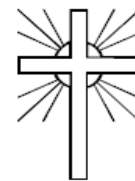


ALL SAINTS, OLD GLOSSOP, AND ST MARY CROWNED, GLOSSOP

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NOTTINGHAM

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

COMPANY NUMBER 7151646 CHARITY NUMBER 1134449



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL 2019

Sunday 22nd December, Christmas, & Sunday 29th December 2019

Advent

Our final weekly reflection for advent:

Week 4: Repentance and Renewal

During Advent we honor the descendants of the House of David, a royal line who point the way to the Messiah. King David himself is a fascinating mix of courage & cowardice. He slew the giant warrior Goliath with a single slingshot when he was still a boy, but as king he succumbed to venal desires with deadly consequences. His later repentance is well documented in the Book of Psalms.

Poor David—he did so well for a while, uniting Israel and making it mighty—but then let power go to his head. He saw beautiful Bathsheba and decided he wanted her for his own, even though she was the wife of Uriah, one of his most dedicated soldiers.

Why, when he could have had any young maiden he wanted, did David choose Bathsheba? How could he betray someone who served him so loyally? Perhaps historian and moralist Lord Acton offers the best explanation: "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

In a time when we moderns are sickened by waste and greed, David's arrogance seems all too familiar. No matter how much some of us have, we want more—and worse yet, we think we deserve more. How does one get off this treadmill of selfishness and one-upmanship?

Psalm 36 outlines David's problem: Sinners close their eyes to God and "live with the delusion their guilt will not be known and hated." But in reality, sinners live in misery: "My frame aches because of my sin" (Psalm 38). The solution offered—one that John the Baptist and Jesus affirm centuries later—is to repent and turn one's heart and mind to God.

The descriptions of David's anguish and guilt are reassuring. Guilt is a sign that one still has a conscience—a connection with God that, though frayed, is not completely severed. Advent is a good time for us to examine our own consciences and ask ourselves: What gnaws at me? Which of my actions do I know to be dishonest, hurtful, or demeaning to others? What can I do to restore my relationship with God and others?

For more soul-searching questions and faith-filled answers, read the Book of Psalms.

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Christmas Services:

Tuesday 24th December: St Mary's Church:

5.15 pm: Readings and Carols

6.00 pm: Vigil Mass of Christmas

Wednesday 25th December: All Saints Church:

10.30 am: Christmas Day Mass

Thoughts from today's Gospel Reading: Mt 1: 18 - 25

Joseph and Mary live in Bethlehem. Nazareth is not mentioned until chapter 2 when Joseph decides to go there to be safe from the new king, Archelaus, son of Herod. The wise men visit the home where the Holy Family dwell.

Today's reading is set in Bethlehem. Mary would be the first to know she was with child. She would have told Joseph as he had absolute right to know that his betrothed was with child.

No one else knew - there would be no external sign of pregnancy for a while. It is irreverent to suggest that Joseph simply noticed Mary was pregnant. She knew she was with child and she told him.

Now Joseph's dilemma. He and Mary know the truth, the child is God's child but no one else would believe that. Mary would be accused of adultery because she would have to admit Joseph was not the father, and she could be stoned to death.

Joseph's further pain is that he cannot ask Mary to marry him and bear his children because God has already chosen her to bear the divine child.

If Joseph divorces her formally she will be condemned; but if he divorces her informally, breaking the engagement, paying compensation to her and the family (because she is with child), he faces the scorn of the people who will think he has deserted her. That is what he decides but God reassures him.

This is a Gospel reading of love, faith and suffering.

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A Humble Christmas Prayer

We pray for joy in our hearts,

Hope in our God, love to forgive,

And peace upon the earth. ...

Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and power.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Parish Clergy	PP: Fr Martin Sylvester, STB, MA	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.org.uk	
The Glossop Catholic Parishes are bound by Diocesan Privacy Policy – see http://dioceseofnottingham.uk/privacy-policy		

