

Tea/coffee in Church after Mass. All welcome.
This week – divine office Psalter week 2
Happy New Year to you all.

This Week:

Mon. Motherhood of Blessed Virgin Mary (New Years Day)
11.00am Mass. (Numbers 6v. 22-27. Gal.4v.4-7. Luke 2v.16-21).
Int. God's Blessing on the New Year

Tues. St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen
9.30am Mass ((2 John 2v.22-28; John 1v.19-28.)
Int: Eastern Orthodox Churches
NO COFFEE & SOUP THIS WEEK

Wed. 9.30am Mass. (1 John 2v.29-3v.6. John 1v.29-34.)
Int. for true repentance

Thurs. 9.30am Mass. (1 John 3 v.7-10. John 1v.35-42.)
Int. All searching for faith

Fri. 9.30 am Mass (1 Jn 3 v 11-21; John 1 43-51)
Int. All pilgrims

Sat. 10.00am 1st Mass of Sunday.(Readings as on Sunday)
Int. More vocations to priesthood Readings as on Sunday
4.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation. (Confessions.)

Next Sunday : **EPIPHANY**
9.30am Sung Mass, Address and Blessing of Chalk
(Is 60v.1-6; Eph 3v.2-3,5-6; Matt 2v.1-12

Notices

1. The Crib Appeal is for Christian Aid. You can also donate online at: www.justgiving.com/page/mendleshamcribappeal23 Sockbank for homeless in Norwich, cared for by St Martin's Housing Trust. Both Appeals close 7 Jan. Please give generously.
2. The next Healing Service is on Wed 10th Jan at 2.30 pm
3. Sunday 14th Jan: Plough Sunday. We welcome Bishop Mike to preach and as the E Suffolk Morris Men are no longer able to be with us, our procession around the village this year will include tractors. Shared lunch in church afterwards at approx. 12.30. Please sign the list if you can contribute food or drink.
4. Please renew Shrine lamps for the year and sign the list at the back of church. They will cost £120 per year – or £10 per month. Please Gift Aid if you pay tax.

Please keep silence from 9.25am to prepare for Mass. 31st December 2023

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH.

THEME: Parents worrying about their children; children full of hope about their future are common scenes. The Holy Family at Nazareth was no exception and is a model for today.

At the Crib the Blessing of presents and singing 'Happy Birthday, Lord Jesus'.

Entrance carol: **360 v.1-4**

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant : For the quarrels in our families which we do not attempt to mend. Lord have mercy. **People:** (sing) **Kyrie Eleison** (Ukrainian setting).

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

People : **Christe Eleison**

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

Lord have mercy. **People :** **Kyrie Eleison**

Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness

GLORIA – to tune 'Infant Holy'

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, 21 v.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.®

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 11 v. 8, 11-12, 17-19. The great faith of Abraham and Sarah is remembered: Even when he believed Isaac was being 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.

Gospel Carol: **360 v 5 & 6**

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 present the baby Jesus in the Temple according to the Jewish Law. He will grow in wisdom and maturity in their 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, 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.

Apostles' Creed. (On page 8 of hymn book.)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

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

Reader: Let us pray for all Christians, that we may support and care for one another as true family members.

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 may we all strive to create a more just and peaceful world 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, for all those whose marriages have proved unhappy or impossible, for those who have had to go their separate ways and for those trying to forgive and forget.

Let us pray for all who have been damaged by a disturbed or violent upbringing; for children who are growing up amidst hatred and cruelty; that they may be healed by love.

We pray for all sick children, for the sick and housebound in this parish and all those remembered at Shrine Prayers– especially Jean Martin, Angie Wilson, Taylor Birch, Mike Galloway, Julie & Andrew Gray and Jan Ross and Ray Mayes

We remember all those separated from us by death. May they enjoy everlasting happiness in God's home – we pray for Violetta Cubitt and Tessa Milner, recently departed (pause while candles are lit) and Eric Munson, Libby Murton, Keith Brundall, Lucy Taylor; Jean Lacey; Kathleen Newton; Ethel Wood; Joan Keeble, Marguerite Gray, Olive Calver, Donald Rush, Edward Knock, Bertie Taylor, Fr. Bruce Murray, Ruth Hardy, George Thorpe, Chester Smith, Thelma Thorpe, William Fletcher, Fr. Charles Searr, Christian Spalding and Muriel Jones- whose anniversaries of death are this week.

Mary cared for Jesus with a mother's love and continues to care for His Church, so we say: **Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you, blessed art thou amongst 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 Carol: **137 v. 1 & 2** **Offertory Prayers:** Carol 137 v. 3 – end.

Mass continues page 9 of the hymn book

Sanctus: tune Iris (Angels from the Realms) Blessed and Praised be Jesus Christ in the most Holy Sacrament. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in Excelsis!

Mass continues on page 11 of the hymn book.

Agnus Dei: tune Rocking

Communicants of other denominations are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you are not a Communicant and/or would like a blessing, please come to the altar holding a hymn book.

Hymns at Communion – 92, 568 please join in

Carol at Ablutions: **30**

Post Communion Prayer Angelus Notices Blessing

Recessional carol: **113**