

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from the Prophet Micah.
Thus says the LORD:

You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of
the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.
And he shall be their peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 80(79):2ac. 3b. 15-16. 18-19. R. 4

R: *Bring us back, O God;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.*

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us. **R.**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself. **R.**
3. May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have
you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have
taken no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your
will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book."'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure
in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings'
(these are offered according to the Law), then he added, 'Behold,
I have come to do your will'. He does away with the first in order
to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Luke 1:38

R: *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.

R: *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL Luke 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country,
to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and
greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary,
the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the
Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you
among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is
this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the
baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed
that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from
the Lord.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,
just as he filled with his power
the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God,
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Parish of St Anselm, Hayes

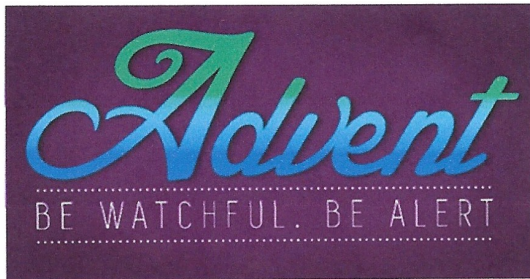
December 22nd, 2024
4th Sunday of Advent

Today's gospel tells the story of the Virgin Mary's visit to her cousin, Elizabeth. This event is remembered every year on the Feast of the Visitation at the end of May. Elizabeth, pregnant with the child who would become St John the Baptist, feels her baby leap in her womb as soon as Mary arrives. This symbolic recognition by the unborn John of the primacy of Mary's baby was also reflected in last week's gospel where John declares that he is not worthy even to untie the sandals on Jesus's feet.

For the last time until Lent, the usual penitential rite will be replaced with the Asperges today.

Throughout Advent, in addition to the collect for the day (overleaf) the traditional collect for Advent will also be used. Here it is:

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty, to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. Amen.



Entrance Hymn: 20 The Lord will come and not be slow

Offertory Hymn: 22 Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling

Recessional: 11 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

THIS WEEK:

Monday 23rd: No services in church

Tuesday 24th: Christmas Eve. Offices said privately; Children's crib service 1500; Midnight Mass 2330

Wednesday 25th: Christmas Day. Mass 1000

Thursday 26th: St Stephen, First Martyr. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000

Friday 27th: St John, Apostle and Evangelist. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000

Saturday 28th: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000

NEXT WEEK: Sunday 29th December: The Holy Family. Mass at 1000 as usual.

OTHER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SERVICES

Wednesday 1st January 2025: Mary the Holy Mother of God. Mass at 1100

Sunday 5th January 2025: Epiphany of the Lord. Mass at 1000 and Nine Lessons and Carols at 1600

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS

If you wish a name to be on the list, please give the details to Susan, Fr Josiah, or Fr Stephen

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

22nd: Mildred Canfield, Mary Titchmarsh, Minnie

Mabel West, Kenneth Roy Tupman

23rd: Hannah Harding, Nigel Esquick

24th: Bernard Harper, Christopher Brown, Dorothy Edna Borrowdale

25th: Florence Upshon, Reg Bacon, Annie Gull, Nellie Duckitt, Irene Bullock, Hazel Smith, Norma O'Brien, Christine Lewis-Hall, Patricia Fox

SPECIAL BLESSINGS: Please let one of the sidespeople or a churchwarden know before mass begins if you'd like a special blessing. Come up to the chancel step after the intercessions.

YOUNG CHILDREN IN CHURCH: Don't worry if they make a noise or move about! Young visitors to the sanctuary are always welcome, so no drama if they go for a walk! We'll have a look at the children's work after mass...

FINANCIAL POSITION: During November, our income was £961.46, but our outgoings were £1,139.78. We must do better than this! Please consider if you are able to increase your contributions to the church, or to set up a regular donation through the Parish Giving Scheme if you don't already do so.

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

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JOIN US IN THE HALL AFTER MASS FOR MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES, ALONG WITH TEA AND COFFEE, AND BISCUITS OR CAKE!