

M ST MARY'S MENDLESHAM

www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk

You are welcome to any of our services.

SUNDAYS:

9.30 a.m. Parish Mass & Address

EXCEPT

26th Dec.(Holy Family) **11.00 am**

Saturdays: 4th, 11th, 18th Dec:

First Mass of Sunday at 10.00 am.

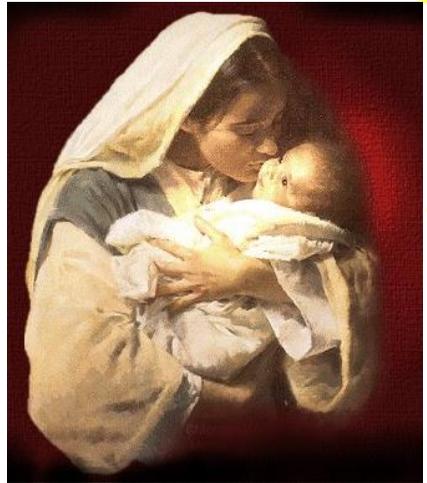
Daily Mass: *see calendar on inside back page & check porch notice, website or bulletin.*

Daily Morning & Evening Prayer
see porch notice.

Baptism (Christening), Marriage, Anointing of the Sick & Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament or any pastoral need - contact Fr Philip

Sacrament of Reconciliation

*Saturdays 4th, 11th, 18th Dec: 4.00 pm;
20th Dec: 2.30 pm; 21st Dec: 2.00 pm;
22nd Dec: 10.30 am; 23rd Dec: 4.00 pm;
24th Dec: 4.00 pm or contact Fr Philip*



Vicar:

Fr .Philip T Gray, B.A, S.S.C
Mendlesham Vicarage
01449 766359

Churchwardens:
Andrew Fleming
01449 711065

Chris Elstone
07530 769676

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

5th Dec	ADVENT II 9.30: Parish Mass & blessing of first collection of socks, hats, scarves & gloves for the homeless people cared for by St Martin's Norwich
8th Dec	2.30 pm: Mass & healing service
12th Dec	ADVENT III 9.30 Parish Mass. Preacher: Bishop Mike Harrison, Bishop of Dunwich, who will also bless the outside crib. 5.00 pm: Carol Singing & visit of Santa Claus around Mendlesham & Mendlesham Green
15th Dec	9.45: Mendlesham School Carol Service in church 11.00: Mass
19th Dec	ADVENT IV: 9.30 Parish Mass & blessing of door wreaths
20th Dec	3.00 pm: Hour of Silent Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in preparation for Christmas... <i>“How silently, how silently the wondrous Gift is given. So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.”</i>
24th Dec	CHRISTMASS EVE 5.00 pm: First Mass of Christmas 7.00 pm: Candlelight Carol Service in church & broadcast to South Churchyard. Collection for Christian Aid
25th Dec	CHRISTMASS DAY 9.30: Blessing of Crib & Parish Mass of Christmas
26th Dec	HOLY FAMILY 11.00 Parish Mass & blessing of children's presents PLEASE NOTE LATER TIME OF MASS TODAY
27th to 30th Dec	11.30: Mass (said)
31st Dec	3.00 pm: Mass of Mary, Mother of God
1st Jan	10.00 am: First Mass of Sunday



It is so easy to miss the point of the Christmass story. One Biblical

commentator wrote: “We can be so charmed with the story of a baby that we grow sentimental about it. It does not demand any vital change in our way of thinking and living. The great question for us is this: is our Christmass still only a story about a baby, or is it more, a story about a person into whom the baby grew, who can redeem the world from its sins, and calls us into partnership with his great and mighty purpose?”

When the angel appeared to Joseph, he said, **“You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”** (Matt. 1 v 21) It is only as we see the birth of Jesus in the light of his crucifixion and resurrection that we are able to grasp the full meaning of his coming to earth. Every day the Angelus devotion is said in St Mary’s to help make Christmass a daily event:



- **Mary hears the Good News from the Angel Gabriel**
- **Mary responds to the Good News and as a result**
- **Christ is born in and from her.**

The final prayer of the Angelus connects Christmass to Easter:

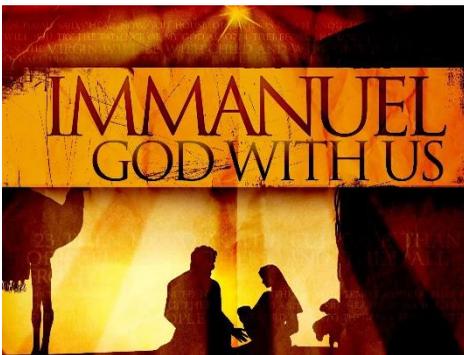
“O Lord, we beseech thee, pour your grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of your son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by his Passion and his Cross may we be brought to the glory of his resurrection.”

A puzzle page in a newspaper showed the following drawing by the artist Istvan Orosz. Beneath it was this question: Can you find the girl in the drawing?



If you look closely you can see the girl's face concealed in the tree branches and background scenery. When you have discovered her, the drawing will never be the same again.

It is like that with Jesus. He is in our lives waiting to be found.



(Emmanuel = God with us)

Once we find him, our lives will never be the same again. The responses of Mary and Joseph to God invite us to evaluate our response so God can be revealed in our lives.

Happy Christmass, everyone!