

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Notice sheet for the Third Sunday of Advent

Collect:

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading: Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Second Reading: James 5.7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord.

The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient.

Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!

As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'

Jesus answered them,

'Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind receive their sight, the lame walk,
the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear,
the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John:

'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”

‘Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

Post Communion:

We give you thanks, O Lord,
for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Notices

Sunday 14th December – The Third Sunday of Advent

10.00am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church

4.00pm Carol Service (refreshments served from 3.15pm)

Monday 15th December

9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook

4.00-8.00pm Darwen Food Share

Tuesday 16th December

9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook

Wednesday 17th December

10.00am Eucharist

Thursday 18th December

9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook

Friday 19th December

9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook

Sunday 21st December – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.00am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church

Monday 22nd December

9.30am Funeral in church of Lynn Clough

(No Morning Prayer on Facebook now till 5th January)

4.00-8.00pm Darwen Food Share

Tuesday 23rd December

10.00am Christingle Making in the Parish Centre

Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

4.00pm Christingle Service

9.00pm Midnight Mass (ends at midnight in Bethlehem)

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

10.00am Christmas Eucharist

Prayers

For peace in Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, Iran and the wider Near East, and Sudan: for all those who are suffering as a result of the conflicts there and around the world, and all who are trying to help them; and for the turning of the hearts and minds of the aggressors everywhere from war to peace.

For those who are unwell: Barbara; Rick; Margaret; Leon; Marilyn; Jim; little Lola; John Kevin Griffin; Margaret Seed; Barbara Wong; Margaret; Barbara Woodward; Helen; little Ophelia and her family; Orla Buck; Joy; Paul; Jim H; Liz; Jackie; Christine; Rodney; Tom.

If you know that any of those whose names are listed above no longer need our prayers please let Rev Alison or Anne know.

For those who have died and their loved ones: Lynn Clough.

For those whose anniversaries we remember at this time:

Jessie Jackson; Patricia Ferguson; Denise Buxton; Elizabeth Duerden; Raymond Taylor; Walford Rudge; Ronald Bonner; Robert Dewett; Sharon Greaves; Geoff Dixon.

For the parish: for those living and working in:

Railway Road, Ratcliffe Street and Rectory Close.