

Rectorial Benefice Magazine September 2020



ALL SAINTS · ST BARUC · MERTHYR DYFAN · ST PAUL · ST MARY · ST CADOC

FR ROBERT WRITES

Dear Friends,

in July we bade farewell to Fr Ben and to Fr Kevin and Mags. Unfortunately, the restrictions placed upon us by Covid-19 made it impossible for us to give them the send-off we would have wished. But we are planning a coach trip to Port Talbot for a united service with the congregation of St Theodore's once it becomes possible, and we will continue to see Fr Kevin and Mags from time to time as they have retired here in Barry.

As I look back over the first three years of the Rectorial Benefice of Barry, I think most of all of the sacrifices made by my colleagues, and the toll it has taken on their lives.

Uniting the three parishes of Barry into one Benefice meant that one of the three incumbents had to become team rector and the other two team vicars. As priest of the best attended Anglican church in Barry, with its own church school, Fr Kevin could easily have pressed the case for his becoming rector of Barry. But realising that our younger colleague, with his boundless energy, was better suited he did not do so, and persuaded me to support Fr Ben's appointment also.

But it wasn't easy for Fr Kevin and myself to adjust to becoming assistant clergy again, having both been incumbents for some years. And Fr Chris our curate, close in age to myself and Fr Kevin, also brought with him a wealth of experience from his secular career. So these were not easy circumstances for Fr Ben to assume leadership in. But he set to his task as team rector with that tremendous energy already known to those he had previously served in his ministry, in Whitchurch, Porthcawl, Grangetown, and of course Cadoxton.

Fr Ben helped put in place those legal and practical arrangements necessary for the creation of the new Benefice, and then set about an exemplary pastoral ministry to the people of Barry.

He was a frequent visitor to the schools of Barry, he progressed the building works of the Benefice, including the re-roofing of St Mary's, and was honorary chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers in Barry Dock. He set up the second Barry Foodbank at St Mary's, and introduced 'Christmas the Story' to Barry, an enormous undertaking. He was a tireless visitor; the sick and dying knew that they could rely on him. Sadly, as we know, Fr Ben's utter dedication to his ministry took its toll on his personal life.



At the heart of Fr Ben's spiritual life lies the daily Mass and the recitation of Morning and Evening Prayer and the other offices, which he has continued through lockdown. Many have benefited from his mastery of social media in the provision of online worship.

Fr Ben has now moved to the beautiful church of St Theodore's, Port Talbot, in the Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon. The people there will be blest as we have been by his devoted ministry.

Another priest who knows the cost of discipleship is Fr Kevin. Fr Kevin served for 19 years in the former Mid-Glamorgan Fire Service, and then began training for the priesthood. A hell-fire preacher might say that he went from snatching bodies from the flames to snatching souls from the flames! At one point in his ministry Fr Kevin served as chaplain to the Marie Curie 'Holme Tower Hospice' in Penarth. Another very demanding post was following Fr Paul Bennett as vicar of St Fagan's, Aberdare, after Fr Paul's murder by a drug addict.

In 2015 Fr Kevin became priest in charge of All Saints, and then team vicar in the Rectorial Benefice of Barry in 2017. For most of that time Fr Kevin has been without an assistant priest at All Saints.

Fr Kevin is a priest who wears his heart on his sleeve. We know we are dealing with an authentic human being who holds nothing of himself back, and we respond to his obvious genuineness. The many comments placed on Facebook show how much he is loved.



At Fr Brian Taylor's funeral two years ago I quoted the words of the Bishop of Repton in praise of the BBC drama series 'Broken', about a Roman Catholic priest serving in the poorest part of Liverpool: *'Father Michael Kerrigan, struggling with his own demons and failures and doubts, showed us what it really means to be a priest. Not some goody two-shoes, high*



up on a pedestal, never putting a foot wrong, confident, loud, and shiny, but a broken human being, whose greatest ministerial strength emerges from his very brokenness.'

