



# PARISH NEWS

Sunday: 11am Sung Mass

Holy Days: As Announced

**A Very Warm  
WELCOME**

**Today is**

**Advent II**

**Commemorate: St Nicholas**

**6th December  
2020**

The Propers are on  
**Page 321** of the red  
Book of Common Prayer

**Today there will be no**

**Hymns**

At the end of the service we  
conclude with the  
**Angelus** (in the back of the  
white **Mass Booklets**)  
Turning to face the Statue of  
Our Lady.

**Government Covid-19  
Guidelines and Rules**

In accordance with Government  
guidelines we ask those using the  
Church to wear facemasks in  
Church (clergy in the Sanctuary are  
permitted to remove theirs in the  
sanctuary) to practice safe  
distancing and use hand sanitiser.



**Please  
Turn off Your  
Mobile Phones**

Our Organ doesn't like them

*Thank you*

*Dear Friends,*

All over the world, through all the ages of human history every generation has far more in common with those who went before than they might suspect. Even with all the scientific and cultural achievements of our times we are not very much removed from our ancestors. On the most basic level we all share some very simple experiences. We are born, we live and we will all die.

It is the last of these shared experiences I wish to look at today. Some of us die slowly, "chipping away" at life, until there is nothing left; others check out abruptly - with a sudden heart attack or accident. Some do it when they are old and others do it when they are young.

Most people in the world are afraid of dying, which is not, perhaps, an irrational fear. Unfortunately, a lot of people are SO afraid of dying that they do not even want to discuss death, which, uncomfortable as this discussion may be, is actually irresponsible — and for a Christian unacceptable.

God is aware of everything, including this great fear we human beings have. But he has given us certain assurances, which he expects those who believe in Him to take at face value, namely, that death isn't in fact, of itself, something to be feared. We may pour out prayer to God to give us a peaceful and quiet passing, and I think it only natural that we might have apprehension about the manner and cause of our death. But the only reason to fear death is if we are living without hope.

The Church speaks to us today in

Please read our Covid-19 worship notice



our Lectionary, that Holy Scriptures, has been written for our learning and comfort and, most especially, to give us hope, in God's promise that His words shall not pass away.

The Church's **ministry of the word** is the means which the God of hope uses to fill the faithful with all joy and peace in believing.

The ministry of preaching is much emphasised today. But what does it accomplish? I find that often the Liturgy and the Offices and the seasonal devotions of the Church are far, far more interesting and impressive and illuminating than sermons. I believe that as important preaching is, many people are won and taught their faith by the Liturgy rather than by sermons. This is true, I think, all over the world. Wherever you find a cathedral, a church or a chapel in which the priests make it their chief concern to serve God unfailingly at the Altar and in Choir, you will find a people rooted and grounded in faith.

# December

✕

**Sunday 6th December**

*Advent II*

*(Comm St Nicholas)*

11am Low Mass

✕

**Sunday 6th December**

*Advent II*

*(Comm St Nicholas)*

11am Low Mass

✕

**Sunday 13th December**

*Advent III*

*(Comm St Lucy & Octave of  
the Conception of the BVM)*

11am Low Mass

✕

**Sunday 20th December**

*Advent IV*

11am Low Mass

✕

**Thursday 24th  
December**

*Christmas Eve*

6pm First Mass  
of Christmas

✕

*This Christmas we will  
confine our Christmas  
Services to the Mass on  
Christmas Eve.*

The reason is not hard to see. At the Altar, in Choir, at the Lectern, it is the Church's voice that you hear. The priest speaks the words of the Church and not his own. His individuality is happily lost. He is caught up into and he is merged with the Church.

The Altar is the main focus. The mystery there is the mystery of Calvary. The Church there shows forth the Lord's death till He comes.

At the Mass, and happily in our Liturgy which has retained the fullness of Liturgical life, from the preparation at the foot of the Altar and on through Introit, Kyrie, Gloria, Collect, Epistle, Gospel, Creed, Sanctus, Benedictus, Consecration, Agnus, Communion, Post Communion, Blessing and Last Gospel, you will find redemption in action from Bethlehem to Heaven.

In the Daily Offices in Psalms and Lessons, the Bible from beginning to end is proclaimed. And this every day throughout the year.

In the Seasonal Devotions, you will find the Sacred Drama which literally makes every year a year of Our Lord.

It is impossible to follow the Church from Advent to Advent without a growing knowledge of the holy Word AND with that knowledge comes a sure and certain hope. An end to despair, worry and fear. BUT we have a part to play here in bringing this hope to a dark and lonely world. We must LIVE in the Christian Hope. This Christian Hope isn't wishful thinking, dilly day dreams or what we wish with fingers crossed might happen. Human hope is like that ... frivolous, shallow and silly. God doesn't break His word, forget His promises, disappoint, let down or change His mind.

Christian Hope in the second coming of Christ, the second Advent of our Lord in all His glory when all will see Him revealed, is a certainty! It is in that certainty in which we should and MUST live!



Requests for names to be added to our weekly prayer lists may be made by writing the prayer intention (names and reason) in clear printed writing on paper and given to the clergy. If you wish the intention to remain private—note that and the details will not be published on this weekly sheet

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR ...

Fr Don & Di Walker, Chris Bosworth, Margaret and Laurence Mead, Paul Fletcher, Barbara Henderson, Todd, David and Sheila, Margaret Miles, Danny and Colin Rumens, Frederick Chadwick, Ann Chapman, Diane Young, Pauline Allison, Harrison and Edward Eckert, Ina Bond, Margaret and Peter Martin, Dulcie Fidge, Margaret Bendelow, Dorothy Hipkiss, Fr Miles Maylor, Fr Roger Bell, Vickie Wall, Pat Johnson, Edward Wilkinson, Liz Bakker, William and Nancy Spencer, Stacy Sawyer, Kody Sawyers, and James Burkhart mourning the death of his wife Rose, all those effected by or suffering from the Corona-virus and other infectious diseases.

*For those who read these Parish Notes on the Notice Board outside and all who receive email or paper copies.*

- For our neighbours and the people of **Painters Forstal** and **Ospringe** and the surrounding countryside, the **growth** of our **Church Family**.
- For **persecuted Christians** especially in Africa, Pakistan, the Middle East and China.

*For those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer*

- Diocese of the Midwest, Bishop Ordinary - Bishop Rommie Starks;
- St Nicholas, Lydd, Kent, Bishop Damien Mead
- All those who approach Christmas with trepidation, those who feel lonely, unloved or unwanted.

*And we remember the recently departed: Daniel Stanton specially, AND those whose anniversary falls at this time*

**P:** ✕ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord **R:** And let light perpetual shine upon them



### CHURCH FLOWERS

*To make a  
donation for  
Flowers in*

*Church – Please see Mrs  
Margaret Mead*

#### Rector

Bishop Damien Mead

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**Honorary Assistant Priest**

Father Raymond Thompson

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Email: [frraythompson@gmail.com](mailto:frraythompson@gmail.com)

**Parish Secretary:** Mr Roy Hipkiss

**Parish Treasurer:** Mrs Kerry Scott

**Organist:** Mr Louis Collins

**Cantor:** Vacancy

**(Parish) [www.staugustineacc.uk](http://www.staugustineacc.uk)**

**(Diocese) [www.anglican catholic.org.uk](http://www.anglican catholic.org.uk)**