



CHRISTMAS 2020

24th December 2020 to 8th

January 2021



Dear Parishioners,

I would like to welcome you all and especially those of you visiting our parish. The feast of Christmas is upon us, for some it will be a time for a well-earned rest, and for others it will highlight the sad loss of a loved one. There may be an empty chair at the table. This year has been marked by the pandemic. It is such a difficult time to celebrate Christmas. Nevertheless, we look to the Christ child with hope for a better future. Jesus the Son of God becomes a Son of Man, to live among us and teach us how to be truly human. He shows us the way to the Father, by his birth, life and death. The angels bring a message for the whole world, peace on earth and joy to men of good will. Let the message of Christmas renew us and bring the love of God deeper into the depths of our hearts. I wish you all a peaceful, joyful and blessed Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Fr. Denis

From a Sermon of Saint Leo, the Great, Pope

Christian, remember your dignity

Dearly beloved, today our Saviour is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life. In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that

very nature by which he had overthrown mankind.

And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: *Glory to God in the highest*, and they proclaim *peace to men of good will* as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvellous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men?

Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, and *when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ*, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom.

Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ.

Christmas 2020 Masses

<u>Thursday 24th</u> <u>Christmas Eve</u> 6.30 pm 8.30 pm	<u>Friday 25th</u> <u>Christmas Day</u> 8.30 am 10.30 am 12 noon	<u>Saturday 26th</u> <u>St Stephens</u> <u>Day</u> 10.00 am
<u>Sunday 27th</u> 8.30 am 10.30 am	<u>Monday 28th</u> 10.00 am	<u>Tuesday 29th</u> 10.00 am
<u>Wednesday 30th</u> 10.00 am	<u>Thursday 31st</u> 10.00 am	

New Year 2021 Masses

<u>New Year's Day</u> <u>1st January</u> <i>Mary the Holy</i> <i>Mother of God</i> 10.00 am	<u>Saturday 2nd</u> 6.30 pm	<u>Sunday 3rd</u> 8.30 am 10.30 am
<u>Monday 4th</u> 7.00 pm	<u>Tuesday 5th</u> No Mass	<u>Wednesday 6th</u> <i>The Feast of</i> <i>the Epiphany</i> 10.00 am
<u>Thursday 7th</u>	<u>Friday 8th</u>	

No Mass

No Mass

obedience, and rebellion; times of being a pilgrim people and times of being a people adrift.

PARISH MASS ON-LINE

Fr. Denis is still celebrating mass online, every Christmas Eve 6.30pm vigil mass, & Christmas day 10.30am. Both masses are available through the Parish Facebook page:

 **Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Canterbury.**

For more information, please go to the parish website:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock>

RC HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Mobile: 07876 526935 Lister: 01438 285518

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



We pray especially for the sick of the parish and for those who care for and support them, especially, Angela Gray, Mairead Kirke, and Dick Worbey. We remember those who have died recently: Carolina Scarinizi, and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Muriel Gyde, Catherine Broadbent, Rena Nedic, Joseph Smyth, Stanley Newcombe, Ethel Brown, Jean Blows, Edward Faulkner, Caterina Scarlino, Michael Ruggieri, Maria Cawley, Elspeth Crerar, Gerald Rose, Nora Manson, Agnes Taylor, John Wakeling, John Monnelly, Alexander Manson, Patricia Newsham, Gerald Barrett and John McKee

A SERMON OF POPE FRANCIS' MIDNIGHT MASS

This prophecy of Isaiah never ceases to touch us, especially when we hear it proclaimed in the liturgy of Christmas Night. This is not simply an emotional or sentimental matter. It moves us because it states the deep reality of what we are: a people who walk, and all around us - and within us as well - there is darkness and light. In this night, as the spirit of darkness enfolds the world, there takes place anew the event which always amazes and surprises us: the people who walk see a great light. A light which makes us reflect on this mystery: the mystery of walking and seeing.

Walking. This verb makes us reflect on the course of history, that long journey, which is the history of salvation, starting with Abraham, our father in faith, whom the Lord called one day to set out, to go forth from his country towards the land which he would show him. From that time on, our identity as believers has been that of a people making its pilgrim way towards the promised land. This history has always been accompanied by the Lord! He is ever faithful to his covenant and to his promises. Because he is faithful, "God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all" (1 Jn 1:5). Yet on the part of the people there are times of both light and darkness, fidelity and infidelity,

In our personal history too, there are both bright and dark moments, lights, and shadows. If we love God and our brothers and sisters, we walk in the light; but if our heart is closed, if we are dominated by pride, deceit, self-seeking, then darkness falls within us and around us. "Whoever hates his brother - writes the Apostle John - is in the darkness; he walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has blinded his eyes" (1 Jn 2:11). A people who walk, but as a pilgrim people who do not want to go astray.