Those words were true of Fr Brian and they are true also of Fr Kevin. Fr Kevin has said *'I am now, after my own experience, more than ever, fully aware of the critical issues surrounding Mental Health Issues and will hopefully in the future, be enabled to reach out, to empathise and to care for those who suffer in the darkness, who are in desperate need of help, comfort and support.'* He has already been doing that, helping me through a difficult patch a year or so ago.

The wives (or husbands) of priests rarely get the credit they are due, working hard for the church behind the scenes and supporting their spouses through the stresses and strains of ministry. In Mags Kevin found his true soul mate. They are so devoted to each other, and so obviously in love! Mags has been a wonderful support to Kevin, particularly over the difficult last year. We will miss Mag's warm friendly personality, and also her lovely singing voice in the All Saints choir!

Although there has been sadness over the last three years, Fr Ben, Fr Kevin, Fr Chris, and I have had many laughs together, and have enjoyed



each other's company. Fr Ben is a mimic and Fr Kevin has a fund of amusing tall true stories. (And who will ever forget the photo of Fr Kevin dressed as a nun! Or telling his fellow shepherds, in a practice for 'Christmas the Story', to 'get the flock outta here.'). It has been a good team.

As we give thanks for the ministries of Ben, Kevin, and Mags we are no doubt apprehensive about the future, and may feel we have experienced a 'double whammy' in their leaving. But we are very fortunate (and I am certainly very fortunate) to have the support of Fr Chris, Jan our Administrator, Fr Edward, Peter our Reader, our wardens, sub-wardens, and treasurers, James our master of music and computer wizard, our lay visitors team, our MU, and all who give generously of give of their time to the work of the Benefice. It will be some time before Fr Ben and Fr Kevin have successors; the normal selection processes will be slowed down by the measures taken to control the spread of the Covid-19 virus. But when their successors are appointed what an enviable legacy of hard work and pastoral care they

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will have to build on, bequeathed to them by Fr Ben and Fr Kevin. I conclude with an encouraging story, a dream which Fr Kevin had, which he has agreed for me to relate to you: Kevin dreamt that he was kneeling in prayer, and noticed that a man wearing a hoodie was kneeling alongside him. 'Who are you?', he asked. The man pulled back his hood to reveal a head crowned with thorns. 'I am the new rector of Barry', he replied. We may have lost Fr Ben and Fr Kevin, but we have not lost our Leader!

With every blessing,

Fr Robert



FR KEVIN AND MAGS' CAKE

(our thanks to Jan Richards for making the cake)

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A LETTER FROM FR BEN

10th August 2020

Dear Friends,

I was totally blown away last week when I happened to check my bank balance on my phone and see what had been put in from you. THANK YOU so, so much for your very kind and generous gift!!! I am very grateful to you all indeed. I am going to buy something to remember you all by, probably something liturgical, as well as a new alb and cotta, so that each time I wear them I think of you. The remainder I hope to put towards a much needed break next year.

I cannot believe that I have been here a month! It has been non-stop but thankfully have nearly got the house sorted, just one bedroom left to address and with the good weather my evenings have been spent in the garden trying to tame it which has resulted in the creation of a very large compost heap!

I am sorry because of the speed of my moving being brought forward and current circumstances that I was not able to say goodbye in a formal way which was of great sadness to me. I hope and pray that next year a hello might be possible and invite you all here to St Theodore's for a service and fellowship!

If you are passing this way please do call in, Benny and I would be delighted to see people and you would be very welcome!

Thank you all once again for your generous gift, I am eternally grateful and for my time with you over the last eight years. Please be assured of my prayers as I continue to pray for you as I go to the altar.

Prayers & good wishes,

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JESUS AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Fr Robert

What did Jesus mean when he spoke of 'the kingdom of God'? According to the Gospel of Mark, which many think was the first Gospel to be written, Jesus began his ministry with the proclamation 'The time has arrived; the kingdom of God is upon you. Repent, and believe the gospel.'

Something dramatic was about to happen; people needed to prepare themselves for it. God was about to intervene directly in the world, and end all its evils. The devil would be cast out, wicked earthly rulers unseated, disease ended, and there would be no more need. The meek would inherit the earth, which would become a Garden of Eden. Paradise Lost would become Paradise Regained. As Isaiah had prophesied 'The wolf shall dwell with the lamb...and the lion shall eat straw like the ox....the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.'

