



Sunday, 29th November 2020

ADVENT 1

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 the First Sunday of Advent

Before Service:

Wachet Auf' - J.S. Bach (BWV 645)

Altar preparation:

Prelude 'Come, Saviour of the Gentiles' - D. Buxtehude

Communion:

Prelude 'Christe Redemptor Omnium' - Healey Willan

Final Voluntary:

Fantasia "From Heaven above..." - J. Pachelbel

Christmas Services & Sunday mornings in December

We are expecting to worship again in church from Sunday 6th December, (with social distancing measures etc still in place, of course), therefore please contact Susie to reserve a place (as before) at the 10.30am Eucharist. 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, a Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and a Eucharist on Christmas Day at 10.30am. There will be no 8:00am Eucharist on Christmas Day because of the need to clean the church between the end of Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and the 10:30am Eucharist on Christmas Day. Booking in for these will be essential and details will appear in due course. 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.



Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge

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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 First Sunday of Advent

Collect

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 64.1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations

might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Mark 13.24-end

Jesus said: in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling
from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the

four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake— for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Post-Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.