

St Saviour's Church

22 December 2019 - Advent IV



The nature and cost of Joseph and Mary's vocation is a main focus of this Sunday's gospel reading. Mary's celebrated yes to God came with a cost - the real danger of ostracism from her family and society because of being found with child. For Joseph, he faced the prospect of bringing up someone else's child. Yet as in many previous biblical instances of difficult discipleship when people find it hard to comprehend God's way of working in their midst, God always provides the help they need to fulfil their calling.

Parish Notes:

Nightshelter - Has now begun and we thank all those who helped last night and this morning. Rota for December has now been sent out via email. January's rota to follow asap. If you would like to help in any way please contact Fr Phelim. From this Sunday we will have an additional said mass at 8am in St German's for Nightshelter guests and helpers.

O Antiphon Prayer - Continues tonight and concludes tomorrow. It is a quiet reflection of just under an hour when we can escape the busyness and consumption of this season and place our cares and worries on the God who loves us

Octave of Christmas - See mass times right. NB, no mass on Friday or Saturday in St Saviour's.

Posada - Las Posadas continues its journey around the parish. Details on Twitter.

Christmas Cards - Our Greeting display is now available. Why not post a message and donate the money saved to St Saviour's? Don't forget to gift aid if you can.

Carols and a Cuppa. Thank you to all who supported our carol singing and hospitality yesterday. It was a really special day to bear Christian witness to Splott.

Christmas service details: see times on the right for Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning services.

Foodbank - Current urgent items: Tinned Fruit, Long life fruit juice, UHT milk, Rice Pudding, Sponge Puddings. Tinned potatoes. (St Saviour's foodbank will be closed for the holidays and along with most food banks reopen from 6 Jan)

Recently Departed: Christine Turner, Wendy Ann Powell, Ted Griffiths *RIP*.

This week:

Sun 22: Advent IV

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

8:00 Said Mass 11:00

am Sung Mass

4pm Christingle (St G)

7pm O Antiphon Prayer -

O People's King (St S)

Mon 23:

10:30 Funeral (St G)

6pm Mass (StG)

7pm O Antiphon Prayer -

O Emmanuel (St G)

Tues 24:

4pm Crib Service & Mass

(St S)

11pm Midnight Mass

(St G)

Wed 25:

NATIVITY OF OUR

LORD:

9:30am Sung Mass

11am Sung Mass

Thur 26:

5:45pm Mass (St S)

St Stephen

Fri 27:

No Mass

St John the Apostle

Sat 28:

No Mass

The Holy Innocents

Sun 29: Christmas

I - The Holy Family

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

11:00 am Sung Mass

Parish Priest:

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READINGS THIS WEEK

Isa 7:10-14

Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Rom 1:1-7

Matt 1:18-24

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Sir 3:3-7, 14-17a

Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

Col 3:12-17

Matt 2:13-15, 19-23

PSALM RESPONSE

Let the Lord enter! He
is the king of glory.
(vv.3)

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.**

GATHERING:

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains,
shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever;
that name to us is love.

JESSE TREE

Hanging in the branches
of this Jesse tree;
see the love of Jesus and his family.
Here we see his goodness
and his light and power
shining through the darkness
'til the final hour

Prophets, men and women
all received his word:
promise of the coming
of the mighty Lord.
Born into his family,
in the church of God
may we share the faith
of God in flesh and blood.

So, in sign and symbol,
so in branch and tree,
may we tell the story
of the One in Three.
Through the Holy Spirit
Christ is in our sight:
Promise of the Father
full of grace and light.

OFFERTORY:

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
Refrain:

Mary hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected,
Refrain:

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlehem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

COMMUNION:

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow,
his eyes as flame;

'All hail,' said he,
'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother
thou shalt be,
all generations laud
and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel,
by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Then gentle Mary
meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,'
she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify
his holy name':
most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel,
the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on
a Christmas mom,
and Christian folk
throughout the world will ever say
'Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

FINAL HYMN:

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown
O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir

The holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flower
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Saviour
O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir

The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good
O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir

The holly and the ivy
Now both are full well grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.
O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer

The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir

Psalm 24

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said,
'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for
yourself coming either from the
depths of Sheol or from the heights
above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will
not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:
'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the
patience of men
without trying the patience of my
God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-
us."

This is the word of the Lord.

Isaiah 7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Let the Lord enter! He is the king of
glory.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. *R/*

Who shall climb
the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands
and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. *R/*

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God
who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. *R/*

SECOND READING

A reading from Paul's letter to the
Romans.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus
who has been called to be an
apostle, and specially chosen to
preach the Good News that God
promised long ago through his
prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God
who, according to the human nature
he took was a descendant of David:
it is about Jesus Christ our Lord
who, in the order of the spirit, the
spirit of holiness that was in him,
was proclaimed Son of God in all his
power through his resurrection from
the dead. Through him we received
grace and our apostolic mission to
preach the obedience of faith to all
pagan nations in honour of his
name. You are one of these nations,
and by his call belong to Jesus
Christ. To you all, then, who are
God's beloved in Rome, called to be
saints, may God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ send grace and
peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

Romans 1

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to St Matthew.

Now 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. Her
husband Joseph, being a righteous
man and unwilling to expose her to
public disgrace, planned to dismiss
her quietly. But 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. She will bear a
son, and you are to name him Jesus,
for he will save his people from their
sins.' All this took place to fulfil

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

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Matt 31