



T CLEMENT'S CHURCH, EWELL
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 Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton
 Charity No. 252878



All Masses are now live-streamed. Access via the Parish Website

2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, 5th December 2021 Psalter Week 2 Cycle C

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Matthew Cruickshank RIP
Sunday 05 Dec	8.30 am	Sean McCabe RIP
	10.30 am	Salvatore Bellino RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am	Bernie Sullivan RIP
Friday	10.00 am	Wellbeing - Francine del Pilar

3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday 12th December 2021 Psalter Week 3 Cycle C

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	William & Joanna O'Halloran RIP
Sunday 12 Dec	8.30 am	Eugene McLaughlin RIP
	10.30 am	All Parishioners
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mary and Jim Torpey RIP
Friday	10.00am	Maureen O'Sullivan RIP
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Evan Lawrence RIP
Sunday 17 Dec	8.30 am	Eileen Mullins RIP
	10.30 am	Michael O'Connell RIP

FEAST DAYS: 5TH DECEMBER – 11TH DECEMBER

Tuesday: St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor
 Wednesday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

ANNIVERSARIES: 5TH DECEMBER – 11TH DECEMBER

Elizabeth Moore, Dina Rega, Bernie Sullivan, Tony Bellino, Patricia Jones.

FEAST DAYS: 12TH DECEMBER – 16TH DECEMBER

Monday: St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr
 Tuesday: St John of the Cross

ANNIVERSARIES: 12TH DECEMBER – 16TH DECEMBER

Colin Massey, Mary Burke, Bobby Kendall.

COFFEE AFTER 10.30 AM MASS

05/12/2021 – Parish Funds, Pauline & Rod Artiss and Betty Lynch

COFFEE AFTER 10.30 AM MASS

12/12/2021 – St Anthony's Group

RECOVERY AND WELL-BEING: Please pray for: Steve Kamm, Chris Williamson, Mary Frost, Jocelyn Bowen, Joseph Ewing and Maritina Savage, Jimmy Finn.

DEATHS: Please remember Sylvia Fitzgerald in prayer. Sylvia died suddenly on 22nd November. She had been a loyal member of St Clement's for over twenty years. Sylvia was, for several years, St Clement's ecumenical representative and a RCIA Catechist, and served on the diocese's Church Unity Commission.

NEXT WEEKEND – 11/12 DECEMBER: we welcome Fr Graham Preston to St Clement's Parish

THE PARISH BOOKSTALL will be open at all Masses on the weekend 11th/12th December.

AN ADVENT GROUP is meeting on Wednesday 8th and 15th December in the Tivey Room after coffee at 11.15am - 12 noon.

MISSIO BOXES (RED BOXES): Thank-you to all "red box" holders. £571.39 was raised in the recent emptying of boxes. If you have not collected your red box yet, please collect it from the narthex.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS: These are a range of virtual charity gifts that can help transform the lives of families living in poverty. When you choose a gift, you support the area of CAFOD's work that this gift represents. For example, when you buy the gift of a pig, you support work with poor farmers in the rural areas of the countries CAFOD works in, by contributing to the Agricultural fund. Catalogues are available for individual gifting with different payment options available. Alternatively, you can contribute to a parish gift by donating money this week or next after mass.

BAPTISM CERTIFICATES: Certificates for baptisms up to and including October 2021 are ready for collection from Father Graham.

NOVEMBER 200 CLUB WINNERS: Margaret Marshall No.19 £30 John Hannan No.164 £20 Congratulations!

REFLECTION FOR ADVENT:

Advent is a time of waiting in joyful hope. We are looking forward to celebrating the fulfilment of God's promise. It's a time of thankfulness for God's generous love, made real for us in Jesus. John the Baptist knew that this love was a free and undeserved gift. He was not even worthy to welcome Jesus, but we are called to be willing to let his presence change our attitudes and behaviour.

The Gospel shows us what this means in practice. Whatever shape they take, genuine Christian generosity and kindness will always be expressed with happiness and joy. We rejoice in God's gifts to us; let's also be joyful in happily sharing them with others.



