



Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen

Sunday 24th December 2017

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.00am Said Mass with Hymns and Sermon
Hymns: 11: 186

AT THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH PURPLE ADVENT CANDLE

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle;
to you be praise and glory for ever!
Your light has shone in our darkened world
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;
grant that we who have seen your glory
may daily be renewed in your image
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

Blessed be God for ever.

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours:
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children who long for your coming. Amen.**



Stay in touch with St Stephen's: visit our website at
<http://st-stephens-guernsey.org>

Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading - 2 Samuel Ch7 v1-11 & 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.'³Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. 'Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

New Testament Reading - Romans Ch16 v25-27

²⁵ Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles,

according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel - Luke Ch1 v26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'
²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'
³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.'
³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please remember in your prayers

Elizabeth Opie, Joyce Craske, Judy Bobbitt, Maureen Pitman,
Alisha De Guerin, Christine Shaw, Tony Renouf, and Brenda Penfold.

Please pray for a family with young children
that is going through a difficult time; for Pam;
for Michele, Jaike and Glyn, all suffering from cancer;
for Melvyn Boxall, Bill Brend and Chris Bellingier;
and for Samuel, a 12 year-old boy diagnosed with leukaemia.

Services for this week

Sunday 24th December 11.00pm

11.30pm

Monday 25th December 10.30am

Tuesday 26th December 10.30am

Carols for Christmas

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

The Feast of St Stephen

Sung Mass with Sermon and Procession

Wednesday 27th December 7.00pm Mass cancelled

Friday 29th December 7.00pm Said Mass - Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury and Martyr, 1170

Sunday 31st December

The First Sunday of Christmas

9.30am Said Mass with Hymns and Sermon

11.00am Sung Mass with Sermon and Procession

Tumaini Sewing Afternoon

Saturday 6th January 1.30 - 3.30pm

Join us for another of our kit-making afternoons, No need to sew as we have things you can help with. We will also be putting some kits together ready to send off. If you can help, please let Anne Le Maitre know.



Thank You

A big thank you to all who cleaned, polished and decorated the church for Christmas. Once again it looks magnificent - Well done!

Payment to a Guernsey Charity Tax forms

If you pay Guernsey Tax and have given £500 or more to the church in 2016, please remember to fill in a form (copies on the Black Chest) and return it to Alan, so we may claim the refund on your tax contributions for the church.

This is valuable income for the church at no cost to you.

If you require any more information please speak to Alan or one of the Church wardens. Thank You

Please join us for refreshments in the vestry after the 11.00am Mass

After Mass please put the kneelers back on the shelf. Thank you!

Deadline for notices for next bulletin – 6.00pm Thursday

To Tony or email akaines@cwgsy.net