

# 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, private prayer and a time of stillness.

**Our current live-streamed services are as follows: Sunday Eucharist at 10 a.m.,** and it can be accessed on the St Arvans Parish Group page on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/vicaragecello1/>

and available to watch later

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

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The Vicarage, St Arvans

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## 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026 The Second Sunday after Trinity

### The Collect

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, 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 book of Exodus

They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus

you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.' So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. 8 The people all answered as one: 'Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.' Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

[19. 2 - 8a]

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

### Psalm 100

**R/ We are the people  
and the sheep of his pasture**

O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence  
with a song.  
Know that the Lord is God;  
it is he that has made us and we are his;  
we are his people  
and the sheep of his pasture.

**R/ We are the people  
and the sheep of his pasture**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and bless his name.  
For the Lord is gracious;  
his steadfast love is everlasting,  
and his faithfulness endures from  
generation to generation.

**R/ We are the people  
and the sheep of his pasture**

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans [5.1-8]

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

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

### **Gradual Hymn**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The kingdom of God is close at hand:  
repent, and believe the Good News.  
**Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you:  
**And also with you**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ  
according to St Matthew [9.35 - 10.8]

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

**T**hen Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said

to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

## For Your Prayers

That we may proclaim the Gospel in the way we live our lives

Peace and reconciliation in our own society

The peoples of Middle East and the Persian Gulf. For peace and justice throughout the region.

All those caught up in hostilities.

For world leaders – for wisdom, restraint and respect for human life.

The government & people of Ukraine and a just and peaceful end to Russia's war of aggression there.

The people of Sudan.

All those without adequate food or shelter

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, & Archbishop of Wales; the 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; Margaret; Althea; Margi & Bob Osborne; Jenny Sherwood, Bob Main, Diane Parnell; Gaynor McCarthy

### **For the Departed:**

The recently departed; Tricia Evans; our own departed loved ones, and those whose anniversaries of death at this time: Leslie Harry Farley; Caroline Watkins; Naylor Firth; Nan Jenkins; Doreen Dunn; Eileen Rogers

### **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*

## Zabdi

*Jereboam:* It's Zabdi, isn't it?

*Zabdi:* Yes...hello, Jereboam.

Were you there listening to Jesus too? I didn't spot you.

*Jereboam:* No, I've only just arrived. Was it interesting?

*Zabdi:* Oh yes...quite unexpected in some ways, though.

*Jereboam:* Really?

*Zabdi:* Well, at one point Jesus listed various things that apparently won't help us to enter the kingdom of heaven. His list surprised me, because many of the examples sounded like good, holy things to do, such as casting out demons, prophesying or working miracles in his name. According to Jesus, none of these things will get you into the kingdom of heaven. Or, to be more accurate, they won't get you into the kingdom of heaven unless God wants you to do them. That was Jesus' main point: that we should always carry out God's will, whatever that might be. God's will is obviously going to be different for each person, to some extent. For many of us it might not involve any of those impressive things Jesus listed.

*Jereboam:* So some people might actually be trying too hard to be religious.

*Zabdi:* It's quite possible, yes.

What's more, I can imagine that conforming to the will of God might sometimes mean that you do something that seems very trivial. You might even appear to be doing nothing at all.

*Jereboam:* Jesus doesn't judge by appearances, does he?

*Zabdi:* Not in the normal way, no. It struck me that Jesus places a lot of emphasis on ordinary, everyday things. Even his imagery suggests that. He was talking today about building your house on a firm foundation – which is another way of saying that we should live our lives according to God's will. It's hardly a dramatic picture, is it? But that's what Jesus wants: no mention of intellect, insight, ecstatic revelations, anything like that...he just asks us to follow God's will at every stage.

*Jereboam:* Can you live up to that, then?

*Zabdi:* Well, it remains to be seen. Jesus certainly gives us plenty of encouragement. Mind you, I keep

remembering the words of the psalm: “Do not call your servant to judgment, for no one is just in your sight.”

## THIS WEEK

On Sunday in St Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus missions his disciples to go out into the world: “Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.” It is a message for us as Jesus tells us “The harvest is plenty but the laborers are few” and calls us to join him in his work.

Saturday is the feast day of the first martyrs of Britain, Saints Alban, Julius and Aaron.

The first readings this week continue our readings from 1 Kings and into 2 Kings. It follows Elijah and Elisha - powerful prophet and agents of God’s word for the people.

