

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

There is a online only reflection, meditation and celebration of Night Prayer (Compline) on Tuesdays at 7 p.m..

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

6th September 2026 The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

The Collect

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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 Ezekiel

The word of the Lord came to me:
So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked ones, you shall surely

die,' and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: 'Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?'

Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

[33. 7-11]

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

Psalms 119 33-40

**R/ Give me understanding
and I shall keep your law.**

Teach me, O Lord,
the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.
Give me understanding
and I shall keep your law;
I shall keep it with all my heart.

**R/ Give me understanding
and I shall keep your law.**

Make me go in the path
of your commandments,
for that is my desire.
Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.

**R/ Give me understanding
and I shall keep your law.**

Turn my eyes from watching
what is worthless;
give me life in your ways.
Fulfil your promise to your servant,
which you make to those who fear you.

**R/ Give me understanding
and I shall keep your law.**

Turn away the reproach which I dread,
because your judgements are good.
Behold, I long for your commandments;
in your righteousness preserve my life.

**R/ Give me understanding
and I shall keep your law.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans [13; 8-14]

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder, You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Gradual Hymn

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word is truth, O Lord,
Consecrate us in the truth.
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 spoke to his disciples.
'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector.
Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

[18.15–20]

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

For Your Prayers

That we may draw joy and strength from our lives of prayer, worship and service to others
All on holiday and all who travel
Those preparing for or celebrating their marriage
Peace and reconciliation in our own society
The peoples of Palestine and Gaza, Israel and the wider 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.
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; Mary; Margaret; Althea; Margi & Bob Osborne; Jenny Sherwood, Bob Main, Diane Parnell, Val Thompson.

For the Departed:

The recently departed; our own departed loved ones, and those whose anniversaries of death fall this week: Jeff Gravelle, Rachael Hill, Arthur Bevan, Anne Morgan

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

Andrew

Jereboam: Can I bring you another drink, Andrew?
Andrew: Oh, lovely – thanks, Jereboam.
Jereboam: How are you getting on?
Andrew: Not too bad now... These supports will be coming down tomorrow or the day after, and we should have finished the whole house by the end of the month.
Jereboam: That's what I like: positive news. A friend of mine always used to say that "yes" was the best word in any language.
Andrew: I see what he meant, but...
Jereboam: But what?
Andrew: Well, it rather depends what the question is, for a start! Then with my work I think it's important to be cautious. What if there's a strong wind – will the roof blow off? What if it rains continuously for several days – will the building withstand it? I'm sorry to be miserable, but those are pretty crucial questions. All this "yes" stuff seems a bit too easy for me.
Jereboam: All right, so what's your favourite word then?
Andrew: That's a tough question... maybe I'd have to say "love".
Jereboam: Yes, good: I like that.
Andrew: Our teacher Paul says that love is the only thing that can't hurt somebody. Makes you think, doesn't it?
Jereboam: It sounds to me as if he hasn't got any children. Sometimes you have to be firm with your children, and everyone can feel hurt.
Andrew: It's not the love itself that causes the hurt – it's all the other stuff – the practical details. Look up there... you see those supporting posts? They're crucial: they create the framework for us to build your house. The stability of the whole structure depends on them. It's like the way we restrict and discipline our

children, until they can manage by themselves.

Jereboam: But we've all seen children smothered by too much love.

Andrew: No, we haven't. Look carefully at those supports: they've got to be firm and fixed, and they've also got to be totally straight, with the joints and angles absolutely perfect. So, in the same way, you can have the best of intentions – and, by the way, I'd say that the words "love" and "intention" are pretty close in meaning – but your guidelines have to be accurate. Once you start pulling something off balance, that's when your problems really start.

Jereboam: I'd better get you that drink, anyway.

Andrew: That's kind of you.

THIS WEEK

On Sunday, as faithful followers of Christ, we are encouraged to "love one another" throughout the readings. Ezekiel tells us that we are responsible for each other, and St Paul's letter to the Romans offers: "Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another." In St Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells us to challenge each other on our behavior and to pray, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Tuesday is the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary with its own special readings.

In our first reading at the Eucharist this week, we continue with St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, an intimate look at the struggles of the early Church community.