The people among whom John lived and worked did not discuss atheism or agnosticism. They took God's existence for granted. God was so much part and parcel of everything they did and said that recognising God in the depths of their hearts could become just as perfunctory and shallow as we so often see today. That is why, although he didn't use the term, John the Baptist was calling for a climate change in people's lives. He wanted to see a global warming of hearts reawakened to the presence of God.

WARMING THROUGH LOVE

Today, as then, the climate change of the heart removes the mountains and the valleys of daily difficulties, tortuous paths, tough decisions and sense of isolation. Global warming through love happens independently of multinational companies and profit margins. It allows for a completely new focus as the spiritual world replaces its materialistic counterpart.

"Put Christ back into Christmas!" What could I do to help the process? If I were to start small, perhaps in my home or workplace, could I make a difference? When writing Christmas cards, for example, do I choose those with religious themes, or do I go for the robins, snowmen, reindeer and Santa cards which are easier to find and often slightly cheaper? Do I buy books of ordinary postage stamps or choose the Christmas variety? For some people, that Christmas card or stamp might be the only bit of religion in the home. Could our hearts and lives become the soft rain falling on the thirsty wilderness of human hearts? Could Advent 2021 offer a new beginning?

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Zion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his
voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING Baruch 5:1-9

PSALM Psalm 125

RESPONSE What marvels the Lord worked
for us!
Indeed we were glad.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. R.
2. The heathens themselves said: "What marvels
the Lord worked for them!"
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. R.
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. R.

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. R.

SECOND READING Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you
from God.

Next Sunday's Readings:
Zephaniah 3:14-18
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18



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THE CLIMATE CHANGE OF THE HEART

People made enormous efforts to celebrate Christmas 2020 – but often forgot about God. We heard discussions about shop opening hours and the possibilities of eating and drinking in pubs and restaurants during the pandemic. Santa, pantomimes, Christmas fairs, sporting events and venues with or without masks – all received even more attention than usual. Tired of the limitations and frustrations of the coronavirus, from late October onwards, people festooned almost every nook and cranny with Christmas decorations.

Everyone urgently needed a "feel-good factor" in their lives. We talked about sharing and caring, getting together and new beginnings – but few mentioned the Christmas story and the reason why Christmas exists in the first place. Churches strove to offer Christmas hope amidst a clamour which often missed the point. But in the end, many of our celebrations had to be limited by the restrictions to lessen the spread of Covid-19.

Sometimes, as a result of our personal, contemporary experience, it's easy to understand John the Baptist's frustration: to be a voice crying in the wilderness can be a lonely exercise. We want to see Christ put back into Christmas, but our voices are often drowned by the carols and jingles of shopping malls and supermarkets, which tell us to celebrate but without explaining why. Preaching in the wilderness, John the Baptist promised a climate change of the heart, one that produces a global warming through love. His words were heeded by some and ignored by others. Sound familiar?

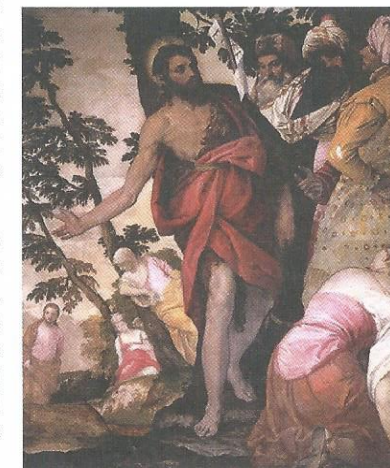
John didn't invent baptism as such: it pre-existed his ministry and he never claimed that his actions had more than a symbolic, non-sacramental value. Over the centuries, the people of Israel had used water to symbolise the cleansing and purification of the heart and mind. After the Babylonian captivity, converts to Judaism also immersed themselves in water in a rite of initiation which changed their status and qualified them for full participation in the life of the community.

