

This Week:

Monday Peace Mala, Morryston **11.30**, Centring Prayer, St David's **7 pm**.

Tuesday Morning Prayer, St Rhydian's **9 am**. **Weds** Morning Prayer St Madoc Centre (staff) **9 am**, Wdns Llanyrnewydd, Greyhound **10.15**, Mumbles **Noon**. **Thursday** Morning Prayer St Mad (trustees) **9.30**, Pilgrim prayers with Glyn, St Gwyn's **1 pm**, Funeral St Gwyn's, Gwynfryn Nurse, **2 pm**. **Friday** Clergy Synod, Brecon Cathedral **10 am**. **Saturday** N Gower pilgrimage: see below.

Next Sunday, Trinity 4: Holy Eucharist St David's **9.30**, St Gwynour's **11.15**, Eucharist with Fr Justin at St Rhydian's **11.15**.

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. Please pray this together whenever you meet.

North Gower Pilgrimage

Rev Glyn is on the road again: **Thurs July 6th** at St Gwynour's for prayers 1 pm; **Saturday July 8th** St David's 9.45 am, St Rhydian's 11 am. Ends at Map Sant celebration at St Cenydd's July 9th.

'Shall I leave the prints of my knees on the sandy beach, a record of my final prayer in my native land? Shall I then suffer every kind of wound that the sea can inflict? Shall I take my tiny boat across the wide sparkling ocean?

O King of the Glorious Heaven, shall I go of my own choice upon the sea?

O Christ, will You help me on the wild waves?' St Brendan

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Some Gower MA Dates

'BkfstCh' (Breakfast Church) will be at Pennard Carnival - & YP's Music Event, **9th July**

St. David's Summer Fayre
Saturday **29th July**

Gower Show - August 6th
Volunteers for Church Tent please contact Rev Hilary Evans

hilary@evanses.plus.com

St David's Annual Outing
to Llanerchaeron near Lampeter, Thursday

Gower Show Songs of Praise

The top votes for hymns in NE Gower have been for *How Great Thou Art* and *Calon Lan*. These will be referred to the Gower Show end of show evening service.

Please continue to pray for Justin & Nigel K and all recently ordained at Brecon Cathedral.

Interfaith Forum

Fr Tim and Swansea University Mosque are planning to bring leaders and disciples from different faiths to an open forum in Gower this Autumn. We will share what we have in common but the floor will be open to questions also about difference. If you have suggestion about venue, please tell Fr Tim.

Churches in North Gower: People of the Marsh Find us on 

Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr



TRINITY THREE

July 2nd, 2017

The Church in North Gower



"Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." (Genesis 22.12)

I **STOOD** half an hour or more at the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo with this statue by Donatello. I'd been in Florence some days, soaking in the art and atmosphere of the place in preparation for some time with *St Mark's English Church*, just to the south of the *Ponte Vecchio*, which was to form part of my pre-ordination training. Emilia, my parents, my five children were all in Italy with me, staying on a slightly cooler mountain, there for me when I came home at night, trying to have a holiday but struggling in the wilderness really, Owen still on the breast, Kinga disappearing in the heat of the day, teenaged Misty and Seb trying to meld with family, theirs, and a step yet but half climbed, mum and dad unofficial vineyard-guests on the next hill.

I gazed at the hands of father Abraham, the left pulling the boy's long hair from his neck, to reveal the life-vein, right hand holding the knife of sacrifice to that same innocent, trusting neck. Then the boy's eyes, looking away, away from his father's crisis of faith, submissive, sacrificial. Abraham, father of tribes to be, though he could not know it now, stares, beseeching into the heavens... No doubt I shed tears...

Abandonment is no easy task. The ego says at every turn, "Do not let go! If you do you will be lost!" The story of Abraham and Isaac is a parable. On the surface, it tells of a religious transition of a people 3,500 years ago, who finally moved on from child sacrifice to animal only sacrifice. There was still a long way to go in the human consciousness about our relationship to and with the divine! But deeper, this is a story about the ego and the divine in us, our true self. The ego instructs us that we own things and can seize control of our lives. It tells us we have a right to these things; we even call human beings *our* children, *my* husband/wife, *my*...

We can look at our lives and live it like that. We have the freedom to choose to do that (it doesn't make anyone happy, though). We also have the freedom to trust God and simply thank God for the Love God puts in us, for the Loving ones God puts into our lives, and know that we own nothing, control nothing but we can love and be loved with God's Love. "All you need is love, love, love is all you need..."