

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.: God our Father, let us live as true children of your family.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory

Sanctus

Agnus Dei

Post Communion Prayer & Angelus. Blessing

This Week – Divine Office - Week 1 of Psalter

Mon: HOLY INNOCENTS

11.30am Mass (1 John 1v.2-2v.2; Matt 2v.13-18)

Intention:- Children at Risk

Tues: ST. THOMAS BECKET

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

Intention: Archbishop of Canterbury

Wed: IN CHRISTMAS OCTAVE

11.30am Mass (1 John 2v.12-17; Luke 2v.36-40)

Intention:- Deeper Prayer Life

Thurs: IN CHRISTMAS OCTAVE

11.30am Mass (1 John 2v.18-21; John 1v.1-18)

Int: All who are bereaved.

Fri: MOTHERHOOD OF OUR LADY (Solemnity)

10.00 Mass. (Numbers 6v.22-27; Gal 4v.4-7; Luke 2v.16-21)

Int: God's blessing on new year

Sat: EVE OF EPIPHANY

3.00pm 1st Mass of Sunday and Blessing of Epiphany House

Readings as tomorrow. Int: All pilgrims

Next Sunday : EPIPHANY

9.30am

Parish Mass, Address & Blessing of Chalk,

(Is 60v.1-6; Eph 3v.2-3,5-6; Matt 2v.1-12)

NOTICES

1. Thank you to all who have decorated the Church
2. Thank you to all who helped prepare for the Carol Service, especially in the pouring rain.
3. The Sock Bank and Churn for Christian Aid and St. Martin's Norwich is by the crib until 10th Jan when Christmastide ends

27.12.20

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH.

THEME : Parents who worry about their children; children who bristle with hope about their future; these are common scenes. The Holy Family at Nazareth was no exception, and is a model for today in the love and respect members of that family showed each other.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant : For the quarrels in our families which we do not attempt to mend.
Lord have mercy.

People : **LORD HAVE MERCY**

Celebrant: For tolerating evils which injure family life. Christ have mercy.

People : **CHRIST HAVE MERCY**

Celebrant : For the intolerance that exists between young and old.
Lord have mercy.

People : **LORD HAVE MERCY**

Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness

GLORIA OPENING PRAYER : Let us pray for peace in our families. Father, help us to live as the Holy Family, united in respect and love. Bring us to the joy and peace of your eternal home.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading — Genesis 15 v.1-6, 21v.1-3. Although Abram is an old man and his wife is childless, they receive the promise of a child. Abraham becomes his new name and Sarah becomes a mother, because God keeps his promise.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...'. Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 104

® **He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.**

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praises; tell all his wonderful works!®

Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.®

® **He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.**

Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgments he spoke.
O Children of Abraham his servant, O sons of Jacob he chose.®

He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations,
The covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac.®

Second Reading – Hebrews 11v.8,11-12,17-19.

The faith of Abraham and Sarah is remembered, a faith that gave rise to a generation of descendants. Even when Isaac was asked as a sacrifice, Abraham was confident that God could raise him from the dead

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

Acclamation (all) **Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!**

Gospel - Luke 2 v.22-40. Mary and Joseph fulfill the requirements of the Law by presenting Jesus in the Temple. The child will grow in wisdom and maturity in the context of the human family.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected –

and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

Address Apostles Creed

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant : The God of Abraham and Sarah, Simeon and Anna, Mary and Joseph is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In their company, let us address our prayers to the Father of us all.

Reader: let us pray for all the families of our parish – that they may witness by their love to the great love of God the Father for all families.

We pray for those whose family has been shattered by oppression, war and famine. May freedom be restored to those unjustly deprived of liberty and all men to strive to create a world where none will know need. (We pray especially for our Crib Appeal for Christian Aid and St Martin's Norwich.)

Let us pray for all those whose life at home is full of tension, misunderstanding and misery.

Let us pray for all those whose marriages have proved unhappy or impossible; for those who have had to go their separate way; for those trying to forgive and forget.

Let us pray that in the church we may support and care for one another as true family members.

Let us pray for all who have been damaged by a disturbed or violent upbringing; for children who are growing up amid hatred and cruelty; that they may be healed by love. We pray for the work of the Children's Society and Save the Children.

We pray for all sick children, for the sick and housebound in this parish and all those whose names are on our intercession list – our parishioners in homes – Billy Carter, Margaret Maundrell; Hazel Lockwood. We continue to pray for Michael Denny and Margaret Carter.

We remember all those separated from us by death. May they enjoy the everlasting happiness in God's home, especially Eva Abbott; Kathleen Carter; Jane Deacon; Joan Little; Jonathan Taylor; Hilda Goodall. Kitty Mason; Jack Driver; Lucy Jolley; Kate Keable; Eric Munson; Lucy Taylor; Jean Lacey; Kathleen Newton; Ethel Wood; Joan Keeble; Marguerite Gray; Eileen Carter (anniversaries).

Mary cared for Jesus with a mother's love; she continues to care for his church and so we say - **Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art**