

NEWSLETTER

2ND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

On the Season of Advent

The present season is one of particular importance. It is a sacred season. As the Holy Spirit says; it is a time of Lord's favour, the day of salvation, peace, and reconciliation. The patriarchs and prophets longed and prayed and yearned with all their hearts for this time. That just man Simeon at long last saw this time and his joy was boundless. And the Church has always kept this season in a special way. So, we too must continue to celebrate it fittingly, giving praise and thanks to the eternal Father for the mercy he has shown us in this mystery of the coming of his Only-begotten Son.

The Father sent his Son out of his immeasurable love for us sinners. He sent him to free us from the tyrannical power of the devil, to invite us to heaven, and lead us into its innermost sanctuary. He was sent to show us truth itself, to teach us how we should live, to share with us the source of all goodness, to enrich us with the treasures of his grace. Finally, he was sent to make us sons of the Father and heirs to eternal life.

The Church calls this mystery to mind each year to stir us to renew constantly our memory of the great love God has shown us. This commemoration teaches us that our Saviour came not only for the benefit of the people of his own time. His goodness is still there for us to share in. But, for our part, through faith and the sacraments, we must lay hold on the grace he won for us and live by its obedience to him.

The Church wants us to understand that as he came once into the world in the flesh, so now, if we remove all barriers, he is ready to come to us again at any minute or hour, to make his home spiritually within us in all his grace.

Like a devoted mother, keenly concerned for our salvation, the Church uses the rites of this season, its hymns, songs, and other utterances of the Holy Spirit to teach us a lesson. She knows us how to receive this great gift of God with thankfulness and how to be enriched by its possession. She teaches that our hearts should be as prepared now for the coming of Christ our Lord as if he were still to come into the world. The Fathers also have taught us the same lesson, giving us words and examples from the Old Testament to imitate.

St Charles Borromeo

Sunday 6th December lets pray together- *"This Tuesday we will be celebrating the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this day, let us remember all unborn children, especially those recently conceived. That safety, protection and love would be granted to them, and that we the church, with the intercession of Our Lady, would take on the call to support these precious children of God. Lord hear us"*.

MASS INTENTIONS

December 5th, 2020

6pm - Pro Populo

December 29th, 2020

9am—Ints of Anthony
Shevlin

11am— Holy Souls

For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

Confession

**Spiritual
Communion**

Jesus!

My God and my All
my soul longs for thee.

My heart yearns to
receive thee in

Holy Communion, come, O
Lord.

Bread of heaven and food of
angels to nourish my soul
heal my body and to rejoice
my heart

come most lovable friend of
my soul,

to inflame me with such love
that I may never again be
ever separated from thee.

Amen

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading; Isaiah 40; 1-5, 9-11,
Psalm 84; 9-14, responsive v 8
2nd Reading - Peter 3: 8-14
Gospel – Mark 1;1-8

1st Reading; Isaiah 61; 1-2, 10-11,
Psalm Luke 1; 46-50, 53-54, responsive Isaiah 61:10
2nd Reading - Thessalonians 5: 16-24
Gospel – John 1;6-8; 19-28

Forgive our Sins

Advent reminds me of my sinfulness and my need for forgiveness. especially, when I look back at the year. Those times that I offended my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I have to call out my sins and of mankind. This year in particular we had to deal with COVID and the uncertainties it brought. I suffered from it but I was spared the hospital by God's good grace. Others have succumbed to it and passed away, leaving an empty void for those that were left behind.

Our Liturgy, speaks not of despair but of hope. Despite all that is happening around us-we are certain that God will come to save us. He is ever running towards his sinful creation to wipe away our tears, and to banish our guilt, offering to us his forgiving love. One may say, yes, we are aware of our miseries. Are we? more often we confuse sin with self-disgust, self-disillusionment which you and I suffer from. I might say, that we have an image of what we are like or want to be like and feel that we have fallen short and feel embarrassed and even lose face in the presence of others. The bottom line is that we wail about our human poverty, which we would like our Lord to remove from us. It seems we tend to focus on this than on the sin, while we are so pre-occupied, fighting against it, we cannot see where the real sin is. We need to cultivate awareness of our sinfulness which is part of holiness. Sure, we all want to be holy and we cannot have it unless we acknowledge the sin, it's the effect of God's closeness; could this be the reason that true sorrow for sin is never morbid, depressed. It carries the certainty of forgiveness.

