

St German's Church

23 December 2018 - Advent 4



The fourth Sunday of Advent - is all about Mary! We hear of her visit to Elizabeth and how the Holy Spirit blesses this encounter. Even the unborn child leaps with joy. It is a simple story, intimate and humble in how two young women share the wondrous things that happen to them. For us, onlookers from a distant time, we honour Mary the mother of our Lord still. We marvel, still, at her faith and how she models all that a modern disciple needs do in choosing to follow Jesus.

Parish Notes:

Tea Rota - We need help with the tea rota after mass on Sunday. Please see Richard about this. Currently it is falling to a small number of people.

Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol - St German's will feature in this week's episode at 7pm on S4C.

Messy Christmas - We still need help with the craft activities for the Christmas Eve family service at 4pm. Please contact Fr Phelim for details.

Midnight Mass - Sung mass in St German's with separate readings and hymns.

Christmas Day - For those who can't make the midnight service we will also have a sung mass for Christmas Day at 11am with carols.

Nightshelter - Has now begun and goes on to the end of March. Thank you to all who have agreed to help. Please keep our guests and volunteers in your prayers. The 8:00 am mass is provided for our shelter guests and helpers.

Octave of Christmas - See mass times right. NB, no mass on Boxing Day in St German's.

Fr John Griffiths RIP - The former parish priest of St German's has died. He was here between the time of Fr Martin Williams and Fr Roy Doxey. His funeral will be at the Shrine of Julian of Norwich in Norwich on Wednesday 10 Jan 2019. May he rest forever in the peace of Christ.

Recently Departed: Fr John Griffiths RIP

This week

Sun 23 Advent 4

8am Said Mass (St G)

9:30 Sung Mass (St S)

11am Sung Mass (St G)

Mon 24:

Christmas Eve

4pm Messy Christmas (St G)

6pm Crib Service & Mass (St S)

11pm Midnight Mass

(St G)

Tues 25 NATIVITY

OF OUR LORD:

9:30am Sung Mass

11am Sung Mass

Wed 26:

No mass today (St G)

Thur 27:

5:45pm Mass (St S)

ST JOHN, APOSTLE

Fri 28:

6pm Mass (St S)

The Holy Innocents

Sat 29:

11am Mass (St S.)

St Thomas Becket

Sun 30: Christmas

I - The Holy Family

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass

St German's:

8am Said Mass

11am Sung Mass

Parish Priest:

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READINGS THIS WEEK

Mic 5:1-4a

Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Heb 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

READINGS NEXT WEEK

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28

Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Luke 2:41-52

PSALM:

Lord of hosts bring us
back, let your face
shine on us and we
shall be saved. (3vv)

Hymns: 631 Tell out my soul; 634 The Angel Gabriel; 757 Ye Servants of the Lord; 645 The Holly and the Ivy. (Mass setting: Rizza 955)

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

The First reading is from the prophet Micah.

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

Micah 5

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **R/**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R/**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name. **R/**

Psalm 80

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin,

and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ..

This is the word of the Lord.

Heb 10

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Luke 1