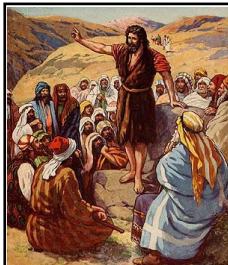




St John's Cathedral,
Portsmouth

CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

16 Dec 2018, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year C



JOHN THE BAPTIST

In the Book of Malachi, Malachi offers an intriguing prophecy, "Look, I shall send you the prophet Elijah before the great and awesome day of Yahweh comes. He will reconcile parents to their children and children to their parents; to forestall my putting the country under the curse of destruction (3:23-24.)

The Jews believed that Elijah would return to herald in the Messiah to fulfil Malachi's words. As Christians, we know through this prophecy, that not only would God take flesh, but he would usher in the New Covenant where sins would be forgiven, and all men and women would be reconciled to God the Father and each other.

In the Gospel of John, the Jews and the Levites, thinking he is Elijah, ask John the Baptist who he is. John replies, "I am a voice of one that cries out in the desert: Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight." In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus confirms that John is the Elijah who was to come (see 9:15.) As John reminds us, the role of the return of Elijah who was to come was to prepare a way for the Lord. So how does John the Baptist do this? John the Baptist not only speaks of Jesus's coming, he cries out. The fact that he cries out suggests to us that preparing for Jesus's coming is of utter urgency. Where does John prepare his disciples? In the desert. What is the message he gives them? Make His paths straight.

Like John's disciples, if we are to prepare for Jesus's coming, then our preparations must take upright priority. We must follow his command to retreat to the desert, to find some time of silence to think about any areas of our life where we may be resisting God and ask for his forgiveness so that when the Lord comes, nothing might stop our encounter with him and he may walk the straight path to us. With the time we have left during advent, let's take this opportunity to turn to God and seek reconciliation so that when he comes nothing may stop us from experiencing the joy he wishes to give us.

Fr Ansel D' Mello

CHANT FOR THE ADVENT SEASON

Come, let us wor-ship the Lord, the King who is to come.

TODAY & THIS WEEK

GAUDETE SUNDAY: Certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year take their names from the first word in Latin of the entrance antiphon at Mass. Today the antiphon -if we were to use it— would be taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). Gaudete Sunday, serves as a mid-point break inviting us to rejoice in the nearness of Jesus's return. Today the priest's vestments like the third candle on our Advent wreath are rose in colour to encourage us to continue our spiritual preparations for Christmas.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: We welcome your donations of poinsettias in memory of a deceased loved one. They will help to decorate the Church. Please hand them in anytime.

CATHEDRAL DISCOVERY CENTRE (CDC): Open: Tue-Sat 1100-1430 and Sun 09:30 -13:00. There are a variety of Christmas cards, 2019 calendars, diaries and gift ideas. It is situated to the left as you come in from the carpark. Come and see what's on offer.

SCHOOL CAROL SERVICES: on Mon 17 Dec at 18:00 we will host St Edmund's Carol service followed by St John's Cathedral Primary School on Tue 18 Dec at 14:00. Please come along to either.

InSIGHT—PARISH MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP: Tues 10:30-13:00 in the CDC for those who feel isolated or experience mental ill health.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: meets this Wed 19 Dec from 1330 in the CDC.

RCIA: A JOURNEY IN FAITH: meets this Thursday at 19:30 in the CDC.

ADVENT SUNG VESPERS AND BENEDICTION: Friday 21 Dec at 18:00. Please make an effort to attend.

ADORATION: every Friday from 0800-1800. It ends with sung Evening prayer and Benediction.

COLLECTIONS: Thank you for last Sunday's offertory of £2,095.84 (incl SO) Gift Aid 42%. Please consider joining the gift-aid scheme if you are a tax-payer.

NEXT WEEK & BEYOND

CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS FOR THE HOMELESS: A big thank you to everyone for their generous response to the Christmas Vouchers appeal of recent weeks. You are warmly invited to a Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Fratton Road on Friday 21 Dec at 12:00 noon when the vouchers will be handed over to the local agencies who will distribute them to those people in great need over the Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH FOR THE ELDERLY PEOPLE ON THEIR OWN AT CHRISTMAS: you've still time to volunteer to drive the elderly to our annual Christmas Day lunch here at the Cathedral Centre as well as general help with serving and caring. If you can help call Bobbie Cozens on 02392 814678 or cozensbe@googlemail.com

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: The collections taken at our Christmas Masses are by custom given to our priests and form a major part of their annual income. If you can gift aid yours there are envelopes available for this purpose.



CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve : 12:15 pm Vigil Mass 6:00 pm

Midnight Mass: 12:00 am

(with Carols and Readings at 11:30 pm)

Christmas Day: 8:00am (Latin Mass in Extraordinary Form)

Mass during the Day: 10:00 only

Boxing Day (Feast of St Stephen) 12:15 pm




ALTAR SERVERS: will celebrate their patron St Stephen at the 1215 Mass on Boxing Day with medals for those who have completed one year's serving.

OTHER NEWS

CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS CARDS: are available for distribution today. Please take a card for yourself, to remind you of the times of Masses over Christmas. There are plenty of them—so please take them and hand on to others.

MINISTRY ROTAS: for all Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are now available from the website and from the sacristy today.

VALENTINE'S DAY BREAKFAST: Sat 16 Feb at 09:15 in the CDC for all engaged couples of the Diocese getting married in 2019. There will be a short service of blessing of engagement rings. This is a good opportunity for us to meet and to affirm our faith in the original plan of God for marriage.

 **SUNDAY CHOIR:** are looking to recruit new members so if you've ever thought of singing in the choir please introduce yourself to the organist after Mass today.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS: This Christmas you can give 'virtual' gifts to your family

and friends and make a very real difference to people living in poverty. World Gifts are CAFOD's alternative charity gifts that transform lives. By visiting worldgifts.cafod.org.uk you can choose from (amongst other gifts): teaching someone to read (£10); drought resistant crops (£12); trees for life (£8); and stickers for Christmas cards – fourteen meal stickers (£8) or twenty-eight immunisation stickers (£14). Catalogues are also available at church exits.

HELPING OUR HOMELESS: Caritas 'Open Church Project' in Southsea will be working alongside seven Christian churches from several denominations to provide a hot meal, friendship and bed for one night a week for the homeless during the coldest winter period from 7 January – 3 March. St Swithun's Church in Waverley Road, Southsea will be hosting the Monday evening with support from Caritas. If you are interested in joining the volunteer team and are able to assist please contact Lisa Butler on 0744 4714 835.

SUNDAY NIGHT EXTRA YOUTH: meets once a month on Sunday from 1900-2045 in the CDC. Many thanks to parents and volunteers who have kept the group going this year! We would like to appeal to anyone interested in leading or supporting the Youth Club for next year! Contact: 0744 4714 835.

CATHEDRAL MASS TIMETABLE,

week beginning 16 December 2018

Sun: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year C

see Parish Mass Book, p 87

18:00 (Sat) Mrs Noreen Priddy Int

08:00 Michael & Bridget Walsh RIP and Family

November Dead RIP (Extra-Ordinary Form)

10:00 Michael & Daniel Finlason, David Rozee RIP

12:00 People of the Parish

18:00 David Shaw RIP

Mon: 'O Wisdom'

07:30 Spiteri Family November Dead RIP

12:15 Cesare Sartori and Families RIP

Tue: 'O Adonai'

12:15 Private Intention

Wed: 'O Root of Jesse'

07:30 Finette & Quirin Families Nov Dead RIP

12:15 Rosa and Bill Galliver RIP FM

Thu: 'O Key of David'

12:15 Funeral Mass Alma Wyatt RIP

Fri: 'O Morning Star'

07:30 Jack Finch RIP FM

12:15 Deceased of Cronin Family RIP

Sat: 'O King of the nations'

12:15 Doreen and Mark Paine RIP

CONFESSIONS: Available here most Saturdays from 11:00-12:00 and 17:00-17:45; also on Sundays for 30mins before Mass when a priest is available.

ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT: Friday from 08:00-18:00.

ROSARY: Monday—Friday after 12:15 Mass.

OTHER LOCAL CHURCHES

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Our Lady of Lourdes, Eastney

18:00 (Sat)

St Swithun's, Southsea

08:30, 10:15, 13:00

*Corpus Christi, North End:*11:00

St Joseph's, Copnor

18:00 (Sat), 09:00

St Colman's, Cosham

18:00 (Sat), 09:15

St Paul's, Paulsgrove, 11:00

QA Hospital, 16:00

St Agatha's (Ordinariate), 11:00

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

St John of Kanty 1390-1471

John was a Polish priest, who became a professor of Scripture and rector of the Theology faculty of Krakow. He was known in the town as very merciful especially to the poor, while living a very frugal life himself. He was falsely accused by rivals, and was dismissed from Krakow for eight years, during which time he was sent to be a parish priest in a small town. The people there were suspicious of the University professor but grew to love him because of his love for them.



◆ For those who have died recently, Alma Wyatt RIP.

◆ The Pope's prayer intention is that people, who are involved in the service of faith, find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

CONTACT DETAILS

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