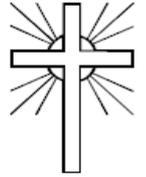


ALL SAINTS, OLD GLOSSOP, AND ST MARY CROWNED, GLOSSOP

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NOTTINGHAM

REGISTERED OFFICE: WILLSON HOUSE, 25 DERBY ROAD, NOTTINGHAM. NG1 5AW

COMPANY NUMBER 7151646 CHARITY NUMBER 1134449



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2017

Sundays 24th & 31st December 2017



Today we celebrate the liturgy of the 4th Sunday of Advent.....

However we all have an eye on the big day tomorrow whose Liturgical celebrations begin this evening! This makes it a very short Advent! It has been an eventful one with you reaching out to the needy and hungry with your work at cornerstones in Manchester <http://cornerstonecds.org.uk> and your ongoing support for the local bare necessities foodbank. You have been knitting squares for blanket making, and continued your wonderful fundraising efforts for our two magnificent local Churches and for our needy brothers and sisters abroad. You have been creative in your endeavours with a wonderful Christmas band concert, and a play written, performed and directed by home talent.

These activities are an essential part of the Churches mission, and give us the opportunity of putting into practice the corporate works of mercy.

We remain committed to the will and mind of Jesus Christ through his Church, and through the prayer of the Mass and other celebrations of the Sacraments worship and praise him who promised to be with us until the end of time.

Thank you for everything that you do to keep the local Church vibrant and alive.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you and all of your families a very Happy Christmas, and I look forward to working with you once more in the new year! (FG)

Mgr Jonathan Moore sends us all his blessings, and wishes us all a Happy Christmas and New Year. He goes on to say "This year I decided not to buy Christmas cards and presents, but instead used the money to fund the provision of clean drinking water for a community in the 3rd world. The CAFOD world gift is not for one day, or even one year. I am glad to share it with my family and friends." – What an excellent idea. We should all do that next year. (FG)

We wish all our sister Churches in the town a Happy Christmas, and thank them for all the support that they have given us during the past 12 months. May the message of Christ take root in Glossop through the words, actions and gestures of all Christ's followers. We look forward to working with them in the new year, especially during the season of Lent where we shall once again have a concerted effort to come together in prayer every week. Details of that venture to follow in 2018.

Elfriede Gzokan RIP – Please remember in your Masses and Prayers Elfriede Gzokan who died last week. Her funeral service will take place at St Mary Crowned Church on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 at 12 Noon. Our prayerful condolences to her family.

May she rest in peace. Amen. (FG)

Thoughts from today's Readings:

Gospel Reading: Luke 1 : 26-38

What was Mary doing at the moment of the Annunciation? We smile at the question - but pursue it. Here is the moment of the most wonderful compliment a woman ever heard: You have been chosen by God to be the mother of the Messiah. Would God choose any moment for such a beautiful overwhelming compliment? No. It must have been a moment always to recall with utter joy, Mary knowing God could not have chosen a more wonderful moment.

The hints are there in the carefully structured story and we can glimpse the Evangelist's imagination of the setting in the mysterious dialogue between Mary and Gabriel.

Was she reading and meditating the lovely passage in Isaiah (7:10-14) and wondering about the woman who would be chosen to bear Emmanuel?

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Our offerings last week:

	Loose	Envelopes	S/O	Total
All Saints	£110.88	£234.65	£120.00	£465.53
St Mary's	£151.22	£220.40	£261.00	£632.62

Thank you for your generosity.

Parish Rotas: Weekend of **30th / 31st December**

Sacristans: All Saints, 6pm Chris & Anna, 11am Chris; St Mary's, Liz;

Welcomers: All Saints, 6pm TBA, 11am TBA;

St Mary's, Jean McM & Chris P;

Ministers: All Saints, 6pm Eileen & Geetha, 11am Maddie & Peter B; St Mary's, TBA;

Readers: All Saints, 6pm Peter B, 11am John T;

St Mary's, Margaret, Liz & David B;

Bidding Prayers: Peter G (following week – Jim T)

WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES. It has been noticed that some packs of envelopes have the wrong church name on in a few of the envelopes per pack. If this is the case for you, please change the church name on the envelope and hand in as normal. Many thanks.

