

This Week:-

Today St Madoc Centre – free (no charge) kite flying festival **3 pm**

Wednesday Home communions from MU Deanery Fest, St Catherine’s, Gorseinon **10 am**
3 pm

Thursday Penclawdd Christian Youth, Penclawdd Community Hall **7 pm**

Saturday Llanrhidian Fayre Meeting L’Arche, Tircoed Village **2 pm**
2 pm

Sunday St G’s Fr Andrew; St D’s & St Rl’s Fr Nigel

Coming Soon:-

- **July 25th** St David’s Summer Fayre **2 pm**
- **July 26th** Combined Eucharist - Llanrhidian **10 am**
- **August 2nd** Gower Show
- **August 9th** Worship Leaders Licencing – Pennard St Mary’s **11 am**
- **August 29th** Swagger, Stagger, Strut – 13 mile walk, Gowerton to Llanmadoc.
- **Gower Summer Healing Service TBA**

Intercessions Rota

JULY

	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
St.D	Maldwyn	Fr Tim	Emilia	Shared
St.G	Maggie	Rita	Pam E	Euch’
St.RI	Fr Tim	Pam	Jo/Pete	Sarah

Llanrhidian Volunteers to join the rota to clean the church and do the flowers would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Beryl or Jill.

Church tent greeters and show chaplains wanted for Gower Show. Volunteer? Please contact Fr Tim or Rev Peter B.

Today is *Sea Sunday*. Please pray for all who work and travel by sea, off and on the Gower coast and throughout the world.

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JULY 12th: TRINITY 6 (PENTECOST 7)

Sea Sunday

LITURGICAL COLOUR: GREEN

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, ‘Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. (Amos 7.10)

fr tim writes

Today we will read again the story of John the Baptist’s beheading and no doubt, as we do, our imaginations will be infused with some obscene images from the current and ongoing ISIS attacks across the Middle East and elsewhere. Whatever else fuels ISIS, they are prostituting religion for political cause.

In today’s psalm, we will read that, in God, *“Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other”*. Christianity believes this Jewish Scripture. So does Islam. Amos, the rough farmer prophet, believed it. Amaziah, respected religious leader, it seems did not. Or, if he did, he had long since sold out his faith to the political hierarchy in exchange for an easy life. No wonder he thought “the land” could not bear the words of truth. Similarly, Herod Antipas, though stirred by the truth he recognized deep down in the Baptist’s prophetic ministry, sought to sever his own conscience by executing the prophet.

ISIS, Antipas, Amaziah, purveyors of contemporary imperialism, be they Western capitalists or otherwise, will seek to harness privatized religion when it suits purpose.

Scripture tells us this is always wrong. True religion is not privatized. True religion says the way of God is peace, shalom, tangnefedd. We must beat swords into ploughshares and learn war no more (Isaiah 2.4). True religion recognizes Amos and not Amaziah. It is non-violent but its non-violence is radical and it confronts the privatizer and the oppressor. In true religion, mercy, truth, righteousness and peace, by the grace of God, meet and kiss. True religion does not sell out. Ever.



Collect

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Amos 7.7-15

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb-line.' Then the Lord said, 'See, I am setting a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.' Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, 'Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, "Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land." ' And Amaziah said to Amos, 'O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.' Then Amos answered Amaziah, 'I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycomore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

Psalm 85.8-13

R Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying; * for he is speaking peace to his Faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him. * Truly his salvation is very near to those who fear him, * and his glory may dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and truth have met together; * righteousness and peace have kissed each other. * Truth shall spring up from the earth * and righteousness shall look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, * and our land will yield its increase. * Righteousness shall go before him, * and peace shall be a pathway for his feet. **R**

Ephesians 1.3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according

to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Mark 6.14-29

King Herod heard of the healings and other miracles, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.' For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.' The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.