

East Hendred Catholic Parish

Christmas

24th December 2020 – 2nd January 2021



The Christmas Octave

*A Spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.*

Christmas to Epiphany

CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm Vigil Mass of Christmas

6pm-7pm Christmas Candle Lighting

Everyone of any religion or none is invited to visit St Mary's Church to light a candle between 6 and 7PM. At the entrance of the Church you can collect a candle (which will not have been handled by anyone) and you will be guided to light it from a pillar candle by the door then walk slowly towards the altar and place it on the table in front of the altar, then leave the Church following the one-way route. Please note - you are asked to wear a mask and keep 2 metres distance from others not in your own household group. Children are welcome also, if they can be supervised to not touch anything please, as this will take place between Masses. If you would like a candle to be lit in the Church on Christmas Eve for someone in particular, who cannot visit, please advise by emailing hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or calling 01235 835038 (before 20th Dec) with a first name which will be written on a candle and lit on your behalf. There is no charge for candles, however any online contributions via St Mary's Parish website: [Hendred Catholic Parish](#) 'donate' button are most gratefully received.

8pm Mass of Christmas Night

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am Mass of Christmas Day (1)

11.15am Mass of Christmas Day (2)

CHRISTMASTIDE

Saturday *26th December (St Stephen)*

No Mass

*** Sunday** **27th December (Holy Family)**

9.30am Mass *(No 11.15am)*

Friday **1st January (Mary Mother of God)**

9.30am Mass

*** Sunday** **3rd January (Second Sunday of Christmas)**

9.30am Mass **11.15am Mass**

Wednesday **6th January (Epiphany)**

9.15am Mass

(followed on live-stream by St Amand's School)

*** Sunday** **10th January (Baptism of the Lord)**

9.30am Mass **11.15am Mass**

*** Please book in the usual way for these masses.**

There are no other masses during this period.

East Hendred Catholic Parish



**Christmas Eve
2020**

4pm Vigil Mass

Antiphons, Prayers and Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Hodie scietis

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

Collect

O God, who gladden us year by year as we wait in hope for our redemption, grant that, just as we joyfully welcome your Only-Begotten Son as our Redeemer, we may also merit to face him confidently when he comes again as our judge. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.
² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
which the mouth of the LORD will give.
³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
⁴ You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My delight is in her,
and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.

Christmas Eve 4pm

⁵ For as a young man marries a virgin,
so shall your sons marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

I will sing for ever of your mercies O Lord;
'With my chosen one I have made a covenant;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your descendants for ever,
and set up your throne through all ages.'

How bless'd the people who know your praise,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice their joyful acclaim.

He will call out to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock of my salvation.'

I for my part will make him my firstborn,
I will keep my faithful love for him always;
with him my covenant shall last.

He will call out to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock of my salvation.'
I will keep my faithful love for him always;
with him my covenant shall last.

Second Reading

Acts 13:16-17, 22-23

¹⁶ [Paul stood up in the synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia], and motioning with his hand said:

'Men of Israel, and you that fear God, listen. ¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.... ²² And he raised up David to be their king; of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'²³ Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised. ²⁴ Before his coming John had preached a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ And as John was finishing his course, he

Christmas Eve 4pm

said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie'.'

Alleluia, **Alleluia.** Tomorrow there be an end to the sin of the world: and the Saviour of the world will be our king. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; ¹⁹ and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; ²¹ she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ 'Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emman'u-el' (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Creed

At Christmas, all kneel at the words and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate...

Prayer over the Offerings

As we look forward, O Lord, to the coming festivities, may we serve you all the more eagerly for knowing that in them you make manifest the beginnings of our redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

Preface

(De Nativitate Domini II)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For on the feast of this awe-filled mystery, though invisible in his own divine nature, he has appeared visibly in ours; and begotten before all ages he has begun to exist in time; so that, raising up in himself all that was cast down, he might restore unity to all creation and call straying humanity back to the heavenly Kingdom And so, with all the Angels we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim:
Holy, holy, holy &c.

