

Tea & coffee after Mass: please stay if you are able

Christmass Eve.

5.30 1st Sung Mass of Christmas. Int: Home & Family life.

(Is 9 v.1-7; Titus 2 v.11-14; Luke 2 v.1-14.

7:00pm. Candlelight Carol Service. (Collection for Christian Aid)

NO MIDNIGHT MASS

Mon: CHRISTMASS DAY

9:30 Blessing of Crib. Sung Mass & Address. Int: Parish & Congregation

(Is 52 v.7-10; Hebrews 1 v.1-6; John 1 v.1-18)

Tues: ST. STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

11:30 Mass (Acts 6 v.8-10, 7 v.54-59; Matt 10 v.17-22)

Int: Persecuted Christians.

Wed: ST. JOHN, EVANGELIST

11:30 Mass. (1 John 1 v.1-4; John 20 v.2-8). Int: Bible Societies

Thurs: HOLY INNOCENTS

11:30 Mass (John 1 v.5- 2v.2; Matt 2 v.13-18) Int: Children at risk

Fri: ST. THOMAS BECKET.

11.30am Mass. (Col 1 v.24-29; Luke 22 v.24-30)

Int: Archbishop of Canterbury.

Sat: 10.00 am 1st Mass of Sunday Int: All Families.

(Readings as Sunday)

Next Sunday : HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

9.30am Parish Mass, Address & Blessing of Children's Toys.

(Gen 15 v1-6 ,21 v.1-3; Heb 11 v 8,11-12,17-19; Luke 2 v 22-40)

NOTICES

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1. The Crib Appeal and carol service collection is for Christian Aid. You can also donate online at: www.justgiving.com/page/mendleshamcribappeal23
Sockbank for homeless in Norwich, cared for by St Martin's Housing Trust. – collecting socks, hats, scarves, gloves & trainers. Both Appeals close 7 Jan. Please give generously. Carol Singing for St Martin's has so far raised £212. Thank you to all who arranged this and took part last Sunday. You may still make a donation until 7 Jan.
2. Sunday 14th Jan: Plough Sunday. We welcome Bishop Mike to preach and as the E Suffolk Morris Men are no longer able to be with us, our procession around the village this year will include tractors. Shared lunch in church afterwards at approx. 12.30. Please sign the list if you can contribute food or drink.
3. The next Healing Service is on Wed 10th Jan at 2.30 pm

(Please keep silence from 9.25am to prepare for Mass) 24th December 2023

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM

ADVENT IV Year B

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 and Joseph.

Entrance Hymn: 365 v. 1 - 4

PENITENTIAL RITE

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

Lord have mercy. **People:(sing)Kyrie Eleison (Ukrainian setting).**

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

Christ have mercy.

People:Christe Eleison

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

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.

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 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.

Gospel Hymn: 365 v 5 & 6

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 fulfilment 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.

Address Creed- Nicene; P.7 of Hymn Book

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant : Mary accepted to be the Mother of our Saviour with humility. Let us pray that Christians today may share that same spirit of humility as we prepare for

Our Lord's coming and 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, refugees and for those who sleep in the open.

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 the good news of Jesus will inspire leaders of nations to devote all their efforts to working together for peace. We pray especially for the people of Gaza, Israel and Ukraine.

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 Jean Martin, Taylor Birch, Ray Mayes, Angie Wilson, Mike Galloway, Julie & Andrew Gray and Jan Ross,

Let us pray for all the faithful departed and all the dead whose faith is known to God alone. We pray for Edith Sawyer, Margaret Owen-King, Valerie Keeble, Dick Finbow, Esme Laidlaw, Irene Bennett, Terry Warren, Graham Lockwood, Kathleen Carter, Eva Abbott, Jane Deacon, Joan Little, Hilda Goodall, Kitty Mason, Jack Driver and Lucy Jolley, whose anniversaries are 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.

Lighting the 4th Advent Candle:

Light the Advent Candle four, think of Mary watching o'er
Jesus sleeping in the hay; God's own Son has come to stay.
Candle, candle burning bright shining in the cold winter night,
Candle, candle burning bright fill our hearts with Christmas Light.

Offertory Hymn: 611 v 1 Offertory Prayers:p.9 611 v 2-end
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**

Agnus Dei - John Allen setting

Hymns at Holy Communion. Please join in: 401 and 126

Hymn at Ablutions: 49

Post Communion Prayer Angelus Notices Blessing

Recessional Hymn: 609