



St Mary's Church

Prestwich

GROWING · GIVING · SERVING



Sunday, 13th December 2020

ADVENT 3

8.00am – Eucharist

President & Preacher: Fr Shaun Conlon

10.30am – Said Common Worship Eucharist

President: Rev'd Carole Barnet
Preacher: Fr Shaun Conlon
Deacon: Rev'd Adele McKie
Organist: Gary Hulme
Music before the the Service: Prelude on 'Rorate Caeli' - Jeanne Demessieux
 Chorale Prelude 'Come now, Saviour of the Gentiles' - J.S. Bach (BWV659)
Reader: Amanda Lloyd
Gospeller: Rev'd Adele McKie
Intercessor: Pauline Jones
Altar Preparation: Prelude on 'Bristol' - Gordon Cameron
Communion: *Hymn:* Hark the glad sound
Anthem: Rejoice in the Lord always - Anon/Redford
Final Voluntary: Chorale Improvisation 'Wachet Auf' - S. Karg-Elert (Op65/33)

Advent 2020

The final advent session of Rev'd Carole's Advent course will take place on Friday 18th December at 7.30pm. If you have not yet joined and would like to please contact Carole on the details below so she can email you the Zoom joining details. 0161 766 2774 or email caroleabarnet@gmail.com

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>

Services for Christmas

Sunday 20th - 6.00pm

Nine Lessons and Choir Carols

This service is now full, although we are maintaining a 'reserve' list. If you have booked seats and can no longer attend, please let Susie know ASAP

Christmas Eve - 11.30pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day - 10.30am

Eucharist

St Stephen (Boxing Day) – 9.30am

Short Said Eucharist

Holy Innocents (28th) – 9.30am

Short Said Eucharist

Christmas Eve Family services:

Welcome to Christmas!

We have decided that we can run two family services on Christmas Eve safely. Each will have the same format and booking in will be essential – we will not be able to admit anyone who has not been booked in beforehand. The two services will be at 11.00am and 1.30pm, each lasting for approximately half an hour, and we are encouraging those who attend (children and adults!) to come dressed as a nativity story character (if you want to – it's not mandatory!). Please email Susie and state whether you can do either service time or, if only one, stipulate which.

New Year's Day: the Naming & Circumcision of Our Lord

To usher in 2021 (hopefully a much better year!) there will be a said Eucharist in church at 10.00am on January 1st – anyone is very welcome to attend – please let Susie know

Epiphany Eucharist for those who are shielding

We are very conscious that a number of people still feel it is unsafe to attend a service on a Sunday in Church, but are missing worship and the sacrament of Holy Communion. As a trial, we are planning on having a said eucharist for Epiphany on Wednesday 6th January at 11.00am especially for those who have been shielding or who are vulnerable. As such, we ask that no children are brought to this service (they are, of course, very welcome at all our other services). If you would like to come, or if you have any questions, please contact Fr Shaun to book in, as he will be maintaining the list for this service. If he is not available when you phone, please leave your name and telephone number and he'll ring you back. The Rectory number is 0161 773 2912 or email shaunconlon@hotmail.co.uk

Church Cleaning for Christmas

We are looking for any volunteers to assist with cleaning the church ahead of all the Christmas services. Please meet in church on Saturday 19th December from 9.30am. Many hands make light work!

School Admissions Policy

The attendance at St Mary's public worship register will re-open on Sunday 6th December 2020. It is the parent / guardian's responsibility to ensure that attendance is recorded by St Mary's Church using the official channels on the day of attendance. In addition to the weekly 8am and 10.30am Sunday Services, please note extra services for Christmas and the usual booking-in procedures with Susie. St Mary's church will record any oversubscription requests and will prioritise for the next service.

The total number of attendances required for category 3 applications to St Mary's for September 2021 will be based upon 35% of the total number of weeks that St Mary's Church was open for public worship (as defined by guidance from The Church of England and Diocese of Manchester) within the calendar year of 2020 (rounded down to the nearest whole number), as per the amended admissions policy published on the school website (September 2020). This will equate to 5 attendances for the 2020 register. Only one attendance per week (Sunday to Saturday) is eligible.

If you have no attendances recorded on the St Mary's Church records at present (ie prior to the first national lockdown in March 2020), then any attendances during December will not enable you to meet the required number of 5 for

category 3 allocation for the 2021 admissions year.

Attendance registers for 2022 admissions open on January 1st 2021.



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

Sending love and prayers to the family and friends of: Graham Coward – may he rest in peace and rise in glory.



Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge
Fr Shaun Conlon

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Fr Shaun's day off is Monday

Church Wardens

Canon Susie Mapledoram
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Curates

Rev Carole Barnett - 0161 766 2774
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Rev Adele McKie - 07946 383024;
Adele.stmaryscurate@btinternet.com

Web: www.stmarysprestwich.org
Twitter: @stmarysprestwich
YouTube: [St Mary's Prestwich](https://www.youtube.com/StMarysPrestwich)

Readings for the Third Sunday of Advent

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah *Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

John 1.6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Post-Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.