Christmas Eve 4pm

Communion Antiphon

Revelabitur gloria Domini

The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

Cf Is 40:5

Prayer after Communion

Grant us, O Lord, we pray that we may draw new vigour from celebrating the Nativity of your only-Begotten Son, by whose heavenly mystery we receive both food and drink. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Blessing of the Crib

Blessed are you, Lord God, king of all creation: we praise you for your love. We thank you because you have loved us so much that you sent your only Son to bring us eternal life. ✠ Bless this crib that we have prepared, and let it be a reminder to us of the Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary. Father, we ask you this through Christ our Lord.

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East Hendred Catholic Parish



**Christmas Eve
2020**

8pm Mass of the Night

**Antiphons, Prayers and
Readings**

For the Ordinary Texts, see the Order of Mass sheet

Entrance Antiphon

Dominus dixit ad me

The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

Collect

O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendour of the true light: grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First Reading

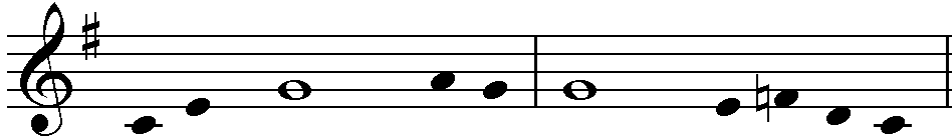
Isaiah 9;2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Christmas Eve 8pm

Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13 *Antiphon: Lk 2:11*

Tone V.3



*Today a saviour has been born to us:
he is Christ the Lord.*

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.
Proclaim his salvation day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise.
Let the land and all it bears rejoice.
Then will all the trees of wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with justice;
He will govern the peoples with his truth.

*Today a saviour has been born to us:
he is Christ the Lord.*

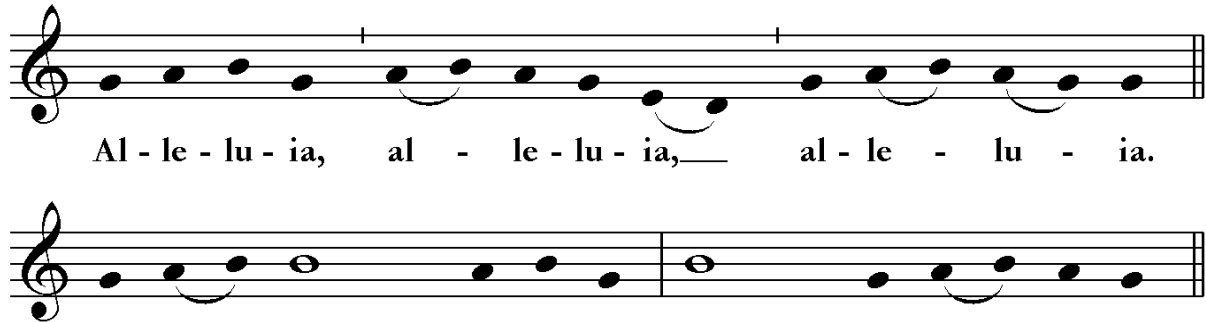
Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Christmas Eve 8pm

Alleluia



I bring you news of great joy:
today a Saviour has been born to *us*, Christ the Lord.

Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrolment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an Angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the Angel said to them, 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!'

Creed

At Christmas, all kneel at the words and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate...

Prayer over the Offerings

May the oblation of this day's feast be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we may be found in the likeness of Christ, in whom our nature is united to you. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Christmas Eve 8pm

Preface

(De Nativitate Domini I)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For in the mystery of the Word made flesh a new light of your glory has shone upon the eyes of our mind, so that, as we recognise in him God made visible, we may be caught up through him in love of things invisible. And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim: Holy, holy, holy &c.

Communion Antiphon

Verbum caro factum est

The Word became flesh: and we have seen his glory.

