

6 DECEMBER 2020 Sunday Message

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year B • Psalter Week 2

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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.

COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
"Console my people, console them"
says your God.
"Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the
Lord
double punishment for all her crimes."
A voice cries, "Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
"Here is your God."

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 84

Response:

**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 2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of Peter
There is one thing, my friends, that you must
never forget: that with the Lord, "a day"
can mean a thousand years, and a thousand
years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow
to carry out his promises, as anybody else
might be called slow; but he is being patient
with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and
everybody to be brought to change his ways.
The Day of the Lord will come like a thief,
and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the
elements will catch fire and fall apart, the
earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like
this, you should be living holy and saintly
lives while you wait and long for the Day of
God to come, when the sky will dissolve in
flames and the elements melt in the heat.
What we are waiting for is what he promised:
the new heavens and new earth, the place
where righteousness will be at home. So
then, my friends, while you are waiting, do
your best to live lives without spot or stain so
that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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 Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus
Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the
book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger
before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared
in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism
of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem
made their way to him, and as they were
baptised by him in the river Jordan they
confessed their sins. John wore a garment
of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and
wild honey. In the course of his preaching he
said, "Someone is following me, someone
who is more powerful than I am, and I am not
fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his
sandals. I have baptised you with water, but
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers
and offerings,
and, since we have no merits to plead our
cause,
come, we pray, to our rescue
with the protection of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual
nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the things
of earth
and hold firm to the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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This is the time of year when we remember
that God sent his only son "to serve, not to
be served". He restored love and service to
the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus
Christ.

Queen Elizabeth II

THE WORD

Relief of St John the Baptist in the Church of San Alessandro della Croce in Bergamo, Italy

PREPARE THE WAY! (MARK 1:1-8)

Our Advent Gospel passage today presents us with the figure
of John the Baptist. Mark casts him in the mould of the prophet
Elijah, summoning his listeners to repent and return to the Lord
their God.

He is preaching in the wilderness, a place associated in Jewish thought with that period
during the Exodus when God and the people of Israel enjoyed a relationship of particularly
close intimacy. However, the main emphasis in this extract is on John as the one who
heralds the coming of the Messiah and calls on his hearers to prepare themselves for
the coming of the one they are waiting for. The evangelist may be exaggerating when he
says that *all* Judaea and *all* the people of Jerusalem answered his call, but John is shown
elsewhere as enjoying widespread respect.

Mark presents Jesus as the fulfilment of the Jewish scriptures by quoting from the
prophets Isaiah and Malachi in John's call to prepare a way for the Lord: John describes
Jesus as the one who is more powerful than he is, which indicates that although later he
baptises Jesus, he is not greater than Jesus. John's baptism is a symbol of the person's
willingness to amend their life. The baptism of the one coming who is greater than John
will be with the Holy Spirit: this Spirit represents the power of God at work to bring about
holiness in the person, and so represents a deeper renewal than that of the Baptist. This is
the beginning of the Good News. ■

LEARN

The Gospel according to Mark has no "infancy narrative": the evangelist introduces Jesus
as an adult.

Mark presents John the Baptist in terms of the Old Testament prophet Elijah.

The Old Testament reading at Mass is connected with the reading from the Gospel and
shows the connection between the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.

REFLECT

The Gospel of Mark opens with
Jesus as an adult; there are no
stories about the circumstances
of his conception and birth. The
evangelist confronts us immediately
with the uncomfortable figure of John
the Baptist and his call to rethink
our way of life and our priorities,
especially our relationship with our
God. By presenting his understanding
of Jesus as a story, Mark is inviting
us to become part of the story, to
involve ourselves in what is going
on as we read or hear the various
Gospel episodes. So today we can
listen to John the Baptist's preaching
not simply as something which
happened a long time ago, but as
something addressed to each one of
us individually today.

