

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B) AND HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Sunday, 10 th December	9.30 am	Second Sunday of Advent Human Rights Day	Edward Rex Anderson - Anniversary
Monday, 11 th December	12.00 noon 2.00 pm	St. Damasus I, Pope	Requiem Mass for Kathleen McKeon Holy Rosary Group – all welcome
Tuesday, 12 th December		Our Lady of Guadalupe	
Wednesday, 13 th December		St. Lucy	
Thursday, 14 th December	11.30 am	St. John of the Cross, Priest	Requiem Mass for Grattan Hamlet
Friday 15 th December			
Saturday, 16 th December			
Sunday, 17 th December	9.30 am	Third Sunday of Advent	Bill Gerrard - Anniversary

Sick - Philip Akehurst, Sylvia Armitage, Peggy (Margaret) Atherton, Philip Bond, Sarah Bond, Luke Bryan, Vincent Carr, Pat Chapman, Patricia Chisnall, Imelda Cowley, Francis Curran, Ava Davidson, Tony Devereux, Gerada D'Orsi, Dennis Edmund, Jim Evans, Elaine Fairclough, Marjorie Fairhurst, Ellen Firth, Father Tom Gagie, John & Lily Glover, Hilda Hamlett, Mary Hill, Jack Kelly, Shelagh Lowe, Will McDookin, Angela Monks, Margaret Murphy, Annie Plant, Beryl Pudifer, Tanya Rattigan, Nathan Sa Joe, Jean Sharkey, Patsy Shiel, Danny Singleton, Georgina Smith, Margaret and Frank Speakman, Stan Springford, Howard Thomas, Michael Twist, Marjorie Wills, Eden Rose Wilson, Baby Callum James, and those suffering from Covid.

Lately Dead – Keith Bullivant, Grattan Hamlet, Kathleen McKeon, Jean Pye

Anniversaries – Edward Rex Anderson, Bill Gerrard

Special Intentions – Innocent people on both sides of the Israel/Gaza conflict, people of Ukraine

After many years of preparing families for Baptism, Margaret Markey will be stepping down. I wonder how many hundreds of people Margaret has supported over the years. Deacon Brendan will take over the co-ordination of Baptism preparation and would like to hear from anyone who would be in a position to help. Please speak to Christine in the office.

Would you consider becoming a Eucharistic Minister and take Holy Communion to those in the parish who cannot get to Mass? Or becoming a chaperone or driver to support the Eucharistic Ministers? This is a very rewarding ministry and means so much to the sick and housebound. You would not be required to distribute Holy Communion or lead Eucharistic services in church unless you wish to! Please contact Fr Michael to find out more.

Appeal for Altar Servers - We would love to see more boys and girls become **altar servers** in church. Anyone who has made their first Holy Communion can be a server.

Mary's Meals - Thanks to everyone who supported the recent function in aid of Mary's Meals, either by their presence or their very generous donations. We were able to send £820 to that worthy cause. Because of match funding this will be doubled and will be sufficient to feed 86 hungry children for a whole year!

Invitation to De La Salle SVP Pensioners' Christmas Party on **Thursday, 14th December** at De La Salle School 1.30 pm until 4.30 pm. Tea, Coffee, BINGO, treats, cakes, entertainment and much more! If anyone is interested, please get your **FREE** tickets from Eileen Kennedy (telephone 01744 756114). Also, if anyone requires a lift, the SVP can arrange.

All Saints SVP – Wish to thank you for your generosity on the 3rd of December. £222.10 gratefully received.

St Helens Singers – are performing "Joy to the World" a programme of Christmas Music, in the **Church on Friday 15th December at 7.30 pm.** Tickets £10 each available from Marie Holden or any choir member. (01744 612485 / 07857 677844). There will be refreshments in the hall afterwards. Proceeds to St Julie's Church.

Advent recollection on Saturday, 16th December 2023. We are planning a day of recollection for readers, Eucharistic ministers, Sacristans and others who prepare for Mass, funeral teams, musicians, church cleaners, welcomers and anyone else who helps with the liturgy. The theme will be on Advent and spiritual preparation for Christmas. There will be scriptural input from Dcn Brendan and Fr Michael, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and Mass. The event will take place at St Julie's on Saturday, 16th December 10.00-3.00pm. Please register with the Parish Office. Tea and coffee will be available but please bring your own lunch.

