

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

21st June 2026
The Third Sunday
after Trinity

The Collect

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah cried out:

O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughing-stock all day long; everyone

mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, 'Violence and destruction!' For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,' then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: 'Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. 'Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him.' But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers. [20. 7-13]

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

Psalm 69 8 - 11, 18 - 20

R/ In your great mercy,
answer me, O God.

Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach, and shame has covered my face. I have become a stranger to my own kindred, an alien to my mother's children.

R/ In your great mercy,
answer me, O God.

Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me. I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to my reproach.

R/ In your great mercy,
answer me, O God.

Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind; in your great compassion, turn to me. Hide not your face from your servant; be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

Draw near to me and redeem me; because of my enemies deliver me.'

R/ In your great mercy,
answer me, O God.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans [6.1b-11]

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

Gradual Hymn

Alleluia, alleluia!
The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord,
I know them and they follow me.
Alleluia.

The Lord be with you:
And also with you

Listen to the Gospel of Christ
according to St Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus summoned the twelve and sent them out with the following instruction:
'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.'

[St Matthew 10.24–39]

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

For Your Prayers

Faithfulness to the Gospel
in the way we live our lives
Those preparing for marriage
Peace and reconciliation in our own
society
The peoples of Middle East and the
Persian Gulf. For peace and justice
throughout the region.
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; Katie

For the Departed:

The recently departed; Tricia Evans;
our own departed loved ones, and those
whose anniversaries of death at this time:
Angela Palmer; Len Frost; Kathryn Price;
Cynthia Duffield

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*

Nathan

Jereboam: These tiles are lovely,
Nathan. Did you say they're for the people
in that new house?
Nathan: All of them except that
tile in the middle there.
Jereboam: I do like your designs:
they're so fluid and expressive.
Nathan: Thank you; I'm
delighted you think so.
Jereboam: Didn't I see you with
Jesus the other day?
Nathan: Quite possibly: I'm often
there listening to him. He's a remarkable
man.
Jereboam: Some people seem to
have been puzzled by him. He
encourages everyone to lose their life,
take up their cross and follow him.
Nathan: I think he's referring to
that awful practice of killing people on a
cross. Crucifixion they call it, don't they?
Jereboam: Yes, but what I mean is
that it makes him sound rather grim,
doesn't it?
Nathan: As I see it, Jesus is
saying: "follow me, whatever it takes and
however much suffering is entailed."
Perhaps I'd call it challenging rather than
grim.
Jereboam: Have you managed to

put his principles into practice?

Nathan: I try. They have a definite bearing on my work, certainly. You see that tile in the middle – I can't allow it to be used by anyone. It's awful, isn't it?

Jereboam: Pardon?

Nathan: Yes, look. There's something so rigid and inflexible about it. When I painted that one, I don't know what came over me, but I was hoping to impress people. I wanted to do something that would be noticed. That's the equivalent of wanting to "save my life" in Jesus' terms. Whereas with these other ones, which I think I could say are rather better, I tried to allow God to speak through my craft. In a sense I tried to be invisible, to "lose my life for his sake", as it were.

Jereboam: That's very honourable, I'm sure, but some people have really altered their whole way of life after hearing Jesus teach. Can you really be taking up your cross, if you're still painting tiles? You've done that for years anyway.

Nathan: I asked myself that question too...but Jesus told me to take up my cross, not anyone else's. This is the way I think I serve him best. It may even be that part of the cross I need to bear is to realise how trivial my contribution seems.

Jereboam: That's an interesting point. Well, personally I'm glad you're still producing your tiles. In fact, I was wondering if you'd consider doing one or two for us...

Nathan: I'd be honoured.

THIS WEEK

"Jesus said, 'Fear no one.' " On 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." Wednesday is the Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist with its own readings.

The first readings this week are from the Second Book of Kings. It is the story of the

Assyrian invasion, followed by the Babylonian invasion, resulting in captivity that left a remnant behind. The week closes with a reading from the Book of Lamentations.

This week at the Eucharist we continue St Matthew's Gospel. Jesus continues his challenge to follow him more completely. "Stop judging, that you may not be judged." "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you." "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing." "Who do you say that I am?" On Saturday, Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah, "He took away our infirmities and bore our diseases."

Next Sunday we celebrate the feast of St Peter & Paul, the two Apostles on whom the proclamation of the faith was founded.

A Homily for Trinity 3

+ + One of the things it's very easy to do, I think - and we all do it to a certain extent - when we come to church to the Eucharist each week, and hear all the various passages of the Gospel, and the other readings, is that we can very easily stop noticing quite what it is they're saying to us. We can become almost over-familiar with them - like the words of an often repeated song or a very well known piece of music.. They lose their immediacy, we are no longer really engaged or surprised by them, we fail to notice that they are saying some surprising things to us and making some surprising claims on us, too.