All this was already being anticipated in the ministry of Jesus, who healed the sick, fed the hungry, and cast out devils. In the soon-to-be state of blessedness, said Jesus 'many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of God.' Sharing in this great celebration would not only be the living, but the just of past generations. As Daniel had foretold 'many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake...to everlasting life.' The renewed earth will be called 'the kingdom of God' because God will be obeyed here as He is in heaven. 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'

All this was going to happen within the lifetime of Jesus' hearers. 'There are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.'

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But the powers of evil were not going to give up without a fight. 'For those days will bring distress such as there has never been before, since the beginning of the world.'

Albert Schweitzer speculated that Jesus accepted the cross so that the woes coming on the world would be deflected onto him instead. 'Jesus threw himself upon the wheel of history in an attempt to bring it to a halt, to bring this world to an end and to usher in the kingdom of God in its fullness and power; but the wheel continued to turn and it crushed him.' At the last supper Jesus had said 'I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.' He looked forward to that time in the near future when he would be re-united with his disciples, and together they would recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

But it was not to be, and the intervention from God that Jesus hoped for turned out to be his resurrection, not the arrival of God's kingdom on earth. Jesus may have failed to halt the wheel of history, but he *diverted* it onto a new course, and opened up new possibilities within the existing world. For in the community derived from Jesus, his values were reaffirmed as God's will for *all* humankind, and his work of care was continued.

It is sometimes said that those values of Jesus, which affirm the worth of every human life, are inherent to human nature, that there is nothing uniquely Christian about them. But in a recently published book 'Dominion', the historian Tom Holland argues that modern western society instinctively thinks along Christian lines without realising the source of many of its values.

He writes: 'The more years I spent in the study of classical antiquity, the more alien I increasingly found it. It was not just the extremes of callousness that unsettled me, but the complete lack of any sense that the poor or the weak might have the slightest intrinsic value.'

J.W. Music

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Assumptions I had grown up with - about how a society should properly be organised, and the principles that it should uphold - were not bred of classical antiquity, still less of 'human nature', but very distinctively of our civilisation's Christian past. So profound has been the impact of Christianity on the development of Western civilisation that it has come to be hidden from view. It is the incomplete revolutions which are remembered; the fate of those which triumph is to be taken for granted.'

Of course, there is much in Church history to be ashamed of - the Crusades, the Inquisition, and the toleration of slavery, for example. But Tom Holland points out those who condemned such evils and fought for their reform were inspired by the teaching of Jesus. 'Jesus would never have acted like that.'

Although Jesus did not return in glory to inaugurate God's kingdom, as the early Christians hoped he would, they never entirely abandoned that hope. The Book of Revelation, dated to the last decade of the first century, concludes with the risen Jesus purportedly saying 'I am coming soon.' And the author replying with the ancient Christian prayer 'Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.' But increasingly Christians concentrated on their relationship with Jesus, and its consummation at death, rather than obsessing about the end of the world. 'The kingdom of God has come upon you', was replaced with 'the kingdom of God is within you.' But times of upheaval always led to renewed speculation about the end of the world.

As the West owes a huge, unacknowledged debt to Christianity, it is unsurprising that something developed here closely related to the early Christian hope for the kingdom of God, but shorn of religion.

I am speaking of communism, whose originator, Karl Marx has been called the last of the Jewish prophets. Marx taught that the evils of the present age would be overcome, and a glorious new age would be ushered in, where the unjust would be punished and the righteous would inherit the earth. As in early Christianity all wealth would be held in common.

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‘Not one of the believers claimed any of his possessions as his own; everything was held in common. There was never a needy person among them, because those who had property in land or houses would sell it, bring the proceeds of the sale, and lay them at the feet of the apostles, to be distributed to any who were in need.’ (Acts chapter 4). But communist authorities proved every bit as cruel and repressive as the Inquisition. Christians were accused of offering ‘pie in the sky when you die’; but communists offered jam tomorrow, a tomorrow that never arrives.