Jn 1:14

Prayer after Communion

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, that we, who are gladdened by participation in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity, may through an honourable way of life become worthy of union with him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Blessing of the Crib

Blessed are you, Lord God, king of all creation: we praise you for your love. We thank you because you have loved us so much that you sent your only Son to bring us eternal life. ✠ Bless this crib that we have prepared, and let it be a reminder to us of the Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary. Father, we ask you this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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East Hendred Catholic Parish



Christmas Day 2020

Antiphons, Prayers and Readings

For the Ordinary Texts, see the Order of Mass sheet

Entrance Antiphon

Puer natus est nobis

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Cf Is 9:5

Collect

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity, Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10 [RSV]

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Hark, your watchmen lift up their voice, together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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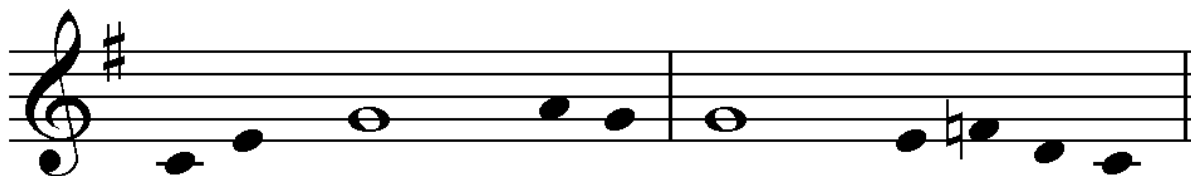
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Christmas Day

Psalm 98:1-6

Tone V.3



O sing a new song to *the* Lord,
for he *has* worked won-ders.
His right hand and his ho-ly arm
have *brought* sal-va-tion.

The Lord has made known his sal-va-tion;
has shown his deliverance *to* the na-tions.
He has remembered his mer-ci-ful love
and his truth for the house *of* Is-ra-el.

All the ends of the earth *have* seen
the salva-tion of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all *the* earth,
and *sing* out your praise.

Sing psalms to the Lord with *the* harp
with the harp and *the* sound of song.
With trumpets and the sound of *the* horn
raise a shout before *the* King, the Lord.

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-6 [RSV]

In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs. For to what angel did God ever say, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son'? And again, when he brings the first-born into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

Christmas Day

Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A hal-lowed day has dawned u -pon us. |

Come, you nations, worship the Lord, *
for today a great light has shone down u -pon the earth.

Gospel

John 1:1-18 [RSV]

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 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. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.) And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

Creed

At Christmas, all kneel at the words and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate...

Prayer over the Offerings

Make acceptable, O Lord our oblation on this solemn day, when you have manifested the reconciliation that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship. Through Christ our Lord.

Christmas Day

Preface

(De Nativitate Domini II)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For on the feast of this awe-filled mystery, though invisible in his own divine nature, he has appeared visibly in ours; and begotten before all ages he has begun to exist in time; so that, raising up in himself all that was cast down, he might restore unity to all creation and call straying humanity back to the heavenly Kingdom And so, with all the Angels we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim:
Holy, holy, holy &c.

Communion Antiphon

Viderunt omnes

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. *Cf Ps 98:3*

Prayer after Communion

Grant, O merciful God, that, just as the Saviour of the world, born this day, is the author of divine generation for us, so he may be the giver even of immortality. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Scripture Reading for the Octave of Christmas

St Stephen	Acts 8:8-10; 7:54-59	Matthew 10:17-22
HOLY FAMILY	Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3	
	Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19	Luke 2:22-40
28 th December	1 John 1:1 – 2:2	Matthew 2:13-18
29 th December	1 John 2:3-11	Luke 2:22-35
30 th December	1 John 2:12-17	Luke 2:36-40
31 st December	1 John 2:18-21	John 1:1-18
MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (1st January 2021)		
	Numbers 6:22-27	
	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:16-21

We wish you, your family, and friends, a holy and happy Christmas.

CONTACT DETAILS: Fr Andrew is 01235 835038 or 07976 437979
aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

NOTICEBOARD

HOLY FATHER'S DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the World of God and a life of prayer.

THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

Baby Martha, John Castle, Petal Connell, Daniel Cuevas, Rose Millet, John Stringer, Louise Woodhouse, Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Angus Clark, Karen Greig, Kitty Teasdale, Mary Mc Nichol, Andrew Gunn, Elizabeth Gunn, Des McNichol, Christine Robinson, Rose

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Week 27th Dec- 2nd January: Kathleen Cavan, Sybil Clerk, May Mulford, Mary Throckmorton, Beatrice Scrope, Patrick Rush, Joseph Leahy, Peggy Bray, Cyril Charlton, Mary Wallington, Isaac Ellaway, Alfred Dixey, Bertha Northcote.