Loving Lord, come and enlighten us this Advent. Show us, the sloth, pride, our running away from the demands of life, our constant evasions. Reveal our true sinfulness in the light of your mercy, for then Lord we shall be healed and then come to know the true joy.

Fr. Christopher

"In the Virgin Mary, natural feminine intuition is exalted by her most singular union with God in prayer... "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Lk 2:19)... Someone has compared Mary's heart to a pearl of incomparable splendour, formed and smoothed by patient acceptance of God's will through the mysteries of Jesus meditated in prayer. How beautiful it would be if we too could be a bit like our Mother! With a heart open to God's Word, with a silent heart, with an obedient heart, with a heart that knows how to receive God's Word and allows it to grow with the seed of good for the Church." Pope

"At times, we think that to be Christian means not to do harm. And not doing harm is good. But not doing good is not good. We must do good, come out of ourselves and look, look at those who are more in need. There is so much hunger, even in the heart of our cities; and many times we enter into that logic of indifference: the poor person is there, and we look the other way. Hold out your hand to the poor person: it is Christ. Some say: "But these priests, these bishops who talk about the poor, the poor... We want them to talk to us about eternal life!" Look, brother and sister, the poor are at the heart of the Gospel; it is Jesus who taught us to speak to the poor; it is Jesus who came for the poor. Hold out your hand to the poor. You have received many things, and you let your brother, your sister die of hunger?" Pope Francis

"Mary was praying when the Archangel Gabriel came to bring his message to her in Nazareth. Her small yet immense "Here I am", which made all of creation jump for joy at that moment, had been preceded throughout salvation history by many other "Here I am", by much-trusting obedience's, by many who were open to God's will. There is no better way to pray than to place oneself like Mary in an attitude of openness, with a heart open to God: "Lord, what you want, when you want, and how you want." That is, a heart open to God's will. And God always responds." Pope Francis

First Holy Communion

After Thursday's parent's meeting. It was noticed some parents were unable to attend. Could you contact the Parish Office to collect the books with payment. The cost of the books £ 40.00 Course one Reconciliation £20.00 Course two Communion £20.00 The baptism certificate of your child must be delivered to the office before the course commence. Dates of the sessions:

Frist Penance—Book 1

1. 10th January; 2. 17th January; 3. 24th January; 4. 31st January, 5. 7th February, 6. 21st February

with Frist Reconciliation on 27th February.

First Communion—Book 2

1. 7th March; 2. 14th March; 3. 21st March; 4. 28th March; 5. 18th April; 6. 25th April with First Communion on 1st May

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Sunday, 20th December 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 9am & 11am Sunday
Confession on Saturday - 5pm – 5.45 pm

Thursday, 24th December 2020

Christmas Eve

4.00pm
6.00pm
12.00 midnight

Senior Citizens' Mass for Christmas
Children's Mass for Christmas
Midnight Mass of Christmas

Friday, 25th December 2020

Christmas Day

11am

Mass of Christmas Day



Sunday, 27th December

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 9am & 11am Sunday

28th December 2020

No Mass

29th December 2020

10.30 am Mass

30th December 2020

No Mass

31st December 2020

10.30am Mass

1st January 2021

10.30 am Mass

Sunday, 3rd January 2021

Second Sunday after Nativity

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 9am & 11am Sunday

From 4th January 2020

all Masses at usual times

6th January 2021

The Epiphany of the Lord

9.15am & 8pm Mass



CAFOD's Advent parish resources and prayers include [Advent prayer cards](#) (one for each week), a series of daily [Advent reflections](#), [online prayer events](#), an online carol service guide with a carol sheet, a chance to join or organise a fun run and other social events. For more information on all of these please see cafod.org.uk/parishes

Those who might be in Need

If you are aware of anyone who might be in need at this difficult time, do let the parish office know, by giving their details after having consulted with them. We can assist with food vouchers and one of our neighbours are willing to help with groceries. Do let us know if anyone might need help.

Thank you, Fr Christopher

Providing digital support for housebound elderly during COVID 19

St. Edmunds are delighted to offer isolated residents digital and telephone support. As the coronavirus continues, loneliness affects more people. Life can feel overwhelming. Reaching out to others may feel like a challenge at times, and knowing where to look for advice is sometimes hard.

Knowing where you can get help to cope with loneliness can be a lifeline such as where you can find help accessing essentials like prescriptions and food. Our signposting can offer advice about where to turn for financial help with money, rent and bills.

For more information on this service, please contact Dymphna Dale - Trained Befriender

on 07539 078 072 or email Dymphnasdesigns@aol.com

