

Tea and coffee in Church after Mass – Please stay.
 Today-6.30pm. Carols by candlelight at U.R.C. Chapel
This week: Divine Office – Psalter Week 4.

- Mon:** 9.30 Mass. Int: All preparing for marriage.
 (Is 7 v.10-14; Luke 1 v.26-38)
 2.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 3.00-4.00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Tues:** 9:30 Mass. Int: Expectant Parents
 (Zeph. 3 v. 14-18; Luke 1 v.39-45)
 2.00 Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 2.00-4.00 Teas and Santa's visit.
- Wed.** 9:30 Mass Int: Walsingham.
 (1 Sam 1 v. 24-28, 1Sam 2 v.1, 4-8; Luke 1 v. 46-56)
- Thurs:** 9:30 Mass. (1 Mel 3. 1-4, 23-24; Luke 1 v. 57-66) Int: Newly Baptised
 4.00 Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Fri:** **CHRISTMASS EVE**
 4.00 Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 5.00 1st Mass of Christmass Int: Home and family Life
 (Is. 9 v 1-6; Titus 2 v.11-14; Luke 2 v.1-14).
 7.00 Candlelit Carol Service.
- Sat:** **CHRISTMASS DAY**
 9.30 Blessing of Crib, Parish Mass and Address. Int: Parish.
 (Is. 52 v. 7-10; Heb.1 v. 1-6; John 1 v.1-18).
- Next Sunday_- HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH_**
 11.00 Parish Mass, Address and Blessing of Toys
 (1 Sam. 1 v.20-22; 24-28; 1 John 3 v.1-2; 21-24; Luke 2 v.41-52.)

NOTICES

- Please note next Sunday's Mass is at 11.00 not 9.30
 Children's Christmas presents will be blessed by the crib
- Our Crib Appeal for Christian Aid begins on Friday 24th Dec, it will conclude on 9th Jan. Please see Jan. mag. for details. You can donate online at www.justgiving.com/mendleshamcribappeal21.
- Thank you to all who contributed to St. Martin's Norwich. The amount collected was £355.25
- The carol Service will be at 7.00pm - it will be broadcast into the churchyard for those who prefer open spaces. There will be a collection for Christian Aid.
- There will be extra times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a preparation for Christmas.
- Tea with Santa on Tuesday 2.00-4.00 in Church

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN MENDLESHAM

ADVENT IV (Year C)

THEME: Jesus' birth is almost upon us and as the whole Church is filled with joyful expectations, because we believe like Mary and Elizabeth that the Lord's promises will be fulfilled.

Entrance hymn: 365 v. 1 - 4

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, when we are afraid of your challenge to our selfishness; when we prefer darkness to light; when we cut ourselves off from our neighbours who are the lifelines you have sent us. Lord have mercy. **People: Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, when we show lack of understanding, when we are impatient and judge harshly; when we look for rewards to boost our self esteem. Christ have mercy. **People: Christ have mercy.**

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, when we are uncritical of society and its superficial values; when we condone evil and contribute to the suffering of today. Lord have mercy. **People: Lord have mercy.**

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, as you revealed to us by an angel the coming of your Son as a 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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading - Micah 5 v. 1-4 The Messiah King will come from an unimportant village; the ruler of the nations will be born of a lowly woman. The power of God shows itself in human weakness. He whom the heavens cannot contain will be borne in Mary's womb.

The Lord says this: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 79 @ God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, Shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. @

God of hosts, turn again we implore, Look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it, The vine your right hand has planted. ®

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
The man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
Give us life that we may call upon your name. ®

Second Reading - Hebrews 10 v. 5-10 The only perfect sacrifice that God can be given is one of total obedience. This is the sacrifice Jesus offered.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, ‘God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.’ Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Hymn: 365 v. 5 & 6.

**Alleluia, Alleluia. I am the handmaiden of the Lord!
Let what your have said to me be done. Alleluia**

The Holy Gospel - Luke 1 v. 39-44 The Blessed Virgin Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, and Elizabeth recognizes her as the most blessed among women, the mother of the Lord, who utterly trusted God.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, ‘Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.’

Lighting of Advent Candle No. 4 (refrain Hymn 536)
Light the Advent candle four, think of Mary watching o’er.
Jesus sleeping in the hay, God’s own Son has come to stay.

Address Creed (page 7) Nicene

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: In these last days of preparation for the celebrations of Christmas, let us turn in prayer to our loving Father who sent his Son to save us.

Reader: We pray for those lacking in human dignity and respect. May this coming Christmas bring them recognition as children of God.

We pray for those of other faiths. May the way in which they receive God in their lives bring them peace and comfort.

Let us pray for all mothers who carry new life within them that they may experience the joy of their children.

Let us pray that the Lord will reveal his plans for us and that we may respond - “Here I am Lord, to do your will.”

Let us pray for those who suffer the injustices of our materialistic society. Help us to listen to the cry of the poor and have the courage to do what we can to help. We pray for our crib appeal for Christian Aid.

Let us pray for those who are ill that they may feel the healing touch of Jesus and be comforted by his presence; for and all suffering from Covid and the fear of it and for Clive Cook, Julie Gray, Lucy Muskett and Betty Self.

Let us pray that those who have died may find peace with God- for Pauline Spalinding, recently departed (pause while candle is lit) and Walter Curson, Lorraine Wood, Kenneth Briggs, Pippy Thorpe, Christina Hearty, Dennis Smith, Gwendoline Fussell-Jones, Samuel Howlett, Walter Beaumont, Dick Webb, Sister Doreen, Edith Sawyer, Margaret Owen-King and Valerie Keeble, whose anniversaries are this week.

Let us pray with Mary who received the word of God in confidence and faith.
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: Lord, God our Father, your people wait in joyful hope for the coming of your Son. May their preparation in this Advent season enable them to enter fully into the joy of Christmass. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen

Offertory Hymn: 611 v. 1 & 2

Offertory Prayers: v. 3 – 4.

Sanctus – John Allen setting. (P 9)

Mystery of Faith No.3.

**Blessed and Praised be Jesus Christ, in the most Holy sacrament.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in excelsis.**

Agnes Dei – John Allen setting.

Hymn at Holy Communion: 401 Please join in.

Hymn at Ablutions - 49.

Post communion Prayer, Blessing of Christmas Wreaths and Angelus

Recessional Hymn – 609