

St German's Church

15 December 2019 - Advent III 'Gaudete'



Last week we heard John proclaim 'ye must repent'. This week we hear another imperative: 'We must rejoice'. Gaudete Sunday, 3rd Sunday of Advent, has a focus on joy born out of the Good News that Jesus preaches and embodies for those who need it most. In our diocese our new vision also points to joy - sharing joyful stories of what God can do in us. Lord help us to be joyful and faithful messengers of your Good News.

Parish Notes:

Book Group - Concludes this week. We meet after mass on Monday 16th to look at Nouwen's 'Return of the Prodigal Son'. We consider 'Becoming like the Father'. Our next book (Spring 2020) is I. Matthew's 'Impact of God' about St John of the Cross.

Nightshelter - Begins this season in St German's next Saturday 21 December. We will be setting up beds after mass and your help would be appreciated. Rota for December has now been sent out via email. January's rota to follow asap. If you would like to help in any way please contact Fr Phelim.

Church Clean - Many thanks to all who helped on Wednesday past. Unfortunately, due to low numbers we weren't able to complete the clean this past week. If you can help us on Friday 20th Dec at 11am we would be grateful.

Building Work - Is now complete and a huge thank you to Peter and Angela who liaised with architects, banks, builders etc to make this possible. We still have some internal decoration to do but the fabric of our church is now more secure than ever.

O Antiphon Prayer - begins this week each evening at 7pm. It is a quiet reflection of just under an hour when we can escape the busyness and consumption of this season and place our cares and worries on the God who loves us

Advent & Christmas - service details on our website & at the back of the Church.

Foodbank - Current urgent items: Tinned Fruit, Long life fruit juice, UHT milk, Rice Pudding, Sponge Puddings. Tinned potatoes.

Concerts at St German's - There is a list of these events at the back of the church as well as a sign up page for those who are willing to help set up and tidy away.

Recently Departed: Violet May Bladen, John Graham Howard Hill **RIP**.

This week:

Sun 15: Advent III 'Gaudete'

9:30 Sung Mass (St S)

11am Sung Mass (St G)

Mon 16:

6pm Mass (StG)

Tues 17:

10am Mass (St S)

7pm O Antiphon Prayer

- O Wisdom (St S)

Wed 18:

10am Maass (St G)

7pm O Antiphon Prayer -

O Lord (St G)

Thur 19:

5:45pm Mass (St S)

7pm O Antiphon Prayer -

O Root of Jesse (St S)

Fri 20:

6pm Mass (St S)

7pm O Antiphon Prayer -

O Key of David (St G)

Sat 21:

11am Mass

12pm Carols and a

Cuppa (St S)

7pm O Antiphon Prayer -

O Dayspring (St G)

Sun 22: Advent IV

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

11:00 am Sung Mass

4pm Christingle (St G)

7pm O Antiphon Prayer -

O People's King (St S)

Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,

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Churchwardens:

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READINGS THIS WEEK

Isa 35:1-6a, 10

Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10

Jas 5:7-10

Matt 11:2-11

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Isa 7:10-14

Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Rom 1:1-7

Matt 1:18-24

PSALM RESPONSE

Come, Lord and save
us. (vv.3)

Today's hymns: 740 When our God; 634 The Angel Gabriel; 326 In the bleak midwinter; 631 Tell out my soul; Mass Setting: Rizza.

COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

This is the word of the Lord.

Isaiah 35

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Come, Lord, and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *R/*

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. *R/*

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. *R/*
Psalm 146

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

James 5

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Matt 11