, taking chapters 14 and 15 of the Fourth Gospel.

In these passages we experience Jesus, "the way, the truth and the light." He consoles his disciples with the gift of his peace, which is different than the peace the world offers.

What Jesus gives is a relationship as close as a vine is to its branches. He calls us to remain connected with him so that we can remain fruitful. Without him, we dry up and wither. When we are so united with

Jesus, we can ask him for whatever we need to be fruitful. His invitation is for us to remain in his love, to make our home there. The resulting relationship is that of a friend. And this friendship is his gift to us - not our choosing him, but Jesus choosing us as friends who can open our hearts to him. Therefore, in this relationship of connectedness and fruitful love flowing to us and through us to others, Jesus says that the one command he gives us is that we love one another - that we stay loving and fruitful.

Finally, Jesus reminds us that if the world didn't like his announcing and living of this good news, then it won't like our announcing and living it either.

**Next Sunday** St John's Gospel offers us reassurance and peace in a very direct way. Jesus says "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

## A Homily for Pentecost

+ 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 the very late 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.

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 get much too stressed out 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 and those immediately around us. I'm not saying we should retreat into some kind of passivity in the face of all the problems and injustices of the world, but we can only learn to love God and our neighbour when and where we are, and if we immerse ourselves in living the values Jesus presents to us in 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." +

## St Arvans Tea and Chat

**June 14<sup>th</sup>** and usually every second Saturday of the month  
Childrens activity table

For assistance or a lift  
please ring Diane on 628084

## SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES

### **TODAY** **PENTECOST** **8<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

10 a.m. Sung Eucharist  
at St Arvan's  
11.30 a.m. Animal Blessing Service  
at St Deiniol's, Itton

*The Easter Season ends today*

### **NEXT SUNDAY** **Trinity Sunday** **15<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

9 a.m. Family Service  
at St James, Devauden  
10 a.m. Sung Eucharist  
at St Arvan's  
11.30 Holy Eucharist  
at Holy Cross, Kilgwrwg

#### *Readings:*

Proverbs 8.1-4, 22-31

Psalms 8

Romans 5.1-5

St John 16.12-15

Fr Michael's day off this week  
is Monday.

Daily celebrations this week:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at  
10 a.m. Friday's mass is at 09.30.

For all services in the wider Ministry Area  
please see [www.severnwyema.co.uk](http://www.severnwyema.co.uk)

**Bible Study**  
**at St Christopher's**  
**starting 11<sup>th</sup> May 7 – 8.30 p.m.**  
*The Seven 'I am' sayings of Jesus*

## **The Ministry Area** **Prayer Group**

meets every Thursday 7.45pm – 9pm  
This week at St Mary's, Penterry  
For further details  
email [david@bedlambeds.com](mailto:david@bedlambeds.com)

## Veni Creator Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator, come  
From your bright heavenly throne,  
Come, take possession  
of our souls,  
And make them all your own.

You who are called the Paraclete,  
Best gift of God above,  
The living spring, the living fire,  
Sweet unction and true love.

You who are sev'nfold  
in your grace,  
Finger of God's right hand;  
His promise, teaching little ones  
To speak and understand.

O guide our minds  
with your blest light,  
With love our hearts inflame;  
And with your strength,  
which ne'er decays,  
Confirm our mortal frame.

Far from us drive our deadly foe;  
True peace unto us bring;  
And through all perils lead us safe  
Beneath your sacred wing.

Through you may we  
the Father know,  
Through you th'eternal Son,  
And you the Spirit of them both,  
Thrice-blessed Three in One.

*Rabanus Maurus (9<sup>th</sup> Century)*