

INTERCESSIONS—Please pray for...

The parish of St Mary's with Christchurch, Abergavenny, is twinned with the parish of Evanda with Secunda, Diocese of the Highveld. Please pray for the ministers and people of Evanda with Secunda.

All those suffering from coronavirus and all those caring for them. All those now going back to work and learning to live with the 'new normal'.

Sunday, 26 July 2020

Please pray for the team responsible for preparing the Lambeth Conference, which was due to be taking place now – please pray for them as they consider the implications of its postponement in light of the Covid-19 pandemic
Wentwood Ministry Area

Diocesan parsonage inspector Garry Reeder
DAC officer Stephen Peel
Gwent Place, Gwent Road

Monday, 27 July 2020

Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island (Canada)
Bida (Nigeria)
Karachi (Pakistan)

Parishes and benefices whose ministry areas are yet to be decided

Diocesan spirituality co-ordinator Jane Butler
Diocesan communications Officer Debra Goddard
Harold Road, Hastings Close

Tuesday, 28 July 2020

Nsukka (Nigeria)
Biharamulo (Tanzania)
Karamoja (Uganda)

Diocese of St Asaph – Bishop Gregory Cameron
Diocese of St David's – Bishop Joanna Penberthy
Diocese of Swansea and Brecon – Archbishop John Davies
Hatherleigh Place, Hatherleigh Road

Wednesday, 29 July 2020

Nyahururu (Kenya)
Birmingham (England)
Elected Members of Parliament, The Welsh Government and Local Government
Evangelists

FE & HE institutions in the diocese
Haven Way, Hoel Hamelin

Thursday, 30 July 2020

Nzara (South Sudan)
Blackburn (England)
Bo (Sierra Leone) (West Africa)
Free Church Ministers and People
Good community race relations
The Governing Body
Hereford Road, High Street

Friday, 31 July 2020

Missionary District of Oeste-Brasil (Brazil)
Boga (Congo)
Port Elizabeth (Southern Africa)
Magistrates and police
Ministry to disabled people
Highfield, Hillcrest Road

Saturday, 1 August 2020

Offa (Nigeria)
Bolivia (South America)
Karimnagar (South India)
The Bishop's Office: Bishop Cherry Vann,
Christopher Smith, Vicki Stevens
Diocesan Chancellor Mark Powell
Diocesan Registrar Tim Russen
Hillgrove Avenue, Hillside

Sick:

Emily Chicken; Ian Clissold; Sian Davies;
Tania; Rosemary Aurelius; Max Roebuck;
Gwyneth Jones

Recently departed:

Sunday, July 26

1 Kings 3. 5-12
Psalm 119. 129-136
Romans 8. 26-39
Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52

Monday, July 27

Jeremiah 13. 1-11
Psalm 95
Matthew 13. 31-35

Tuesday, July 28

Jeremiah 14. 17-22
Psalm 79. 9-13
Matthew 13. 36-43

Wednesday, July 29

Jeremiah 15. 10, 15-21
Psalm 59. 1-4, 16, 17
Matthew 13. 44-46

Thursday, July 30

Jeremiah 18. 1-6
Psalm 146. 1-5
Matthew 13. 47-53

Friday, July 31

Jeremiah 26. 1-9
Psalm 69. 1-8, 13, 14
Matthew 13. 54-58

Saturday, August 2

Jeremiah 26. 11-16, 24
Psalm 69. 14, 15, 29-36
Matthew 14. 1-12

St Mary's Priory & Christchurch and Holy Trinity, Abergavenny, St Peter's, Llanwenarth Citra July 26 - Trinity 7 (Proper 12)

Today's Gospel Reading contains several parables which are collectively referred to as the Parables of The Kingdom.

In one of these we are told of a merchant in search of fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he sold all his possessions so that he could buy it. He may well have been dealing in pearls for many years and was able to use his experience to know what was of value and what was not.

The parable prompts us to think about what is of value in our lives; what is worth giving everything for. Our past life experiences can help us in this process.

As we reflect those past experiences and decide what is important and of value, may God help us to recognise the things that are valuable because they truly come from Him.

Dear Jesus, we know you are present in the little things of life.

We sense that the seeds of faith which you continue to plant within us will grow, even without our awareness.

When we are discouraged, remind us again of this story, this image of growth that we might take the longer view, we might see the bigger picture, and we might be strengthened by the good news that you are not yet through with us.

In Jesus' name. Amen.



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THE COLLECT

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

A Reading from the First Book of Kings.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

A Reading from St Paul's letter to the Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his

purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No! in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119. 129-136

Wonderful / are thy / testimonies:
therefore / doth my / soul / keep them.

When thy word goeth forth it / giveth / light:
it giveth under- / standing / unto · the /simple.

I open my mouth * and draw in my / breath for / joy:
because I / long for / thy com- / mandments.

O look thou upon me and be merciful / unto / me:
as thou art wont to do unto / those that / love thy / name.

Order my steps according / to thy / word:
and so shall no wickedness / have do- / minion / over me.
O deliver me from the wrongful / dealings · of / men:
and / so · shall I / keep thy / precepts.

Shew the light of thy countenance up- / on thy / servant:
and / teach me thy / statutes.

Mine eyes gush / out with / water:
because men / keep not / thy / law

THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Speak Lord, for your servant is listening:
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The Lord be with you

And with your spirit.

Hear the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew:
Glory to Christ our Saviour

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.

'The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one of great value, he went and sold all he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

'So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?'

They answered, 'Yes.'

And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord:
Praise to Christ our Lord

NOTICES

➤**Sunday service:** The 10.30am Parish Eucharist will be streamed on the Abergavenny Anglican Churches Together Facebook page.

➤**Wednesday service:** There will also be a service streamed on the Facebook page at 5pm on Wednesday.

All these services are available as videos on the Facebook site. You don't need to have a Facebook account in order to see this—just log on to <https://www.facebook.com/AberACT>

➤**Church opening times for private prayer:**

- St Mary's: From 10am to 2pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Six people (plus the stewards) will be allowed in the church at any one time. The Garden of Rest will also be open during these times.
- Holy Trinity: Tuesdays 10am until 1pm and Thursdays 1pm until 4pm. Some Sundays (check with Wardens) 3pm until 5pm. Six people will be allowed in the church at any one time (plus stewards).
- Christchurch: Thursdays 10am to noon. Four people allowed in the church at any one time (plus stewards).

Please note that you may be asked to give your name and telephone number for track and trace purposes and please do follow the stewards' guidance. Many thanks.

➤**Magazine:** In a break with tradition, there will be an August edition of the Four Churches magazine, to be published next weekend. It is likely to be a smaller edition than normal but if you do have anything you would like included, please email carolinewoollard@outlook.com asap.

➤**Gift:** Fr Tom's last day with the parishes will be August 16—if you would like to contribute to a farewell gift for him please give your contributions to your church treasurer. Many thanks.