



To be a pilgrim

Church services

6pm, Saturday: Vigil Mass of Sunday

9.30am: Sunday Mass – with children’s liturgy in term time
22 September: Family Mass

9.30am: Tuesday Mass

9.30am: Thursday Mass
(11.30am on 26 September)

Activities (in the parish centre)

- Monday, 9.30 – 11am:
Baby and Toddler Group
- Wednesday, 11am – 1.30pm:
Welcome Space
- Friday, 6.30pm: Junior Club in term time (School Years 3–6)
- Saturday 21 September, 1 – 5pm:
Free Sustainable Clothes and Books Market

For further information, contact Christ the King’s parish office (phone 2075 3945, email llanishen@rcadc.org) or Canon Matthew Jones (phone 2075 2389, email matthew.jones@rcadc.org) or visit the website at www.3churches.org

Services are streamed live at www.3churches.org

The church and parish centre are located at Newborough Avenue, Llanishen, CF14 5DB.

In the July issue of *Lisvane Link*, parishioner Sally McLaughlin described her pilgrimage on the Camino to Santiago de Compostella. Recently, Father Peter Davies, Catholic chaplain to the Cardiff and the Vale NHS who regularly celebrates Mass at Christ the King, used the theme of pilgrimage in his sermon. The extracts below pick up themes in Sally’s article.

‘The scallop shell is the pilgrim symbol of the Camino. The lines of the shell remind the pilgrims that, whichever route they take, they are heading for the same destination. Not all of us have the time or the health to walk a pilgrim route, but as Christians we are all pilgrims – people on a spiritual journey, following the path to eternal life.

When we take a journey we have to decide our route. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus describes our choices. He said: ‘Enter by the narrow gate, since the road that leads to destruction is wide and spacious, and many take it; but it is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it.’

The lines of the scallop shell also symbolise another aspect of Christian calling. Jesus called the disciples to follow him but he also called them to go out and proclaim the Good News of salvation to others. In Mark’s gospel, chapter 6, we hear how He sent the 12 disciples out in pairs to the local villages. They were ordinary men whose lives had been transformed in a short

time and He gave them the task of sharing their faith with others.

That is God’s plan for us too – to communicate faith through our lives. St Paul tells us that we are all ambassadors for Jesus Christ. We are called to glorify Him in our lives, no matter who we are.

Jesus told the disciples they had to travel light (the only thing they could take was a staff) as a reminder not to trust in their own resources, but to rely totally on God. Their message was one of the need for repentance, willingness to change. Not an easy message and they were warned that some would reject them and refuse to listen.

The message of Jesus is tough. It demands a change of heart, it means following a difficult and unpopular path. But as the disciples discovered for themselves, He is the way to eternal life and true freedom. And the message is for everyone, rich and poor, men and women, old and young.

Jesus is the great physician with the power to restore our broken lives. His healing and liberating power comes to us in His words and through the water of baptism, the oil of anointing and the bread and the wine of the Eucharist. These look so ordinary, yet they become channels of God’s grace and powerfully change our lives if we are receptive to God’s message.

For the disciples, the experience of going to the local villages and sharing the Gospel in words and deeds was just the start. Later, just before He ascended into heaven, Jesus told them: ‘Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved...’

They were 12 ordinary men with a divine message, sent to bring God’s grace into people’s lives. Today, that message of God’s grace is still being shared. We are called to share it with our relatives, our friends and our neighbours by participating in this life-changing and life-giving pilgrimage with God.

Elizabeth Taylor,
chair of Christ the King Parish
Advisory Council