Parish events this week				
SMC = St Mary Crowned Church			AS = All Saints Church	SMS = St Mary's School
Sat	21 st	Dec	6.00 pm	AS Holy Mass (People of the Parish)
Sun	22 nd	Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent - Readings p. 90	
			9.15 am	SMC Holy Mass (Vera Harvey RIP)
			11.15 am	AS Holy Mass (Timothy David Greenhalgh RIP)
Mon	23 rd	Dec	St John of Kanty, Priest	
			10.00 am	AS Holy Mass (Ursula Stokes RIP (JH))
Tues	24 th	Dec	5.15 pm	SMC Readings and Carols
			6.00 pm	SMC Vigil Mass of Christmas (Tony Payne RIP)
Weds	25 th	Dec	The Nativity of the Lord – Christmas Day	
			10.30 am	AS Holy Mass (Anthony & Howard Mellor & Kevin Fallon RIP)
Thurs	26 th	Dec	St Stephen, Proto-Martyr	
			10.00 am	SMC Holy Mass (Muriel Doyle Barnes RIP)
Fri	27 th	Dec	St John, Apostle & Evangelist Fr Paul Chipchase will say Mass today	
			10.00 am	AS Holy Mass (Christine Moorfield – Get Well (SB))
Sat	28 th	Dec	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs Fr Paul Chipchase will say Mass today	
			9.30 am	AS Holy Mass (Ron Puggsley & Edith – Christmas Blessing (BB))
			5.15–5.45pm	AS Sacrament of Reconciliation
			6.00 pm	AS Holy Mass (People of the Parish)
Sun	29 th	Dec	The Holy Family - Readings p. 106	
			9.15 am	SMC Holy Mass (Margaret Clarke – Christmas Blessing (CW))
			11.15 am	AS Holy Mass (Special Intention – Sister Mary Colette)
Mon	30 th	Dec	10.00 am	AS Holy Mass (Ernest Hall RIP)
Tues	31 st	Dec	St Sylvester I, Pope	
			10.00 am	SMC Holy Mass (Kitty & Bill Mellor – Christmas Memories RIP)
Weds	1 st	Jan	MARY, The Holy Mother of God	
			10.00 am	AS Holy Mass (Thanksgiving (CW))
Thurs	2 nd	Jan	SS Basil the Great, & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors	
			10.00 am	SMC Holy Mass (Hilda Waldron RIP (JH))
			Please pray for today's meeting of the Building & Site Committee	
Fri	3 rd	Jan	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	
			10.00 am	AS Holy Mass (Patrick Shanahan RIP)
Sat	4 th	Jan	10.00 am	SMC Exposition & Sacrament of Reconciliation
			10.45 am	SMC Benediction
			6.00 pm	AS Holy Mass (Holy Souls)
Sun	5 th	Jan	Epiphany of the Lord – Readings p. 115	
			9.15 am	SMC Holy Mass (Alish McMullan RIP)
			11.15 am	AS Holy Mass (People of the Parish)

Our offerings last week: <i>Thank you for your generosity.</i>					All Saints Christmas Roses: If you would like to buy a Christmas Rose for a loved one, please put £1.50 in the basket in church.
	Loose	Envelopes	S/O	Total	
All Saints	£85.30	£147.00	£129.00	£361.30	
St Mary's	£170.45	£154.00	£225.00	£549.45	
Many thanks for your support for the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund:					AS £ 79.70 ; SMC £27.60
Parish Rotas: Weekend of 28th / 29th December					
Sacristans: All Saints, 6pm Cynthia W; 11.15am Chris; St Mary's, Chris;					
Welcomers: All Saints, 6pm Sue O'C; 11.15am Sue B; St Mary's, Beatrice & John;					
Ministers: All Saints, 6pm Maddy & Peter B; 11.15am Barbara & Ann; St Mary's, Rita, Doreen & Jan;					
Readers: All Saints, 6pm, Joan H, 11.15am Natalie; St Mary's, Jan, Chris & David H;					
Bidding Prayers: Wynne (following week – Andrew, and the following week - Maddy)					

Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Nevers by Coach, June 13th – 20th 2020 (Pick up in Nottingham, Derby and Leicester)

The cost is £595 per person. This price includes Coach and Ferry travel, overnight stay with Bed and Breakfast at the Welcome Break hotel in Orleans on the way, full board at the Hotel Irlande in Lourdes, half board at the Kyriad Hotel in Nevers coming back. In addition there's an optional excursion to Gavarnie, a Ski Resort in the Pyrenees. For more information/booking form contact Fr. John McCay on 0115 9810320

Parish Pilgrimage to Lisieux by Coach March 2nd – 5th 2020 The Pilgrimage will cost £345, beginning with a guided visit to the Cathedral in Lisieux, then to the Basilica dedicated to St. Therese, to the house where she grew up and to the Carmel where she lived and died. In addition to this an optional excursion to Hon Fleur.

For more information/booking form please contact Fr. John McCay on 0115 9810320.