

## This Week:-

**Monday – Thurs** Fr Tim with Jean Vanier in France

**Friday** Spirituality Sub Group, Llanddewi Church **11.30 am**

**Sat** Nicholston House, Ministry Area Team, all welcome and worship leaders encouraged to attend. Fr Mark will lead us in prayer and reflection. £8. **10 am – 3 pm**

**Sunday** Usual services + Fr Tim at Bethel **6 pm**

- **Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>** Baptism & Sunday School, St Gwynour's **11.15** (MP at Llanrhidian, HE at St David's), Commissioning of Gower Youth Worker, Steve Jones, Murton Methodist Church **6.00 pm**
- **December 8<sup>th</sup>** St Rhydian's Coffee Morning, Llanrhidian Village Hall. All welcome! **10.30 am**
- **December 13<sup>th</sup>** Llanrhidian School Christmas Service, St Rhyd's **11.15 am**

### Christmas in NE Gower

**Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>:** Holy Eucharist and carols with Llanrhidian School - St Rhydian & St Illtyd's 11.15 am (also Eucharists at St Gwynour's 8am, St David's 9.30 am)

**Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup>:** Nine Lessons and Carols - St Gwynour's 11.15 am (also Eucharists at St David's 9.30 am, St Rhydian & St Illtyd's 11.15 am)

Nine Lessons and Carols - St David's 6 pm

**Christmas Eve:** Family Candle-lit Carol Service - St Gwynour's 5pm

Midnight Mass St Rhydian & St Illtyd's 11.30 pm

**Christmas Day:** Holy Eucharist - St David's 9.30 am

**Sunday Dec 27<sup>th</sup>:** HE St Gwynour's 10 am (no other services in NE Gower)

### Leading intercessions in November

**1<sup>st</sup>** St Rh's-Pam M. St G's-Pam D. St D's-Emilia.

**8<sup>th</sup>** Remembrance Sunday –Diane.

**15<sup>th</sup>** Susan M. Penny/Lilian. Maldwyn.

**22<sup>nd</sup>** United Service –Morgen.

**29<sup>th</sup>** Sarah L. Maggie. Sandra or Fr Tim.

### Messy Church Stable Trail

Planning for this Advent's outdoor event in Reynoldston is underway. If you would like to perform a role, help with organization or publicity, offer to help with serving refreshments, please contact Fr Andrew Pearce or the messy Church organizers direct. This is a wonderful opportunity for witness and outreach, with over 300 people following the trail the first time. This will be the second time we have staged the event.

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<http://www.churchinnorthgower.com/>

## Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr



Christ the King

The Church in North Gower

November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015

### A Scene from *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

DURING THE sixteenth century in Spain, at the height of the Inquisition, someone resembling Christ appears unannounced in the streets. The people recognize Him immediately and begin to flock about Him. But, as He is healing several of the sick and lame, an old cardinal also recognizes Him and orders the guards to arrest Him. Once again Christ is abducted.

That night, Jesus receives a visitor. The Grand Inquisitor enters the darkened cell and begins a severe reprimand of Jesus for appearing again and hindering the work of the church. The Grand Inquisitor explains to Jesus that, because of His rejection of the three temptations, He placed an intolerable burden of freedom upon man. The church, however, is now correcting His errors and aiding man by removing this awful burden of freedom. He explains that Christ was mistaken when He expected man to voluntarily choose to follow Him. The basic nature of man, says the Inquisitor, does not allow him to reject either earthly bread or security and happiness in exchange for something so indefinite as what Christ expects.

If Christ had accepted the devil's bread, man would have been given security instead of freedom of choice, and if Christ had performed a miracle and had cast himself down from the pinnacle, man would have been given something miraculous to worship. The nature of man, insists the Inquisitor, is to seek the miraculous. Finally, Christ should have accepted the power offered Him by the devil. Because He did not, the church has now had to assume such power for the benefit of man. And since Christ's death, the church has been forced to correct the errors made by Him. Now, at last mankind willingly submits its freedom to the church in exchange for happiness and security. This balance, says the Inquisitor, must not be upset. The way of Christ allows only a few very strong individuals to enter the kingdom of heaven. The Inquisitor's scheme at least allows earthly happiness for most of human kind.

When he finishes, the Grand Inquisitor looks at Christ, who has remained silent the entire time. Now He approaches the old churchman and kisses him on his dry, withered lips. The Grand Inquisitor frees Him suddenly, saying that He is never to come back again.