

St Saviour's Church

24 December 2017 - Advent 4 (Love)



Our Advent Journey ends with a call to model our discipleship on Mary, the mother of Jesus. God places the future of our salvation in her hands and she says yes. We too are called to say yes to God in however we encounter his mystery.

On Christmas eve, that holy night beyond compare, we rejoice with Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and the Angels that God once more is with us - Our Emmanuel has come!

Parish Notes:

Christmas Services: Sun 24 Dec 8:00 Mass for the Homeless at St German's (all are welcome); 4:00 pm Crib Service and 1st Mass of Christmas in St Saviour's; 6:00pm Crib Service and 1st Mass of Christmas in St German's; 11:00pm Midnight Mass in St German's; Mon 25 Dec 9:30 am Sung Mass for Christmas in St Saviour's.

Cardiff Churches Nightshelter Begins this week. We are very grateful for all the support and gifts offered to be given to those we will host this year. A special thank you to all of you who have volunteered to help out at one of the sessions and to those who have generously given clothes and other items. We are pausing our collection for now as your generosity means we now have more than enough for the next few months. As ever, please keep the work of the Churches Nightshelter in your prayers.

Thank You - to all who generously contributed towards the cost of our Christmas flowers.

Weekday Services - as normal in St Saviour's. No Wednesday mass this week in St German's.

Epiphany - The feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated in St Saviour's on Saturday 6 Jan at 11am and Sunday 7 Jan we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord at 9:30 am.

Cardiff Foodbank - urgent items: tinned tomatoes, fruit juice (concentrate), rice pudding tins, sponge pudding, tinned fruit. Not needed: beans, cereals, tea, pasta.

Rotas - We are looking to update our church tea & cleaning rotas and are hoping to recruit a few more helpers for both groups. Please see Liz.

Christian Unity - the week of prayer for Christian Unity is 18-25 January 2018. There will be a Churches Together joint service in St Alban's Church on Sunday 21 January 2018 at 6pm. All are welcome.

Walsingham 2018 - Our annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham will be on the last week of July. For details see Liz and Bill.

This week:

Mon 25:

9:30am (St S)
THE NATIVITY OF
OUR LORD

Tues 26:

10am Mass (St S)
St Stephen Proto
Martyr

Wed 27:

No Mass today
St John the Evangelist

Thur 14:

5:45pm Mass (St S)
The Holy Innocents

Fri 28:

6pm Mass (St S)

Sat 29:

11am Mass (St S.)

Sun 30: The Holy Family

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

11:00 am Sung Mass

Keep in touch:

Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,
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(Day off - Friday)

Churchwardens:

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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 for ever of
your love, O
Lord' (3vs)

www.saintgermanwithsaintsaviour.org

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 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

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/**

Psalm 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:

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