

Readings & Prayers

Sunday 10.30am

Introit

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men, the Lord is at hand: be careful for nothing, nor troubled; but in every thing, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving; but in every thing, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving; let your requests be made known unto God. *(Ps)* O Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land: thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob. GLORY Rejoice....

Gaudete

Phil 4:4-6; Ps 81:1

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight; who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 (RSV)

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good tidings to the afflicted;
he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;...
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my soul shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring forth before all the nations.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (RSV)

Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophesying, but test everything; hold fast what is good, abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28 (RSV)

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light... And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Eli'jah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No." They said to him then, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Eli'jah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Prayer over the Offerings

We beseech thee, O Lord, that the continual offering of this sacrifice of our bounden duty: may fulfil time institution of this sacred mystery, and may accomplish in us the wondrous work of thy salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Preface

Preface of Advent (Preface 4)

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God; because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; ever more praising thee, and saying: Holy, Holy, Holy etc.

Communion

Dicite: Pusillanimes

Say to them that are of a fearful heart: be strong, fear not; behold, your God will come and save you. *Cf Is 35:4*

Postcommunion

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, we beseech thee: and grant that the heavenly assistance of thy holy mysteries may so cleanse us from all our iniquities, that we may be made ready worthily to keep thy coming festival; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



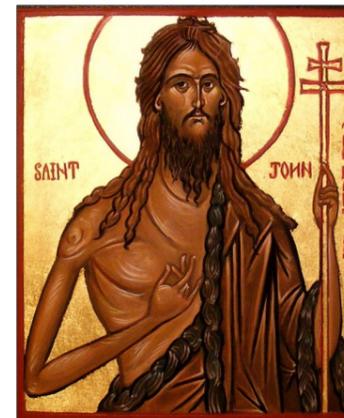
The Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Gregory

A parish dedicated to the life of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham

Sunday 17th December

Advent Three—Gaudete Sunday

A very warm welcome to Mass today, especially if you are new or visiting. This sheet contains information about the week's Masses, along with this week's readings and hymns. You are warmly invited to stay for coffee, tea and wine, which is served after the 10.30am Solemn Mass in the Presbytery.



So who is coming? This Sunday's readings help to answer that question. John the Baptist is asked about the coming of the Messiah - is it him? He affirms his role as "a witness to speak for the light", by pointing to the one who stands among the crowd unknown to them who is coming after him. This idea is present in the First Reading, where Isaiah proclaims what the "anointed one" ("Messiah" in Hebrew) will do, and the joy that this will bring. It is interesting that the Psalm appointed for this Sunday is the Magnificat - Mary's song of praise at the announcement that the Messiah would be born of her - in which she sings of the works of the coming Messiah. Paul then reminds us that we are still waiting patiently: God has called you, and he will not fail you." This is why, on this 'Gaudete' Sunday, we as God's people rejoice in his care, made visible in his promises, fulfilled in Jesus.

This Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

Isaiah looks to a time when the Spirit will be poured out upon one who will proclaim the year of the Lord's favour: the captive will be set free, the broken-hearted will find solace. This promise finds its fulfilment in Jesus, and John shows us that it is on Jesus that the Spirit rests, and proclaims him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

In keeping with the spirit of Advent Three ("Gaudete" Sunday), Paul exhorts us in today's Epistle: we should rejoice, give thanks, and pray without ceasing that God will make us perfectly holy in spirit, soul, and body - that we may be blameless when our Lord comes.

Gospel

John 1:6-8,19-28

The mysterious figure of John the Baptist, introduced in last week's readings, comes into sharper focus today. Who he is, we see in today's Gospel, is best understood by who he isn't. He is not Elijah returned from the heavens, although like him he dresses in the prophet's attire, and preaches repentance and judgment. Not Elijah in the flesh, John is nonetheless sent in the spirit and power of Elijah to fulfil his mission. Neither is John the prophet Moses foretold, although he is a kinsman and speaks God's word. Nor is John the Messiah, though he has been anointed by the Spirit since the womb. John prepares the way for the Lord His baptism is symbolic, not sacramental. It is a sign given to stir our hearts to repentance.