St Julie's Christmas Raffle and Coffee Morning after Sunday Mass on 24th December Raffle tickets will be on sale each week after Sunday Mass for a Christmas Hamper donated by St Julie's Mums & Toddlers' Group. Draw will take place on Christmas Eve in the Parish Hall after 9.30 am Mass. Donations of additional prizes would be much appreciated and can be left in designated box at church entrance or passed to Audrey Baines, Mandy Roberts or Ann Unsworth. Please join us for tea, coffee, mince pies and cake! All proceeds to St Julie's Church.

Carmel College students would like invite the more mature members of our parishes to celebrate the festive season at a Christmas Afternoon Tea - at Carmel College on Tuesday 19th December, 2pm-4pm and we would especially like to include those who may not have family or friends living locally. Contact kathryne@carmel.ac.uk or call the main reception on 01744 452200.

Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

2nd Sunday of Advent (B)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Is 30:19,30
O people of Sion, 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: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11
Prepare a way for the Lord.

PSALM: Ps. 84:9-14. R. v8

**R) Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R)

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. (R)

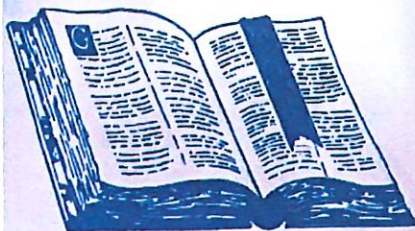
The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R)

SECOND READING: II Peter 3:8-14
We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth.

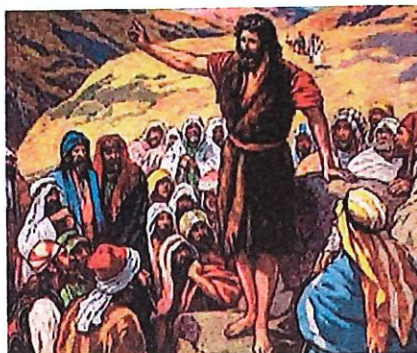
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, alleluia! Lk 3:4,6
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation
of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8
Make his paths straight.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Bar 5:5,4:36
Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you
from God.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



John the Baptist became a very popular figure, baptising people in the Jordan while they confessed their sins. However, despite his popularity, he was at pains to point out to those who 'followed' him, that there was 'someone' following him, some who would baptise, not just with water, but with the Holy Spirit. Still today, there is a danger that we 'follow' people who cannot give us real nourishment for the soul. In our highly secularised society, film stars, singers and sports personalities are often held in the highest esteem, especially by the young. We erect pedestal for these people, only to knock them off when their behaviour turns out to be less than exemplary. But even in the 'religious' world, certain writers or

thinkers, are held in high esteem by believers. Many of them have good and interesting ideas, write inspiring books which help on our journey towards God. What we must remember is that they are not God and, are not, to use John the Baptist's words, fit to undo the strap of his sandals. The acid test is if they bring us closer to Jesus or not.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



POPULAR VS. POPULIST

159. "Popular" leaders, those capable of interpreting the feelings and cultural dynamics of a people, and significant trends in society, do exist. The service they provide by their efforts to unite and lead can become the basis of an enduring vision of transformation and growth that would also include making room for others in the pursuit of the common good. But this can degenerate into an unhealthy "populism" when individuals are able to exploit politically a people's culture, under whatever ideological banner, for their own personal advantage or continuing grip on power. Or when, at other times, they seek popularity by appealing to the basest and most selfish inclinations of certain sectors of the population. This becomes all the more serious when, whether in cruder or more subtle forms, it leads to the usurpation of institutions and laws.

The Fire of Love* LIVING AS A TRUE CONTEMPLATIVE

Those who are true contemplatives, on fire with love, hardly ever engage in fruitless outside activity or seek high office in the Church. They like to be always free to be raised up to Christ in joyful song. The most important angels are not sent out on errands but remain close to God at all times. In the same way, contemplatives give themselves over to the things of God and are not willing to lord it over other people.

God chooses whomsoever God chooses. One is chosen for activity, another for solitude. Such people are often ignored

and rated pretty low by others. They do no flashy miracles, but rather prefer to remain in interior solitude.

Others are properly chosen to serve God in other people and they serve those under them with sensitivity. Others may live lives of discipline that people know nothing about. God may make this known by 'signs' before they die, but not necessarily so. Signs can also come from those who are sinners and who are actually doing what they do for human acknowledgement and praise.

*The Fire of Love by Richard Rolle Published by Aeterna Press