Parish Retreat Follow Up:

The next meeting will be on **Friday 12th January at 7.30pm** in St Mary's Parish Hall.

At the last meeting we followed Session Four on DVD "Unwrapping God's Gift".

After Christmas we will complete the Programme by following the final two Sessions on the DVD, "A Personal Pentecost" and "Living In The Spirit".

The Sessions are open to anyone who would like to attend. **All are welcome.**

CORNERSTONE VOLUNTEERS and DONATIONS.

We have just completed another week of evening support at Cornerstone. One of our parishioners summed it up beautifully "...a really fantastic place. Wonderful to experience the Church and love of God in action." Thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to the homeless. Many thanks for your generous warm clothing donations, they are greatly appreciated. Dates for supporting: w/b 15 January, 12 February, 12 March.

Confessions: St Mary's – Saturday 10.15 – 10.45am

All Saints - Saturday 5.15 – 5.45pm

Parish Mass Book: Sunday: **Gloria p.9; Readings, p. 90; Creed p.11; Preface p. 31; Eucharistic. Prayer, p. 31**

			All Saints	St Mary's
Saturday	23 rd	December	6.00 pm Vigil Mass Jimmy King RIP	
Sunday	24 th	December	11.00 am Mass Timothy Greenhalgh RIP	9.30 am Mass Bernard O'Hare RIP 5.30 pm Carols 6.00 pm Vigil Christmas Mass People of the Parish
Fourth Sunday of Advent Eucharistic Prayer No 4 (Violet) The Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity (White)				
Monday	25 th	December	11.00 am Mass Howard Mellor, Anthony Mellor, and Kevin Fallon RIP	
The Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity (White)				
Tuesday	26 th	December		No Service Today
Wednesday	27 th	December	10.00 am Mass Paul Buczko RIP	
St John, Apostle & Evangelist (White)				
Thursday	28 th	December		10.00 am Mass Theo & Alice Burton RIP
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (Red)				
Friday	29 th	December	10.00 am Service of Word and Holy Communion	
St Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop & Martyr; Patron of Pastoral Clergy in England & Wales (Red)				
Saturday	30 th	December	6.00 pm Vigil Mass Hugh Madden RIP	10.00 am Exposition/Confessions 10.45 am Benediction 11.00 am Mass Margaret Learmouth RIP
Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord (White)				
Sunday	31 st	December	11.00 am Mass People of the Parish	9.30 am Mass Violet Longson – Christmas Blessing
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Feast (White) Christmas Eucharistic Prayer				



*A happy and
peaceful
Christmas to all
our parishioners*

Thoughts on our Christmas Gospel Reading Lk 2:1-20

"There was no room for them"

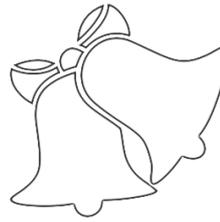
Jesus is born in extreme poverty. It is not just a matter of the material destitution of his family. It is much more than this. He is born far from the village where his parents live, far from the love of relatives and friends, far from the comfort of the paternal home, even though poor. He is born among strangers who do not care for him and only offer a manger for his birth.

We see here the great mystery of the incarnation. Paul will say, "he was rich, but he became poor for your sake, to make you rich out of his poverty" (2 Cor 8:9). The prologue of John's Gospel affirms that although it is through him that the world came to be, Jesus, the Word made flesh, "he came to his own domain, and his own people did not accept him" (Jn 1:11). It is this drama that marks the whole of Jesus' life, coming to its culmination in the absolute rejection at the proceedings before Pilate (see Jn 18:28-19:16). In the final analysis, it is the drama of God who reveals himself and gives himself constantly to humanity and is so often rejected.

A sign to be deciphered

However, it must be said that it was not easy for his contemporaries to recognise Jesus. It is never easy for anyone, not even today, to recognise him for what he really is. Only God's revelation can unveil his mystery (see for example Jn 5:37; 6:45). In the story of his birth, the aim of the angelic message is precisely that of revealing his mystery.

