

St. Luke's & St. John's

Proclaiming Christ in Devon

Dearest friends,

We start lent by being shriven of our sins. It is a moment of weakness and as St. Paul tells us, '...when I am weak, then I am strong'. (2 Cor' 12:10)

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, our fragility gives us strength. Our willingness to expose our ugly sins to Christ, renews us.

Reconciliation is the sacrament of love and of mercy, it is a moment to die to sin and to our own desires that we may know Christ better, that we may be more open to what He calls us to in this world.

I know that it can be hard to come to confession - especially if you have never been before.

But we are not called to the easy things, we are not called to get caught up in our own feelings, we are called to trust in God and in His infinite mercy and love.

I understand that some of you may find it difficult to come to me and express your sins - but please do know and be assured that the seal of the confession is absolute. You will find your parish priest in jail long before I would ever break the seal - to anyone for any reason.

I hope this reassurance will encourage more of you to come to confession this Tuesday (Shrove Tuesday) and to start lent as you mean to go on.

Fr. Matthew

Notices

Torfaen Male Voice Choir

The internationally acclaimed Male Voice Choir will be giving a concert at St. Luke's on the 8th March at 7pm. Tickets are just £5 each and will be on sale later this week or available on the door. They're astonishingly good and there'll be a good opportunity for a chat after the concert as the boys celebrate a Welsh Rugby Win (prayers are very much in action for Wales at the moment!)

Messy Easter & Explorers

There is an initial planning meeting for those interested in helping with Explorers on Thursday 27th at 6pm in Wickham Hall ahead of the Bible Course.

Explorers is a small seed that is going to grow into a new church to be planted into St. Catherine's School in September. I'm looking for volunteers to help with children's crafts, serving coffee & tea (and almost certainly donuts!) and welcoming people into church.



Messy Easter will be held at St. Catherine's on the 23rd March, 3pm-5pm. We are in need of volunteers to help us run it. Sitting with the children doing crafts, serving food, setting up and putting away. If you're interested please be in touch.

The Bible Course

Thursday evenings, 7pm, WH
This week we move into the New Testament: Jesus & The Gospels. The Gospels capture the extraordinary life of Jesus Christ - Messiah, Saviour and Lord. Now this same Jesus calls to us: 'Come, follow me!'

Pancake Race

Sadly, due to a lack of volunteers we'll not be able to run this event this year. Thanks to those who offered batter... I may still take it!

Palm Crosses

Please bring them back.

Ash Wednesday is on the 5th March, can you please bring your Palm Crosses from last year back to church this Sunday so that we can burn them to use for the Ashing services at both churches.

Thank you!

Prayer Focus

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Today

Sunday 2nd March

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:15am - Sung Mass, St. John's

11am - Sung Mass, St. Luke's

Divine Office Psalter Week 4, C(I), Sunday next before Lent

March

5th - Ash Wednesday, 10am [SJ], 7pm [SL]

6th - The Bible Course, 7pm, WH

8th - Torfaen Male Voice Choir Concert 7pm [SL]

9th - St. Luke's Parish Lunch

12th - St. Luke's PCC, 7pm

13th - The Bible Course with +Mike, 7pm WH

15th, 22nd, 29th - Stations of the Cross [4pm SL, 6pm SJ]

15th - Rosary Group, 10:30am [SL]

16th - St. John's APCM 3pm

Music & Meditation 4pm [SJ]

23rd - St. Luke's APCM after Mass

Messy Easter at St. Catherine's, 3-5pm

30th - Mothering Sunday

April

2nd - St. Luke's PCC, 7pm

10th - Oswestry Chrism Festival (Exeter Cathedral, 11am)

13th April - Palm Sunday

9am - Sung Mass & Procession

11am - Sung Mass & Procession

17th April - Maundy Thursday

7pm - Joint Mass with Washing of Feet & Watch, [SJ]

(Watch to continue at SL from 8:30pm)

18th April - Good Friday

3pm - Mass of The Lord's Passion [SJ & SL]

19th April - Holy Saturday

8pm - Vigil Mass of Easter [SJ]

20th April - Easter Sunday

6am - Dawn Mass [SL]

9:15am - Mass of Easter Sunday [SL]

11am - Mass of Easter Sunday [SJ]

St. John's Table Top Sale - Every 3rd Saturday at Wickham Hall

Father Matthew Cashmore

father@slsj.co.uk

07555 924862

Churchwardens

[SJ] Mark Richards (01626) 830063

[SL] Mr Robert (Bob) Julian 07487 653854

[SL] Mr Michael (Mick) Regan (01626) 366559

Associate Clergy

Fr Christopher Robins, Fr Robin Eastoe SSC

Fr Alan White and Deacon David Rogers

Lay Minister: Mr Graham Whittle (01626) 212339

The week ahead:

Monday 3rd March

Monday of week 8 in Ordinary Time

[prayers offered at home, Fr. Matthew's rest day]

Prayer focus: Our Clergy

Tuesday 4th March

Tuesday of week 8 in Ordinary Time

9:30am - Morning Prayer [SJ]

10am - Said Mass [SJ]

2pm - Confessions heard [SJ]

Prayer focus: The Parish of St. Luke's

Wednesday 5th March

ASH WEDNESDAY

10am - Said Mass with Ashing [SJ]

7pm - Said Mass with Ashing [SL]

Prayer focus: All Children

Thursday 6th March

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

10am - Said Mass [SJ]

7pm - The Bible Course [WH]

Prayer focus: The Mission of St. Luke's and St. John's

Friday 7th March

Friday after Ash Wednesday

10am - Said Mass [SL]

3pm - Women's World Day of Prayer [SL]

Prayer focus: The Parish of St. John's

Saturday 8th March

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

7pm - Torfaen Male Voice Choir Concert

Prayer focus: All Families

Sunday 9th March

1st Sunday of Lent

9:15am - Sung Mass, St. John's

11am - Sung Mass, St. Luke's

1pm - St. Luke's Parish Lunch

Divine Office Psalter Week 1, C(I), Lent 1

[SJ] St. John's | [SL] St. Luke's | [WH] Wickham Hall

Please pray for:

Tom, Jude, Lydia, Mary, Viv and Linda, Rosemary, Diana, Phil and Jean, Alan, Sophie, Marilyn, Roy, Anne-Marie, Simon, Liz, Melville and Jean, David, Hannah, Kathryn, Jenny, Eileen.

Pray for the souls of:

Bill Jarman, Kenneth Parkin, and all those whose