THE YEAR OF THE WORD

Following the disruption caused by COVID-19, Bishop Philip has extended 'The Year of the Word' until 30th September 2021. In short, we shall continue with our intense Scripture programme till then.

GIVING

To help with supplying the Didcot Foodbank, contact Veronica Paget: veronicapaget@hotmail.com or leave suitable food outside her front door. Jackymattam@btinternet.com helps with the poor locally.

MISSIO The Red Box Collection for 2020 has been sent in. £701.83. Thanks to Margaret Maytham for overseeing this. Must get mine sorted.....

TO GIVE TO OUR PARISH BY REGULAR STANDING ORDER OR GIFT

BANK DETAILS: PRCDTR East Hendred, St Mary

Sort Code: 309304 Account Number: 00877183

To arrange Gift Aid, contact : hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

<https://www.crisis.org.uk/>

CHILDREN CELEBRATE

Our Team have produced resources, which are available at the back of St Mary's. See also www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk and the link below.

Children's liturgy for the coming weeks

See: www.cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy
Children's liturgy general guidelines [\(doc, 59kb\)](#)

The Divine Office

The People of God share in different ways in the daily recitation of the Divine Office. The Office of Readings (sometimes called 'Vigils' or 'Matins') used to be a night time provision. Nowadays it takes place early in the morning but may be scheduled for any convenient time of day. To this, religious add the minor hours of Terce (approx. 9am), Sext (approx. 12 noon), None (approx. 3pm), and Compline (late evening). Those not in religious communities are able to replace Terce, Sext, and None with a short Midday Office. The major hours are Lauds (Morning Prayer) and Vespers (Evening Prayer), each climaxing with a Gospel Canticle, the Song of Zechariah (*'Benedictus'*) in the morning and the Song of Our Lady (*'Magnificat'*) in the evening. It is these major hours, which the Second Vatican Council called 'the hinges' (*'cardines'*) of the Divine Office and it is these major hours which the whole People of God are to share.

It is not an easy time to buy Office Books, which are all being revised. Stocks are low if not non-existent. Many people now make use of an app and read the Office on an iPad or iPhone. Google <https://universalis.com> for material and help with dealing it. There are some basic decisions: the version on the internet is free but uses its own translation to avoid problems of copyright; the version as an iPhone or android app costs about £10 (one-off single payment) and that allows one to use the proper texts. There are also options: to use Revised Standard Version (as we do in East Hendred); to listen to the Office read and sung &c.

Universalis as it describes itself

Martin Kochanski who runs the site writes:

"[Universalis] is the biggest present there can be, because it changes lives, and it lasts for ever. A Universalis registration code costs £19.99... It gives the recipient all the Mass readings for every day, forever, and all the Hours of the Liturgy of the Hours for every day, forever. There are also benefits such as the daily 'About Today' pages, with their stories of the saints and their illustrations. The registration code works on whatever devices your friend has – Android and iPhone/iPad/iPod Touch and Mac and Windows – and also for making personal e-books. It is very simple indeed to give a Universalis registration code as a present. [Our blog post gives all the details.](#)"

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

26th December – 1st January 2021

Christmastide

St Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Saturday 26th December

Collect

Grant, Lord, we pray, that we may imitate what we worship and so learn to love even our enemies, for we celebrate the heavenly birthday of a man who knew how to pray, even for his persecutors. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Reading

Acts 6:8-10; 7:55-60

The Martyrdom of St Stephen

⁸ Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyre'nians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cili'cia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke.....

⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; ⁵⁶ and he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God.' ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and

rushed together upon him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰ And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Reflection

The seven deacons, appointed by the apostles to 'serve at tables', were, in fact prophets with whom the apostles were sharing the task of preaching and proclaiming. The 'serve at tables' notion is about authority to minister and we remember that the apostles themselves received their authority not least at the Last Supper with the Lord. Of these extra prophets we hear a great deal only about two: Philip and Stephen. Stephen, as today's first reading shows, came to a violent end before ever his ministry could extend beyond Israel. Though Stephen died by stoning, rather than by crucifixion, in many other ways his death mirrors that of his Lord. He has the face of an angel, is condemned by false witnesses for alleged blasphemy, prays for his persecutors, and commends his spirit to the Lord. Celebrating this feast so soon after the celebration of the birth of the Saviour reminds us of a couple of verses of the carol 'The Infant King' by Sabine Baring-Gould:

Sing lullaby

Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping

Sing lullaby

Hush, do not wake the Infant King

Soon will come sorrow with the morning

Soon will come bitter grief and weeping

Sing lullaby

Sing lullaby

Lullaby baby, now a-doing

Sing lullaby

Hush, do not wake the Infant King

Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing

Then in the grave at last reposing

Sing lullaby

During the joyful octave of Christ's Nativity we nonetheless turn our minds towards the martyrdom of St Stephen and, closer to home, that of St Thomas Becket (29th December), and, in the meantime, remember the Holy Innocents (28th December). Our Faith comprehends Joy and Sorrow and indeed Light and Glory, as the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary remind us.

East Hendred Catholic Parish



Holy Family (B)
27th December 2020

**Antiphons, Prayers
and Readings**

Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Infant lying in a manger.

Venerunt pastores

Lk 2:16

Collect

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever

First Reading

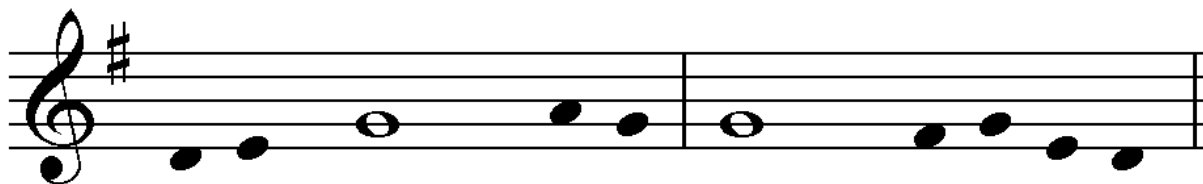
Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 [RSV]

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' ² But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Elie'zer of Damascus?' ³ And Abram said, 'Behold, you have given me no offspring; and a slave born in my house will be my heir.' ⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; your own son shall be your heir.' ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, 'Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and he reckoned it to him as righteousness.....21 The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. ² And Sarah conceived, and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac.

Holy Family

Psalm 105:1-6, 8-9 R/ 7-8

Tone VIII.1



R/ He the Lord is our God. |
He remembers his cove - nant for e - ver.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell *his* name,
make known his deeds a-*mong* the peo-*ples*.
O sing to him, sing *his* praise;
tell all his *won-der-ful* works! **R/**

Be proud of his ho-*ly* name,
let the hearts that seek *the* Lord re-*joice*.
Consider the Lord and *his* strength;
constant-*ly* seek his face. **R/**

Remember the wonders he *has* done,
his miracles, the *judg-ments* he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his *ser-vant*,
O sons of the *Ja-cob* he chose. **R/**

He remembers his covenant for e-*ver*,
his promise for a thousand *ge-ne-ra-tions*,
the covenant he made with *Ab-ra-ham*,
the oath he *swore* to I-*saac*. **R/**

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 [RSV]

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was to go.... ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.... ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, 'Through Isaac shall your descendants be

Holy Family

named.' ¹⁹ He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead; hence he did receive him back, and this was a symbol.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40 [RSV]

And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord') ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.' ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ 'Lord, now let your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³ And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him;

³⁴ and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,

'Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel,
and for a sign that is spoken against

³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also),
that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.'

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phan'u-el, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, ³⁷ and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke

of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Prayer over the Offerings

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. Through Christ our Lord.

Preface

(De Nativitate Domini III)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For through him the holy exchange that restores our life has shone forth today in splendour: when our frailty is assumed by your Word not only does human mortality receive unending honour but by this wondrous union we, too, are made eternal. And so, in company with the choirs of Angels, we praise you, and with joy we proclaim: Holy, holy, holy &c.

Communion Antiphon

Deus noster

Our God has appeared on the earth and lived among us.

Baruch 3:38

Prayer after Communion

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. Through Christ our Lord.