On this night, like a burst of brilliant light, there rings out the proclamation of the Apostle: "God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race" (Tit 2:11).

The grace which was revealed in our world is Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, true and true God. He has entered our history; he has shared our journey. He came to free us from darkness and to grant us light. In him was revealed the grace, the mercy, and the tender love of the Father: Jesus is Love incarnate. He is not simply a teacher of wisdom; he is not an ideal for which we strive while knowing that we are hopelessly distant from it. He is the meaning of life and history, who has pitched his tent in our midst.

The shepherds were the first to see this "tent", to receive the news of Jesus' birth. They were the first because they were among the last, the outcast. And they were the first because they were awake, keeping watch in the night, guarding their flocks. The pilgrim is bound by duty to keep watch and the shepherds did just that. Together with them, let us pause before the Child, let us pause in silence. Together with them, let us thank the Lord for having given Jesus to us, and with them let us raise from the depths of our hearts the praises of his fidelity: We bless you, Lord God most high, who lowered yourself for our sake. You are immense, and you made yourself small; you are rich, and you made yourself poor; you are all-powerful, and you made yourself vulnerable.

On this night let us share the joy of the Gospel: God loves us, he so loves us that he gave us his Son to be our brother, to be light in our darkness. To us the Lord repeats: "Do not be afraid!" (Lk 2:10). As the angels said to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid!". And I also repeat to all of you: Do not be afraid! Our Father is patient, he loves us, he gives us Jesus to guide us on the way which leads to the promised land. Jesus is the light who brightens the darkness. He is mercy: our Father always forgives us. He is our peace. Amen.

(LOOK OUT FOR THE EXTRA SLICE SECTION
AVAILABLE ONLINE/PRINTED IN CHURCH)

THE EXTRA SLICE OF NEWSLETTER AT CHRISTMAS

A NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

A very warm welcome to our Annual Christmas Edition. It contains the usual mixture of quizzes, humour, and things, formatted for both paper and online viewing to reflect that celebrations this year may well be very different for you from those in recent memory. We hope you've found the Newsletter helpful this year as a way of keeping in touch (thank you for tolerating our occasional bloopers, errors, omissions etc) and our thoughts & prayers are with everyone in the Parish who have been impacted to any degree by the challenges 2020 has brought us. Whatever you are able to do this Christmas, we wish you all a very Safe, Holy & Happy Christmas, with best wishes for a Healthy 2021.

2020 QUIZ

With 'Unprecedented' being possibly the most appropriate word to describe 2020, with so much cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic, what can you remember about what did happen?

1. Which artist became the first to win all four major Grammy awards in 2020, collecting Record of the Year, Album of the Year, Song of the Year, and Best New Artist?
2. In February of this year, which country became the first to make all public transport free of charge?
3. In July, NASA launched a mission which will reach its destination on which planet in February 2021?
4. In October New Caledonia had a referendum and decided not to become independent from which country?
5. According to Forbes magazine, which CEO is the first person in history to have a net worth exceeding \$200 billion?
6. It was announced in October that which airline, that went into administration in March, had been bought out and would begin flying again next year?
7. In 2020 who became the first female artist to have a top 40 album in each of the last seven decades?
8. Which writer of historical fiction released the third part of their trilogy 'The Mirror and the Light' in March this year?
9. In March, the country of North Macedonia joined NATO taking the member countries to a total of how many?
10. Actor Frank Windsor sadly passed away in September. His best known acting role was

as Detective Sgt John Watt in which police dramas?

THE CHRISTMAS PUDDING



Charles Dickens in a Christmas Carol helped make Christmas Pudding a very Victorian custom.

"...Mrs Cratchit entered - flushed, but smiling proudly - with the pudding, like a speckled cannon ball, so hard and firm, blazing in half a half a quartern of ignited brandy, and bedight with Christmas Holly stuck into the top. Oh, what a wonderful pudding!"

However, the Christmas pudding has much earlier origins. The pudding we know today began life as a pottage, a kind of broth, including raisins and other dried fruit, spices and wine, thickened with breadcrumbs or ground almonds. It often included meat or at least meat stock and would be served at the start of the meal rather than at the end of the meal as we do today.

It was not until the end of the 17th century that the pottage took on a more solid appearance, served like a porridge or cooked inside a skin. Even then, it was more likely to have been sliced and cooked, served alongside the main meal or as a starter.

During the 18th century, plum porridge would become associated with Christmas & it would be the Victorians who raised its prominence at the festive table.

