



St Mary's Church

Prestwich

GROWING · GIVING · SERVING



Sunday, 20th December 2020

ADVENT 4

8.00am – Eucharist

President: Rev'd Adele McKie
Preacher: Rev'd Carole Barnet

10.30am – Said Common Worship Eucharist

President: Rev'd Adele McKie
Preacher: Rev'd Carole Barnet
Deacon: Fr Shaun Conlon
Organist: Gary Hulme
Music before the Service: Two Chorale Preludes - J. Brahms
i. Schmucke dich... ii. Es ist ein ros' entsprungen
Reader: Catriona Holmes
Gospeller: Fr Shaun Conlon
Intercessor: Susie Mapledoram
Altar Preparation: Jesu meine freude - J.S. Bach (BWV1105)
Communion: *Hymn:* Come thou long expected Jesus
Anthem: Ave Maria - T.L. deVictoria
Final Voluntary: Prelude 'Come now, Saviour ...' - J.S. Bach (BWV661)

Services for Christmas

Please remember that booking in is essential for all the main Christmas services as we'd hate to have to turn people away at the church door, but once we're full to our safe capacity, we will not be able to 'squeeze' anyone in. It seems so unwelcoming at Christmas time especially to be so limiting of access, but Churches can only open for worship because we have safety measures in place regarding potential Covid-19 transmission-limitation. The regulations around all this stem partly from Government regulation and partly from National direction from the Church of England. Please pray for those who are responsible for keeping this under review and implementing changes as they occur, as it is an on-going difficult task.

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 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

Thank You...

...to the small band of people who helped clean the church on Saturday morning, and in advance to those who'll be preparing the Crib, the Christmas Tree and the flowers this coming week. If anyone wants to make a donation towards the cost of Christmas flowers, please let us know or bring any cash donations in an appropriately marked envelope.

Christmas Cards

In the past many people have left cards in church for friends who attend different acts of worship etc. Please note, that we are discouraging this practise this year to limit the risk of any cross infection and also as many people are still not attending worship to pick up any cards.

Recording of Christmas Services

Although we hope to record and upload a number of services over the next fortnight, please be aware that not all of them will be. On Sunday 20th December only the evening's Nine Lessons and Carols will be made available, not the 10.30am Eucharist, and only the first of the two all-age services on Christmas Eve will be filmed, as will Midnight Mass but not Christmas Day morning.

Private Prayer on Wednesdays

The church will be open as usual between 12.00noon and 1.00pm for private prayer on Wednesdays 23rd and 30th December, with communion from the reserved sacrament available for people to receive from if they would like to. If you have any questions about this, please speak with one of the clergy.



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 families and friends of: Graham Coward, Addison Davies, Winifred Mary Linas – may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

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.



Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge

Fr Shaun Conlon

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Fr Shaun's day off is Monday

Church Wardens

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Curates

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Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

A reading from the second book of Samuel **2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16**

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name,

like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Romans 16.25-end

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Luke 1.26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Post-Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.