In St Luke's Gospel this week we see how Jesus spends a night in prayer and calls his twelve closest followers. When people come to him from all over, he heals them. Jesus announces that the poor, the hungry, those who weep, and those hated or excluded or denounced because of him are the blessed. He warns those who are rich, filled, laughing and spoken well of, for their fates will be reversed. He cautions not to be quick to see the splinter in someone else's eye when we do not notice the "wooden beam" in our own eyes. Jesus says that we will be known by our fruit. It is only by building our lives

upon him, as a firm foundation, can we hope to survive crises.

Next Sunday is the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity. In the first reading Sirach asks, "Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins?" Jesus talks about mercy in the gospel. He tells the parable of the unforgiving servant. It's a powerful message for us.

A Homily for the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

+ These days checking our phones or tuning in to the news first thing in the morning usually turns out to be a mistake. If we're brave enough to do it - or foolhardy enough - we can't help being struck by the sheer amount of anger, division and sheer stupidity which seems to be around - something, of course, upon which the modern mass media with its need to make the news ever more "exciting" (in heavy inverted commas), confrontational and controversial, has to bear a good deal of responsibility. It's not a spiritually edifying way to greet the day over a cup of coffee. Music or perhaps silence is far better - it doesn't spoil the day!

Someone once said that one of the most difficult obstacles to living the Christian life is anger, and that in human life anger can build up like a kind of corrosion, appearing in the most unexpected corners of our hearts and surfacing at quite unexpected or unpredicted moments. Just when we think we are dealing successfully with the problem, it rears its head again in response to some crisis or other in our lives and make us grind to a despairing halt, just when we thought we were making a little bit of progress. It's true about all the analysis we come across about world events - so many causes are put forward to explain wars, violence and instability throughout the world, that we forget sometimes the sheer pent-up dysfunctional anger which forms part of our human nature and of the human

condition itself.

On the other hand, anger *in itself* isn't always unreasonable; it can be a perfectly natural and understandable reaction to the frustrations, difficulties and injustices of life. But if it's not channelled in a positive direction - *if it's what we might call unspiritual anger* - as we know, it can be one of the most destructive of all human emotions, sweeping away reason and much else before it.

The anger of man does not carry out the justice of God.' says the letter of St James in the New Testament (James 1:19) but in itself as St Thomas Aquinas pointed out it's not a sin. It can be, if it's excessive or unfair or misdirected - when we are angry we sometimes lash out in all kinds of unexpected directions and say all kinds of things which are difficult to forgive.

On the other hand, there are occasions when we fall short by not being angry enough.

There's a well known prayer which asks for the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, and in response, someone once wrote that they wanted to add to it another line: Lord, give us the strength to change the things we should not accept.

The point is well made: we can avoid anger by simply not caring enough, by not being angry in a directed and rational and even peaceful way - the kind of directed reasoned anger which perhaps enables us to change things for the better.

In other words, being angry in the way that sometimes in the Gospels Our Lord was angry.

Today's Gospel speaks about conflict, about one person doing wrong to another, as does the Old Testament reading from the prophet Ezekiel. Ezekiel speaks of the wicked and the Gospel speaks of sinfulness – the fact that we all in some way or another fall short of the mark in the way we behave towards one another and in the duty we owe to God. Human life is full of conflict, and disagreement,

sometimes even what appear to be irresolvable disagreements. But what Jesus calls us to is an unrelenting insistence upon the truth, a commitment to the truth whatever it takes - the truth as a way of casting light rather than as a weapon in confrontational argument. Truth in this sense is filled with a persistent hope - even in an age of malevolent disinformation - that human beings are able to hear the truth about themselves, and to live that truth with joy, knowing that whatever we might have been, the Lord is with us as we seek communion with him in our prayer, in our worship and in the way we live. *'When two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.'*

Now whenever we experience something particularly joyful - whether it's a holiday, a religious retreat or even a good evening out, we tend to say when it's over - *well, back to the real world* - forgetting that the world of stress and conflict is so often the sort of world we choose and contribute to by our own thoughts, words and actions. Perhaps the world - and you and I as part of it - rushes to present 'reality' as always involving conflict, because it's afraid of the alternative - because we can't cope with the radical truth of Christ himself.