John's innovation was to offer his baptism of repentance and forgiveness as a preparation for one who was coming and would bring salvation. In a real, tangible and down-to-earth manner, he promised the Messiah for whom he prepared the way. When John spoke, therefore, of levelling mountains, filling in valleys and making paths straight, he was not talking of geographical or civil engineering projects. Rather, he was encouraging his listeners to remove the obstacles which prevented them from being ready to encounter the Messiah for whom they longed.

Hope in the darkness



We continue this series of reflections for Advent with Sister Janet Fearn FMDM.



5 DECEMBER 2021

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR C

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK II



his subjects. After all, that was what they had seen of Herod and of the high priests. You wouldn't think of asking them to drop in for a drink when they were in the area. John the Baptist, on the other hand, had a reputation for enjoying locusts and wild honey – definitely not a royal diet. Many people didn't see that he was inviting them to see God in the ordinary, not the extraordinary.

Jesus would not be like a rare hothouse plant. He resembled the dandelion or the daisy, flourishing anywhere and everywhere. He'd welcome an invitation to visit people in their homes. John's childhood home in Ein Karem and Jesus' home in Nazareth were so ordinary that their contemporaries would not have expected the extraordinary to emerge from the two towns. The extraordinary is always a surprise: it's meant to be so.

SOURCES OF INSPIRATION

Most of us find it difficult to cope with the extraordinary, probably because we tend not to put ourselves into that category. We know our shortcomings, especially those we try to keep from public scrutiny. Yet we are also capable of greatness. We have seen that during the pandemic, when people have surprised us by the extent of their generosity and care. Have we ourselves been a source of inspiration to others, perhaps?

The ordinary gives birth to the extraordinary. That is one of the messages of Advent.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

FIRST READING Zephaniah 3:14-18

PSALM Isaiah 12

RESPONSE Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. R.
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. R.
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. R.

SECOND READING Philippians 4:4-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 3:10-18

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Next Sunday's Readings:
Micah 5:1-4
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45



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EXTRAORDINARILY ORDINARY

A joy of the coronavirus pandemic has been to see "unsung heroes" receive well-deserved appreciation for their generous and tireless self-giving which has made a difference to the lives of others. A common feature has been the genuine surprise – and tears – when that acknowledgement came. We would hear people saying, "I wasn't doing anything special."

Captain Tom Moore wasn't looking for glory when, in April 2020, he decided to walk around his garden and raise £1,000 for the NHS before his hundredth birthday – but the news got out and, inspired by his courage and determination, people donated over £30 million.

Captain Tom died in February this year, but he had acted as a stone dropped into a pool of water, creating ripples which spread ever wider across the surface. "If he can do it, so can I" – and so five-year-old Tony Huggell walked ten kilometres on new prosthetic legs and raised over £1 million for the Evelina London Children's Hospital which had saved his life. Six-year-old Frank Mills, who has spina bifida, hoped to raise £99 for NHS Charities Together by daily walking ten metres using his frame, something his family described as "a personal marathon". Deeply touched by the child's efforts, people donated more than £300,000 to his charity.

Captain Tom, Tony and Frank showed the world the immense joy of their achievements without a shred of boastfulness. They were genuinely surprised to see that other people thought that they had gone above and beyond the call of duty. It can be difficult to see how the extraordinary emerges from the ordinary.

John the Baptist found mixed reactions to his preaching. Some people lapped up every word, asked for baptism and changed their lives. Others could not see John as the herald welcoming the era of the longed-for Messiah: he was too "ordinary", telling the "haves" to share their possessions with the "have-nots" and soldiers to stop grumbling about their pay. He baptised them with water, which St Francis of Assisi would later describe as "so useful, precious and pure" but, again, extraordinarily ordinary. John told them not to look at him but beyond – to the greater one who was to come.

John's audience, like many others, had the wrong idea about the Messiah, expecting an earthly king who would drive the Romans out of Israel. They thought that he would come in great splendour, generating maximum attention, total service and obedience from

Hope in the darkness



We continue this series of reflections for Advent with Sister Janet Fearn, FMDM.



12 DECEMBER 2021

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR C

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK III