



Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen

Sunday 15th December 2019

The Third Sunday of Advent



9.30am Said Mass with Family Ministry
Hymns: **12: MP 48**

11.00am Sung Mass with Sermon

Hymns: **12: 7: 2: 3**

12.30pm Baptism of Caleb Nicholas Wakeford

AT THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD 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 Gaudete

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.

Psalm Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land: thou has 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. Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel: thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Alleluia Alleluia. Alleluia. 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.

Communion Say to them that are of a fearful heart: Be strong, fear not; behold, your God will come and save you.

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

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 Ch35 v1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

New Testament Reading - James Ch5 v7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew Ch11 v2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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.

Services This Week

Monday 16th December 10.00am Little Treasures Toddlers' Group
7.30pm Ladies' College Carol Service

Tuesday 17th December 11.00am Mass - BCP

Wednesday 18th December 7.00pm Mass

Sunday 22nd December
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am Family Service

11.00am Sung Mass with Sermon

Please remember in your prayers

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



St Stephen's Christmas Stocking

TODAY Sunday 15th December at 2.30pm.

Carols and entertainment by our 'St Stephen's Family'.
Refreshments afterwards.

Church Cleaning

We will be cleaning the silver at **9.30am Wednesday 18th December**
and the Church at **9.30am Thursday 19th December**.

Please come along and help make the Church sparkle for Christmas.

Christmas Message Board

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

Fundraising for Home Start Guernsey.

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