

29th November, 2020

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM
ADVENT SUNDAY – YEAR B

THEME : The urgency of Advent – the need to take Christ’s coming seriously – is the keynote of today’s Mass. We cannot afford to think of a distant future. Christ comes now and every day in ways we do not expect. We must stand ready to meet him.

Prayers for the Dead

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant: Forgive us for amassing the goods and riches of the world; for idleness and sloth; for being imprisoned by circumstances and false values of society; for greed and immoderation in food and drink; for wasting the world’s resources; for placing limits on our love. Lord have mercy.

People: **LORD HAVE MERCY.**

Celebrant: Forgive us for turning a deaf ear to the person in need; for counting the cost of our love; for expecting much in return when we give; for being jealous of our time; for limiting our time and love to those around us. Christ have mercy.

People: **CHRIST HAVE MERCY.**

Celebrant: Forgive us for only giving lip service; for talking too much but seldom listening; for finding it hard to believe you love us as we are; forgive us for our obsession with earning and spending money but leaving so little time for prayer and meditation; forgive us for the times we seldom say ‘thank you’. Lord have mercy.

People: **LORD HAVE MERCY.**

Celebrant proclaims God’s forgiveness.

No Gloria during Advent

OPENING PRAYER: *Let us pray that we may take Christ’s coming seriously.* All powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading: **Isaiah 63 v.16-17; 64 v.1, 3-8:** The prophet gives a vivid picture of the way the power of sin can imprison and deprave. Only God, like a potter, can mould us into what he would have us to be.

*You, Lord, yourself are our Father, ‘Our Redeemer’ is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt.*

*No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.*

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 – I Corinthians 1 v. 3-9: Too often we think of Advent as a time of waiting for the child of Bethlehem. Our reading here makes it clear that what we await is nothing less than the final working out of God’s plan for the world.

*May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.
I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.*

Acclamation (all)

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

Gospel - Mark 13 v. 33-37: “Be prepared” is the message. Jesus prepared for this world and also for eternity that can be ours when He returns in glory.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!’

Address

Creed. Nicene.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Aware of Christ's call to all His people ever to be on the alert and to await His coming, let us confidently address our prayers to the Father.

Reader: Let us pray for those who live, teach and preach the Word of God. May they always be inspired by the example of Jesus, the Word made Flesh.

Let us pray for the grace to stay awake and stand ready for the coming of the Lord.

Let us pray for those who wait for peace, for justice and for love, that they may not be defeated by disappointment but see the day when their hopes are fulfilled.

Let us pray for all who are afraid of what the future holds: that the Lord will relieve their anguish of heart and give them a quiet confidence in his providence.

Let us pray for our local community as people prepare to celebrate Christmass, that in all the activity and turmoil the message of Jesus and his love may never be forgotten.

Let us pray for the sick and infirm that they may be expectant for the healing power of Jesus in their lives; we pray for Michael Denny, Jenny Mayes, Lynda Brill, Ellen Howlett and Margaret Carter.

Let us pray that we may not be oppressed by materialism and greed. We pray for those who are suffering because of injustice. May they all be given hope and encouragement as we prepare for the coming of Christ. We pray especially for the homeless and the work of Shelter and Crisis at Christmass.

Let us pray for the departed, that they too may be expectant of Christ's healing and wholeness; we pray for Nichola Berry, recently departed (pause while a candle is lit) Leonard Chamberlain, Catherine Hendry, Gladys Tyte, Geoffrey Welch, Samuel Bruce, Frank Hardy, John Hammond, Elsie Jackson, Jennifer Meadows, Peggy Taylor, Donald Fraser, Cliff Godart Brown, John Riley, Sydney Hales, Alfred Freeman and Audrey French whose anniversaries of death occur at this time

Mary was aware of her poverty and emptiness, and God filled her with the Holy Spirit. Let us ask her to help us to be open to God. **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**

SILENCE

All: Almighty Father, we pray that, as your beloved Son at his first Advent came to seek and save the lost, so at his second coming he may find in us the fruits of redemption. This we ask in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath.

Offertory

Sanctus

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

Lord's Prayer.

Agnus Dei.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Dear Lord, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever separate me from you.

Post Communion Prayer & Angelus

Blessing

This Week: Divine office - Psalter Week 1

Mon: St Andrew, Apostle, Martyr.
(Romans 10 v 9-18; Matt.4 v.18-22). Int: Mission of Church

Tues: (Isaiah 11 v 1-10; Luke 10 v. 21-24)
Intention: The Dead – Dec Anniversaries

Wed: 9.30am Mass. (Isaiah 25 v 6-10; Matt.15 v.29-37)
Intention: The Sick

Thurs: 9.30am Mass. St Francis Xavier
(Isaiah 26 v 1-6; Matt.7 v 21, 24-27) Intention: Christian Aid

Fri: 9.30am Mass. (Isaiah 29 v 17-24; Matt. 9 v 27-31)
Intention. Ministry of Healing

Sat: 3.00pm 1st Mass of Sunday. Readings as on Sunday
Intention. All Children

Next Sunday : ADVENT II
9.30am Parish Mass & Address
(Isaiah 40 v 1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3 v 8-14; Mark 1 v 1-8.)

NOTICES:

1. We resume corporate worship on Wednesday 2 Dec.
2. Worship will be live streamed on Sunday – 9:30
<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmendlesham/>
and can also be accessed via the church website:
<https://www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk/> - on the worship page