In fact, our text is made up of three parts. In vv. 1-7 we have the fact of the birth of Jesus in a clear context. It is the birth of a boy like so many other boys. Verses 8-14 tell us about the message by an angel and the vision of angels who sing. It is God's revelation (see v.15) that allows us to discover in the "sign" of "a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (v. 12) "Christ the Lord" (v.11). In the last part (vv. 15-20), we come across various reactions to the revelation of the mystery. When the sign that God offers is received with humility, it marks the beginning of a journey of faith towards him who reveals himself.



A Poem for Reflection - Behold I Stand

When the night is deep with the sense of Christmas
And expectancy hangs heavy on every breath
Behold I stand at the door and knock

When the floor is knee deep in discarded
wrapping paper

And the new books are open at page one
And the new toys are already broken
Behold I stand at the door and knock.

When the family is squashed elbow to elbow
around the table

And the furious rush for food is over
And the only word that can describe the feeling is

FULL

Behold I stand at the door and knock

And when Christmas is over and the television is silent
For the first time in two days

And who sent which card to whom is forgotten
until next year

Behold I stand at the door

And when the nation has finished celebrating
Christmas without Christ

A birthday without a birth

The coming of a Kingdom without a King

And when I am Forgotten;

Despised; Rejected; Crucified

Behold I stand.

Author Unknown



WEEKEND OF 30th/31st DECEMBER & WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY 1ST JANUARY

Confessions: St Mary's – Saturday 10.15 – 10.45am All Saints - Saturday 5.15 – 5.45pm
Parish Mass Book: Sunday: **Gloria** p.9; **Readings**, p. 105 ; **Creed** p.11; **Preface** p. 65; **Eucharistic. Prayer**, p. 18

	All Saints	St Mary's
Saturday 30 th December	6.00 pm Vigil Mass <i>Jimmy King RIP</i>	
Sunday 31 st December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Feast <i>(White)</i> <i>Christmas Eucharistic Prayer</i>	11.00 am Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>	9.30 am Mass <i>Violet Longson – Christmas Blessing</i>
Monday 1 st January <i>Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Solemnity</i> <i>(White)</i>	10.00 am Mass <i>Maureen Burke RIP</i>	
Tuesday 2 nd January		<i>No Service Today</i>
Wednesday 3 rd January <i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i> (White)	10.00 am Mass <i>Family & Friends of the Borgini Family</i>	
Thursday 4 th January <i>Thursday before the Epiphany</i> (White)	12.00 noon Funeral Service <i>Elfriede Gzokan RIP</i>	10.00 am Mass <i>Eileen Higgins RIP</i>
Friday 5 th January <i>Friday before the Epiphany</i> (White)	10.00 am Mass <i>Vittoria Sonczak RIP</i>	
Saturday 6 th January <i>Saturday before the Epiphany</i> (White)	6.00 pm Vigil Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>	10.00 am Exposition/Confessions 10.45 am Benediction 11.00 am Mass <i>Margaret Mary Leahy RIP</i>
Sunday 7 th January The Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity <i>(White)</i> <i>Eucharistic Prayer: number 1</i>	11.00 am Mass <i>Hastings & Tyrell Families</i>	9.30 am Mass <i>Christina Warburton – Christmas Blessing</i>

Parish Rotas: Weekend of 6th / 7th January

Sacristans: All Saints, 6pm Joan R, 11am Sandra & Natalie; St Mary's, Chris;

Welcomers: All Saints, 6pm TBA, 11am TBA; St Mary's, Brenda & Michael;

Ministers: All Saints, 6pm Monica & David, 11am Ann & Chris; St Mary's, TBA;

Readers: All Saints, 6pm TBA, 11am TBA; St Mary's, Chris, David H & Jan;

Bidding Prayers: Jim T (*following week – Wynn*)

Parish Notices:

All Saints Draw: The winner of the November £100 prize was Cath Broadbent.

St Mary's 100+ Club:

November Winners: 1st Prize, £17, E & C Tune; 2nd Prize, £10.20, Sylvia D; 3rd Prize, £ Tina C.

Christmas Draw Prizes: Please collect or deliver any unclaimed Draw Prizes, if left over in the New Year unclaimed prizes will be re-cycled for the next event.

The Gate of the Year

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
 "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
 That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."
 So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
 And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Minnie Louise Haskins