

WELCOME TO ST JOHN ON BETHNAL GREEN



ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY

Today

9.15am Morning Prayer
10am Parish Mass

Monday 19th December (Ss Thea and Meuris, O Radix))

9am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 20th (St Dominic of Silos, O Clavis)

9am Morning Prayer
1pm Said Mass

Wednesday 21st (St Themistocles, O Oriens))

9am Morning Prayer
7pm Said Mass

Thursday 22nd (St Flavian, O Rex)

9am Morning Prayer

Friday 23rd (St Victoria, O Emmanuel)

Saturday 24th (CHRISTMAS EVE)

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Sunday 25th (CHRISTMAS DAY)

10am Christmas Day Mass with Blessing of the Crib

Following Christmas Day the Parish Mass will continue as usual on Sundays, but midweek services will cease whilst there is no parish priest at St John's.

Sunday 1 January, 10am – Parish Mass, The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

Sunday 8 January, 10am – Parish Mass, The Epiphany of Christ

Fr Alan will be licensed by the Bishop of Chichester as the Priest in Charge of Stanmer with St Laurence, Falmer in a Mass at 3pm on Sunday 22 January. A group from St John's are intending to travel down to Falmer for this. If you would like to join, or want further information, please speak to Fr Alan.

Keep up to date with events at St John visit www.stjohnonbethnalgreen.org

St John is a registered charity, no. 1132150

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

18 DECEMBER 2022

Today's Hymns - (New English Hymnal): 186, 500, 33, 10

Introductory Sentence

Shower O heavens from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness

The Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our Saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading: Isaiah 10. 7-16

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.'

Second Reading: Romans 1. 1-7

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the churches in Rome

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his

name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel: Matthew 1. 18-25

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Post Communion Sentence

The young woman is with child and she shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Please join us for refreshments at the back of church after the service

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'Coming.' Advent begins the church year, starting four Sundays before Christmas. The season of Advent has been set aside as a time of preparation since the 6th century. Advent is also a time for preparing for Christ's second coming, even as we remember and celebrate his first coming at Christmas. This is why the colour of the season of Lent is used, purple or blue, the colours also of Lent, of forgiveness and repentance.

The Advent Wreath has three purple candles and one each of pink and white. The first candle is lit on Advent Sunday; additional ones are lit, one on each Sunday, and the white on Christmas Day.

The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday, traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday – Rejoice Sunday – as we begin to prepare for the birth of Jesus in the company of John the Baptist and Mary.

Fourth Candle - The Candle of Joy Mary the Mother of Jesus

Priest: May your hearts be filled with joy as you hear the song of Mary, the Mother of Jesus.
All: Thanks be to God

Last Sunday we lit the Candles of Hope, Peace and Love

The three candles are relit.

Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy, as we remember Mary the mother of Jesus

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' (Luke, Chapter 1)

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Saviour of all. **Blessed be God for ever.**

The fourth candle is lit.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Alleluia, alleluia. Mary, Mother of Jesus, blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Alleluia!