

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

Parish News

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Twinned with the Parish of Ermelo in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

9th December 2018

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One of the great characters of the Advent season is John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared the way for Jesus. Later in this Gospel, Jesus will say: 'Of all the children born of women there is no one greater than John, yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he is.' (Luke 7:28) John is truly a great man, but what Jesus will bring will be greater. Our Gospel reading this Sunday is from the third chapter of Luke's Gospel. Luke has already given an account of John's birth earlier in the Gospel. Now Luke introduces the adult John and describes his ministry.

Luke provides a detailed list of the public officials who were in office when John and Jesus began their work. The names of Pontius Pilate and of Herod the tetrarch are easily recognised here. Luke demonstrates that John the Baptist and Jesus enter into the real world of history, a world in which power and position dominate events.

John's work is to travel around the region near the Jordan river, proclaiming 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins'. With his baptism John challenges the people to a new start, a change of heart, and to seek the forgiveness of God. If they respond, they will be ready to welcome the Messiah.

At the end of this gospel passage the evangelist gives a lengthy quotation from the book of Isaiah, which Christians consider to have been fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah. We have come to identify the voice in the wilderness with the voice of John. The whole of creation is described as getting ready for the coming of the Lord. Finally, 'all mankind shall see the salvation of God'. Luke makes clear that the Messiah comes to offer salvation to all nations.

How does the preaching of John the Baptist speak to me today?

Do I welcome the coming of Christ as a gift for all the people of the earth?

Pray for the wisdom to see that God still cares for the real world of our day.

Pray for the zeal of John the Baptist to bear witness to Christ as he did.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Envelopes: £548.12. Loose Plate £449.92. Gift Aid Standing Orders: £549.16. Total: £1,736.29. Thank you for your generosity.

SICK PARISHIONERS: Those of our parishioners and friends who have asked for prayers: Mary Rooney, Peter Beard, Frankie Gall, Maria Hoeffft, Megan Delaney, Barbara Mansell, Mary Delaney, Sandra Gilbert, Frances Weaver, Chris Brodie, Mary McGrath, Janet Cash, Rachel Stokes, Isaac Barry, Maria Wray, Barbara Brabon, Margaret Butler and Josie Pullum.

ANNIVERSARIES: Kay Redmond, Fr John Lane, Jim Hailstone, Kathleen O'Keeffe, Debbie Gibson, Mark Higgins, Pauline Cox, Herbert Shelock, Barry Brown, Michael Swan, Patrick Corcoran, Patrick O'Sullivan and Licia Bryant. May they all rest in peace.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a collection on **8th/9th December**, for **Christmas flowers** to decorate our church. Gift-aiders please use a Second Collection envelope.

PRAYERS: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Margaret Harrington** who died last week. Her Requiem Mass will be on **Thursday 20th December**, at **11.15am**, in the church, followed by cremation at the Chelmsford Crematorium. May she rest in peace.

REQUIEM MASS: Please pray for **Michael (Paddy) White** who died recently. His funeral will be on **Monday 10th December**, at **9.00am**, followed by cremation at the Three Counties Crematorium. His body will be received into the church at **5.30pm** on **Sunday 9th December**. The family would like to say that everyone is welcome at his Mass. May he rest in peace.

REFRESHMENTS: Refreshments are available after the **9.00am** and **11.00am** Masses.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: Will take place on **Tuesday 18th December** at **7.30pm**. Fr Liam Sweeney and Fr Joseph Whisstock will be assisting Fr David with individual Confessions.

PARISH BAZAAR: The Bazaar made a profit of **£4,510.54** - a fantastic achievement! Thank you to everyone involved once again and to all of you who visited on the day. A breakdown of the money taken on each stall is on the noticeboard at the back of Church.

FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING: Will be on **Friday 14th December**, at **10.00am**, in the hall.

ALTAR SERVERS: Please put your name down on the list, in the Sacristy, if you are able to serve at the Christmas Masses. Thank you.

MASS AT ST FRANCIS SCHOOL: Please note: Mass on **Wednesday 19th December**, will be at **9.30am**, St Francis School.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES: New Directories for 2019 are now available at the back of church - £2.75 each. Please put the money in the 'papers' box in the wall. Thank you.

