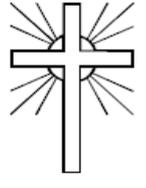


ALL SAINTS, OLD GLOSSOP, AND ST MARY CROWNED, GLOSSOP
 THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NOTTINGHAM
 REGISTERED OFFICE: WILLSON HOUSE, 25 DERBY ROAD, NOTTINGHAM. NG1 5AW
 COMPANY NUMBER 7151646 CHARITY NUMBER 1134449



CHRISTMAS 2018

Sunday 23rd December & Christmas 2018



Happy Christmas to you all! Today we celebrate the liturgy of the 4th Sunday of Advent.....However we all have an eye on the big day Tuesday whose Liturgical celebrations begin tomorrow evening! It has been a 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, stalls at the Christmas markets, and a play written, performed and directed by home talent. I was honoured to have a dog named after me!

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 (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. (FG)

Patrick Wilkes RIP – We were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of our friend Patrick Wilkes, a Welcomer at All Saints Evening Mass.

May he rest in peace. Amen.

Michael Slugocki RIP – The funeral service for Michael will take place on Friday 11th January at 11am at SMC.

May he rest in peace. Amen (FG)

We welcome Fr Paul Chipchase back to his home town on St Stephen's day. Fr Paul will be saying Mass for us at 10am at All Saints Church. (FG)



Bare Necessities Food Bank –

Helping High Peak families in crisis. Donation boxes will be at the back of our churches until the end of January. The simplest way to support the foodbank is by adding one or two items to your regular shopping basket. Donations of tins, jars, cereals, UHT milk, tea and coffee are all very welcome. Thank you!

CLOTHES AND KNITTING COLLECTION

Thank you for your very generous donations of warm clothing, crocheted baby blankets and knitted squares. The clothes have been gratefully received at Cornerstone and will certainly help the growing numbers of homeless people in Manchester. The clothes and knitting collection boxes will be in our churches until the end of December.

An Evening with Father Greg:

There will be evening with Fr Greg on Saturday 12th January at 7.30pm in St Mary's Hall. Please come along to show your appreciation to Fr Greg for all he has done for us here in Glossop, and to wish him well in his future in Derby. There will be a shared table for the celebration, lists are in both churches for contributions, please bring your own drinks.

Parish Clergy Fr Gregory Tobin PP Tel: 01457 852113
Postal address Royle House, Church St, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 7RJ
Parish Newsletter Editor Liz Nash **Sub-Editor** Maddy Brown
Website www.glossopcatholics.com

Parish Rotas: Weekend of 29th / 30th December

Sacristans: All Saints, 6pm Cynthia W; 11am Chris M;
St Mary's, Liz;

Welcomers: All Saints, 6pm Gee; 11am Sue B;
St Mary's, Abi Whitehead & Orla Brown;

Ministers: All Saints, 6pm Eileen & Joan; Ann & Peter G;
St Mary's, John, Barbara & Steve;

Readers: All Saints, 6pm, Cath McM, 11am John T;
St Mary's, Chris, David H & Jan;

Bidding Prayers: Chris (following week – Wynn)

* * * * *

Parish Rotas: Weekend of 5th / 6th January

Sacristans: All Saints, 6pm Margaret McC & Barbara P;
11am Sandra & Natalie; St Mary's, Chris;

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

Ministers: All Saints, 6pm Joan & Eileen; 11am Ann &
Doreen; St Mary's, TBA;

Readers: All Saints, 6pm, TBA, 11am TBA;
St Mary's, Wynn, Louise & Samantha B;

Bidding Prayers: Chris (following week – Liz)

Bidding Prayers for Christmas Masses: Wynn

* * * * *

Thoughts from Today's First Reading: Micah 5 : 1-4

The prophet's name is similar to "Michael" and means the same; "Who is like God"

His home was at Moresheth, about twenty miles south west of Jerusalem, and he seems to have written about the same time as Isaiah and Jeremiah (approximately 716-687 BC).

The book opens with warnings for Israel about their crimes against God. Samaria will become a ruin and Jerusalem is under threat; the rich have forgotten their duties to the poor (Micah seems to have been of peasant stock) and they are inviting disaster; rulers have failed the people and false prophets have deceived them.

Micah accepts the taunts of the people, unafraid, because he can look forward to the Day of the Lord which he explains in a beautiful passage at the beginning of chapter four. He promises that the Lord will rescue the people from siege, exile and the power of the pagans - and new promise will come from Bethlehem, David's city.

Today's lyrical passage is the promise: "From David's line, from the chosen woman, the Messiah will come".

