

20th December 2020

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM

ADVENT IV Year B

(Please keep silence from 9.25am to prepare for Mass)

THEME: The overture to Christmas is played at this Mass. The stage is set. God has prepared His people through a love-pact lasting centuries, and now the central act of this drama is about to be made known to Mary.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, when we have wandered from your pathway.
Lord have mercy.

People: **LORD HAVE MERCY**

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, when we have shut our ears to your voice.
Christ have mercy.

People: **CHRIST HAVE MERCY**

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, when we have avoided committing ourselves entirely to You. Lord have mercy.

People: **LORD HAVE MERCY**

Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness

No Gloria during Advent

OPENING PRAYER: *Let us pray, as Advent draws to a close, that Christ will truly come into our hearts.* Lord, fill our hearts with Your love, and as You revealed to us, by an angel, the coming of your Son as man, so lead us through his suffering and death, to the glory of His resurrection, 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 ~ 2 Samuel 7 v. 1~5, 8~12, 14~16.

David wished to build the Lord a temple to surpass the house of cedar he lived in. But the Lord, whose thoughts and ways are far above ours and who owned the whole world, promised David a far greater memorial. From his house would come the Desired of Nations.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House.

And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 88 @ I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure that your love lasts for ever.
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens@

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages."@

He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me."
I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.@

Second Reading - Romans 15 v 25 – 27 St.Paul reminds us that the mystery of the redemption was kept hidden. Although the Jews looked for a Messiah, it never occurred to them that God Himself would come in human form. But we, the pagans are privileged to be witnesses to the revelation of this mystery.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Acclamation (all) Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the handmaid of the Lord: Let what you have said be done to me.
Alleluia!**

Gospel ~ Luke 1 v. 26 - 38 All the threads come together in Nazareth, when the Archangel announces the consummation of the promise made to David, and the mystery is revealed as God incarnate.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to

God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.'
And the angel left her.

Creed Nicene

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant : Mary's humility made her assent to be the Mother of our Saviour. Let us pray that Christians today may share that same spirit of humility so as to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Let us pray that we may become more aware of the ways in which Christ comes to us each day of our lives

Reader: Let us pray for those who have neither tent or house of cedar: the homeless, for refugees and for those who sleep in the open and especially those cared for by St. Martins Norwich.

Let us pray that we may come to trust in God, so that like Mary, we may work with Him, even in areas we do not understand.

Let us pray for the young people of our parish, that by their celebration of Christmass, they may be fresh signs of hope to a world which does not know Christ.

Let us pray that each of us may strive to follow the example of Mary in her faith, humility and obedience to God.

Let us pray that the good news of Jesus will inspire leaders of nations to devote all their efforts to working together for the good of all nations. We pray for our Queen and her Government.

Let us pray for all who are uncertain about their future - those who are unemployed or unhappy in their place of work and all affected by Covid; that they may be attentive to God's will and trust Him to use their lives in the best way.

Let us pray for all those who are anxious and nervous, and all who suffer from phobias and mental stress; for those who worry about everything and have no sense of peace, that they may find receptive stillness in the peace of Christ.

We pray that the healing touch of Jesus may give new life to our brothers and sisters who are sick, disabled, suffering or imprisoned - especially all suffering from Covid throughout the world and all remembered in Shrine Prayers.

Let us pray for all the faithful departed and all the dead whose faith is known to God alone. We pray for Dennis Smith, Gwendoline Fussel-Jones, Samuel Howlett, Walter Beaumont, Dick Webb, Sister Doreen Owen, Edith Sawyer, Margaret Owen-King, Valerie Keeble, Dick Finbow, Esme Laidlaw, Irene Bennett, Terry Warren and Graham Lockwood whose anniversaries of death occur this week.

Using the words of Gabriel, let us pray to become more like Mary.

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

S I L E N C E

All: Father, fill us with strength and courage to do your will and to trust in your promises. Amen.

Offertory Prayers

Sanctus

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

Agnus Dei **Post Communion Prayer**

Angelus at our Lady's Shrine. Blessing. Blessing of Christmass tree.

This week. Divine office Psalter week 4

Today Sacrament of Reconciliation 12.00 and 2.30

Mon. 9.30 Mass Int: All who travel (Zeph. 3 v.14-18; Luke 1 v.39-45)

10.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Tue. 9.30 Mass Int: Walsingham (1 Sam 1 v. 24-28; Luke 1 v. 46-56)

10.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wed. 9.30 Mass Int: 'Crisis' and Shelter. (Mal. 3 v. 1-4, 23-24; Luke 1 v. 57-66)

Thurs. **CHRISTMASS EVE.**

4.00 Sacrament of Reconciliation

5.00 *First Mass of Christmass*

7.00 *Carol Service South Churchyard* **More stewards needed please**

Fri. **CHRISTMASS DAY.**

9.30 *Blessing of Crib and Parish Mass* Int: Parish and Congregation.

Sat. **ST. STEPHEN**

3.00 First Mass of Sunday. Int: All Family Life. Readings as tomorrow

Next Sunday **HOLY FAMILY.**

9.30 Mass and Address. Int: Parish and Congregation.

(Gen. 15 v.1-6, 21 v. 1-3; Hebs. 11 v.8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2 v. 22-40)

*=Livestreamed to Facebook page

NOTICES

1. Extra times for Sacrament of Reconciliation.
2. Churn by Crib-Envelopes for Christian Aid. Loose money for St. Martin's Norwich and Sock Bank by Crib for homeless. See church website and Facebook page for details of online giving
3. **CHRISTMASS EVE CAROL SERVICE: 7 pm**
 - Please arrive with all in your household 'bubble' at either gate in the SOUTH churchyard
 - Bring a tealight lit in a jam jar, or lantern as well as a torch. (Warm clothes and wellies advisable!) You can bring your own chair if you wish.
 - A steward will show each group to their place. Please stay there throughout, as the stewards will ensure all are socially distanced.
 - The service will be shorter than usual (we know you don't want to get cold) but you will be able to SING CAROLS!! and hear the Readings and the organ music thanks to the Parish Council P.A. system.
 - Afterwards, please stay where you are until a steward directs you out, to maintain social distancing.
4. Please observe next Sunday- The Festive season does not give us a holiday from worship.