

Tea and coffee in church after Mass – Please stay.  
Today: 11.30 PCC Lunch & meeting in church.

10<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM**

**ADVENT II Year B**

**This Week:** Divine office - Psalter week 2

**Mon:** 1.30-2.25pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament  
2.30pm Mass, Laying on of hands and anointing  
Int: The sick & healing ministry (Is 35 v 1-10; Luke 5 v17-26)

**Tues:** 10.30am Mass. Int: All searching for faith  
(Is 40 v1-11; Matt 18 v 12-14)  
11,00 - 1,00 Tea/coffee/soup in church

**Wed:** **St. Lucy**  
9.30am Mass, (Is 40 v 25-31; Matt 11 v 28-30)  
Int: All in prison

**Thurs:** **St. John of the Cross**  
9.30am Mass (Is 41 v 13-20; Matt 11 v 11-15)  
Int: Deepening of our spiritual lives

**Fri** 9.30am Mass Int: Friends f St. Mary's  
(Is 48 v17-19; Matt 11 v 16-19)

**Sat** 10.00am 1st Mass of Sunday Int: Our carols for the homeless  
4.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Next Sunday :** **ADVENT III**

9.30am Parish Mass & Address & blessing of Christmas Wreaths & Outside  
Crib. Grand Draw 11.15 appx  
Is.61v.1-2;10-11; IThess.5v.16-24; John 1v.6-8;19-28.  
5.00pm Carol singing for St Martin's Norwich beginning at Mendlesham Green

**Notices**

1. Please support our Healing service on Monday & Coffee etc on Tuesday
2. Next Sunday Grand Draw concludes for Friends of St Mary's at appx 11.00am
3. Crib appeal for Christian Aid begins next Sunday and concludes 7th Jan.
4. Sockbank for St Martins Norwich begins next Sunday and concludes 7th Jan.
5. We need support for Carol Singing next Sunday, at conclusion we shall have mince pies and mulled wine in Old School. Offers for both are welcome.

**THEME** : Today's Gospel contains the opening lines of St. Mark's Gospel. We meet John the Baptist preparing the way for the Lord. This prophet calls us to do the same; to repent of our sins, open our hearts to the Lord and receive his forgiveness.

**Entrance Hymn : 239 v. 1 - 4**

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

**Celebrant :** Forgive us Lord, for the anger and prejudice we have shown to others; for our impurity and selfishness; for untruthfulness and secretiveness; for the times we have been vengeful and lacked love. Lord have mercy.

**People :** *(sing)* **KYRIE ELEISON** *(Ukrainian setting)*

**Celebrant :** Forgive us Lord, for failing to read and reflect on the Gospel; for slackness in prayer; for not giving the time to listen and learn what you want us to do; for pretending we do not need God; for selfish prayers. Christ have mercy.

**People :** **CHRISTE ELEISON**

**Celebrant :** Forgive us, Lord, for failing to help where we see help is needed; for failing to meet you in the Eucharist; for hiding our Christianity; for repeatedly breaking the promises of our Baptism and failing to be true disciples. Lord have mercy. **People :** **KYRIE ELEISON**

Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness

*No Gloria during Advent*

**OPENING PRAYER** : *Let us pray that nothing may hinder us from receiving Christ with joy.*

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share His wisdom and become one with Him when He comes in glory, for He lives and Reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD First Reading – Isaiah 40 v 1-5, 9-11.**

We hear the prophet's voice speak the consolation of God to the people exiled in Babylon. The Lord will lead His people across the desert and into their own land.

*'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'*

*A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'*

*Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'*

*Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.*

**Responsorial Psalm** - Psalm 84

® **Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
A voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him And his glory will dwell in our land. ®

Mercy and faithfulness have met; Justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from earth and justice look down from heaven. ®

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. ®

**Second Reading – 2 Peter 3 v 8-14.** St. Peter encourages us to prepare for the Lord's coming. God is patient, he gives us time to change our ways. We wait in hope for his coming today and always.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

**Gospel Hymn: 239 v.5**

**Acclamation:** Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel - Mark 1 v 1-8 In the Gospel, Mark takes up Isaiah's words and explains how John the Baptist prepared a way for the Lord just as workers went ahead of an oriental monarch to smooth a road for his chariot.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: 'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'. And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Lighting of advent Candle No. 2- hymn 536 v.2

**Address**      **Creed** Apostles Creed (p.8 of hymn book)

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Celebrant:** John the Baptist came to prepare people for the coming of Christ. Let us respond in prayer to the word of God as our preparation for the coming of Christ.

**Reader:** Father, we ask for your grace of Repentance, that we may prepare for your coming and practise in deed what we profess in the creed.

Father, we pray for those who are waiting, not only for your infant Son but also for their own children; for women who are expecting and for couples who desperately want children.

Let us pray that the Church may continue to proclaim the Good News of forgiveness for all who repent of wrongdoing.

Let us pray that we may always admit our need of reconciliation and heed the message of John the Baptist to "Repent and believe the Good News".

Let us pray that we may build our community by a spirit of encouragement; for all who put fresh heart into the discouraged; that we may always know the support of the Lord.

We pray for all those who are sick, especially Jean Martin, Taylor Birch, Ray Mayes, Jan Ross, Angie Wilson, Mike Galloway, Julie & Andrew Gray, Beverley Vincent and all who will receive the laying on of hands and anointing at tomorrow's healing service.

Let us pray for those who have died. The Lord of Mercy came among us full of grace and truth; may all the dead be counted as the children of God. We pray for Tony Simpson, recently departed (pause while a candle is lit) and Elsa Jacks, Joan Butlin, Andy Triscott, Geoffrey Hails, Leonard Smith, Lilian Vincent, Douglas Goodall, Wendy Jarvis, Alice Wood; John Finch; Rene Ward, Ernest Hendry; Rex Potter and Una Baully whose anniversaries of death occur this week.

Mary waited patiently for the coming of her Son. Let us ask her to join her prayers to ours at this time of preparation **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**

SILENCE

**All:** Lord God, Father of us all, we give you praise and thanks for the love you have shown in your Son. Grant us the grace to prepare our hearts for Him; that we may be able to walk with Him for ever. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Mass continues on page 9 of hymn book.*

Offertory Hymn : **301 v. 1-3**      **Offertory Prayers** : Hymn 301 v. 4 - end

**Sanctus** - John Allen Advent setting      **Mystery of Faith** John Allen Advent setting

**Blessed & praised be Jesus Christ in the most Holy Sacrament;  
Hosannah! Hosannah! Hosannah in excelsis.**

**Agnus Dei:** John Allen Advent setting

*Communicants of other denominations are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you are not a Communicant and/or would like a blessing, please bring a hymn book to the altar rail.*

Hymn at Holy Communion. Please join in: **340 & 231**

Hymn at Ablutions: **439**      **Post Communion Prayer**      Angelus      Notices

**Blessing**      Recessional Hymn :**388**