But as Christians we believe that the truth can set us free. The true reality we can only find together in being loved by God and our being people capable of being forgiven and restored.

There will always be conflict in human life - there'll always be conflict in our own hearts. It's inescapable - it's how we respond to that conflict that defines us as followers of Christ. And so we shouldn't be too surprised about the fact that there will always be conflict in the Church as it passes through this turbulent and sinful world. As GK Chesterton, that great lover of paradox - some might say he was overfond of it - says the Church isn't always an oasis of peace in this world of conflict, but

sometimes a place of conflict in a world of false peace. But Jesus instructs his Church how to deal with this conflict, how to . forgive and be forgiven.

In a world of accusations and self-justification, words of mercy and forgiveness have never been more needed, What we proclaim and live out in our lives as Christians is the real story of a God who loves us and seeks to draw us into the communion of his love and in whom we can encounter the truth - the love, the mercy and forgiveness - that sets us free. We meet him here at the altar and receive his life . +

St Arvans Tea and Chat

2.30 – 4 p.m.
Saturday September 12th
and usually every second
Saturday of the month
 Childrens activity table

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:

10th September St. James, Devauden
 17th September St. Peter, St. Pierre
 24th September St. Christopher, Chepstow

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

SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES

TODAY

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity 6th September 2026

10 a.m. Sung Eucharist at St Arvan's
 11.30 a.m. Harvest Eucharist at St Mary's, Penterry
 4 p.m. All Age Eucharist at St James, Devauden
 4 p.m. Harvest Evening Prayer at Holy Cross, Kilgwrrwg

NEXT SUNDAY

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity 13th September 2026

10 a.m. Sung Eucharist at St Arvan's
 11.30 a.m. Liturgy of the Word at St Deiniol's, Itton

Readings:

Ezekiel 33.7-11
 Psalm 119.33-40
 Romans 13.8-14
 St Matthew 18.15-20

Please note: this week the Eucharist will be celebrated at St Arvans on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 10.00.

There will be a live-streamed only Reflection, meditation and celebration of Night Prayer on Tuesday (8th) at 19.00

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

Daily Prayer this week

This week's daily communion with our Lord can be about the mysteries of self-sacrifice and healing. In the back of our minds each day, we can celebrate Mary's birth and her role in the life of Jesus, the early church and in our lives now. We can reflect on how blessed care for those in need is for us and how impoverished we are without that care in our lives.

If we begin each morning by praying a desire, the rest will follow for the day. "Good morning, Lord. Thank you for this day. Help me today to bring to you the parts of myself that need your healing. Be with me as I face the poverty, hunger or tears of this day." We can go into this prayer, in more depth or detail while we are in the shower or getting dressed. If we let these desires make their way into the background of our day, we can focus our consciousness no matter what we are doing.

Even in activities that require "our full consciousness" and attention, it is possible to shape that consciousness in the context of our desires. For example, I might be in an important meeting, that doesn't allow me to go day dreaming. But, I can walk into that meeting room saying in my heart, "Okay, Lord, be with me here. While I'm so tempted to be seen as a 'success' here, heal all of that focus on myself and free me to do my best and to be attentive to the needs of others. Let me focus on you and your desires for the greater good here."

Especially when we are facing something that is quite difficult, requiring real self-sacrifice and genuine love, we can let our background conversation with the Lord release us from our "typical" response or behavior.

"Lord, I can be so judgmental! Help me in this day not to condemn others so quickly. Let me remember your words to forgive and remember how you will forgive me. Sign me with your cross today. Let Mary, the mother of all self-surrender be with me today. Thank you. Give me your love and your grace and I'll ask for nothing more."

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

Devauden Photography Competition 2026

We STILL want to see your best photograph!

What is the best photograph you have taken recently?

What picture are you most proud of?

Perhaps you haven't taken it yet!

It could be a landscape, a sunset, your family in their finest (or in their PJ's), your dog, the view from your window, a still life, or some wildlife!

There will be an exhibition of the entries in St James' Church later in September, and the 12 best pictures will be made into a calendar for 2027

How do you enter?

We can only accept digital photographs, so please email devauden.photos@gmail.com with your best photograph by today, Sunday, 6th September.

If you are under 16, please let us know when your picture is emailed in by your parent or responsible adult.