

PARISH NOTICES

Welcome to St John's If you are new to the church, please make yourself known to one of the clergy or the welcomers. After the Parish Mass refreshments will be served at the back of church. Please stay if you can.

We light the fourth candle in the Advent wreath at the beginning of the Parish Mass today. The response is *Lord, come and save us.*

Today's readings The prophet Micah has a dark message for his people because of their evil ways. But in today's 1st reading he gives them a ray of hope: it is in an unimportant village that the Messiah King, 'the one who is to be ruler in Israel', will be born. With his birth will come a new era of justice and peace for all the people.

As we draw near to the feast of Christmas the writer of the letter to the Hebrews reminds us that our Saviour, whose birth we are preparing to celebrate, had a human body and a human heart. His body he offered on the Cross; his heart he consecrated to his Father in total obedience. And through Christ, our perfect high priest, we shall be made holy.

The Gospel tells how Mary, the Mother of Jesus, went to visit and help her elderly cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth realizes that Mary is blessed with the privilege of carrying 'her Lord' within her. As they meet, the two women celebrate, share their joy. It is a meeting, too, of the children they are carrying - one of whom (John) also 'leaped for joy'.

The **Carol Service** is at 4 o'clock today, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Please note various changes in Mass times this week.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve: 4 pm Crib Service.

11.45 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day: 10 am Parish Mass

Friday 27th December - **Feast of St John the Divine** - Patronal Festival
Parish Mass at 10 am

To contact the clergy:

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THE PARISH OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE, WEST WORTHING

22nd December 2024

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00 am Mass

10.00 am Parish Mass (Hymns NEH 11, 161, 166, 17, 186) Intention: The Parish

6.00 pm Evening Prayer and Benediction

Monday 23rd December 10.00 am Mass God's blessing on family life
O Emmanuel

Tuesday 24th December 9.30 am Mass Preparation for Christmas
Christmas Eve **11.45 pm Midnight Mass** The Parish

Wednesday 25th December **10.00 am Parish Mass** The Parish
Christmas Day

Thursday 26th December 10.00 am Mass Deacons
St Stephen

Friday 27th December 10.00 am Sung Mass This parish community
St John

Saturday 28th December 10.00 am Mass Victims of war
The Holy Innocents

Next Sunday: Mass at 8 am; Parish Mass at 10 am; Evening Prayer & Benediction at 6 pm

Please pray for:

The sick: Wendy Oakeshott, Jack, Reg Parker, Ros Cole

The recently departed: Jenny Boucher, Kenneth Jeffrey, priest

Those whose anniversaries occur this week:

22 Jean Bolton

24 Shirley King

25 Ruby Emery, Frederick Smith, John Booker, Reginald Petty, Maud Grimshaw

26 Dorothy Dennis, Malcolm Ferguson

27 John Chatfield, Eric Norman *priest*, Eric Smith

28 Alfred Andrews, Roy Stanford