

GOD BE WITH YOU: Y TAD, Y MAB. A'R YSBRYD GLÂN.

Churches of the Marsh Online

Morning Prayer is on Zoom at 9 am each weekday morning and the filmed Eucharist in the wild places continues, streaming on Youtube (Channel Didji Gymru) Sundays from 8.15 am. You are welcome to join us any time for MP. Contact Fr Tim for log in details, if you don't have them.

Father,

we hold before you
our family in the
Diocese of Swansea
and Brecon
and we open our hearts
and minds to your Spirit:
Bless us as we gather
in your name;
Guide us as we grow
into the likeness of your
Son;
Lead us by your Spirit
to go out and
make disciples of others.
God of our journeying,
be our way
and our truth and our life;
our beginning and our
end.
We pray through Jesus our
Lord. Amen.

*Diocesan prayer, SwanBrec

Churches opening

There is a Eucharist at **St Cenydd's** Llangennith Sundays at **11 am**.

St Rhydian and St Illtyd's Llanrhidian from first Sunday in October Eucharist Sundays **11.15 am**.

St David's streaming equipment and internet ready, hopefully permission for next Sunday

St Gwynour's hoping to open in October.

Social distancing and related measures are in place in all instances.

The Churches of North Gower:

St Gwynour's Penclawdd
St David's Wernffrwd,
Ss Rhydian & Illtyd's
Llanrhidian
St Cadoc's Cheriton
St Madoc's Llanmadoc
St Cenydd's Llangennith
+ occasional outdoor
services at the ruin of St
Elen's
Llanelen

Priests and Reader

Fr Tim Ardouin 01792 391353
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Fr Nigel Doyle 01792 850659
tadnigel@yahoo.co.uk
Reader Ross Davies 390232
ross.davies0111@gmail.com

North Gower Food Hub

Contacts:

Community Councillor
Fr Nigel Doyle 01792
850659
Community Councillor Jo
Gooding 07989214487
Community Councillor
John David 01792
390105

For donations, collection
points at: Llanmadoc
Community shop, CK
stores, Penclawdd.



People of the Marsh

Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr

By whose



authority?

TRINITY +SIXTEEN September 27 2020

The Church in North Gower



*Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.
(Matthew 21.27)*

THE CHIEF PRIESTS and Temple leaders in the gospel reading cannot answer Jesus' question about the authenticity of John the Baptist with any innate integrity. They cannot ultimately give any answer beyond, "We don't know" because they have tied themselves in political knots. The truth is they have completely sold out to the imperial administration of the Romans and to theological masks that pass for religion so long as they are authorised by the Temple. Of course, these are themselves the very people charged according to their tradition with deciding how that religion is expressed in their time and place. According to the precepts of Hebrew Law, enshrined in their 'Bible,' the authority to be who these priests and leaders think they are, comes from God. Clearly, in the prisons of self-consciousness and self-identification, these 'authorities' have lost any touch with the reality of God, if ever it was there in them. Could it be more ironic that here they are asking the Christ, who is so conscious of God's presence that in him God stands right in front of them, "By what authority are you doing these things"?

Then Jesus tells the parable of the sons and the vineyard. One son says he will not go and do the work he has been asked to do, but he goes eventually. The other responds with political correctness designed to please and appease the father but does not go into the vineyard.

God is not interested in appearances or who we pretend to be. God looks straight into our souls and asks us to be authentic. The tax collectors and prostitutes can touch the kingdom of heaven in them far more easily than the chief priests and elders of the Temple because they are not living in self grandiose or pretence. They are raw enough to yet encounter the Christ in them. Christ calls us to be real. Only when we accept our brokenness may we find our authenticity. Come to Him now, He calls you.