

# St German's Church

22 December 2019 - Advent IV



The nature and cost of Joseph and Mary's vocation is a main focus of this Sunday's gospel reading. Mary's celebrated yes to God came with a cost - the real danger of ostracism from her family and society because of being found with child. For Joseph, he faced the prospect of bringing up someone else's child. Yet as in many previous biblical instances of difficult discipleship when people find it hard to comprehend God's way of working in their midst, God always provides the help they need to fulfil their calling.

## Parish Notes:

**Nightshelter** - Has now begun and we thank all those who helped last night and this morning. 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. From this Sunday we will have an additional said mass at 8am in St German's for Nightshelter guests and helpers.

**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** - Continues tonight and concludes tomorrow. 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

**Octave of Christmas** - See mass times right. NB, no mass on Friday or Saturday in St Saviour's.

**Christmas** service details: see times on the right for Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning services.

**Foodbank** - Current urgent items: Tinned Fruit, Long life fruit juice, UHT milk, Rice Pudding, Sponge Puddings. Tinned potatoes. (Most food banks reopen from 6 Jan)

**Thank You** - to Terry and Richard for producing the Christmas leaflet and for all those who helped clean the church on Friday.

**I Ffordd Tangnefedd** - (Into the Way of Peace from Luke 1:79) - A new contemplative service to begin in St German's in the new year on Sunday evenings.

**Recently Departed:** Christine Turner, Wendy Ann Powell, Ted Griffiths *RIP*.

## This week:

### Sun 22: Advent IV

#### St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

#### St German's:

8:00 Said Mass 11:00 am Sung Mass

**4pm Christingle (St G)**

**7pm O Antiphon Prayer -**

**O People's King (St S)**

### Mon 23:

10:30 Funeral (St G)

6pm Mass (StG)

**7pm O Antiphon Prayer -**

**O Emmanuel (St G)**

### Tues 24:

4pm Crib Service & Mass (St S)

11pm Midnight Mass

(St G)

### Wed 25:

#### NATIVITY OF OUR LORD:

9:30am Sung Mass

11am Sung Mass

### Thur 26:

5:45pm Mass (St S)

St Stephen

### Fri 27:

No Mass

St John the Apostle

### Sat 28:

No Mass

The Holy Innocents

### Sun 29: Christmas

#### I - The Holy Family

#### St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

#### St German's:

11:00 am Sung Mass

## Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,

02922 411229,

[phelimohare@gmail.com](mailto:phelimohare@gmail.com)

## Churchwardens:

Peter Lovitt

02920 763754

Richard Hill

07519 352840

## READINGS THIS WEEK

Isa 7:10-14

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

Rom 1:1-7

Matt 1:18-24

## READINGS NEXT WEEK

Sir 3:3-7, 14-17a

Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

Col 3:12-17

Matt 2:13-15, 19-23

## PSALM RESPONSE

Let the Lord enter! He  
is the king of glory.  
(vv.3)

Today's hymns: 740 When our God came to earth; 405 Lo he comes; 557 People look east; 265 Hark the glad sound; Mass Setting: Rizza.

## COLLECT

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our Saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us."

This is the word of the Lord.

*Isaiah 7*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. *R/*

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. *R/*

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. *R/*

*Psalm 24*

## SECOND READING

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the

Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

*Romans 1*

## GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

*Matt 31*