

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM
ADVENT III Year B

THEME: Today we rejoice together as we prepare to celebrate the Birth of the Lord and give thanks for John the Baptist who bore witness to Jesus, the Light of the World.

Penitential Rite

Celebrant: Forgive us for the absence of the signs of the Spirit in our lives, for blocking the work of the Spirit in ourselves, in others and in the community, for our failure to call on and use the power of the Spirit, for the absence of prayer in our lives, for our want of faith, hope and love. Lord have mercy.

People: **Lord Have Mercy**

Celebrant: Forgive us for being content with the minimum, for being inward looking and concerned only with our immediate family, friends, organisations and parish. Forgive us when we have passed over injustice in the Church and World. Forgive us when we have turned away so as not to see the needs of others. Christ have mercy.

People: **Christ Have Mercy**

Celebrant: Forgive us when we pretend we do not need God, when prayer is selfish, when we encourage depression and gloom, when we fail to avoid occasions of temptation, when we have been slow to forgive, when we have not shared, when we have been greedy and kept the best for ourselves. Lord have mercy.

People: **LORD HAVE MERCY**

Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness

No Gloria during Advent

Opening Prayer: *Let us pray that God will fill us with joy at the coming of*

Christ. Lord God, may we your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ, experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. **Amen**

Liturgy of The Word of God

First Reading ~ Isaiah 61v 1~2, 10~11

The prophet describes his call and mission. As we listen we may recall that Jesus applied it to Himself at the start of His ministry.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm ~ Luke I: 46~50, 53~54
My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies in the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
Henceforth all ages will call me blessed. ®

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his Name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. ®

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. ®

Second Reading ~ 1 Thessalonians 5 v 16 ~ 24 The basic characteristic of a Christian should be happiness as we look forward to the coming of the Lord.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel ~ John 1 v 6 ~ 8, 19 ~ 28 John the Baptist witnesses to the Light and points to the presence of Jesus, hidden in the ordinariness of our world.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.'

This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Lighting of Advent Candle & Address

Creed: Nicene

Prayer of The Faithful

Celebrant: God sent John the Baptist to bear witness to the coming of Jesus, who would redeem the world. As followers of Jesus, let us pray to the Father for the grace to bear witness in our lives.

Reader: Let us pray that the world may come to understand the true meaning of happiness in Christ and not be led astray by what is on the surface.

Let us pray for those who do not know Jesus, that the witness of Christians will open their minds and hearts to the message of the Gospels and so come to know Jesus as the Light of the World.

Let us pray for our parish, that we may show forth in our lives the joy of being a Christian and seek to share our faith with those around us.

Let us pray for those who bring happiness to others through their work, for artists, musicians, actors and performers, especially those unable to work because of the pandemic.

Let us pray for those who find happiness hard to grasp, those recently bereaved, those abandoned or betrayed, those who have failed in the world's eyes, those in prison and those suffering depression.

May He who made the blind see, the deaf hear and the lame walk, be with us in our prayers. We pray, not for ourselves, but for those in need. Let us pray for the sick, Billy & Margaret Carter; Hazel Lockwood; Margaret Maundrell; all prayed for in Shrine Prayers and for Michael Denny & James Shave.

Let us pray for the dead especially for; Rene Ward; Alice Wood; John Finch; Ernest Hendry; Rex Potter; Una Baully; Leonard Smith; Doris Godderham; Christina Hearty; Arthur Tree; Walter Curson; Lorraine Wood; & Kenneth Briggs: whose anniversaries are this week.

Let us join in prayer with Mary our Mother ~ **Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among woman 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: God our Father, you sent John the Baptist to bear witness to your Son. May his example inspire us to follow Jesus the Lord more closely day by day. Amen. PTO

Offertory Prayers: **Sanctus:** Mystery of Faith No 3
When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

Lord's Prayer etc Agnus Dei:

Post Communion Prayer and Angelus

Blessing, followed by BLESSING OF OUTSIDE CRIB (from porch)

This Week: Divine office ~ Psalter Week 3

Mon: 9.30am **St. John of the Cross**
Mass. (Num: 24v2-7,25-27; Matt 21v23-27)
Int: Those who refuse to believe in Christ

Tue 9.30am Mass (Zeph. 3v1-2, 9-13; Matt 21v28-32)
Int: Social Outcasts

Wed: 9.30am Mass (Is.45v6-8, 18, 21-26; Luke 7 v19-23)
Int: The homeless & St Martin's Housing Trust, Norwich.

Thu 9.30am Mass (Gen 49v2,8-10; Matt 1 v1-17)
Int: HM the Queen and her Government

Fri 9.30am Mass (Jer 23v5-8; Matt 1 v18-24)
Int: Save the children

Sat 3.00pm Mass Int: Expectant Parents
Readings as Sunday

Next Sunday: ADVENT IV

9.30am Parish Mass, Address
(2 Samuel 7 v 1-5, 8-11, 14-16; Romans 16 v 25-27; Luke 1 v 26-38)

Notices

1. There is a sock bank in Church. St. Martin's Trust for the homeless is appealing for socks for the homeless in Norwich.
2. **Wednesday 16th Dec: 6.00pm - 7.00 pm Doorstep Carols** in conjunction with Radio Suffolk - 103.9 FM, on DAB and online: https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc_radio_suffolk we can't knock on doors.. However, you can tune into Radio Suffolk's Doorstep Carols, stand on your doorstep - and also join in with the travelling carollers from St Mary's, who will be touring Mendlesham with the carols playing on the PA system courtesy of the Parish Council. Though we can't collect for the homeless as usual, you can give via the JustGiving pages for St Martin's or Christian Aid (see notice on accompanying Doorstep Carols sheet) or cash/cheque in the churn by the crib in church. **(see church website for more details)**
3. **CHRISTMASS at St Mary's.**
Christmass Eve: 5.00pm: First Mass of Christmass
7.00pm: Carol Service (short) in South Churchyard.
Bring a nightlight lit in a jamjar. **(see church website for more details)**
CHRISTMASS DAY: 9.30: Parish Mass