The word *metanoia*, usually translated
as "repentance", really means "to
change one's way of thinking". In
many ways, it is easy to adjust our
behaviour, to correct faults and adopt
positive practices. It takes more
effort, and honesty, to examine our
attitudes and beliefs and to change
those. Advent is the time when we are
invited to think, not so much about
the baby Jesus, but rather about the
coming of God the Lord into our lives
and hearts here and now. We might
think about our own baptism and
what that means to us. If we use the
next three weeks to look at what Jesus
means to us and draw closer to him in
friendship, it will be time well spent. ■

DO

Make the Sign of the Cross with holy water
and think about your baptism: how could
you deepen your relationship with God
during Advent?

**SAY**

Prepare a way for the Lord:
make his paths straight.
(Mark 1:3; Isaiah 40:3)

PARISH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE

Seamoor Road, Westbourne BH4 9AE

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. Registered charity 246871

NEWSLETTER 6th December 2020 Second Sunday of Advent (B)

Website: www.catholicwestbourne.org

Parish Office: Tel: 01202 760640 (all enquiries)
email: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Moore: andrewmoore@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Matthew French: mail@matthewfrench.net

Advent: a very useful Advent companion and downloadable booklet, with prayers, readings and explanations can be found on the diocesan website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/advent-project>

Tuesday is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, the patronal feast of our parish.

Mass times and church opening.

The public celebration of Mass - by advanced reservation only – has now resumed for Sundays and weekdays (Tuesdays to Fridays inclusive), at 10.00 a.m. The church will remain open after mass for individual visits from 10.30 – 11.00 a.m. To make a booking:

Send an email to oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Leave a clear message on the parish office phone **01202 760640**

In writing, and placed in the letter box by the church door, or by post to Our Lady Immaculate, Seamoor Road, Westbourne, BH4 9AE

With the following details:

Name(s) – including the ages of children under 18.

Phone number or email address:

Number of seats required:

Weekday mass or Sunday mass:

Would you like to be added to an ongoing rota? Yes/No

Liturgical Calendar:

To request mass intentions, please email or phone the Parish Office or leave an envelope at the church.

Sunday 6 th December	Second Sunday of Advent (B)	People of the Parish
Monday 7 th	St Ambrose	-
Tuesday 8 th	The Immaculate Conception	Thomas Quinn RIP
Wednesday 9 th	of 2 nd Week of Advent	Francis Dorr RIP
Thursday 10 th	of 2 nd Week of Advent	Thomas Joughin RIP
Friday 11 th	of 2 nd Week of Advent	Jan Faulker RIP
Saturday 12 th	of 2 nd Week of Advent	-
Sunday 13 th	Third Sunday of Advent (B)	People of the Parish

Arrangements for Christmas 2020

In normal times we would expect to see over three hundred people in our church at Christmas. As we all know, however, these are not normal times. The physical constraints of our building, Covid-protocols and other factors severely restrict the numbers we can accommodate to a maximum of about twenty! Much as we would all like to come together for a celebration of the great feast of Our Lord's incarnation with mass on Christmas Day itself, this will clearly not be possible. The Bishops' Conference, however, reminds us that the Feast of Christmas has an Octave, which means that the whole period from the Vigil on Christmas Eve to New Year's Day inclusive is one great Christmas Feast: every day in that period is, liturgically, Christmas Day. This opens up the possibility of a more significant number of people being able to attend a 'Christmas' mass over the Christmas period.

Church Opening over the Christmas Period:

Many may wish to make a short visit to the Church over the Christmas period and so, in addition to the arrangements for various masses (see below), the church will be open for individual visits as follows:

Christmas Eve: 3.00 – 4.00 p.m. for Children to visit the Crib

Christmas Day: an extended opening from 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

Other days: after mass until 11.00 a.m.

