



St Mary's Church Prestwich

GROWING · GIVING · SERVING



Sunday, 22nd November 2020

CHRIST THE KING

Advent 2020

This year we will be running our Advent group by Zoom.

The group will meet for an hour on a Friday evening starting at 7.30pm for the first three weeks of December (4th, 11th and 18th) to continue with the exploration of 'Signs of Life' that we began during Lent.

This is just as, if not more, relevant during this time of pandemic as it ever was. It does not matter whether you were involved last time as the topic each week stands alone. So everybody is invited to join us.

A leaflet is attached with information. If you are interested, please get in touch with Rev'd Carole either by email - caroleabarnet@gmail.com - or by phone on 0161 766 2774. Zoom joining details will then be sent round nearer the time.

A number of Advent and Christmas resources for young people will be posted on the Diocese of Manchester Youth Work Resources Facebook page. Similarly, resources for children and families will be posted on the Diocese of Children and Family Resources Facebook page and the Padlet page. <https://padlet.com/karenbeal/c5xlb3i02dw5sc9h>

Church Services and private prayer

St Mary's church will be open again this week on Sunday from 10.00am - 11.00am and on Wednesday between 12.00noon - 1.00pm for private prayer: there is no need to book in, just sit where there is a green tick and turn it over to the red cross when you leave. If you would like to receive communion then pre-consecrated wafers will be available at the back of church with a service sheet following a pattern of the Eucharist used at Home or in hospital: please take the sacrament and the sheet when you enter and as you pray through the service you can receive communion at the appropriate point. Then, please take away the order of service with you.

Music for Christ the King and Cecilia (Patron Saint of Music and Musicians)

Before Service:

Trumpet Voluntary - William Boyce

Altar preparation:

Mortify us by Thy Grace - J.S. Bach

Communion:

Invocation (from 5 Improvisations) - Alec Rowley

Final Voluntary:

Toccata in G - Th. Dubois

Christmas Services & Sunday mornings in December

We hope that we will be able to be open again for Services in December (with social distancing measures etc still in place, of course). If we are able to we will be holding a Nine Lessons and Carols service (sadly without any congregational singing) in Church on Sunday 20th December at 6.00pm, and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and a Eucharist on Christmas Day morning. Booking in for these will be essential and details will appear in due course. In the meantime, assuming we can worship again in church from Sunday 6th December, please contact Susie to reserve a place (as before) at the 10.30am Eucharist. This will, of course, be provisional until we know for sure what will happen after Dec 2nd's announcement from the Government. We also hope to have some sort of family-friendly worship on Christmas Eve although the form of this, and whether it will be in church or online only, is still to be finalised.

School Admissions Policy

Diocesan and national advice has been issued about the recording of attendance at Church worship for school admission purposes. Please refer to either the Church or the School websites for further information.



Lord Let your love shine on those in need of our prayers: Lily-Rose Ahmadi; David Arnold, Lorayah Bevan, Nigel Birtwistle, Graham Coward, Graham Fleet, Andrew Hardman, Helen Hicks, Deborah Kane, Heather Kay, Elaine Kirk, Jean Murphy, James O'Meara, Rev'd Deborah Sandercock-Pickles, Maryam Sedeghi

Sending love and prayers to the families of: Peter Simpson - may he rest in peace and rise in glory.



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Prayer matters!

PRAY – ACT – BE

Manchester Diocese is inviting everyone to be part of a year-long pilgrimage of prayer. The attached document outlines some of the things you might want to consider doing in November to be part of this. Each month, the Diocese is encouraging us to explore prayer on a different theme, shaped by a three-fold invitation to Pray – Act – Be. In November we are enjoined to have space to listen in our life of prayer.

PRAY FOR THE NATION

The two archbishops of the Church of England have encouraged all her members to pray for the nation during this new month of lockdown. To assist in resourcing this, there is a small booklet of some suggested prayers, which is also attached, and which we aim to send out to members of the congregation who do not have access to online/electronic resources. There's a particular encouragement to try and pray each day at 6.00pm if this is possible, so that there is a sense in which the whole church is joined together in this prayer. Obviously this won't be possible for everyone, but do consider trying to make space to pray very specifically and deliberately for our nations each day from now until Advent.

Readings for the feast of Christ the King

Collect

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel *Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24*

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the

watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians *Ephesians 1.15-end*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew *Matthew 25.31-end*

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Post-Communion Prayer

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.