In 1971 John Lennon offered a Marxism in jeans, for the hippy generation. He had said that ‘the Beatles are more famous than Jesus Christ’, but in his most popular song, Imagine, he paraphrases Jesus: ‘Imagine no possessions...no need for greed or hunger, a brotherhood of man... Imagine all the people sharing all the world...You may say I’m a dreamer but I’m not the only one; I hope someday you will join us and the world will live as one.’ Lennon longed also for a world in which there was: ‘no religion too’; but when questioned he said he was not against all religion, just divisive religion of the ‘my God-is-bigger-than-your-God’ sort. Christians too long for the day when false religion is gone, priesthoods and temples no longer necessary, and God’s good purposes *finally* fulfilled. As the Book of Revelation says: ‘I saw no temple in the city, for its temple was the sovereign Lord God and the Lamb. The city did not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb. By its light shall the nations walk.’

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The Church is not closed just redeployed

Rowena Hughes

Hughes NHS Donation and Distribution Centre, the Final Chapter!

As I write this final article for the magazine, and start to reflect on the past 7 months, I find myself wrestling with a mixture of emotions.

Yes, the pandemic has brought sorrow, fear, anxiety and sometimes despair.

However, it has also rekindled a sense of community, cooperation, determination and fellowship.

During the last few months of running a donation point for the NHS, I have witnessed so many acts of kindness, not only from family, friends and neighbours, but complete strangers, local businesses and organisations.

Matthew 7:7 “Ask and it will be given to you” was definitely my mantra.

My porch was at times, overflowing with donations to support our wonderful NHS. These simple acts of kindness, were a huge boost to moral in those very difficult and stressful days.

As we now start to emerge into a changed world, who'd have ever predicted booking a seat for a church service? Lives and daily routines have to get back to some sort of normality. Although donations have stopped coming in, my porch is still on standby, and I am continuing to support Noah's Ark Children's Hospital by providing toiletries for their “Parent and Emergency Crisis Packs”.

Please contact me if you can help Ro.h@btinternet.com The last few weeks treats and drinks, which were donated by Barry Round Table, Miriam Griffiths and Margaret Sherborne have been sent to :- Wards E4 & E6 Gastroenterology, the Porters at Llandough Hospital, the Cashiers at Llandough Hospital, Geriatric Mental Health Unit Llandough, Anaesthetic Department at UHW, Critical Care UHW, Barry Community Nurses. Toiletries sent to Noah's Ark Children Hospital

Also, I would like to say a very big thank you to Anthony Hopkins and Team from Hopkins Butchers High St. They kindly donated another £100 from the sale of their shopping bags. This was presented to Kath Fisher on behalf of Noah's Ark Children's Hospital, to fund the Play Specialist Team. This is an essential service, that provide support to young



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Finally, can I just thank everyone for their support, kindness and generosity.

I hope you have enjoyed my articles, and that they have helped shine a light in these dark days. Thank you.

“Be still for the glory of the Lord, is shining all around.”



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THANKYOU

Chris Chaulk (All Saints' Sub-Warden)

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all well, and by the time you read this some of you will be back in church. Can I send my love and best wishes to all of you who are still shielding.

I would like to give a special thanks to the All Saints' helpers during lockdown. David Ball washing down paths and fixing guttering. Martin Evans breaking up old pianos, that was a sight to behold. Diane Baker tendering the church grounds in her own time and of course always keeping a social distance (little and not so little jobs outside the church that nobody notices unless they are not done). Of course, we are aware of the people who are frustrated at not being able to help and hopefully it will not be too long before you can join us once again. Also a big thank you again to David and a number of ladies who have given their valuable time in assisting us when opening up our church for Quiet Prayer. Thank you also to our helpers at St. Mary's Church. Returning to All Saints, I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to Mary Colwill, Micky Sutton and Gloria Richards for the many years of service, polishing the brass and silver and washing the linen. These ladies have now decided to retire from these roles but thoroughly deserve a mention for the discreet way they served our church.