Arrangements for Mass over the Christmas Period:

In order to be as equitable, fair and as safe as possible, parishioners are invited to register an interest to be allocated one mass over this Christmas period (i.e. from the Vigil on Christmas Eve to New Year's Day inclusive) and to do so **by midnight on Tuesday, 15th December**. Places will then be randomly allocated, and parishioners will be advised shortly afterwards which mass they have been allocated. Apart from indicating you would not be available for the evening mass on Christmas Eve or that you are working mid-week, **you will not be able to choose any particular mass** though you may decline if the date you are given is not convenient. Once places have been allocated please notify us (even up to 5.00 p.m. the night before) if you or any of your group cannot attend for any reason, as your place(s) can then be offered to someone else. Applications may only be made in respect of individuals or family/bubble groups. Due to the track and trace requirements, only the names confirmed will be admitted: no substitutions or swapping will be allowed. The random allocation of places will be 'front-loaded', i.e. starting with Christmas Eve and working forward from there. So, if sixty people sign up then they will all be allocated a mass over the Christmas weekend; if a hundred people sign up, then the allocation will be spread further across the week.

Masses will be celebrated as follows:

Thursday, 24 th December	Vigil Mass of Christmas	at 7.00 p.m.
Friday, 25 th December	Christmas Day	at 10.00 a.m.
Saturday, 26 th December	Boxing Day	at 10.00 a.m.
Sunday, 27 th December		at 10.00 a.m.
Tuesday, 29 th December		at 10.00 a.m.
Wednesday, 30 th December		at 10.00 a.m.
Thursday, 31 st December		at 10.00 a.m.
Friday, 1 st January 2021	New Year's Day	at 10.00 a.m.

To register for a place(s) to be randomly allocated at a mass over the Christmas period (even if you have already been booking regular masses) please submit the information below by **midnight on Tuesday, 15th December 2020**. You can either (in order of preference): -

email: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Phone and leave a clear message: 01202 760640

Leave a written message in the Church letterbox

With the following information:

Name(s) (with limited places available and out of fairness, a maximum of six)

Ages of any children under 18

Email address or mobile number or landline number

If you cannot attend on Christmas Eve.

If you are working mid-week.

Parishioners attending mass with confirmed reservations only should queue outside the Church in a socially distanced manner. The door will be unlocked promptly ten minutes before mass and will be closed five minutes before mass starts after which there will be no entry, so please be punctual. Hands must be sanitised on entry and face masks must be worn at all times, except when receiving communion or for children under the age of eleven. Names & addresses will be kept for 21 days and if necessary, may be passed to *NHS Test & Trace*. The QR code is posted on the main notice board for those who have the NHS contact tracing App. Please do not attend if any of your group is unwell or has symptoms of COVID.

Please note: There will be no access to the hall, the lift or to the toilets.

Other local churches are also expected to have booking arrangements for mass at Christmas.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

First Communion. The time has come for applications for next year's First Holy Communion programme. Full details, including an online application form, can be found on the parish website at <http://catholicwestbourne.org/fhc/> Closing date for applications is 18th December.

2021 Diaries and Missals. We will not be placing a bulk order this year for diaries or missals, but the following links may be helpful to those who wish to order them direct:

Sunday Missal 2021: St Paul Sunday Missal 2021 (Year B), email <https://stpauls.org.uk/st-paul-sunday-missal-2018.html> or call 0207 828 5582.

St Patrick Missionary Diary 2021: phone 020 8979 1890 or email office@stpatricksuk.co.uk Price £5.00.

Catholic masses online: The following is a helpful link to various masses that are available online. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/online-mass-directory/>

Prayer Corner: Please remember all the sick and housebound of our parish especially: Patricia Kowalewska, Win Sheridan, Patricia Plumb, Kathleen Wood, Peter Henry, Phillip Rockford, Germaine McAulay, and Geoffrey Dixon.

Finance. A 'Thank you' to those who are using the 'Donate' button on the website. The 'Donate' button has the facility of adding a reference and also the option to Gift Aid any donation. Any donation with no specific reference will be treated as ordinary offertory. The parish's bank details are set out below for those who may wish to take out a standing order or make a bank transfer.

Bank:	Lloyds	Account Name:	PRCDTR Bournemouth Our Lady Immaculate
Sort Code:	30-93-04	Account Number:	00875075