VISION DOCUMENT: SHAPING OUR FUTURE: Last weekend marked a key milestone in the Steward of the Gospel process as the Vision Document: Shaping Our Future was published. Bishop Alan has recorded a video message to all parishioners and this will be shown after all Masses, on **8th/9th December**, in the hall. It can also be viewed on the Diocese's website by clicking on the 'News' button. In the News section you will also find a link to the Vision Document: Shaping Our Future, this is designed as an online resource in line with our early commitment to making better use of technology and it has links through to other websites and documents. Viewing the document online enables it be read in large print and some people have access to read aloud functions. Wherever possible we would urge you to read the document online, but in the parish, we have hard copies of the booklets for those who cannot access the online version.

ADVENT 'WALK WITH ME': Booklets now available at the back of church - priced at £1 each. Please put the money into the 'papers' box in the wall.

CHRISTMAS GLITZ & GLAMOUR EVENING: On **Saturday 15th December**, at **7.30pm**, in the Jubilee Hall. There will be a three-course dinner with dancing. Price £25. Details are on the table at the back of church. Tickets are available from Sue, in the office, during opening hours - **LAST DAY FOR BOOKING: Saturday 8th December**.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: You are invited to help Fr David celebrate his 70th birthday, after the **11.00am Mass (and video message from Bishop Alan)**, on **Sunday 9th December**, in the Jubilee Hall. A light buffet will be provided.

VACANCY: We are seeking a replacement gardener for Bill Paul, to start towards the end of January. This is a paid job and hours are flexible, with more hours required in the summer than the winter. If you are interested then please contact Sue in the office for more information and an application form. DIY skills are also an advantage. Closing date for applications is **Monday 31st December**.

COBWEB YOUTH CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY: On **Friday 14th December**, in the Jubilee Hall, **7.30-9.30pm**. Open to children in school years 7-11. Put on your party clothes and come and have a fun evening.

ST JOHN PAYNE ADVENT CAROL SERVICE: You are warmly invited to attend the St John Payne Carol Service, which will take place on **Thursday 20th December**, at **6.00pm**, in Aquinas Hall. This festive and creative service will be followed by refreshments and a time to socialise. If you have any queries, please contact Hannah, School Chaplain on 01245 256030, otherwise please just turn up and join in.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE: There will be a service of readings, carols and beautiful choral music from the Cathedral choir, on **Sunday 23rd December**, at **4.00pm**, in the Cathedral. Main celebrant: Bishop Alan Williams. The perfect way to reflect on the radiant meaning of Christmas. All welcome.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday 8th December Vigil Mass	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 9th December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)	9.00am 11.00am	Fr Tony McKentey RIP (A) (Doleman) Mark Higgins RIP (A) and Mary Higgins RIP (Higgins)
Monday 10th December REQUIEM MASS	9.00am	Michael 'Paddy' White RIP
Tuesday 11th December	9.30am	Bill and Mildred Brown RIP (Leyden)
Wednesday 12th December	9.30am	Pauline Cox RIP (A) (Cox)
Thursday 13th December St Lucy	9.30am	Bertie Shelock RIP (A) (Shelock)
Friday 14th December St John of the Cross	9.30am	Elizabeth Moore RIP (A) (Cranmer)
Saturday 15th December	9.30am	Ints Irene Turner (Henriques)
Saturday 15th December Vigil Mass	6.00pm	Margaret Harrington RIP (Wetton)
Sunday 16th December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)	9.00am 11.00am	Eddie Lacey RIP (Paul) People of the Parish

CONFESSIONS ON SATURDAYS, 10.00AM-10.30AM, IN THE CHURCH

Rosary	Church	Mondays (except Bank Holidays)	8.00pm
Women's Group	Jubilee Hall	Thursday 13th December	2.00-4.00pm
Faith Group	Jubilee Hall	Tuesday 18th December	7.30pm
Youth Club	Jubilee Hall	Friday 14th December	7.30pm

<p>St Francis Primary School Headteacher: Vicky Jackson Gilchrist Way, Braintree, CM7 2SY 01376 320440 www.stfrancisbraintree.co.uk</p>	<p>St John Payne Secondary School Headteacher: Tom Coen Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, CM1 4BS 01245 256030 www.sjp.essex.sch.uk</p>
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