



Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen

Sunday 17th December 2017

The Third Sunday of Advent



9.30am Said Mass with Hymns and Sermon
Hymns: 12: 15

11.00am Sung Mass with Sermon
Hymns: 12: 10: 18: C.1

AT THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD PINK ADVENT CANDLE

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true,
to you be praise and glory for ever!
Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.
Blessed be God for ever.

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near:
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.**

659 Advent 3 (The Third Sunday of Advent)

Introit Rejoice ye in the Lord, and again I say, rejoice ye; let your moderation be known unto all men, the Lord is at hand: be careful for nothing, nor troubled; but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.

Psalms Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land: thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob. Glory be to the Father...

Gradual Shew thyself, O Lord, thou that sittest upon the Cherubim: stir up thy strength and come. *V* Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel: thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Alleluia Alleluia. Alleluia. *V* Stir up thy strength, O Lord: and come and help us. Alleluia.

Offertory O Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land; thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob: Thou hast forgiven the offence of thy people.

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading - Isaiah Ch61 v1-4, 8-11

- ¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
- ⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

New Testament Reading - 1 Thessalonians Ch5 v16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gospel - John Ch1 v6-8, 19-28

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' ²¹And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' ²²Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' ²³He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' ²⁶John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Please remember in your prayers

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

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

Services for this week

Tuesday 19th December 11.00am Said Mass - BCP

Wednesday 20th December 7.00pm Said Mass

Friday 22nd December 7.00pm Said Mass

Sunday 24th December
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
10.00am Said Mass with Hymns and Sermon



Christmas at St Stephen's

Sunday 24th December
11.00pm Carols for Christmas
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Monday 25th December
10.30am Christmas Day
Sung Mass

Tuesday 26th December
10.30am St Stephen's Day
Sung Mass

Terrible Christmas Cracker Quiz

Fr. Marc has once again produced a Terrible Christmas Cracker Quiz.
Pick up a copy today!

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