

final thoughts...

This week:-

TUESDAY: Meeting at St Gwynour's – Archdeacon Robert, Paul Baker (Brecon Cathedral) + congregation and community.

Swansea and Brecon Diocese want to support our community action in Llanyrnewydd. This is an opportunity to clarify what can be done to enable our outreach initiative to happen. All who are interested, CHURCH OR COMMUNITY, please attend.

Holy Eucharist **10 am**

Meeting **11 am**

WEDNESDAY: Holy Communion at Swn y Gan **11 am**

f/b home communions

Looking Ahead:-

FEBRUARY

4th MU Service at Llanrhidian with Fr Tim **2 pm**

9th There will be **only one service in North East Gower** – Fr Tim is away – Fr Nigel Doyle will celebrate Holy Eucharist at St David's **9.30 am**

27th St David's and St Gwynour's PCC at St David's Church **7 pm**

MARCH

4th Llanrhidian Mother's Union Centenary Service, with Bishop John, St Rhydian & St Illtyd's Church **2 pm**

APRIL

15th (Tuesday of Holy Week)
Christm Eucharist + Lunch. Cathedral **12 noon**

JUNE

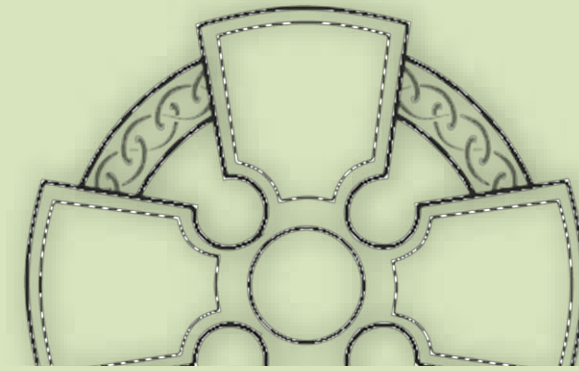
28th Ordinations - Cathedral **2 pm**

OCTOBER

11th Diocesan Conference **10 am**



Yr Eglwys yng
Ngogledd
Gŵyr



The Church
in North
Gower

The Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday January 12th 2014

Tuesday

Church in the Community

Please note the meeting at
Llanyrnewydd and please
invite your neighbours!

“...suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him” (Matthew 3.16)

Church in Wales Cycle of Prayer

Today

PLEASE PRAY for The Anglican Church of Australia, The Most Revd Dr Phillip John Aspinall Archbishop of Brisbane & Primate of Australia
DIOCESAN PARSONAGE BOARD

During the week

Monday: Christian work for unity and all Churches dedicated to St. Hilary
Tuesday: Ystalafera, Tim Hewitt
Weds: Ystradgynlais, Dewi Roberts
Thurs: M. Beaton & J. Davies, Fire Brigade Chaplains and N. Finlay, Police Chaplain
Friday: L. Hopkins, Swansea Prison Chaplain
Saturday: Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers and all Churches dedicated to St. Peter

Baptism

The canonical Gospels report that Jesus was baptised — an historical event to which a high degree of certainty can be assigned. Baptism has been called a sacrament and an ordinance of Jesus Christ. In some traditions, baptism is also called christening, but for others the word "christening" is reserved for the baptism of infants.

We live in a culture that promises acceptance only if we are ---- and you can fill in the blank, for the messages of our commercial culture are as manifold as they are insidious ---- skinny enough, strong enough, successful enough, rich enough, popular enough, beautiful enough, young enough, and so on. The message of baptism is that God has declared that we *are* enough, that God accepts us just as we are, and that God desires to do wonderful things for and through us. The usual form of baptism among the earliest Christians was to be immersed, either totally (submerged completely under the water) or partially (standing or kneeling in water while water was poured on him or her). While John the Baptist's use of a deep river for his baptism suggests immersion, pictorial and archaeological evidence from the 3rd century onward indicates that it was usual to have the candidate stand in water while water was poured over the upper body, three times, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

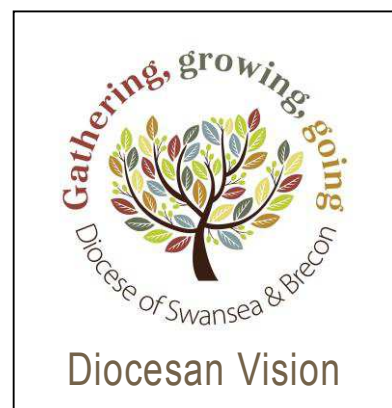
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Wednesday Evenings in
Llanrhidian, 7 pm till 9. For
information, contact Fr Tim.