Scripture Reading until the Epiphany

28 th December	1 John 1:1 – 2:2	Matthew 2:13-18
29 th December	1 John 2:3-11	Luke 2:22-35
30 th December	1 John 2:12-17	Luke 2:36-40
31 st December	1 John 2:18-21	John 1:1-18

MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (1st January 2021)

	Numbers 6:22-27	
	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:16-21
2nd January	1 John 2:22-28	John 1:19-25
3rd January	1 John 2:29 – 3:6	John 1:29-34

EPIPHANY

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

Holy Innocents

Monday 28th December

Collect

O God, whom the Holy Innocents confessed and proclaimed on this day, not by speaking but by dying: grant, we pray, that the faith in you which we confess with our lips may also speak through our manner of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Reading

1 John 1:1-2:2

The Word of Life

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— **2** the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— **3** that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. **4** And we are writing this that our joy may be complete.

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; **7** but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. **8** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2 My little children, I am writing this to you so that you may not sin; but if any one does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² and he is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Reflection

THE FIRST Letter of John is recognisably from the same pen, or community, as the Gospel of John. The vocabulary – the Word, Light, Life, Love – is markedly similar and the opening chapter, from which the reading is taken, is a mini-version of the Prologue of the Fourth Gospel. As in the Gospel there is something of a struggle going on. In the Gospel it was a struggle with the synagogue and those who are referred to as ‘the Jews’ – not the Jewish race but a particular group of religious leaders. That struggle might have reflected different views of Jesus, what he taught and how to interpret that teaching. The struggle in the First Letter of John is also over how to interpret what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. One group believed that all that matters is that one believes in Jesus as the Word of God. The other group believed that it was important to lead a moral life of integrity, love being the fundamental principle. As Christina Rossetti’s poem and carol says:

**Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
Star and angels gave the sign.**

**Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?**

**Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and others,
Love for plea and gift and sign.**

St Thomas of Canterbury

Tuesday 29th December

Collect

O God, who gave the Martyr Saint Thomas Becket the courage to give up his life for the sake of justice: grant, through his intercession, that, renouncing our life for the sake of Christ in this world, we may find it in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Reading

1 John 2:3-11

Love one another

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³And every one who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴Every one who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. He who does right is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸He who commits sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹No one born of God commits sin; for God's nature abides in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God. ¹⁰By this it may be seen who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not do right is not of God, nor he who does not love his brother.

¹¹For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

Reflection

IN A WORLD divided into Light and Darkness, the world as seen by the First Letter of John, keeping the commandments and thus perfecting the love of God is the fundamental task of the Christian life. Later we shall see that the commandment to love is love for fellow Christians. This message, which we 'heard from the beginning' (v.11), is the message first learnt by the newly-converted. It is the grace of God that we are called – and learn to become – children of God. Sin, says the letter, is lawlessness, and those who commit sin are 'of the devil' (v.8). Though the message of Love is generous and warm, it is, in the end, uncompromising. The alternative to Light is not dimness or murkiness but utter darkness. Those who are 'born of God' do not commit sin' because they share God's nature. This is the struggle of the First Letter of John, between Love and Sin, Light and Darkness, Death and Life.

Wednesday 30th December

Reading

1 John 2:12-17

Anyone who does the will of God remains for ever

¹² I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his sake. ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. ¹⁴ I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides for ever.

Reflection

IN THE reading, we have three names for those addressed. 'Children', 'fathers', and 'young men' might be simple poetic repetition or may mean

different groups. 'Children' might be general – all those who belong to the Johannine community, those in the sights of the Gospel of St John. 'Fathers' might be those who are most long-established in their faith. 'Children' might be the newly-converted. All are urged not to love the world, here a transitory place dominated by sin. Lust and the sins of the flesh, as is so often the case, are heavily implicated in love of the world.

New Year's Eve

Thursday 31st December

Reading

1 John 2:18-23

Warning against Antichrists

¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come; therefore we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out, that it might be plain that they all are not of us. ²⁰ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all know. ²¹ I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and know that no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. He who confesses the Son has the Father also.

Reflection

THE EVIL One, the Anti-Christ looms large in the battle that faces those who follow Christ and practise the Law of Love. The struggle is already taking place. The strategy of the Devil is to persuade us that Jesus is not the Christ. We come across this quite often with people who think that Jesus might have been a good man, a good rabbi, a healer or worker of miracles, but certainly not the Son of God. But the writer of 1 John is uncompromising: to deny Christ is to deny the Father. We thus see that the battle is not an intellectual battle, a matter of argument, but a battle of Good versus Evil, a battle about what is really true. True believers have both eternal Life and the consolation of the Truth.

