

St Saviour's Church

20 December 2020 - Advent 4 (LOVE)



The birth of Jesus is not like the birth of Greek or Roman God's or heroes. 'There is no grandeur in the circumstances: Mary is just a young woman. Nor is there grandeur in the consequences — life goes on as normal. What is astonishing (and this is obscured by too much familiarity with this Gospel passage) is how plain and simple it all sounds. Mary has "found favour" with God. Here is a clear contrast with her Son, who was the eternal Word from the beginning. There's something about Mary. She has "found" favour; God has recognised her nature. That is ultimately why Christians should learn from her — from the example of her obedience and her questioning. God has chosen her, not for what she was "in the beginning" (John 1.1), but because she has become a person whom he highly favours. That ought to direct our minds to the infinite possibilities of a life lived in tune with God'. (by Cally Hammond in Church Times 8231)

Parish Notes:

Next Sunday - Reserve your seat at St Saviour's mass via Liz on 07718918846. .

O Antiphon Week of Prayer - Our advent week of prayer continues this afternoon in St Saviour's at 3pm and concludes on Wednesday. It is an opportunity for us to prepare spiritually and spend more time in prayer as we look forward to Christmas.

Christmas Card Display - Instead of sending individual cards why not consider our display which is kinder to the environment and supports our church. Donations please to St Saviour's. Many thanks already to those who have posted and donated.

Christmas Services - It is crucial to book a place in advance for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. There is a services sign up page at the back of the church for current congregation members. If you are inviting family please also fill in their names. Christmas eve (at time of writing is almost full) but there is currently space available on Christmas Day.

Doorstep Carol - Invitation to join in with Christians throughout the Church in Wales with singing 'Silent Night' with friends, family on your doorstep at 7pm on Christmas eve. Film or photograph it and send it to us and we will share on social media.

Thank You Mr Treasurer - John Stuart has only a week or so left as our treasurer, a post he has loyally served in for decades. We all owe John a huge debt of gratitude for the time and commitment he has devoted to this ministry over the years. John hands on the baton to David French but will remain as gift aid secretary.

Llandaff Matters - In place of Croeso the diocese has moved to a weekly online update on life and ministry in the diocese. It is called Llandaff Matters and we are encouraging everyone to sign up to the weekly email list. Details on our website.

Recently Departed - John Lambert RIP

This week:

Sun 20 - Advent IV

Pray for:

Tonypandy w Clydach Vale & Williamstown, Terry Cox (V); Mission Agencies inc Mothers' Union.

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;
15:00 O Antiphons (St S)

St German's:

11:00 am Mass
18:00 Nine Lesson & Carols

Mon 21:

18:00 Mass (St G)
19:00 O Antiphons (St S)

Tues 22:

10:00 (St S)
19:00 O Antiphons (St G)

Wed 23:

10:00 Mass (St G)
19:00 O Antiphons (St G)

Thur 24: Christmas Eve

16:00 Crib Mass (St S)
23:00 Midnight Mass (St G)

Fri 25: The Nativity of

Our Lord

09:30 Mass (St S)
11:00 Mass (St G)

Sat 26:

St Stephen, Martyr

Sun 27 - Holy Family

Pray for:

Ystradyfodwg, Haydn England-Simon (V); Other Christian Leaders.

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

11:00 am Mass

Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,
02922 411229,
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Churchwardens:

Bill Eastwood
07800 946949
David Gibbins
07813160825

READINGS THIS WEEK

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Ps 89
Rom 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3
Ps 105
Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19
Luke 2:22-40

PSALM RESPONSE

'I will sing forever of
your love, O
Lord.' (3vs)

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. **Amen.**

TODAY'S MUSIC:

Hail to the Lord's anointed
Long ago prophets knew
The Angel Gabriel
The Holly and the Ivy

FIRST READING:

A reading from the 2nd book of Samuel.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you

a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

This is the word of the Lord.

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love,
O Lord; through all ages my mouth will
proclaim your truth Of this I am sure,
that your love lasts for ever, that your
truth is firmly established as the
heavens. **R/**

I have made a covenant with my chosen
one; I have sworn to David my servant: I
will establish your dynasty for ever and
set up your throne through all ages. . **R/**

He will say to me: 'You are my father, my
God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep
my love for him always; for him my
covenant shall endure. **R/**

Psalms 89

SECOND READING:

A reading from St Paul's letter to the
Romans.

Glory to him who is able to give you the
strength to live according to the Good
News I preach, and in which I proclaim
Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery
kept secret for endless ages, but now so
clear that it must be broadcast to pagans
everywhere to bring them to the
obedience of faith. This is only what
scripture has predicted, and it is all part
of the way the eternal God wants things
to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory
therefore to him through Jesus Christ for
ever and ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

Rom 16:25-27

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!
I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what
you have said be done to me
Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to St Luke.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a
town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a
virgin betrothed to a man named
Joseph, of the House of David; and the
virgin's name was Mary. He went in and
said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured!
The Lord is with you.' She was deeply
disturbed by these words and asked
herself what this greeting could mean,
but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not
be afraid; you have won God's favour.
Listen! You are to conceive and bear a
son, and you must name him Jesus. He
will be great and will be called Son of
the Most High. The Lord God will give
him the throne of his ancestor David; he
will rule over the House of Jacob for
ever and his reign will have no end.'
Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this
come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The
Holy Spirit will come upon you' the
angel answered 'and the power of the
Most High will cover you with its
shadow. And so the child will be holy
and will be called Son of God. Know this
too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in
her old age, herself conceived a son, and
she whom people called barren is now in
her sixth month, for nothing is
impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid
of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you
have said be done to me.' And the angel
left her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Luke 1:26-38