

22nd November, 2020

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM
FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

THEME: We know our Lord in many ways - as Son, as Saviour, as Shepherd, as Servant, but today at the end of the church's year, we worship him as our King; that King of Kings who chose to give up the glory of the Godhead to come among us as a man and serve us all. He will come among us again in the full splendour of his majesty. This is what we celebrate in today's Mass.

Blessing of candles for the departed

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for the times we fail to see Christ in our fellow men. Lord have mercy.

People: LORD HAVE MERCY.
Forgive us, Lord, for the times we fail to care for people.
Christ have mercy.

People: CHRIST HAVE MERCY.

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, when we doubt your Kingdom is within us and we become fearful of the future. Lord have mercy.

People: LORD HAVE MERCY.

Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness

GLORIA:

OPENING PRAYER: Let us pray that all men will acclaim Jesus as Lord. Almighty and merciful God, you break the power of evil and make all things new in your Son Jesus Christ, the King of the universe. May all in heaven and earth acclaim your glory and never cease to praise you. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading - Ezekiel 34 v. 11-12; 15-17: The prophet Ezekiel portrays God as the Shepherd King who cares for his flock with the utmost tenderness.

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 22

® **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. ®

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. ®

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. ®

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15 v. 20-26; v.28.

St. Paul looks forward to the universal reign of Christ as King who will ultimately hand over all sovereignty to the Father.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

Acclamation (all)

**Alleluia, alleluia! Blessing on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessing on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!**

Gospel - Matthew 25 v. 31 – 46.

Jesus is depicted as the King who will ultimately hand over all sovereignty to the Father.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. 'Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." 'Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

CREED Apostles' Creed

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: The church of God lives always in the care of the Good Shepherd. Let us pray that it may remain ever responsive to his unfailing love.

Reader: Let us pray for all members of Christ's Church especially those who work for the poor & underprivileged, that they may take courage from the words of Christ.

We pray for all gathered here: that the words of Jesus, 'Whatever you do to the least of my brothers & sisters you do to me' may influence our dealings with others.

Let us pray for all organisations and societies which endeavour to ease and alleviate the sufferings of the poor and the destitute. May they be renewed in their service and so imitate Christ our King.

Let us pray that the ever watchful Shepherd of the flock may keep his sheep from straying, give them strength in their weakness, and light in their darkness.

Let us pray for all who exercise authority in civil governments - that they may rule with fairness and justice. We pray for our Queen and the Royal Family.

Let us pray for the sick - for Margaret Carter, Billy Carter, Michael Denny, Nichola Berry, Lynda Brill, Jenny Mayes and Ellen Howlett.

We pray for all the dead; for Caroline Stepancic, Ken Sanderson, Freda Foreman, Jean Hails, Cyril Davey, Alfred Lockwood, Janet Finbow, Geoffrey Clarke, Julia Finbow, Marjorie Saunders and William Jackaman whose anniversaries of death occur at this time and all commemorated by candles in the Church. May the Lord receive them into the joy of his Kingdom.

Mary is the first of those who belong to Christ. By her prayer may we too be made alive in him. **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 as a shepherd attends his flock so do you support and feed your people. We humbly ask the grace to be numbered among those at your Son's right hand when he comes again as King in glory. We make our prayer in his name, Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Offertory Prayers :

SANCTUS:

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

This Week: Divine Office - Psalter Week 2

Mon: **St. Clement.**

(Rev 14 v.1-5; Luke 21 v. 1-4) Int: Generosity of Giving.

Tues: **St. Andrew Dun-Lac**

(Rev. 14 v.14-19; Luke 21 v.5-11) Int: Readiness for Christ's coming

Wed: **St. Catherine of Alexandria**

(Rev. 15 v.1-4; Luke 21 v.12-19) Int: Persecuted Christians.

Thurs: (Rev 18 v 1-2,21-23, 19 v 1-3,9; Luke 21 v 20-28)

Int: Departed relatives and friends.

Fri: (Rev 20 v. 1-4,11-21; Luke 21 v.29-33) Int: The sick

Sat: (Rev. 22 v.1-7; Luke 21 v. 34-36) Int: Our Observance of Advent

Next Sunday : **ADVENT – Year B**

9.30am Mass, and Blessing of Advent Wreath .(Live streamed)
(Isaiah 63 v.16-17, 64 v.1, 3-8; 1 Cor.1 v. 3-9. Mark 13 v. 33-37)

NOTICES:

For the livestreaming (which will continue to be available afterwards) please see <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmendlesham/>