



Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen

Sunday 22nd December 2019

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



9.30am Family Service

Hymns: S.12 : S.39

11.00am Sung Mass with Sermon

Hymns: 6: 11: 8: 186

AT THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH 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.**

660 Memento nostri

Introit Remember us, O Lord, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people; O visit us with thy salvation: that we, beholding the felicity of thy chosen, may rejoice in the gladness of thy people; and may glory with thine inheritance.

Psalm We have sinned with our fathers: we have done amiss and dealt wickedly. Glory be to the Father...

Gradual The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him: yea, all such as call upon him faithfully. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh give thanks unto his holy Name.

Alleluia Alleluia. Alleluia. Come, O Lord, and tarry not: forgive the misdeeds of thy people. Alleluia.

Offertory Be strong, fear not; behold, our God will come with a recompense: he will come, and save us.

Communion Behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son: and his Name shall be called Emmanuel.

*A reminder that during Advent we do not sing the Gloria,
so please remain kneeling after the Kyries for the Collect.*

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 - Isaiah Ch7 v10-16

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' ¹²But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.' ¹³Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.'

New Testament Reading - Romans Ch1 v1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel - Matthew Ch1 v18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',
which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

Tony Renouf, Hazel and John Greany,
Brenda Penfold, Alisha De Guerin,
Andy Mauger, Anthony De La Mare, Val Moullin,
a woman battling with alcoholism,
Bridget, Daphne Swann, Melvyn Boxall,
Chris Bellinger and Janice Firth.

Services Next Week

Monday 23rd December 10.00am 'Little Treasures' Toddlers' Group

Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

11.00pm Carols for Christmas

11.30pm Midnight Mass & Procession

Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day

10.30am Sung Mass & Procession

Thursday 26th December - St Stephen's Day

10.30pm Sung Mass & Procession

Sunday 29th December

The First Sunday of Christmas

9.30am Said Mass with Family Ministry

11.00am Sung Mass with Sermon & Procession

Christmas Message Board

Don't forget to put your Christmas Greetings on the Message Board at the back of Church.

Gift Month

The total for Gift Month this year was a magnificent £13,488 (£2,313 more than 2018).

We are very blessed with such generous giving which enables us to continue God's work in this place.

Thank you all so very much.

Terrible Christmas Cracker Quiz

Please pick up this year's Cracker Quiz from Fr Marc, for £1. All monies collected will go towards Church funds.

Please join us for refreshments:

- *in the Vicarage after the 9.30am Mass*
- *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