

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM.****ADVENT IV - Year A**

Tea / coffee in Church after Mass. All Please stay. 11.00 approx. Grand Draw.  
Today Carol singing and Santa. 5.00 beginning at Mendlesham Green (Green Junction) and conclude Church Road-Ropers Farm (7.30). See Page 5 Mendlesham Newsletter for route It is also on the church door. We are collecting for St. Martin's Norwich for the Homeless

**This week – Divine VOffice - Psalter week 4**

- Mon:** 9.30 Mass. (Judges 13 v. 2-7, 24-25: Luke 1v.5-25)  
Int: Expectant Parents  
2:00 Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Tues:** 9:30 Mass (Is. 7 v. 10-14: Luke 1 v, 26-38) "  
Int: All pilgrims.  
10.30-12.30 Coffee and soup etc. in Church.  
11.00 Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Wed:** 9.30 Mass (Zeph. 3 v. 14-18: Luke 1 v.39-45)  
Int. People of Ukraine.  
4.00 Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Thurs:** 9:30 Mass. ( Sam. 1 v.24-28. 1 Sam 2 v. 1, 4-8: Luke 1 v. 46-56)  
Int: Walsingham
- Fri:** 9:30 Mass (Mal. 3 v1-4, 23-24 Luke 1 v. 57-66)  
Int: Crib Appeal for Christian Aid.  
3.00 Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Sat:** **CHRISTMASS EVE.**  
5.30 Mass of Christmas Night (Is 9 v.1-6 Titus 2 v.11-14; Luke 2 v.1-14)  
Int: Home and Family Life  
7.00 Candlelight Carol Service

**Next Sunday: CHRISTMASS DAY**

- 9.30am Parish Mass and Address (Is 52 v.7-10. Heb. 1 v.1-6 John 1 v.1-18)  
Int: Parish and Congregation

**NOTICES**

- 1 The SockBank for the Homeless continues until 8<sup>th</sup> Jan- also Crib Appeal for Christian Aid ends.
- 2 Extra times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are on the bulletin for this week as a preparation for Christmas.
- 3 On New Year's Day 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. the Parish Mass will be at 11.00 not usual 9.30.
- 4 Please make sure you come to Mass on Christmass Eve or Day. The Carol Service is no substitute for Mass.

**THEME:** The birth of Jesus is almost upon us. Today's Mass reminds us he is the long-awaited Emmanuel; God is amongst us now, and we will receive Him into our hearts and so we ask his forgiveness of one another.

**Entrance Hymn: 365 v. 1 – 4.**

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

**Celebrant:** Forgive us, Lord, when we are afraid of your challenge to our selfishness; when we prefer darkness to light; when we cut ourselves off from our neighbours who are the lifelines you have sent us. Lord have mercy.

**People: (sing) Kyrie Eleison (Ukrainian setting)**

**Celebrant:** Forgive us, Lord, when we show lack of understanding, when we are impatient and judge harshly; when we look for rewards to boost our self esteem. Christ have mercy. **People: Christe Eleison**

**Celebrant:** Forgive us, Lord, when we are uncritical of society and its superficial values; when we condone evil and contribute to the suffering of today. Lord have mercy.

**People: Kyrie Eleison**

*Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness*

*No Gloria in Advent..*

**OPENING PRAYER:** *Let us pray as Advent draws to a close, that Christ will truly come into our hearts.* Lord fill our hearts with your love, and as you revealed to us by an angel the coming of your son as man, so lead us through His suffering and death to the glory of His resurrection, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD.**

**First reading – Isaiah 7 v.10-14:** We hear the celebrated prophecy from Isaiah which Christian tradition has seen as foretelling the Virgin Birth of Christ.

*The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'*

*Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us."'*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 24 @ Let the Lord enter! He is the King of Glory.**

The Lord is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.  
It is He who set it on the seas; on the waters He made it firm. ®

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his Holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. ®

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. ®

**Second Reading – Romans 1 v. 1-7:** St. Paul begins his letter to the Romans by explaining the Gospel he is preaching. Salvation comes through Jesus Christ who was descended from David, and is proclaimed Son of God in his resurrection.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

**Gospel Hymn:** 365 v. 5 – 6.

**Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God with us' Alleluia!**

**Gospel – Matthew 1 v. 18-25:** Matthew quotes the ancient prophecy of Isaiah to show that Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.'

Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

**Lighting of 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Candle**

*Light the Advent candle four, think of Mary watching o'er.*

*Jesus sleeping in the hay, God's own Son has come to stay.*

*Candle, Candle, burning bright, Shining in the cold winter night.*

*Candle, Candle, burning bright, Fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

**Address HOLY BAPTISM – Megan Luxford**

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Celebrant:** Trusting, like Joseph, that God's promises remain true however dark the circumstances, we turn to God in prayer.

**Reader:** Let us pray for all who have been called to be apostles and to preach the Good News, that like Paul they will communicate the Gospel with power and understanding.

Let us bring before the Lord all who are married, that like Mary and Joseph they may make their home on the sure foundation of God's word.

Let us pray for the Jewish people from whom sprang Mary and Joseph and our Saviour.

Let us pray for those in despair who find their lives too heavy a burden to support. May Jesus your Son be their strength and hope.

Let us pray that in the coming week Christians will try to share with others the joy and wonder that comes with the birth of Emmanuel – God with us - and that in giving and receiving this Christmass, we may find deep affection and joy.

Let us pray for the homeless and refugees remembering how the Holy Family had to search for a roof. We pray for Christian Aid and St Martin's Norwich and for our carol singing this evening.

Let us pray for the sick, especially Marjorie Rousseau and Jessica Mercer and all remembered at Shrine prayers.

Let us ask the Father to welcome into heaven all those who have died. We pray for Christopher Downing, recently departed and James Cutting, buried on Friday (pause while candles are lit) and Doris Gooderham, Arthur Tree, Walter Curson, Lorraine Wood, Kenneth Briggs, Pippy Thorpe, Dennis Smith, Gwendoline Fussel-Jones, Samuel Howlett, Stanley Howlett, Walter Beaumont, Dick Webb and Sister Doreen Owens, whose anniversaries are at this time.

We pray that Mary, the mother of Jesus, will share her joy with us. **Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

**S I L E N C E**

**All: Lord our God, we thank you for sending your Son to live amongst us as a man. May we always stay close to Him and so be led into the depths of your love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Offertory Hymn** 611 v 1 & 2 **Offertory Prayers** **Hymn** 611 v 3 & 4.  
Mass continues page 9 of the hymn book.

**SANCTUS:** John Allen setting **Mystery of Faith** No. 3.

**Blessed and praised be Jesus Christ, in the most Holy Sacrament. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in excelsis.**

Mass continues on page 11 of the hymn book.

**AGNUS DEI:** John Allen setting.

**Hymns at Holy Communion:** (please join in) **401, 126.**

**Hymns at Ablutions:** **306**

**Post Communion prayer**

**Angelus**

**Notices**

**Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn:** **609.**