



## **Sunday Signpost 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

*"Light for the path and news for the journey."*

### *The Collect*

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**

### *The First Reading - Exodus 17. 1-7*

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

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

*Psalm 95 (we say together)*

**O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.**

**O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

**O that today you would listen to his voice! Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. For forty years I loathed that generation and said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways.' Therefore in my anger I swore, 'They shall not enter my rest.'**

*The Second Reading – Romans 5. 1-11*

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

## *The Gospel - John 4. 5-42*

Hear the Holy Gospel according to St John. **Glory to you, O Lord**

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'.(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the

people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

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

#### *Post Communion Prayer*

We beseech you, almighty God, look upon the heartfelt desires of your humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of your majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Prayer requests* - Annette, Marian, Marian, Derrick, Clive, Margaret, Lucy, Jim, Ellen Marie, Anthony, Paula, Margaret, Steven, Claire, Glanys, Shirley, Dilys, baby Evelyn and her Parents, Joan, Sheridan, Sarah, John, Aled, Angela, Jeanette, Melanie, John, Donna, Dave, Alison, Nick, Perry, Lucy, Alun, Kelly, Tempany, Susan, Marion, Diane, Gerry, Avril, Melanie, John, Wendy, Tina, Lucy.

*We pray for the repose of the souls of the recently departed and for all those who mourn* - Iorwerth Owens, Judith

*We also pray for those whose anniversary of death falls this week:*

Margaret Bishop (11<sup>th</sup> ), Bert Maidman (12<sup>th</sup>), Marian Williams (12<sup>th</sup>), John Hill (13<sup>th</sup>), Paul Bennet, Priest (14<sup>th</sup>)

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS & PRAYER INTENTIONS:  
9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Monday	2 Kings 5.1-15a, Psalm 42.1, 2; 43.1-4, Luke 4.24-30	That we may recognise God's healing grace
Tuesday	Song of the Three 1.2, 11-20, Psalm 25.4-10, Matthew 18.21-35	That we may mirror limitless mercy
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 4.1, 5-10, Psalm 147.12-20, Matthew 5.17-20	That our obedience to God is a witness to his truth
Thursday	Jeremiah 7. 21-28, Psalm 95. 1-9, Luke 11. 14-23	That we might listen to God's voice
Friday	Hosea 14. 1-9, Psalm 81, Mark 12. 28-34	That we maintain a wholehearted love for God
Saturday	Hosea 5.13 - 6.6, Psalm 51.1-4, 16-19, Luke 18.9-14	That we are always humble before God
Sunday Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	1 Samuel 16.1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5.8-14, John 9.1-41	Thanksgiving for our Mother Church and all who are Mothers to us

The Blessed Sacrament lamp in St Fagan's burns this week  
for peace

## Midweek services

Day & Church	Service/Time
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> March, St Elvan	MU Eucharist,
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> March, St James	Eucharist, 9.30am
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> March, St Elvan	Stations of the Cross 12.00pm
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> March, St Elvan	Eucharist, 1.05pm
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> March, St Winifred	Eucharist, 2.00pm
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> March, St Lleurwg	Eucharist, 10.30am
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> March, St Luke	Eucharist, 10.00am
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> March, St John	Eucharist, 11.00am

## Next Sunday's Services – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Church	Service/Time
St Fagan's Church Hall	Faith Factory 9.15am
St Fagan	Eucharist, 9.30am
St Lleurwg	Service of the Word, 9.30am
St Matthew	Eucharist, 9.30am
St Elvan	Eucharist, 11.00am
St James	Service of the Word, 11.00am
St Winifred	Café Church, 11.00am
St Luke	Eucharist, 11.00am
St Elvan	Shine at Six Eucharist, 6.00pm

St Fagan's Sunday 9.30 services are usually livestreamed at:

[www.facebook.com/stfagansaberddare](http://www.facebook.com/stfagansaberddare)

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation** is available by appointment with Fr Hywel. Please telephone or email to arrange.

## Ministry Area activities and events this week

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Tea & Toast 9.30-11.30am, St Fagan's Hall  
Come & Chat 9.30-11.30am, St Lleurwg's Hall  
Mothers' Union Mass 1.30-2.00pm, St Elvan's  
Mothers' Union Free Talk 2.00-4.00pm, St Elvan's

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Free Jewellery & Beading Group 10.30am-12.00pm, St Elvan  
Free Storytime & Play 10.30-11.30am, St Elvan  
Free Personal items, Family & Baby toiletries 12.00-1.00pm, St Winifred's  
Afternoons with Aquinas 2.00-3.00pm, St Elvan's

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March

Sgwrs Gymraeg (Welsh Conversation) 11.30am-12.30pm, St Elvan  
Outreach Meeting 7.00-8.00pm, online

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Highly Strung Ukulele Group 10.30am-12.00pm, St Elvan  
What is Communion? 2.00-3.00pm, Green Room, St Elvan  
Learn Welsh Glamorgan 6.30-8.30pm, Green Room, St Elvan  
What is Communion? 7.00-8.00pm, Online (email Fr Hywel for joining details)

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Crafty Bees Arts & Crafts Group 11.00am-1.00pm, St Elvan  
British Sign Language Classes 2.00pm-4.00pm, St Lleurwg's Hall  
Embroidery Workshop & Talk 2.00-4.00pm, Mezzanine, St Elvan's  
Aberdare Town Church Eisteddfod 6.00-7.30pm, St Elvan's

### **Confirmation 2026**

After Easter, we will be welcoming registrations for the next Confirmation Service in the Ministry Area. Please keep an eye out for details.

### **"Shine at Six"**

**Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>** 6pm, St Elvan's Church. Our less formal Holy Eucharist which is ideal for those newer to church life and essential for those seeking Confirmation. We've had a great time in our services so far so come and join us, we'd love to welcome you there.

## **The People's Passion**

Following its success last year, this retelling of the events of Holy Week and the Resurrection returns with schools' performances on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am and 1.30pm and free public performances on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March also at 10.30am and 1.30pm. Through spoken word, music and dramatic backdrops, the story comes to life; come and experience the last days of Jesus.

## **Ministry Area Pilgrimage**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March** from each of the churches in our Ministry Area to St John's Church for a service at 1pm

Leaving: St Lleurwg's at 10.30am

St Winifred's at 11.00am

St Luke's at 11.30am

St James' at 11.45am

St Fagan's at 12pm

St Matthew's at 12pm

St Elvan's at 12.30pm

Please join in the walk, enjoy fellowship with our whole Church community and witness to our unity in Christ.

## **Transitional Minister & Ministry Area Lead**

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## **Licensed Lay Reader**

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Websites: [www.cynonuchafministryarea.org](http://www.cynonuchafministryarea.org)

[www.stelvans.com](http://www.stelvans.com)

Ministry Area Facebook: search for Cynon Uchaf Ministry Area