East Hendred Catholic Parish



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God 1st January

Antiphons, Prayers and Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Hail, Holy Mother who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth
for ever.

Salve, sancta Parens

Sedulius

Collect

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary, bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation: grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the Author of life, 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

The LORD said to Moses, ²³ 'Say to Aaron and his sons, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

Numbers 6:22-27 [RSV]

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you:

²⁵ The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you:

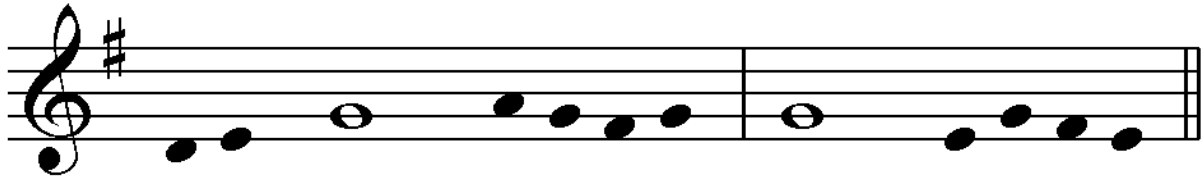
²⁶ The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

²⁷ So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.'

Mary Mother of God

Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (R/2

Tone III.5



R/ O God, be gra- cious and bless us | ()

O God, be gra-cious and bless us
and let your face shed its *light* u-pon us.
So will your ways be *known* u-pon earth
and all nations learn *your* sal-va-tion. **R/**

Let the peoples *praise* you, O God;
let the nations be glad *and* shout for joy,
with uprightness you *rule* the peo-ples;
you guide the *na*-tions on earth. **R/**

Let the peoples *praise* you, O God;
let all the *peo*-ples praise you.
May God still give *us* his bles-sing
that all the ends of the earth *may* re-vere him. **R/**

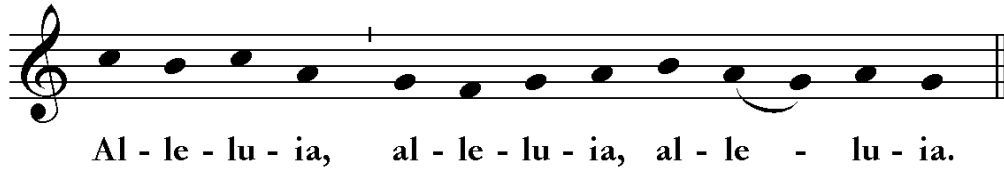
Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7 [RSV]

When the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' ⁷ So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

Mary Mother of God

Alleluia



At va-rious times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the *pro*-phets: but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us *through* his Son.

Gospel

Luke 2:16-21 [RSV]

¹⁶The shepherds went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

²¹And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who in your kindness begin all good things and bring them to fulfilment: grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity of the holy Mother of God, that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace, so one day we may rejoice in its completion; through Christ our Lord.

Preface

De maternitate beatæ Mariæ Virginis

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, and to praise, bless, and glorify your name on the Solemnity of the Motherhood of the Blessed ever-Virgin Mary.

For by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit she conceived your Only-Begotten Son, and without losing the glory of virginity, brought forth into

Mary Mother of God

the world the eternal Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him the Angels praise your majesty, Dominions adore, and Powers tremble before you. Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim worship together with exultation. May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise, as we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy &c.

Communion

Jesus Christus heri et hodie

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

Prayer after Communion

We have received this heavenly Sacrament with joy, O Lord: grant, we pray, that it may lead us to eternal life, for we rejoice to proclaim the blessed ever-Virgin Mary Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church. Through Christ our Lord.

Sub Tuum Præsidium

*Sub tuum præsidium
confugimus,
Sancta Dei Genetrix.
Nostras deprecationes
ne despicias
in necessitatibus nostris,
sed a periculis cunctis
libera nos semper,
Virgo gloriosa et
benedicta*

We fly to Thy protection,
O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from all dangers,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.
Amen.

The Latin translation, likely derived from the Greek, dates from the 11th century:

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