



St Mary the Virgin & All Saints Potters Bar

7th December 2025

The Second Sunday of Advent

*A warm welcome to St Mary's
especially if this is your first time here.*

Refreshments are served in the hall after the Parish Eucharist.

TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00am **HOLY COMMUNION**

10.00am **PARISH EUCHARIST**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11 vv 1-10 *Written some seven centuries before Christ's birth, this passage foretells the Messiah whose power would come from the Spirit of God resting on him.*

New Testament Reading: Romans 15 vv 4-13 *Christ was a Jew in accordance with Old Testament prophecy; but Paul emphasises that the promised salvation was also for Gentiles.*

Gospel: Matthew 3 vv 1-12 *John the Baptist prepared for the way of the Lord, whose coming Isaiah had foretold.*

Hymns: 5, 170, 10, 282, 7

The Week Ahead

Monday St John's School rehearsing in afternoon

Tuesday St John's School rehearsing all day
9.30am Morning Prayer (*in choir vestry*)
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday St John's School rehearsing in morning
9.30am Holy Communion (*in choir vestry*)
10.00am – 12 noon Carers' coffee morning in hall
No service of Evening Prayer today
7.00pm St John's School Christmas concert

Thursday 9.30am Holy Communion (*in choir vestry*)
10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors
2.00pm Funeral of Peter Smith
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Friday 9.30am Morning Prayer
10.30am Chancellor's School readers rehearsal
2.00pm Canopy Nursery School nativity
5.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

Saturday 7.00pm Choirs R Us Christmas concert
(see next column)

Next Sunday is the **Third Sunday of Advent**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am **PARISH EUCHARIST**

5.00pm Evensong

Eucharist readings next Sunday are: Isaiah 35 vv 1-10; James 5 vv 7-10 and Matthew 11 vv 2-11.

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Parish Notices

Please note that the morning services this Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday will take place in the **choir vestry**. It would help if you could enter the church via the south door situated close to the vestries.

Next Saturday, there is a concert at 7pm given by a Barnet community choir, Choirs R Us, in aid of the Alzheimer's Society – a mixture of pop, jazz and Christmas songs. Tickets (£15) will be available on the door from 6.30pm.

School events At least two stewards are needed for each of these events: Dame Alice Owen's on **Monday 15th** at 6.30pm (tbc); Ladbroke on **Wednesday 17th** at 6.00pm and Chancellor's on **Thursday 18th** at 7.00pm. Please sign up on the noticeboard if you can help.

Church cleaning will be on **Friday 20th December** from 9.30am to 11.30am. All help gratefully received.

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

Our **Carol Service** is on **Sunday 21st December** at **5.00pm**. If you can **provide mince pies** for the after service refreshments, please let Jenny Pearce or Richard know. Please note: we have plenty of mulled wine! We also need people to help with serving these refreshments.

If you are interested in doing a **reading at the Carol Service**, please speak to Richard.

Other Christmas services

Christmas Eve at 4.00pm – Crib & Christingle Service

Christmas Eve at 11.30pm – Midnight Mass

Christmas Day at 10.00am – Festival Eucharist

followed by festive drinks and mince pies

Would you like to give St Mary's a Christmas present?

There is a list on the noticeboard at the back of church with ideas, e.g. contributions to the purchase of candles, communion wine, photocopying paper etc.. All gifts, however small, will be gratefully received.

There is now a noticeboard available for you to pin up a **Christmas card** to all your friends at St Mary's.

For your prayers

The sick Anna Downes, Valerie Taylor, Elizabeth Liney, Jean Cotton, Joan Golden, Carlos Perez, Linda, Daren Elis, Maureen Alderman, Alison Stevens, Bob Keefe, Gill Efstathiou, Keith Andrews

We also pray for Keith Downes, Jayne Hutton, Janet Daniels, Francoise Groves-de-Milleret, Susan North, Julia, Tessa, Nicola Stiff, Ricky Mella, Betty Lockton, David Evans, Richard Barnes, Dave Gough, Pauline Phillips, Keith Probert

We give thanks for the improvement in the health of Joanne Crouch

The recently departed Peter Smith, Anthony Dwyer, Marion North, David Reid

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week

Millie Wheeler, Eileen Wackett, Colin Walker, Joan Hamer

Those preparing for Holy Matrimony Adam Page & Marguerite McMahon

Our parish We remember those who live in Marshe Close, Meadow Way and Melrose Avenue

Please send any items for this sheet to **Richard Osborn**

Email: rmosborn@hotmail.com

Tel: 07803 756088 / 020 8363 8197

Our livestreamed services are available at:

www.facebook.com/stmaryspb

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

PSALM Psalm 72:1-7. 18-19

R *The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.*

Give the king your judgements, O God, and your righteousness to the son of a king.

Then shall he judge your people righteously and your poor with justice. **R**

May the mountains bring forth peace, and the little hills righteousness for the people.

May he defend the poor among the people, deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor. **R**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, like the showers that water the earth. In his time shall righteousness flourish, and abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. **R**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wonderful things. And blessed be his glorious name for ever.

May all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 15:4-13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy

and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptise you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

POST COMMUNION

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



The Lord is king; let the earth - re-joice.