

From Sunday's Gospel—Third Sunday of Advent



A man came who was sent by God. His name was John the Baptist. He came as a witness—as a witness to Jesus Christ. Some priests came from Jerusalem and asked John “Who are you?” John replied, “I am not the Christ.” They asked, “Are you the prophet Elijah?” He answered “No.” “So, who are you?” they asked, what have you to say for yourself?” John replied, “I am the voice of the one crying in the wilderness, make the Lord’s way straight.” Finally they asked him, “Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah nor the Prophet?” John said, “I baptise with water, but someone is coming who is more powerful than I am, and I am not good enough even to untie his sandal strap.”



The Sunday Gospel through School on Wednesday

Pope Francis writes:

“Dear young people, if we are close to Jesus we will have joy in our hearts and a smile on our face.” This 3rd Sunday of

Advent is called in Latin ‘Gaudete’ Sunday and we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath. ‘Gaudete’ means rejoice and the reason for our rejoicing is that we are now very near the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Pope Francis reminds us that we will have true joy when we come close to Jesus in our prayers and in our love for one another.

Ministers

December 17th

Liturgy of the Word

4.00pm FFF Children
8.30am M.Jefferis
10.00am S.Gibson

Liturgy of the Eucharist

S.Dyson/T.Spalding
S.Crewdson/M.Booth
G.Leggat/C.Hall

December 24th

6.00pm P.Redshaw
8.30am J.McMahon
10.00am E.Jubb

S.Dyson/T.Spalding
S.Crewdson/M.Booth
C.Ward/K.McKune

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

First: £392.07 Second: £119.93 Shop £181.50

Christmas Fair £20.00 Thank You.

Baptism Donation for Imogen Donaldson £50.00 Thank You.

Saddleworth Handbells £30.00 Thank You

Cheques please to DIOCESE OF LEEDS— SACRED HEART



Sacred Heart & St. William

31 High Street

Uppermill OL3 6HS

web: www.sacredheartparish.org.uk

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17th 2017 (Mark's Gospel)

Times of Masses & Intentions

Saturday Vigil **4.00pm**
Sunday 8.30am
10.00am

Lorraine Ackerley
People of the Parish
Ann McCarthy

Refreshments after Mass

Monday 9.30am
Tuesday 9.30am
Wednesday 12.00 noon
Thursday 9.30am
Friday 9.30am
Saturday 10.00am
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm
Sunday 8.30am
10.00am

Canon Eugene Dolan
Lloyd Gath
Kevin Gibson and Monica Wilde
Special Intention (FH)
Mary & John O'Neil
Vera Ackerley
Anne Jones
People of the Parish
Ann McCarthy

Carols & Readings

7.30pm
8.00pm
Monday **8.30am**
10.00am

Ellen & Christopher Murphy (First Mass of Christmas)
People of the Parish (Dawn Mass of Christmas)
Families of the Parish (Mass during the Day)

Confessions: After the 10.00am Mass on Saturday and on request

Exposition: 40 minutes before Mass each weekday

Telephone Contact Details:

Parish Priest: Fr Bernard Bickers Tel: 01457 872603

Permanent Deacon: Revd Peter Rudd Tel: 01457 876559

Safeguarding Officers: Mrs Tessa Spalding Tel: 01457 873515

Mrs Michelle Moore Tel: 01457 829895

Advent Service of Reconciliation

This Sunday is called 'Gaudete' Sunday when we are invited to REJOICE because the birth of Jesus Christ is near. Last Sunday

John the Baptist appeared announcing a 'baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins', and this Sunday he calls himself a 'voice that cries in the wilderness; make a straightway for the Lord.'

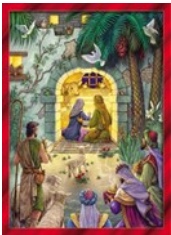


All of us know that there are things in our own lives that need straightening, bumps that need levelling, gaps that need filling in, and we all know the joy of both being forgiven and reaching out a hand in forgiveness when someone has hurt us.

This coming Wednesday, 20th December, at 7.30pm, there will be a COMMUNAL SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION, when we are invited to come together to hear God's Word, to look deeply into our lives, to acknowledge our need of forgiveness, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness. It is a wonderful way of preparing 'a straightway for the Lord'!



One Christmas Card for All



Please sign the large Christmas Card at the back of the Church and put the money you save on individual Christmas cards into the CAFOD box to enable the parish to buy World Gifts. It is a wonderful way of sharing Christmas with others. Thank You, Anne

Music for Christmas



Chris has very reluctantly decided that he will not be able to take rehearsals for the music group this Christmas, so the proposed sessions will now NOT take place.

Preparing the Church for Christmas



If you are able to spend a little time **after the 9.30am Mass next Thursday, 21st December**, to clean and polish the sacred vessels and prepare the rest of the Church for the great celebration of Christmas it will be greatly appreciated. Tea, Coffee and Mince Pies supplied!

ACT IN SUPPORT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION. Do you support Catholic schools and



the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents new Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. The Prime Minister has acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and had promised previously to abandon it. Now the Government may decide to keep this discriminatory policy in place instead of removing it. We need you to tell the Government not to discriminate against Catholics and to remove the admissions cap on new faith-based schools.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

I thank you in anticipation for your help. +Marcus Stock

Offertory Envelopes 2018

Thanks to Ernie the Offertory Envelopes for 2018 are now available for collection from the back of the Church. Anyone who does not currently have a set of envelopes and would like one please see Ernie or Fr Bernard. Gift Aid forms are also available for tax payers. Gift Aid adds 25% to the offertory gift and virtually pays for the assessment the parish pays to the diocese each year. Thanks to everyone for your continued generosity throughout the year.



FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

Bishop Marcus has asked that the Crib Offerings this year be again offered to Friends of the Holy Land to enable them to give hope and practical support to the most vulnerable Christians in around Bethlehem.



Postage Stamps

With Christmas post arriving please do remember to save the used postage stamps and bring them to church in order to raise money for charity, especially the RNIB. Many thanks. Susan