This week's Gospel is a case in point - full of what are known as 'hard sayings' - those teachings of Jesus which, if we look at them closely, should stick in the memory for what seem to us to be their apparent harshness - for example when Jesus says that we are unworthy of him if we prefer anything or anyone at all to him, ever our own parents or children. Human nature being what it is - even these kinds of saying - like taking up our cross and following him - can tend to wash over us, and sometimes I think we are presented by the liturgy on a Sunday morning with so much scripture that we rarely have the opportunity to stop and say to ourselves - 'hold on a moment - what was that which was just said?' or the chance to reflect on what the implications are for us in the way we practise our

discipleship and the way we live our lives in relation with others...

In a confusing and rapidly changing world - a world where we can be so easily manipulated and taught to hate one another by the sinister ambitions of real life Bond villains - we quite naturally like to think of our faith - and of the Gospels which are central to it - as being essentially something comforting and even comfortable - a place of peace, somewhere and something in which we can take refuge and hold on to when everything else seems to be falling apart. That's not necessarily always a bad thing, of course; things which speak to us of a certain amount of stability, continuity and safety are in short supply in human life and, in different ways, they always have been.

But alongside the messages of comfort and reassurance, the Gospel also conveys a message of challenges and hard choices and things given up or renounced for the greater good - the turning around of our lives to face in the direction of God and his kingdom - as St Paul very forcibly points out in today's second reading. Yet the very fact of dedicating our freedom to the service of Christ has the effect, as today's collect says, of bringing us to share in the 'glorious liberty of the children of God.' And today's Gospel, as well as the hard sayings, Jesus gives a very real message of hope and encouragement: "Have no fear of them ..." he says, and again "Do not be afraid" And, and you can interpret in in all sorts of ways in relation to our lives - "those who lose their life for my sake will find it." And within today's Gospel reading lies the very unfamiliar and surprising idea that human beings can be so closely united to God that it's possible for Jesus to speak of our relationship with him in the same way as he can speak of his own relationship with the Father. So, to go to the hard saying that we should love Christ more than our most dear human relationships, we find that the reason he says that is that the relationship he offers us is something which goes further and deeper than even the very closest of human relationships, because it's an eternal relationship with the source of all life. As again today's collect says God has sent his Spirit into our hearts whereby we can call him Father ... And that's what he gives to us

sacramentally here at the altar whenever we offer the Eucharist - a share in his life, his love, in the profound stability and source of strength his presence brings, but also - and more dauntingly - a share in his work of transformation - of saving and making holy the world around us – a world which we humans have broken and divided - the world, remember, that he made and has redeemed by his cross and resurrection. +

SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES

TODAY

**The Third Sunday after Trinity
21st 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

NEXT SUNDAY

28th June 2026

kept as

Ss Peter & Paul, apostles

- 10 a.m. Sung Eucharist
at St Arvan's

followed by the St Arvans'
congregation Annual Meeting

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

Readings:

Acts 12.1-11

Psalm 125

1 Peter 2.19-25

St Matthew 16.13-19

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

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

St Arvans Tea and Chat

2.30 – 4 p.m.

Saturday July 11th

and usually every second

Saturday of the month

Our thanks

to all those who made the 'Wine and Wander' at Wyndcliffe Court such a success, and to Professor Belinda Wilkes on her fascinating and well-attended talk last Friday evening.

The Ministry Area Prayer Group

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

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

Please join us, everyone is welcome
and no experience is necessary!
Please contact David on 07887
853479 (david-came@outlook.com)
for any prayers that you would like us
to include or for any questions that you
have.

Daily Prayer this week

Most of us know that having faith is more about confidence and trust in the Lord than it is about theological understanding or assent to truths. The biggest barrier to our more complete following of our Lord in faith is fear. This is a wonderful week to ask our Lord to heal us so that we cannot be afraid and just have faith in him as we place our faith in his calming presence. We can begin each day, sitting or standing at the edge of our bed and, in 30 seconds, simply name our desire. "Lord, thank you for this day. Please heal my fears. I want to place my trust in you more completely. Be with me in the tough stuff today." When we are in the shower or while getting dressed, as we are heading to work or doing laundry, when we are walking down a hall to a meeting or even at a store shopping, we can expand on our prayer - again, briefly and in a friend to friend conversation with our Lord. "Dear Lord, I'm going to be facing several things today that feel like storms at sea. Don't let me lose sight of your presence with me today. Give me courage and an inner peace to do what you call me to do." The phrases from Matthew's Gospel can work their way into our week so easily in this context. "Lord, let me know your love and mercy, that I might treat those I'm now judging with more of the love and mercy you show me." "Lord, it feels like you are inviting me to take a narrower path today than the one I usually take, following the way everyone around me goes. Help me choose your way with greater freedom and peace." There is a real and sustaining joy that accompanies this sense of intimacy with our Lord, in the midst of our daily, busy lives. It seems right to take a few moments each night to express our thanks to the Lord for the gifts of the day.

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

Annual Meetings

The Annual Vestry Meeting of the Severn Wye Ministry Area will be on Monday 22nd June at 7.30pm in St Christopher's, Bulwark.

Everyone is welcome, not just MA Council members

St Arvans Annual Congregation Meeting will be on Sunday 28th June after the 10am Mass.

Everyone is encouraged to stay and join this meeting.