

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM
ADVENT SUNDAY (Year C)

Tea/coffee in Church after Mass. All welcome.

This Week: Divine Office – Psalter Week 1

- Mon:** 9:30am Requiem Mass – Departed Priests
(1 Kings 19v.4-8; John 6v.44-51)
- Tues:** **ST. ANDREW, APOSTLE, MARTYR (feast)**
9.30am. Int: Mission of Church
(Romans 10v.9-18; Matt 4v.18-22)
10:30-12:30 Coffee in Church
- Wed:** 9.30am Requiem Mass – December Anniversaries.
(Is.49v.8,13-16; John 14v.1-6.)
- Thurs:** 9.30am Mass. Int: Deeper Christian Commitment
(Is.26 v.1-6; Matt. 7 v.21, 24-27.)
- Fri:** **St. Francis Xavier**
9.30pm Mass. Int: Mission of Church
(Is. 29v.17-24; Matt. 9v.27-31)
- Sat:** 10.00am 1st Mass of Sunday. Int: Those who are homeless.
Readings as tomorrow.
- Next Sunday – ADVENT II (C).**
9.30am Parish Mass, Address & Holy Baptism. (Albert James Wrinch)
(Bar. 5v.1-9; Phil 1v.3-6,8-11; Luke 3v.1-6)

NOTICES:

1. Our next healing service is Wed 8th Dec at 2:30pm.
2. Our Christmas Draw is only 2 weeks away.
3. We begin our Sock Bank etc for St. Martin's Norwich next Sunday.
4. On Sunday 12th Dec we are singing carols around Mendlesham & Mendlesham Green (see Dec Mag), collecting for St Martin's Norwich for the homeless and Santa will be with us. We need support for this and gifts of soup and mince pies for finishing together in Church at 8pm. Please sign list at back of church – both for food and for carolling. There has been a huge interest on Facebook – well over 1,000 have viewed the post.
5. Dec Mag. available and the paper "Together" – Positive news for Anglo-Catholic Churches.

THEME: The mood of the Advent season which we begin today is one that invites us to be attentive. It is a time to get ready. Not just all the things we associate with Christmass, the gifts, cooking, tree, etc. No, this would be to mistake the wrapping for the gift, and to get caught into the externals only. In Advent we prepare first and foremost for a PERSON, we prepare for the gift of God himself in Jesus.

Entrance Hymn: 28 v. 1 – 5.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for our shallow commitment and half-hearted attempts to follow you. Lord have mercy. **LORD HAVE MERCY.**

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for those times we doubt that your Kingdom is within us. Christ have mercy. **CHRIST HAVE MERCY.**

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, when we are fearful of the future. Lord have mercy. **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 – Jeremiah 33 v. 14-16: God has promised that he will raise up a descendant of David to save his people. Jeremiah reminds them that the time is near.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah: 'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The-Lord-our-integrity.'

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 24 © To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways,	The Lord is good and upright.
Lord, teach me your paths.	He shows the path to those who stray,
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:	he guides the humble in the right path;
for you are my God and saviour. ©	he teaches his way to the poor. ©

His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;
them he reveals his covenant. ©

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 3 v. 12 – 4 v. 2: Paul reminds us that only holiness based on love can make us ready for Christ when he comes.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Hymn: 28 v. 6 – 7.

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

Gospel – Luke 21 v. 25-28, 34-36: Christ will come again with power, to bring our liberation. We should not be afraid but stay awake, watching and praying.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Let us pray today for the strength to make this Advent a time of whole hearted preparation for the coming of Jesus into our hearts this Christmas.

Reader: We pray that Christian communities throughout the world will listen attentively to God’s word, and so be prepared to receive him with an increased faith.

We pray that the world will hear the Christian message and that Christians will play a leading part in working for peace.

Let us pray for all families and particularly those in our congregation; that they will help their children this Advent to prepare in a special way for Jesus’ birth.

Let us pray for our schools. We pray for all the teaching staff as well as those who help in other ways, to make our schools places where Christ’s love is found. We pray for the school in this parish.

Let us pray for all those who live in fear and anxiety. For those who dread the future; for those who live without hope.

Let us pray for our parish, that we will try to make more and more progress in the kind of life that we are meant to live so that when Jesus comes again, we will be ready to greet him.

Let us pray for the sick – Billy Carter, Julie Gray, Lucy Muskett, Marcel and Marjorie Rousseau.

Make our hearts ready for our death, judgement and everlasting life with you. We pray for the dead, especially Julia Finbow, Marjorie Saunders, William Jackaman, Leonard Chamberlain, Catherine Hendry, Gladys Tyte, Geoffrey Welch, Samuel Bruce, Frank Hardy, Wally Kemp, John Hammond, Eileen Jackson, Jennifer Meadows, Peggy Taylor, Fr Anthony Yates, Donald Fraser, Cliff Godart Brown, John Riley and Sidney Hales whose anniversaries of death occur at this time.

Let us make our prayer with Mary, who waited for the coming of Jesus with joy and love.

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: Arouse in us, O Lord, that spirit of watchfulness which sees your presence in all that happens to us. In this way may we also be ready to meet you in your glory when you come again. Amen.

BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATH: Hymn 536 v. 1

Offertory Hymn: 112 v. 1 & 2.

Offertory Prayers: v. 3 – 5

Sanctus. - setting by John Allen

Mystery of Faith No. 3. When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

Blessed and praised be Jesus Christ in the most Holy Sacrament.
Hosannah! Hosannah! Hosannah in the Highest.

Agnus Dei. – setting by John Allen

Hymns at Holy Communion: 227 and 231. Please join in.

Hymn at Ablutions: 179.

Post Communion Prayer and Angelus.- in front of Hymn Book

Recessional Hymn: 110.