

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 second 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 whose words of encouragement we hear in the 1st reading was a companion of the prophet Jeremiah. Speaking to the people who are exiled to Babylon, he tells them that because of the integrity of their lives, and their faithfulness, God he will bring them home, to a new city where they will live in light and joy.

The Second Reading is from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians. The people in the Church there were Greek converts to Christianity, and they had embraced the faith joyfully and wholeheartedly. The apostle writes to encourage them to carry on in the same way, so that, he says, they will be prepared to welcome Christ at his second coming, which at that time was thought to be imminent.

The Gospel tells of the preaching of John the Baptist. His message begins with the picture the prophet Isaiah gave about clearing a path for the king. At the time of Isaiah, when a king went out to visit his subjects, he would send slaves and servants ahead to make sure the roads were cleared of any obstacle that might prevent his safe and comfortable passage. John the Baptist uses this picture to tell his people then, and us now, to do the same in a spiritual sense; that is, to clear any obstacle or sin from our spiritual life so that the King of kings can come into our hearts.

Parish Bible Study All are welcome tomorrow (Monday), 3 pm in the café area in church, to study the scriptures for next Sunday, the 3rd Sunday of Advent:
Zephaniah 3: 14-18 Philippians 4: 4-7 St Luke 3: 10-18

Thank you to everyone who helped at and supported yesterday's **Christmas Fair**. The money raised will support the work of Chestnut Tree House, and our own church funds.

Next Sunday we have the **Christingle** Service at 4 o'clock. Can you help to make the Christingles after Mass on Saturday and/or be on hand for the service on Sunday?

THE PARISH OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE, WES

8th December 2024

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00 am **Mass**

10.00 am **Parish Mass** (Hymns CHE 575, 523, 217, 499, 243)

6.00 pm **Evening Prayer and Benediction**

Monday 9th December 10.00 am Mass
The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady

Tuesday 10th December 6.30 pm Mass
Advent Feria

Wednesday 11th December 11.00 am Mass
Advent Feria

Thursday 12th December 9.00 am Mass
Advent Feria

Friday 13th December 10.30 am Mass at St Andrew's
St Lucy

Saturday 14th December 9.30 am Mass
St John of the Cross

Next Sunday: Mass at 8 am; Parish Mass at 10 am; Evening Prayer

Please pray for:

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

The recently departed: Jenny Baucher

Those whose anniversaries occur this week:

9 Ada Briggs, David Seller

10 Dorothy Shallis

11 Jessie Venables

12 George Wheeler *priest*. Gerald Shannon. Dorothy Maddaf