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During Advent and Christmastide,
we pray for these intentions:

Openness to the Word of God,
Migrants and Refugees,
Expectant Mothers and
Survivors of sexual abuse. (FG)

* * * * *

Come let us
Adore
Him



Prayer for Christmas and the Epiphany

*What shall we present to you, O Christ,
for your coming to earth for us?*

*Each of your creation
brings you a thank-offering:*

*the angels - singing;
the heavens - a star;
the wise men - treasures;
the shepherds - devotion;
the earth - a cave;
the desert - a manger:*

*but we offer you the virgin-mother.
O eternal God, have mercy upon us.*

© the Orthodox Liturgy

Confessions: St Mary's – Saturday 10.05 – 10.45am All Saints - Saturday 5.15 – 5.45pm
Parish Mass Book: Sunday: Gloria - ; Readings, p. 90; Creed p.11; Preface p. 31; Eucharistic. Prayer, p. 31
Christmas Masses: Gloria p.9; Readings, p. 94/102; Creed p.11; Preface p. 66; Eucharistic. Prayer, p. 28
Sunday 30th December: Gloria p.9; Readings, p. 105; Creed p.11; Preface p. 67; Eucharistic. Prayer, p. 18

| | | | All Saints | St Mary's |
|------------------|------------------|----------|--|--|
| Saturday | 22 nd | December | 6.00 pm Vigil Mass Ursula Stokes RIP - Christmas Memories | |
| Sunday | 23 rd | December | 11.00 am Mass Timothy Greenhalgh RIP 6.00 pm Vespers | 9.30 am Mass Kitty & Bill Mellor RIP - Christmas Memories |
| Monday | 24 th | December | | 5.30 pm Carols 6.00 pm Vigil Mass of the Nativity of the Lord People of the Parish |
| Tuesday | 25 th | December | 11.00 am Mass Anthony & Howard Mellor, and Kevin Fallon RIP | |
| Wednesday | 26 th | December | 10.00 am Mass Cynthia Warburton - Christmas Blessing | |
| Thursday | 27 th | December | | 10.00 am Mass Sylvia & David Divall - Christmas Blessing |
| Friday | 28 th | December | 10.00 am Mass Ernest Hall RIP | |
| Saturday | 29 th | December | 6.00 pm Vigil Mass Private Intention – Barbara Wyche | No Confessions Today 10.30 am Exposition 11.00 am Service of Word & Holy Communion |
| Sunday | 30 th | December | 11.00 am Mass People of the Parish | 9.30 am Mass Margaret Clarke - Christmas Blessing |
| Monday | 31 st | December | 10.00 am Mass Thomas Roche - Birthday Memories | |
| Tuesday | 1 st | January | | 10.00 am Mass Violet Longson - Christmas Blessing |
| Wednesday | 2 nd | January | 10.00 am Mass Christine Worthington - Christmas Blessing | |
| Thursday | 3 rd | January | | 10.00 am Mass Joan & Terry Graham - Christmas Blessing |
| Friday | 4 th | January | 10.00 am Mass Muriel Doyle Barnes - Christmas Memories | 1.00 pm Funeral Service Gertrude Morgan RIP |
| Saturday | 5 th | January | 6.00 pm Vigil Mass Deceased Members of the Gallagher, Shockledge & Waite Families | 10.00 am Exposition/Confessions 10.45 am Benediction 11.00 am Mass Anne Walsh - Christmas Blessing |
| Sunday | 6 th | January | 11.00 am Mass People of the Parish | 9.30 am Mass Barbara Burns - Christmas Memories |

Thoughts on the Gospel Reading for Christmas Day, John 1:1-18

Four Masses are celebrated for the feast of Christmas, and each is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ's birth. The Gospel for the Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel, but this Gospel is not an Infancy Narrative.

Instead, John's Gospel begins at the beginning, as it were, and presents the Creation story as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words, "In the beginning . . .," echo the opening verse of the Book of Genesis. This framework invites us to view Jesus' birth from God's perspective.

Each of the Gospels makes clear that Jesus' birth was the result of God's initiative. However, John's Gospel highlights that this was the divine intention from the very beginning, from the moment of Creation.

As we observe in today's reading, the Gospel of John includes highly philosophical and theological language. One example that particularly stands out is John's use of the expression, "Word of God (*logos*)."

This borrows from a concept found in both Jewish and Greek thought. In Jewish thought, this phrase describes God taking action—for example, in the Creation story and in the Wisdom literature.

In Greek thought, the *logos* was understood as an intermediary between God and humanity. John and others in the early Church adopted this language to describe God's incarnation in Jesus.

As the term was used to express the trinitarian faith of Christians, the word *Logos* came to be equated with the Second Person of the Trinity.

Here, the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel are introduced. These themes are presented as dualities: light/darkness, truth/falsehood, life/death, and belief/unbelief.

We also hear a unique aspect of John's Gospel—the motif of testimony.

John the Baptist was sent by God to testify about Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witness to Jesus, the Son of God.

But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will themselves testify to his identity with God as God's Incarnate Word.

Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms seems particularly appropriate as we celebrate the feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter.

At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation,

God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children.

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REFLECTION:

Father of light, I come to you with my whole being.

After going through times of goodness and times of slipping into evil I finally understand, because of my experience, that alone I only exist in shadow and darkness.

Without your light I cannot see anything. Indeed, you are the source of life; you, Sun of justice, who opens my eyes, you the way that leads to the Father.

Today you have come among us, eternal Word, as light that goes on crossing the pages of history to offer humankind the gifts of grace and joy in the desert of famine and emptiness: the bread and wine of your holy Name, which at the hour of the cross will become visible signs of consummated love, give us birth with you from that fertile side that is the Church, the cradle of your life for us.

Like Mary, we wish to stay by your side to learn to be like her, full of grace from the Most High.

And when our tents will welcome the cloud of the Spirit in the radiance of one more word, we shall understand the Glory of your Face and we shall bless in an adoring silence without any further hesitation the Beauty of being one with you, living Word of God.

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