There are collection boxes in
each of the churches. Thank
you for your continued
support.



Regular Worship for North East Gower

Sunday Services:-

8 am	Holy Eucharist	St Gwynour's (Penclawdd)
11. 15	Morning Worship	St Gwynour's (First Sunday of Month)
9.30	Holy Eucharist	St David's (Wernffrwd)
11.15	Holy Eucharist	Ss Rhydian & Illtyd (Llanrhidian)

Tuesday :-

9 am	Morning Office	Ss Rhydian & Illtyd (Llanrhidian)
10 am	Holy Eucharist	St Gwynour's (Penclawdd)

Wednesday :-

10 am	Holy Eucharist	Ss Rhydian & Illtyd (Llanrhidian)
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Thursday:-

5 pm	Evening Office	St David's (Wernffrwd)
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PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Edna Beynon, Sandra Davies, Marian Evans, Alan Grove, Margaret Harvey, Terri Jenkins, Bill Measday, Ted and Sylwia Rowlands, Dorothy Tucker, Maria Watkins and all who are sick in hospitals or at home, as well as those who care for them.

PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

... and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.



May their souls and the souls of all faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Intercessions Rota

JANUARY

INTERCESSION	5th	12th	19th	26th
St.Gwynour				
St.David's	Emilia	Sandra	Maldwyn	Derrick
St.Rhidian		Emilia	Susan M	Pam M

The News Letter is written on Thursdays. If you would like to include someone in these lists, please give names to church wardens before then. There will be boxes provided in the churches for prayer requests soon.

God calls us all to intercede for one another. If you would like to do so during services, please speak to Fr Tim or Sandra (St David's), Maggie (St Gwynour's), Sue Medwell (St Rhydian's).

Creative Prayer Silence and Meditation

Thinking about the readings we hear in church, reflecting on them, imagining them, sensing them, can help us deepen our daily prayer time. This week's Gospel is about Jesus' own baptism. It is not remote from us; it is close as breath.



Baptism of Our Lord by Jesus Mafa,

IN the 'farewell discourse', as John recalls Jesus' teaching at the Last Supper, Jesus promises his disciples that he will not leave them alone, that he will send them his *Paraclete*. He reassures them that, 'On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.' *Paraclete* is difficult to translate directly into English but it has the sense of some being or thing brought alongside

++ Desmond Tutu

"Dear Child of God, all of us are meant to be contemplatives. Frequently we assume that this is reserved for some rare monastic life, lived by special people who alone have been called by God. But the truth of the matter is that each one of us is meant to have that space inside where we can hear God's voice. God is available to all of us. God says, 'Be still and know that I am God.'

someone (the form is passive), to comfort, console, vindicate, defend, support, instruct them.

Paraclete is usually understood by Christians to stand for *Holy Spirit*. So it is the Spirit which descends from heaven and alights on Jesus at his baptism. This same Spirit then drives him into the desert to be tested and continues to empower him throughout his subsequent ministry. As Jesus dies on the cross, Luke reports that he calls out to the Father, 'with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."' Then, 'When he had said this, he breathed his last.' Of course there might be distinction between Jesus' earthly spirit and the Holy Spirit here but it is certainly the Holy Spirit which he breathes into his disciples at the end of John's Gospel and which Luke describes as being like wind and fire at Pentecost in his *Book of Acts*.

Christian Baptism is about the sacramental indwelling in us by the Holy Spirit, binding us in relationship to Christ and through him to the Father.

IN both Ancient Hebrew and Ancient Greek, the word for spirit also means *breath*. The Spirit binding the Father and the Son, and us with the Son and through him to the Father then is breath, holy breath. Our relationship with God is like breathing. It is

immediate, urgent and near. God is not some far away concept of divine perfection. God is the very breath we breathe.

Breathing is not something we normally notice, unless something is wrong with our lungs. We don't normally comment that someone is breathing well or beautifully! But it is essential to life. If we breathe mindfully we can reconnect with life. We can notice the presence of God in us.

Breathe now. Inhale and know that you are breathing in. Exhale and know that you are breathing out. As you find a gentle rhythm, exhale your preoccupations and inhale God's peace. Imagine you are walking up a mountain with Jesus, in the cool of the evening, as he makes his way to pray. Watch him as he positions himself and as he enters into communion with the Father. Listen. Rest in the prayers of Jesus.

Now find your space on the mountain top alone. Gaze at the evening sea. Wait for the One who sent you. Breathe. Be still. Know God.



Ruach (Hebrew) and Pneuma (Greek) both translate spirit-wind-breath

