

From Sunday's Gospel—Fourth Sunday of Advent

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man called Joseph, and the virgin's name was Mary. "Rejoice, highly favoured one, the Lord is with you," said Gabriel to her. Mary was disturbed and asked herself what he could mean, "Do not be afraid, Mary," the angel continued, "you have found favour with God. Listen! You will conceive and bear a son and you will call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High and his kingdom will never end." "How can this be" questioned Mary, "since I am a virgin." "The Holy Spirit will come down upon you" the angel said, "and you will have a child who will be called the Son of God." "I am the servant of the Lord" said Mary, let it happen just as you have said." And the angel left her."



The Sunday Gospel through School on Wednesday

Pope Francis writes:

"Mary is the one who says 'YES'. Mary's life shows that God accomplishes great deeds through those who are the most

humble." Today the spotlight falls on Mary, a young poor woman from a small unimportant hamlet called Nazareth, startled by the message of an angel, not able to understand how what the angel said could happen, but willing to trust in the angel's word and say 'YES' to God. She is the perfect example for all of us as we prepare for the birth of her Son very shortly.

Ministers

December 24th

Liturgy of the Word

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

Liturgy of the Eucharist

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

December 31st

6.00pm M.Jefferis
8.30am E.Davies
10.00am A.Kirkman

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

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

First: £428.08 Second: £170.44 Shop £112.00 (Open only one day) Thank You
The Charity Shop will be closed until Tuesday January 9th 2018
BT Reimbursement £75.60 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24th 2017 (Mark's Gospel)

Times of Masses & Intentions

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm
Sunday 8.30am
10.00am

Anne Jones
People of the Parish
Christine Walsh

Refreshments after Mass

Monday 7.30pm
8.00pm
8.30am
10.00am

Carols & Readings

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

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

Anne Hall
Roger Dixon
Sr Celine
Pamela Daniels
Charles Miller
Michael Reynolds
People of the Parish
Eddie Hargreaves

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

Exposition: 40 minutes before Mass each weekday

When there is A Service of the Word & Holy Communion there is NO Exposition

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

Christmas 2017



This Advent is the shortest possible lasting only three weeks. At Mass today we will hear the story of the annunciation and then within a few hours the story of Jesus' birth! Last Saturday some fifteen families came together to listen to the Christmas story, sing some carols and then make the wonderful crib figures and pendants for the tree which brings a smile to our faces as we enter the

church. The big crib outside the church as always has attracted a lot of attention and it has been wonderful to hear parents telling their children the real meaning of Christmas. All of us will have the opportunity of gazing into the crib in front of the altar as we share our hopes and fears with the Lord. We also remember especially at this time those for Christmas will not bring peace and happiness but exactly the opposite as so many people are afflicted by violence, displacement, homelessness and loneliness.

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.

One Christmas Card for All



There is still time to sign the Christmas card at the back of the church. All the money raised will be used to buy World Gifts. Please see the booklets next to the Christmas Card for more information.

Offertory Envelopes 2018



Please continue to collect the Offertory Envelopes for 2018. 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. Thanks to everyone for your continued generosity throughout the year.

TAIZE PRAYER AND PRAISE



After careful consideration it has been decided to suspend our Tuesday evening Taize Prayer and Praise sessions for a few more weeks and to resume after Easter. The winter weather can be a problem and in Lent there are other devotions and ecumenical discussion groups to claim our time. Hopefully we shall return to our regular Tuesday pattern with renewed vigour after Easter.

Parish Diaries 2018



The 2018 Pocket Diary is now available at the back of the church. Please feel free to take one for use during the year. They contain information about the Liturgical Seasons, Holydays of Obligation, including where they have been changed back to the original day, Festivals, Bank Holidays and the major Feasts and Saints Days,

The Charity Shop



The Charity shop will now be closed over Christmas and New Year, opening again on Tuesday 9th January. Our thanks as a parish go to all those who so faithfully work in different ways in the shop throughout the year raising much needed funds for the parish. May they all enjoy this time and have a very happy and blessed Christmas.

The Elderly or Housebound



If over Christmas and New Year YOU hear of anyone who may not be able to get around as much as before and who would welcome a visit, someone to do some shopping, the odd job around the house? Do you know anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion at home? If so, please let Fr Bernard know or leave a name and address in the Sacristy.

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