There are so many of you too numerous to mention who carry out essential tasks in our church with little recognition. Can I state here categorically we know who you are and without you all, our church would struggle to manage. I look forward to seeing you all!

THIS MONTH'S COVER

'The Vision of St Helena' by Paolo Veronese (1528-1588). The painting is housed in the National Gallery, London.

Veronese shows St Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine, dreaming of Christ's cross which she was trying to discover in the Holy Land. It is said that she eventually uncovered the cross beneath a temple to Venus built upon the site of Calvary. Holy Cross Day (14th September) commemorates this alleged discovery.

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Memories of the Barry Goods Office and Services Provided

PDG Gilbertson

On leaving Barry Boy's Grammar School in the late 1950's I sought employment in an industry which provided transport services. My first venture was to apply to the Western Welsh Omnibus Company, but to this day I am still awaiting a reply.

Fortunately, British Rail were having constructed a new building at Central Square, Cardiff to act as a Divisional base for Wales and the areas of Bristol and Swindon. Combining the amalgamation of these areas failed but the building was completed. I applied for a clerical position at Cardiff and was successful. A post was offered at the freight depot at Newtown, Freight Depot, Cardiff and I was based there for four years until early in 1964 when a vacancy and a promotion transpired at a satellite depot namely Barry Goods, my home town. I applied and was successful. The post was as an assistant to the Goods Manager a Thomas Righton who was due to retire in a couple of years.

The area that the Barry office covered was from Cogan Station to the outskirts of Bridgend on the Vale of Glamorgan line. There were a few very small freight yards between the areas mentioned but I will only mention them in passing namely those at Dinas Powys, Barry Syndicate Sidings, Rhoose and Gileston. The town of Barry and its Docks coupled with the cement works at Rhoose and Aberthaw and the newly

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constructed A Power Station at Aberthaw provided much work for the staff based at Barry and from memory there were over 30 staff involved, some based at out stations on the Vale. After being acquainted with the working practices at the Barry Goods Depot I was seconded to the supply of wagons and maintain records of redundant railway equipment from the branch line which ran from Cadoxton South Junction to Pontypridd via Wenvoe, and Peterston, Creigiau, this work was to completely sever the line to Trehafod which closed in 1951 undertaken by the Barry contractors R.S.Tyley and A.Woodfield. It was also in 1964 that the small freight yard at Cadoxton closed. This yard handled primarily domestic coal for the residents of Cadoxton.

It must be mentioned that in the late 1940's and early 1950's cattle on most Saturdays were received and delivered by road on foot to the slaughter house on Court Road at its junction with Gladstone Road. What would Health and Safety people make of this today?

Down on the eastern end of No2 Dock a large number of firms operated namely Midland Silicones, British Resin Products, British Geon, and Distrene and rail traffic to these plants was extensive. On the Dockside of No.2 Dock firms such as Welsh Cold Stores, Joseph Rank Flour and Provender Mills Fellows Chamberlain and Meggitt and Price, and Geest all required daily rail services. Number 31 Berth at the extreme north end of No. 2 Dock also handled huge amounts of imported shipment traffic such



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as pit props, iron ore, phosphate rock and military supplies which often involved live ammunition. The high level sidings were crammed full of wagons loaded with coal for shipment worldwide. No1 Dock was not quite so active in the 1960's there were numerous smaller companies such as Western Welding, Printers Equipment, Powell Duffryn Wagon Repairs, Woodham Bros and Powell Duffryn Oil and Chemical Company. The latter mentioned two companies were active into the 1980's, Woodhams particularly with its scrap metal business and in the steam engine preservation movement and its legacy can still be seen all over the U.K. today.

