

# St Saviour's Church

23 December 2018 - Advent 4



The fourth Sunday of Advent - is all about Mary! We hear of her visit to Elizabeth and how the Holy Spirit blesses this encounter. Even the unborn child leaps with joy. It is a simple story, intimate and humble in how two young women share the wondrous things that happen to them. For us, onlookers from a distant time, we honour Mary the mother of our Lord still. We marvel, still, at her faith and how she models all that a modern disciple needs do in choosing to follow Jesus.

## Parish Notes:

**Crib Service** - First mass of Christmas and crib service with separate readings and hymns at 6pm tomorrow. All are welcome.

**Christmas Day** - For those who can't make the evening service we also have a sung mass for Christmas Day at 9.30am with carols.

**Nightshelter** - Has now begun and goes on to the end of March. Thank you to all who have agreed to help. Please keep our guests and volunteers in your prayers. The 8:00 am mass at St German's is provided for our shelter guests and helpers.

**Octave of Christmas** - See mass times right. .

**Bonus ball** - Sylvia will still run the Bonus Ball over the Christmas period. If you are away, but would still like to participate, Sylvia is happy to take payments in advance.

**Tea & Cleaning** - New rotas are now available for 2019. New volunteers are always welcome and can be added. Please speak to Liz

**Christmas Card Display** - still not too late to complete a card and a donation as a greener alternative to cards to your church friends.

**Sanctuary lamps** - list at the back of church and give your £4 donation to John.

**Carols & a Cuppa:** thank you to all who helped with our carols and refreshments. It was a wonderful way of bearing witness to our faith with joy and peace.

**Little wooden Nativity** - Handmade by our own churchwarden. Only £3 with proceeds going to the parish. Perhaps an ideal memento for distant family.

**Las Posada** - see the images at the back of the church where the posada visited.

**Recently Departed:** Fr John Griffiths RIP

## This week

### Sun 23 Advent 4

8am Said Mass (St G)

9:30 Sung Mass (St S)

11am Sung Mass (St G)

### Mon 24:

#### Christmas Eve

4pm Messy Christmas (St G)

6pm Crib Service & Mass (St S)

11pm Midnight Mass (St G)

### Tues 25 NATIVITY

#### OF OUR LORD:

9:30am Sung Mass

11am Sung Mass

### Wed 26:

No mass today (St G)

### Thur 27:

5:45pm Mass (St S)

ST JOHN, APOSTLE

### Fri 28:

6pm Mass (St S)

The Holy Innocents

### Sat 29:

11am Mass (St S.)

St Thomas Becket

### Sun 30: Christmas

#### I - The Holy Family

##### St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass

##### St German's:

8am Said Mass

11am Sung Mass

### Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,

02922 411229,

phelimohare@gmail.com

### Churchwardens:

Peter Lovitt

02920 763754

Richard Hill

07519 352840

## READINGS THIS WEEK

Mic 5:1-4a

Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Heb 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

## READINGS NEXT WEEK

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28

Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Luke 2:41-52

## PSALM:

Lord of hosts bring us  
back, let your face  
shine on us and we  
shall be saved. (3vv)

**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:**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, thou dayspring,  
come and cheer,  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows  
put to flight.

O come, thou key of David, come  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way  
that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.

O come, O come,  
thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.

**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 morn,  
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

## FIRST READING

The First reading is from the prophet Micah.

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

*Micah 5*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

***Lord of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.***

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. *R/*

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. *R/*

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name. *R/*

*Psalms 80*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

*You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'*

Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ..

This is the word of the Lord.

*Heb 10*

## GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*Luke 1*