

Sunday 23rd March 2025 The Third Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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.**

A reading from Isaiah (55.1-9)

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 63.1-9

1 O God, you are my God; / eagerly I / seek you: my / soul • is a/thirst for / you.

2 My flesh / also / faints for you: as in a dry and thirsty / land • where there / is no / water.

3 So would I gaze upon you in your / holy / place: that I might behold your / power / and your / glory.

4 Your loving-kindness is better than / life it/self: and / so my / lips shall / praise you.

5 I will bless you as / long as I / live: and / lift up my / hands • in your / name.

6 My soul shall be satisfied, as with / marrow and / fatness: and my mouth shall / praise you with / joyful / lips,

7 When I remember you up/on my / bed: and meditate on you in the / watches / of the / night.

8 For you have / been my / helper: and under the shadow of your / wings will / I re/joyce.

9 My / soul / clings to you: your / right hand shall / hold me / fast.

A reading from 1 Corinthians (10.1-13)

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Luke (13.1-9)

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For they come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

ALL SAINTS CHURCH , OYSTERMOUTH AND NORTON CHURCH

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP TODAY.

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23rd March 2025 - The third Sunday of Lent

HYMNS AT OUR CHORAL EUCHARIST : 148 , 54 , 556 , 549

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| TODAY | 8.30 am | Holy Eucharist (All Saints) |
| | 10.00 am | Choral Eucharist (All Saints) - followed by tea / coffee |
| | 7.00 pm | Clydach Passion play in All saints. Do come along - please invite family and friends No tickets needed. |
| TUESDAY | 10.30 am | Chat a Coffee - all welcome |
| | 2.00 pm | Norton Craft Group - all welcome |
| WEDNESDAY | 10.30 am | Holy Eucharist followed by refreshments |
| | 12.00 pm | Stations of the Cross - all welcome |
| | 1.30 pm | Lent study/prayer group (church rooms) |
| | 6.00 pm | Joyful Noise Junior Choir Practice |
| | 7.00 pm | Adult choir practice - all welcome |
| THURSDAY | 10.30 am | Coffee & Catch up (Norton) |
| | 1.30 pm | 'Warriors' Church and Grounds working group - all help very welcome. |
| | 6.30 pm | Ministry Area Council Meeting (Holy Cross) |
| FRIDAY | 2.00 pm | Easter Egg decorating Craft event. See Anne or Elaine for details |
| SATURDAY | 7.00 pm | Swansea Bay Orchestra 10 th Anniversary Concert Clocks go forward one hour |
| NEXT SUNDAY | | 30th March - Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday |
| | 8.30 am | Holy Eucharist (All Saints) |
| | 10.00 am | Choral Eucharist (All Saints) - followed by tea / coffee |

Weekly Bulletin : Do take this sheet home with you.
Pastoral Visiting : please let me know of those in need of visiting
(at home or in hospital) to try and ensure no-one is overlooked.

Lent Course : during Lent the Bible study group on Wednesdays will be following a course on 'Prayer'. All are very welcome.

Good Friday Children's Craft event : 18th April 9.30 to 11 a.m. - **if you can help out please stay for a very short meeting at the end of our service this morning.**

Men's Society : we had an excellent start to our newly 're'formed Men's Society. If anyone would like details of future meetings please chat to Dorian.

Open Church : as many visitors are starting to arrive in our community for the holiday season it would be good if we can open the church in the daytime as much as we can. If you can help at all please let me know. Even if can only open an hour or two at a time. Don't worry if you don't know the Church history. Guide books are available for people to use. An open church and a welcome is the most important part !

Clydach Passion Play : TONIGHT at 7 p.m. No tickets needed. **DO JOIN US and do invite family and friends to come along.**

Marie Curie Coffee Morning : in Norton Church Saturday 5th April from 10.30 a.m. Tickets £2.50 from Margaret or Russell.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday : 8.30 am Holy Eucharist (Book of common Prayer) , 10 a.m. Choral Eucharist

Monday 14th April - 6 p.m. Devotional Service

Tuesday 15th April - 12 Chrism Eucharist (Brecon Cathedral) and 6 p.m. Compline (All Saints)

Wednesday (16th) 10.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist , 12 stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday (17th) 10 Holy Eucharist in Norton , 6.30 Choral Eucharist in All Saints

Good Friday (18th) 9.30 a.m. Children Easter Craft event , 11 Mumbles Churches together service in All saints grounds (in church if wet) , 2 pm. Holy Hour Devotional Service

Easter Eve (19th) 7 p.m. Easter Vigil

EASTER DAY (20th) 8.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer) , 10 a.m. Choral Eucharist , 4 p.m. Easter Songs of Praise (All Saints)