This week we continue Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in Matthew’s Gospel. Jesus calls us beyond simply being moral. His message is not an “eye for an eye,” but turning the other cheek, loving our enemies and praying for them. Jesus warns us about performing good deeds for others to see. He teaches us to pray simply, because our Father knows what we need. Where our treasure is, there our heart will be. We can’t serve several masters in life, so we can stop worrying so much and place our trust in God alone. “But seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.”

**Next Sunday** we can be consoled as Jesus tells us we don’t have to fear anyone. God will take care of us, so we can be courageous in proclaiming this Good News to others. Jesus tells us in St Matthew’s Gospel, “Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

## A Homily for Trinity 2

+ In today’s Gospel Jesus sends out the Twelve apostles to proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Jesus also calls and sends out each one of us,

even though we are far from perfect, even though we are, unfashionable and vaguely archaic though it now sounds, sinners. There isn’t really a better word - fallible, flawed, prone to make mistakes and not to do the good we know we should do, come pretty close. But each one of us, through our baptism, has become a follower of Jesus, and in some way sent out by Jesus to proclaim the kingdom. What does this calling mean to us? What does it require of us?

Jesus continues to call us not once but throughout our lives, however hard we sometimes try to hide. Sometimes Jesus has calls us in ways that result in major changes in our lives. But Most of the time Jesus calls in a quietly insistent way that we may try to avoid, but eventually listen to. These small but constant changes result in us eventually becoming closer to God. All of us are called throughout our lives to help in some way build up the Church, the Body of Christ, of which because of our baptism, we are a part. In one sense we are already living in the kingdom of God here and now. Christ is as present to us as he was to the people in the today’s Gospel - not physically, but through the power of the Holy Spirit. Why else are we here, but to meet him here in Word and Sacrament - to hear him speak to us through the words of Scripture and for him to give his life to us in Holy Communion? Do we hear Jesus’ call to follow him. Crucially, do we give ourselves *the space* to be able to hear him?

The Gospels again and again make it clear that the response to God’s call can unfold in anyone’s life, at any age, at any time and under any circumstances. And we ourselves are called to follow Jesus and to proclaim his Gospel also in the circumstances in which we find ourselves, and not in some ideal alternative life that might be waiting just round the corner. The call of Christ itself is a call to faith and conversion. It is a call to turn our lives around and to open them up to God’s surprises, to his grace. It is a call from a life of putting my own ego first to one of putting God first and seeing where that leads us.

When we are young, if we are lucky, we feel that we are called to a particular lifestyle and occupation and perhaps we think that is what defines us and makes us what we are. As youth (or naiveté - now the grey hairs are speaking!) recedes in

the light of experience we begin to question some of the earlier assumptions we have made and to recommit ourselves to God with perhaps more open eyes and more faithful hearts.

As we get older, very often we become bogged down by life’s demands and hardships. Sometimes life throws things at us for which we are just not prepared (successes, failures, disappointments, tragedies - of all kinds) and we are then called to put on one side the things we were working for and to readjust the plans we thought were so important to us and those around us. Life is not straightforward, not smooth and the essentially realistic nature of our faith recognises this. Jesus doesn’t promise us immunity from the cares and concerns of life, or a way out of them, but he does promise to be with us through them. What we see as troubles, problems, disasters can often turn out to be moments of grace, even if - understandably - we don’t see it that way at the time.

Each of these moments of grace during the course of our lives has its own way of calling us, giving us a real, authentic, opportunity to follow the path along which the Lord calls us - and not only *calls* us but *accompanies* us every step of the way - that again is what the Eucharist is all about: the constant presence of Jesus with his people.

But the Gospel makes it crystal clear that being faithful always means following God’s call to us here and now by doing things to build up the kingdom of God, by being willing to be sent out - from exactly where we are, in these particular circumstances. Our Lord isn’t interested in waiting around for us until we are good, or perfect, or really religious (whatever that means). He wants us to follow him now.

## SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES

### TODAY

### The Second Sunday after Trinity 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026

10 a.m. Sung Eucharist  
at St Arvan’s

11.30 a.m. Liturgy of the Word  
at St Deiniol’s, Itton

**NEXT SUNDAY**  
**The Third Sunday**  
**after Trinity**  
**21<sup>st</sup> June 2026**

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

Readings:  
Jeremiah 20.7-13  
Psalm 69.7-10,  
Romans 6.1b-11  
St Matthew 10.24-39

Fr Michael's day off is Thursday this week  
Please note: the Eucharist will be  
celebrated at St Arvans on Tuesday &  
Wednesday at 10 a.m., Friday at 9.30  
a.m.

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

## St Arvans Tea and Chat

**2.30 – 4 p.m.**  
**Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>**  
*and usually every second*  
*Saturday of the month*  
Childrens activity table

## THIS WEEK

### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June

### **Wine & Wander**

### **at Wyndcliffe Court**

6 – 8 p.m.  
In aid of St Mary's, Penterry

### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 8 p.m

### at St Arvans Church

### Illustrated Talk by

### Professor Belinda Wilkes,

University of Bristol,  
Director Emerita, Chandra X-ray Center

### **What do Stars look like**

### **through X-ray Eyes?**

Take a tour with me through the X-ray  
Universe! You Will See Slides and  
Movies of Chandra X-ray  
Observatory: launch  
Supernova Remnants (SNR)  
• Clusters of Galaxies  
• X-ray and Radio Jets  
• Black Holes • And Planets!

*Retiring Collection – please give  
generously*

## The Ministry Area

## Prayer Group

Thursdays at 7.45 – 9.00 p.m.  
From 9<sup>th</sup> April until 24<sup>th</sup> September  
2026 we will be meeting in Churches  
around the Ministry Area:

25<sup>th</sup> June St. Deiniol, Itton  
2nd July St. James, Devauden  
9<sup>th</sup> July St. Mary, Penterry  
16<sup>th</sup> July St. Mary's Priory, Chepstow  
23rd July St. Peter, Newchurch  
30<sup>th</sup> July St. Peter, St. Pierre  
(*Volunteer leader, please*)  
6<sup>th</sup> August St. Deiniol, Itton  
13<sup>th</sup> August St. Tewdric, Mathern  
20<sup>th</sup> August St. Arvans  
27<sup>th</sup> August St. Thomas Becket,  
Shirenewton  
3rd September St. Andoenus,  
Mounon  
10<sup>th</sup> September St. James, Devauden  
17<sup>th</sup> September St. Peter,  
St. Pierre  
24<sup>th</sup> September St. Christopher,  
Chepstow  
14<sup>th</sup> May: 14<sup>th</sup> May St.  
Thomas a Becket, Shirenewton

Please join us, everyone is welcome  
and no experience is necessary!

Please contact David  
on 07887 853479  
([david-carne@outlook.com](mailto:david-carne@outlook.com))  
for any prayers that you would like us  
to include or for any questions that you  
have.

## Daily Prayer

## this week

There is nothing like the Sermon on the  
Mount to help us hear the message of  
Jesus afresh, and to let ourselves be  
addressed individually by the words he  
uses. All of us can ask for these graces  
with real specificity, that is, with real  
people and real daily circumstances in  
mind. We know with whom we need to  
“turn the other cheek” and to love more.  
We know the circumstances in which we  
are tempted to “be religious” in the right  
circumstances only. Upon reflection, each  
of us can take the time to “locate” our  
hearts, by discovering what we tend to  
“treasure.” We can check ourselves out by  
making a list of the five most important  
things in my life. Then we can make a list  
of the five things I spend most of my time  
on. Comparing the lists will help us get  
concrete about asking the Lord for the  
grace we need to put our lives back in  
balance, if we aren't. All of us can name  
what we worry about. And so we can all  
ask for the graces to “seek first” the  
Kingdom of God  
All of this reflection can happen  
throughout the week in the background of  
our daily life, if we get into the habit of  
focusing for a few moments each morning.  
If we take just 30 seconds, maybe at the  
edge of our bed each morning, or wherever  
is good for us it will begin to establish a  
habit of living more reflectively.  
Our brief moments with the Lord - friend to  
friend - can be repeated and made more  
specific, while we are going about our day.  
Some days, we might have 20 such  
moments of prayerful conversation with  
our Lord - guided by the Word, the desires  
that are surfacing, and the events of our  
daily lives. And, each night, we can give  
thanks for this deeper relationship with the  
Lord that is developing in our hearts.

*With thanks to Creighton University's  
Online Ministries (adapted)*