

Tea/Coffee after Mass. Please stay

This Week: Divine office ~ Psalter Week 3

Mon 9.30am Mass. (Jer. 23 v. 5-8; Matt. 1 v 18-24).
Int: Expectant Parents.
2.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Tue 10.30am Mass (Judges 13 v. 2-7, 24-25; Luke 1 v. 5-25)
Int: Christian Aid
11.00-1.00 Tea coffee and soup in Church

Wed: 9.30am Mass (Is. 7 v. 10-14; Luke 1 v. 26-38)
3.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
Int: Night shelter for the homeless

Thu 9.30am Mass (Zeph. 3 v. 14-18; Luke 1 v. 39-45)
Int: All who travel..
3.00pm. Sacrament of Reconciliation

Fri 9.30am Mass (1. Sam. 1 v. 24-28; Luke 1 v. 46-56)
Int: Walsingham
2.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Sat 10.00am First Mass of Sunday. (Readings as Sunday)
Int: Save the Children
4.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

Next Sunday: ADVENT IV

9.30am Parish Mass and Address
(2 Samuel 7 v 1-5, 8-12, 14-16; Romans 16 v 25-27; Luke 1 v 26-38)

Christmas Eve

5.30pm Sung Mass of Christmass
(Is,9 v 1-6, Titus 2 v 11-14 Luke s v 1-14)
7.00pm Candlelight Carol Service
NO MIDNIGHT MASS

Mon **Christmass Day**

9.30am. Parish Mass and Address

Notices

1. Please stay for coffee after Mass and Friends of St. Mary's draw. Tonight we meet at Mendlesham Green for Carol singing at 5.00, finishing at 7.30 approx. in the Old School with Mulled wine and Mince pies. Please take part in this if at all possible as it is such an important witness in the parish. These could be the only carols some people will hear. Collection for homeless cared for by St. Martin's Norwich.
2. Extra time this week for the Sacrament of reconciliation before Christmas.
3. Please observe Advent IV by being at Mass on Sat or Sunday. We begin celebrating Christmass on Sunday evening

(Please keep silence from 9.25 to prepare for Mass)

17th December 2023

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM

ADVENT III Year B

THEME: Today we rejoice together as we give thanks for John the Baptist who witnessed to Jesus, the Light of the World, whose birth we prepare to celebrate.

Entrance Hymn: 439 v 1 ~ 3

Penitential Rite

Celebrant: Forgive us 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 frequent absence of prayer, faith, hope and love in our lives and the times when we encourage gloom. Lord have mercy.

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

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 ignored injustice in the Church and World and failed to see the needs of others. Christ have mercy.

People: **CHRISTE ELEISON**

Celebrant: Forgive us when we pretend we do not need God, when our prayer is selfish and when we give into temptation. Forgive us when we have been slow to forgive, when we have been greedy and kept the best for ourselves. Lord have mercy. People: **KYRIE ELEISON**

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 1: 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. **☉ My soul rejoices in my God.**

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **☉ My soul rejoices in my God.**

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.

Gospel Hymn: 439 v 4

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 3rd Advent Candle – Hymn 536 v 3 & chorus

Address **Creed:** Nicene – page 7 of hymn book

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 to Him 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 Gospel 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. We pray for our Carol Singing this evening.

Let us pray for those who bring happiness to others through their work, for artists, musicians, actors and performers.

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. Let us pray for the sick, especially Jean Martin, Taylor Birch, Ray Mayes, Jan Ross, Angie Wilson, Mike Galloway, Julie & Andrew Gray, Beverley Vincent and all who received the laying on of hands and anointing at Monday's healing service.

Let us pray for the dead especially for Catherine Rowland, Doris Gooderham, Arthur Tree, Walter Curson, Lorraine Woods, Kenneth Briggs: Pippy Thorpe, Dennis Smith, Peter Seaman, Gwendoline Fussel-Jones, Samuel Howlett, Stanley Howlett, Walter Beaumont, Dick Webb, Sister Doreen Owens and Peter Wyatt, 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.

The Mass continues on page 9 of the hymn book

Offertory Hymn: 216 v 1 & 2 **Offertory Prayers** Hymn v 3 – 5
Sanctus: John Allen Advent setting **Mystery of Faith** – John Allen setting

Blessed and Praised be Jesus Christ in the most Holy Sacrament. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in Excelsis!

Lord's Prayer - page 11 hymn book **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.

Hymns during Holy Communion. Please join in: 336, 227

Hymn at Ablutions: 203

Post Communion Prayer **Angelus** Notices **Blessing**

Recessional Hymn: 112