SUNDAY MASS

6.00pm (Saturday Vigil), 10.30am (Solemn), 5pm

WEEKDAY MASS

12.45pm Mon-Fri
8am As advertised

HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION

As advertised.
8am and 12.45pm

8.00am Mass this week

See poster for details

CONFESSIONS

Sat 5.15-5.45pm
12.15pm Mon-Fri

News & Events

Christmas Lunch

After Mass today!

Christmas Masses:

Next Sunday is not only the Fourth Sunday of Advent, but also Christmas Eve. There will be a Sung Mass at 10.30am (Ordinariate Use) and the a Solemn Vigil Mass at 5pm. The setting will Haydn's *Missa Sancti Nicolai*.

Ordinariate Membership Cards

Those who are Roman Catholics within the Ordinariate of our Lady of Walsingham are invited to take away a devotional card and fill in their name in the space provided. It is conveniently designed to be folded and fitted into a wallet or purse. Among other things it reminds members of their duties and obligations as Latin Rite Catholics, but also the special duty of praying for the unity of the Church.

Ordinariate Lay Conference 2018: this will take place at Worth Abbey 7th-9th August, organized by the Ordinariate's Pastoral Council. The Central London Group has been asked to supply one or two delegates. If you a member of the Ordinariate and are interested in attending, please speak to Gill James for more information.

Eucharistic Congress 7-9 September 2018

The Bishops of England and Wales have announced a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress (ADOREMUS) in Liverpool. Its purpose is to rejuvenate Eucharistic Adoration; to deepen and strengthen our love of Our Lord, present in all the tabernacles of the world; and to engender a deeper understanding of the centrality of the Mass in which the Sacrifice of Calvary is made present to us afresh. More details will follow in due course.

13th/14th January 2018 White Flower Appeal

Over this weekend, we will be collecting for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. Please be generous in your support of the important work they do on behalf of the unborn and for their fidelity to the teaching of the Church.

The Westminster Year Book

The 2018 edition is now available to buy. Price £4.50. Please see Fr Mark if you wish to buy one.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for December are:

Monthly Intention: The Elderly: That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Monday 18th December	Advent feria	12.45pm	Joe & Julie McGauley & Family intentions	IN YOUR PRAYERS THE SICK Susan Elliott Smith, Rae Collins, Peter Oliver, Rosa Negra, Assumption Fernandez, Khady Gounougo, Paddy Naughton, Simon Ollivant, Sally Ward Enticott, Mick Batten, Ignatius Leong, Pauline Doherty THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED
Tuesday 19th December	Advent feria	8.00am 12.45pm	Fr Nigel Charles (Intention)	
Wednesday 20th December	Advent feria	8.00am 12.45pm 7.00pm Low Mass (1962)	Special intention	
Thursday 21st December	Advent feria	8.00am 12.45pm	Deceased members of the Byrne family	
Friday 22nd December	Advent feria	8.00am 12.45pm	Byrne family intentions	
Saturday 23rd December	Advent feria ADVENT 4	12 Noon (1962) 6pm Mass	Dan & Akudo and family Stephen Humphrey (Anniv.)	

WHO'S WHO AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Parish priest: Fr Mark Elliott Smith

Fr Alan Griffin

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Readings & Prayers Saturday 6pm & Sunday 5pm

Entrance Antiphon

Phil 4: 4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Collect

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1:46-50,53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy.

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation

Is61:1(Lk4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:6-8,19-28

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Prayer over the Offerings

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray,

be offered to you unceasingly,

to complete what was begun in sacred mystery

and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.

Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Is 35: 4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Prayer after Communion

We implore your mercy, Lord,

that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults

and prepare us for the coming feasts.

Through Christ our Lord.

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