Further down the line at Barry were sidings in the Goods Yard reserved for domestic coal traffic, animal food products, telephone poles stored for the G.P.O., at least 2 of the sidings were under cover and provided protection for road vehicles collecting and delivering merchandise. At Barry Station smaller sidings did exist and were sometimes used by travelling circuses such as Bertram Mills and Billy Smarts as in those days it was easier to move their traffic by rail. Rhoose and Aberthaw Cement Works had daily services conveying their products to places such as Bristol, Carmarthen, Pembroke Dock, Plymouth, Taunton and Liskeard. Finally, in the early 1960's the Aberthaw "A" Power Station came on line and the volume of traffic handled was immense. Llantwit Major had a reprieve from closure until 1965 due to the yard being used for delivery of heavy goods to the second power station under construction at Aberthaw, now known as B Station. All these firms at that juncture in time required the railways as their chosen form of transportation.

Unfortunately, events started to change in 1963 with the infamous Beeching Report which tried to kill the railways. This was aided and abetted by

Jane Hutt AM/AC

I want to wish everyone well through this extremely difficult time with the impact of the COVID-19 virus taking hold on our lives.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or need help.

Rwyf am ddymuno'n dda i bawb trwy'r amser anodd hwn gydag effaith y firws COVID-19 yn gafael ar ein bywydau.

Peidiwch ag oedi cyn cysylltu â mi os oes gennych unrhyw bryderon neu os oes angen help arnoch.

Contact / Cysylltu



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the Harold MacMillan government of 1962 who took trade away from the railways, the Common Carrier agreement allowing road transport to compete with railways on a level playing field. Also at this time motorways were being created, another nail in the railways coffin.

One point of interest - the actual offices of Barry Goods Yard could have doubled for a scene from a Dickensian novel with its high desks with sloping tops and high stools requiring a ladder to mount plus two coal fired Romesse stoves which spewed out copious amounts of coal dust. Working conditions left a lot to be desired. Finally, to conclude this account of the former Goods Yard it is imperative that its legacy, created in the late 19th century, is retained for future generation. When it is gone it is gone. I applaud the authorities and developers in their vision to create a complex for the citizens of Barry and visitors to be entertained and socialise.

I also must add the building in its new guise will be a fitting tribute to the people who worked at the yard, be it Railway or Docks staff, as I believe I am the sole survivor who can claim to have worked there.

SUNDAY READINGS

6 Sept/Trinity 13 Ezekiel 33 v7-11, Psalm 119 v33-40, Romans 13 v8-end, Matthew 18 v15-20.

13 Sept/Trinity 14 Genesis 50 v15-21, Psalm 103 v1-13, Romans 14 v1-12, Matthew 18v21-35

20 Sept/Trinity 15 Jonah 3 v10 - end of 4, Psalm 145 v1-8, Philippians 1 v21 - end, Matthew 20 v1-16

27 Sept/Trinity 16 Ezekiel 18 v1-4. 25-end, Psalm 25 v1-8, Philippians 2 v1-13, Matthew 21 v23-32

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Wednesday and Friday: 9.30 am to 1.30 pm

Administrator: Mrs JANET BRADDON

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00 am	Holy Mass - St Mary
8.00 am	Holy Eucharist - All Saints
9.00 am	Sung Mass - Merthyr Dyfan
9.30 am	Sung Mass - St Cadoc
9.30 am	Sung Eucharist - All Saints (with Sunday School during term-time)
11.00 am	Solemn Mass - St Mary (with Sunday School during term-time)
5.00 pm	Evensong - All Saints

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monday	8.45 am	Morning Prayer - St Mary
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - St Cadoc
	6.30 pm	Mass - St Cadoc (with Anointing on 1st Monday)
Tuesday	9.45 am	Morning Prayer - St Mary
	10.00 am	Mass - St Mary
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer - All Saints
Wednesday	9.15 am	Morning Prayer - All Saints
	10.00 am	Eucharist - All Saints
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - St Mary
	6.30 pm	Mass - St Mary (with Anointing on 3rd Wednesday)
Thursday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer - St Cadoc
	9.30 am	Mass - St Cadoc
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - All Saints
	7.00 pm	Eucharist - All Saints
Friday	8.00 am	Morning Prayer - St Mary
	12.00 pm	Mass - St Mary
Saturday	9.30 am	Morning Prayer - St Mary
	10.00 am	Mass - St Mary
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer - St Cadoc (with Benediction on 1st Saturday)