



From Sunday's Gospel

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of Isaiah "Look! I am sending my messenger ahead—he will prepare your way. A voice cries out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People from the land of Judaea and the city of Jerusalem came to him and, as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, they confessed their sins. But John said, "There is someone else to come—someone who is more powerful than I am. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

Adapted from Mark 1:1-8, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B (Mark's Gospel)



Pope Francis writes, "My dear young people, Advent increases our hope. Always know in your heart that God is at your side. Let us never lose hope." Today's word is **Hope**. Advent is a season of preparation

and hope, culminating in the celebration of the birth of Jesus which brings us the good news that we are unconditionally loved by God. This Sunday's gospel passage is also filled with hope, with John the Baptist pointing away from himself and towards Jesus. John makes it clear that it is Jesus the people should follow, Jesus is the hope of the world. Pope Francis reminds us, "Hope is a strength, a grace, a gift from God." This season of hope is a great opportunity to be spiritually refreshed, to get rid of anything that is negative in life and make it altogether positive; to look forward knowing that God is with us. Advent is an invitation to begin again and to be willed with hope. Enhance the joy of Advent through exploring this Sunday's Gospel and the virtue of hope.



Sacred Heart & St William

31 High Street

Uppermill OL3 6HS

www.sacredheartparish.org.uk

Please visit the website above.

For Daily Mass Readings, Video reflections and any updates go to Sunday Mass in the Newsletter

The Second Sunday of Advent December 6th 2020 (Mark's Gospel)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR MASSES AS INDICATED BELOW

The intentions are as follows:

Saturday: **6.00pm Michael McKeever Church open for Mass)**
 Sunday: Caryl pereira
 Monday: People of the Parish
 Tuesday: Sr Pius Brady **(Church open for Mass)**
 Wednesday: Christopher Murphy
 Thursday: November Dead List **(Church open for Mass)**
 Friday: Nora Crowley
 Saturday: Frank Holmes **(Church open for Mass)**
 Sunday: People of the Parish

Booking essential for SATURDAY 6.00pm Mass, please see Newsletter for details.

Confessions by appointment.

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

The Season of Advent



This Sunday, December 6th, is the Second Sunday of the Season of Advent. The gospel passage chosen for today is the beginning of Mark's Gospel which reads:

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. There is no infancy narrative in Mark's Gospel, rather the introduction of the figure of John the Baptist who fulfils the prophecy of Isaiah by 'preparing a way for the Lord.' That is the invitation to all of us in these

days of this wonderful season, namely to prepare a way for the Lord into our minds and hearts. Pope Francis last week spoke of Prayer as a way of preparing for the Lord: *The heart of the Church's mission is prayer.*

Prayer is the key for us to be able to enter into dialogue with the Father. Every time we read a short passage from the Gospel we hear Jesus speaking to us. We have a conversation with Jesus. We listen to Jesus and we reply. And this is prayer. By praying, we change reality. And we change our hearts. Our heart changes when we pray. We can do many things, but without prayer, it does not work. We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer. In silence, everyone, each one in heartfelt prayer.

One Card for All



As in previous years there will be the opportunity to sign The One Card for All which will be at the back of the church from this weekend. All the proceeds from signing the card will be used to buy GIFTS for LIFE sponsored by CAFOD.

Please put any donations in the box next to the card.

PS Have you painted your Christmas Angel and put it in the window of your home?



"What good is it to me that Christ was born many years ago if he is not born in me every day?"

Meister Eckhart

Church open for Mass



The Church will be open for Mass on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9.30am, and Saturday evening at 6.00pm until Tuesday 22nd December. Our Church was **open on Saturday 5th December for the 6.00pm Mass.** If you wish to **book a place** for the Saturday evening

Masses please contact Susan Gibson on 01457 878055 or

07778856089 on the **previous Friday 4.00-6.00pm.** With the current restrictions not everyone who would want to celebrate Mass in church on Christmas Eve/Day will be able to do so. However with the ability to STREAM Mass anyone with WiFi will be able to celebrate from home. With this in mind the following schedule of Masses for Christmas Eve/Day/Boxing Day/ Sunday 27th as follows:

Christmas Eve Thursday December 24th No morning Mass

5.00pm – Live streamed Mass without a congregation

8.00pm – Mass with a congregation—Booking essential

Christmas Day Friday December 25th

9.00am – Live streamed Mass without a congregation

11.00am Mass with a congregation –Booking essential

Saturday December 26th

10.00am – Mass with a congregation

No Vigil Mass

Sunday 27th December

9.00am Live streamed Mass without a congregation

11.00am Mass with a congregation—Booking essential

There will be Mass each weekday from Monday 28th to Friday 1st December giving the opportunity for those who wish to come to church in person during the OCTAVE when liturgically each day is CHRISTMAS DAY.

The reason for streaming Mass without a congregation is that we will be able to have music and singing - We are still not permitted to have congregational singing at present. The carols will be sent via email before the Christmas Masses and the invitation will be for families to gather in their homes on **Christmas Eve at 8.00pm** and **Christmas Day at 9.00am** and join in the celebration of the Mass as fully as possible.

The Mass at 8.00pm on Christmas Eve and 11.00am on Christmas Day and the Sunday after Christmas—The Solemnity of the Holy Family with a very limited congregation will be without singing. Booking will be essential and the **times for booking the Christmas Masses will be in next week's newsletter.**