Originally the puddings would have been shaped into a sphere and boiled in a cloth. This eventually gave way to steaming the dessert in a pudding basin or elaborate mould, particularly in wealthier households, with an accompaniment of a sweet custard or a hard sauce (nowadays known as brandy butter).

It was customary to hide a number of small trinkets in the mixture. These charms often included a silver coin which signified wealth, and a ring to represent a future marriage. Woe betide the guest who stumbled across a thimble in their serving... this meant certain spinsterhood for the recipient!

The plum pudding would come to epitomise Christmas and appeared on greeting cards and in satirical cartoons of the time. Rich or poor, every Victorian would expect a pudding as the finale to their festive meal.

CHRISTMAS ANAGRAMS

1	<i>CONGRESS LIAR (5,7)</i>
2	<i>CAN ASSAULT (5,5)</i>
3	<i>REFRESHED ERUDITE LONDONER (6,3,3,4,8)</i>
4	<i>DRASTIC CHARMS (9,4)</i>
5	<i>IN THE GLINTS (6,5)</i>
6	<i>ENJOY MAD SHARP (4,3,6)</i>
7	<i>UNREADY CABS (6,5)</i>
8	<i>GAP PAWN RIPPER (8,5)</i>
9	<i>I'M A POET MADMEN (9,4)</i>
10	<i>SMART HERETICS (9,4)</i>
11	<i>OFF THE SANE PEST (5,2,7)</i>
12	<i>IN ACTION SLASH (5,8)</i>
13	<i>VICARS THEMES (9,3)</i>
14	<i>HONESTY WARMS FONT (6,3,7)</i>
15	<i>TINY PAY VITAL (8,4)</i>
16	<i>ROBUST SPURLESS (7,7)</i>
17	<i>STREAKY ROUT (5,6)</i>
18	<i>MUDDLING PUP (4,7)</i>
19	<i>WITH FT LENGTH (7,5)</i>
20	<i>BE THE HELM (9)</i>

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP IN 2020

This Year, perhaps more than ever, we cannot thank everyone enough who has supported the Parish through both usual and very unusual times. So, in no particular order whatsoever and with apologies if we have missed you: The Choir; Young at Heart team; Parish Finance Committee; Parish Council; Parish Hall Committee; Building Committee; 200 Club Organisers; Tea and Coffee after Mass team; Parish Gardens & Grounds clearers; Church Cleaners & Sanitisers; First Communion & Confirmation Catechists; Extraordinary Ministers; Mass Readers & Bidding Prayers team; Collection Counters; Children's Liturgy Catechists, Mass Meeter/Greeters and Stewards. Oh yes, the Newsletter Eds too!



Why will Donald Trump have his last White House Christmas Dinner on a plastic plate? He does not get on with China

MOVIEMOJI

Some of these are well known and loved Christmas Films, some not so. Can you name the Film from the Emojis? As a starter,

1. 🏠 😱
2. 🍷 🎯
3. 🌴
4. ❤️ ✅
5. 🎄 ➡️ 😡
6. 🎄 🎄 🎄 🎄
7. 🔔 ➡️ 🔔 ➡️ 🔔
8. 👑 👫
9. 📅 31 ⬅️ 🎄
10. 🎄 📖
11. ❄️
12. 🐷 🐸 🎄 🎵
13. 🎅
14. ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ✅
15. ❌ 👨👩👧👦 🎄
16. 🎄 👑
17. 🚫 🎅
18. 🧑
19. 🌴 📅 31
20. 😍 3 4 🏠

What is Olivia Colman's favourite part of a turkey? The Crown



What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!



2020 Quiz Answers

1. Billie Eilish; 2. Luxembourg; 3. Mars; 4. France; 5. Jeff Bezos (Amazon); 6. Flybe; 7. Shirley Bassey; 8. Hilary Mantel; 9. 30; 10. Z-Cars & Softly Softly

Moviemojis

1. The Polar Express; 2. Elf; 3. The Santa Clause; 4. Home Alone; 5. A Christmas Story; 6. A Christmas Carol; 7. Christmas Vacation; 8. The Nightmare Before Christmas; 9. Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer; 10. How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Christmas Anagrams

Carol Singers, Santa Claus, Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer, Christmas Cards, Silent Night, Mary and Joseph, Brandy Sauce, Wrapping Paper, Pantomime Dame, Christmas Tree, Feast of Stephen, Saint Nicholas, Christmas Eve, Frosty the Snowman, Nativity Play, Brussel Sprouts, Roast Turkey, Plum Pudding, Twelfth Night, Bethlehem