

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM

ADVENT II Year B

THEME : In today's Mass we hear the opening lines of St. Mark's Gospel and we meet John the Baptist. He is preparing the way for the Lord and he calls upon us to do the same. The prophet is our sure guide; we are to repent of our sins and be forgiven so that our hearts may be open to the Lord.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant : Forgive us Lord, for the anger and prejudice we have shown to others; for all impurity and selfishness; for untruthfulness and secretiveness; for the time we have been vengeful and lacking in love. Lord have mercy.

People : **LORD HAVE MERCY**

Celebrant : Forgive us Lord, for failing to read and reflect on the Gospel; for slackness in prayer; for not giving ourselves 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 : **CHRIST HAVE MERCY**

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 : **LORD HAVE MERCY**

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.

Mon: St Ambrose
9.30am Mass Int: Forgiveness and reconciliation
(Is.2 v.1-5. Matt.8v.5-11)

Tues: Immaculate Conception of Our Lady
9.30am Mass. Int: Protection of unborn child
(Gen.3v.9-15,20. Eph.1v.3-6. Luke 1v.26-38)

Wed: 9.30am Mass, (Is 40 v 25-31; Matt 11 v 28-30)
Int: All elderly people who feel isolated

Thurs: 9.30am Mass (Is 41 v 13-20; Matt 11 v 11-15)
Int: All who reject the Gospel

Fri 9.30am Mass Int: All who suffer depression
(Is 48 v17-19; Matt 11 v 16-19)

Sat 2.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)
3.00pm 1st Mass of Sunday. Int: Bishop Norman - readings as Sunday

Next Sunday : **ADVENT III (B)**

9.30am Parish Mass & Blessing of Outside Crib
Is.61v.1-2;10-11; IThess.5v.16-24; John 1v.6-8;19-28.

Notices

1. For the livestreaming (which will continue to be available afterwards) please see <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmendlesham/>
2. **Sockbank for the homeless.** When Anita and Graham took some more items to St Martin's, Norwich this week they were told there was a desperate shortage of socks for homeless people. So they suggested we should collect socks over the next few weeks. A lovely idea! Anthony has designed a poster and Bernard is preparing the box. Hopefully it will be in place this week in church. So please donate unused socks or think of buying a packet or two.
3. **Doorstep Carols** Radio Suffolk is broadcasting carols on Wed 16th Dec at 6.00pm for people to join in from their doorsteps. We are actively considering ways to join in as we can't have our usual carol singing around the parish. Further details next week.
4. **CRIB APPEAL** As we can't collect for the homeless via carol singing, the crib appeal will be divided between Christian Aid and St Martin's Housing Trust Norwich (Night Shelter) this year.

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. ®

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

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.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! 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 the words of Isaiah and explains how John the Baptist prepared a way for the Lord just as workers went ahead of the 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
Creed Apostles Creed

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 may practice in deed what we profess in 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 for our own Church community; that we may take our share in preparing a way for the Lord in our own lives and the lives of those around us.

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

We pray for the healing of the sick. Michael Denny, Billy and Margaret Carter and all prayed for at Shrine prayers.

Let us pray for the dead that they may come to God's healing and peace. We pray for Rosemarie Buckle, Harry Potter, Becky Studden, Paul Flounders, John Hammond, John Garrard, Elsa Jacks, Wendy Jarvis; Lilian Vincent; Douglas Goodall (Anniversaries).

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.

Sanctus Mystery of Faith – *When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.*

Lord's Prayer Agnus Dei

Post Communion Prayer & Angelus