



St Mary's Church

Prestwich

GROWING · GIVING · SERVING



Sunday, 27th December 2020

CHRISTMAS 1

8.00am – Eucharist

President & Preacher: Fr Shaun Conlon

10.30am – Said Common Worship Eucharist

President: Rev'd Adele McKie
Preacher: Fr Shaun Conlon
Deacon: Fr Shaun Conlon
Organist: Geoffrey Chapman
Reader: David Twine
Gospeller: Fr Shaun Conlon
Intercessor: Stewart Barnet

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.

Holy Innocents (28th) – 9.30am

Short Said Eucharist

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

Private Prayer on Wednesdays

The church will be open as usual between 12.00noon and 1.00pm for private prayer on Wednesday 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: Addison Davies, Winifred Mary Linas, Sheila Webster – may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Resuming Ministry/ Regular giving/gift aid in 2021

Thanks you to all those who have given generously to the mission and work of St Mary's church over the difficult year of 2020, both through various ministries and involvements and also through financial support. In common with many churches, our income at St Mary's was down significantly (roughly a third less in 2020 than the previous year). This has meant that we have not been able to pay our agreed parish share to the diocese in full. We expect that the coming months will also leave us with decreased income. If you have any regular giving envelopes at home that you would like someone to collect, then please let one of the clergy or Churchwardens know. Equally, if you are giving regularly and could gift aid your monetary but haven't arranged this with us, please let us know.

If you would like to set up a regular payment via your bank, which helps enormously with our cash flow, then that's another option. The details for setting up a payment (one off or regular) are

Church Bank Account:

St Mary's PCC Nat West
Sort Code: 01-07-20
Account Number: 49036955

Please tag any payments with your surname. If it's a regular payment, then please let one of the clergy know that you've set this up, so we can alert the treasurer.

We're hoping to resume our various pre-initial lockdown activities as soon as we are able and, as a church, we will also be looking at possible new ways God might be calling us to explore in our community and wider world as we move through 2021. Please keep our life and mission in your prayers in the coming months, that we may all grow in knowing God better and in making him known through our lives.

The Ministry Team

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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YouTube: [St Mary's Prestwich](https://www.youtube.com/StMarysPrestwich)

Readings for the First Sunday of Christmas – John, Apostle and Evangelist

Collect

Merciful Lord,
cast your bright beams of light upon the Church:
that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John,
we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

A reading from the Book of Exodus *Exodus 33.7-11a*

Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tents. Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then he would return to the camp; but his young assistant, Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the tent.

A reading from the first book of John *1 John 1*

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in

darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *John 21.19b-end*

(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.' Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?' When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about him?' Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!' So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?' This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Post-Communion Prayer

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that the Word made flesh proclaimed by your apostle John
may, by the celebration of these holy mysteries,
ever abide and live within us;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

