



CHURCH OF ST BRIDGET & ST CWYFAN DYSEARTH



Fr. Timothy writes:

After an excellent turnout for the services over the Advent and Christmas period, may I thank you for your fantastic support. The Church looked wonderful and a number of people put a lot of extra work into the decorations, the flowers and the Liturgy. Thank you all so much. We remain in Christmastide officially until Candlemas on 2nd February, but it is traditional to put away our decorations and discard our Christmas trees on Twelfth Night, 5th January. How bare our houses look when the decorations and the lights come down, but it draws our attention to the gathering dust!

Through the liturgical year, there is a lot more to look forward to, even though Easter Day seems a long way ahead on 17th April. I have to make the most of this year, because it will probably be my last in Parochial ministry, though when I actually will finish remains to be seen. None of us can continue our working life for ever and yet as a Priest, I shall be one until I die.

Whilst I have been your Priest, the whole period to date has been rather dominated by the outbreak of Covid. I think at S.Bridget's we have done phenomenally well to keep going, until we were ordered not to, and we have made enormous strides over the last tricky year. We all hope that sometime in 2022, things are going to get better and we can get down to a more predictable way of living. There have been many limitations, but we have found a way through. Our faith and our belief in Divine Providence and hope has spurred us on and we are ready to work on and achieve great things, I hope. We have January and February to prepare ourselves for ash Wednesday and the coming of Lent. This year, if possible, I want us to take part in a Lent course, which will focus our minds on our faith and our living. Perhaps we can see what we can do emotionally and spiritually to grow and prosper in our pilgrimage through life. I shall try and find some suitable material for us to look at.

I should like to think that soon we can look at working with our ecumenical brothers and sisters, when we are able to. It will give us a broader insight into the Christian faith and allow us to experience different priorities and a fresh emphasis. Again, I shall put my toe in

the water to see what I can do to further this project.

I am desperately hoping that the Architect will be able to take us forward on our building plans, in order to ensure that S.Bridget's is here for many years to come. We shall probably have to divide the work into chunks, as the money won't come through all at once!

Above all my wish is to get to know the Church family better, to add to our number and to love and support one another over the weeks and months ahead. It is a great privilege to be your Parish Priest and I thank God for allowing me to serve you and the Church as together we follow the commands of Christ in seeking the truth.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

With love and all good wishes.

Fr. Timothy.

Readings for January 2022

Saturday 1 January 2022 The Naming of Jesus

The celebration of this scriptural festival marks three events: firstly, the naming of the infant; secondly, the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham 'and his children for ever', thus Christ's keeping of the Law; and thirdly, traditionally the first shedding of the Christ's blood. The most significant of these in the gospels is the name itself, which means 'Yahweh saves' and so is linked to the question asked by Moses of God: "What is your name?" "I am who I am," was the reply, thus the significance of Jesus' words: "Before Abraham was, I am."

This feast has been observed in the church since at least the sixth century.

Numbers 6. 22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4. 4-7

Luke 2. 15-21



Sunday 2 January 2022 The Second Sunday of Christmas

Sirach 24. 1-12 Psalm 147. 12-20 Ephesians 1. 3-14 John 1. [1-9,] 10-18

Thursday 6 January 2022 The Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60. 1-6 Psalm 72. [1-9,] 10-15 Ephesians 3. 1-12 Matthew 2. 1-12

The subtitle in the Book of Common Prayer of this, one of the principal feasts of the Church, is 'The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles'. This emphasises that, from the moment of the Incarnation, the good news of Jesus Christ is for all: Jew and Gentile, the wise and the simple, male and female. Nothing in the Greek text of the gospels indicates that the Magi were all male and even the number three and making them Kings is a

much later, non-scriptural tradition. The date chosen to celebrate this feast goes back to the placing of the feast of the Nativity of Christ in the winter solstice: the north European pre-Christian tradition of celebrating the birth of Sun on 25 December differed from the Mediterranean and eastern tradition of having 6 January as the Solstice. As often happens, the two dates merged into a beginning and an end of the same celebration. The western church adopted 'the twelve days of Christmas' climaxing on the eve of Epiphany, or 'Twelfth Night'. The implication by the fifth century was that this was the night on which the Magi arrived. The complications of dating became even more confused with the changing in the West from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar, the eastern church refusing to play any part in such a



Sunday 9 January 2022 The Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 43. 1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8. 14-17 Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22



Sunday 16 January 2022 The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 62. 1-5 Psalm 36. 5-10 1 Corinthians 12. 1-11 John 2. 1-11

Sunday 23 January 2022 The Third Sunday of Epiphany

Nehemiah 8. 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 or 19. 1-6

1 Corinthians 12. 12-31a Luke 4. 14-21

Tuesday 25 January 2022 The Conversion of Paul

The conversion of the anti-Christian zealot, Saul, to the apostle of Christ, Paul, is clearly related in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, but it has to be remembered that this was a beginning: Saul took some time to become Paul and some time to begin to understand that his call to preach, to Jew and to Gentile, the saving power of Jesus, the Son of God, was something that was a whole life's journey for him. Paul says in his Letter to the Church in Galatia, "God set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace. Three years after (the Damascus Road conversion), I went up to Jerusalem." The preparation for this moment of his conversion was his whole life. This feast has been celebrated in the Church since the sixth century but became universal in the twelfth century.

Jeremiah 1. 4-10 Psalm 67 Acts 9. 1-22

Matthew 19. [24-26,] 27-30



Sunday 30 January 2022 The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Ezekiel 43.27 - 44.4 Psalm 48 1 Corinthians 13. 1-13

Luke 2. 22-40

Continuing with our series on the Sacraments

The Eucharist

The Eucharist also known as Holy Communion and the Lord's Supper, among other names, is a Christian rite that is considered a sacrament in most churches, and as an ordinance in others. According to the New Testament, the rite was instituted by Jesus Christ during the Last Supper; giving his disciples bread and wine during a Passover meal, he commanded them to "do this in memory of me" while referring to the bread as "my body" and the cup of wine as "the new covenant in my blood". Through the eucharistic celebration Christians remember Christ's sacrifice of himself on the cross.



"The Eucharist draws each of us closer to Christ as individuals, but also as a community. We never really worship alone. At the Eucharistic Liturgy, we gather with the young and old, the rich and poor, as well as millions around the world and the saints in heaven, to celebrate Christ's sacrifice."





Online service from St. Bridgets, Dyserth

available on YouTube

via www.facebook.com/ssbridgetandcwyfandyserth