**TRINITY**

The Newsletter of **Holy Trinity Church Ilkeston**

**Sunday 22nd December 2024**

**Fourth of Advent (Year C)**

**11.00am THE PARISH MASS**

**Celebrant and Preacher: Fr Neil Broadbent**

**Music at Holy Trinity this morning:**

Today's hymns are from New English Hymnal (Green)

**Introit** 48 Bethlehem of noblest cities

**Gloria**  No Gloria

**Psalm** 80 Bring us back O God

**Gradual** 161 For Mary, mother of the Lord

**Offertory** 271 Alleluia, sing to Jesus

**Sanctus** Sanctus 1

**Agnus Dei**  Agnus Dei 1

**Communion**  294 Just as I am

**Recessional** 5 Hark a herald voice is calling

**Angelus**

**We are pleased to welcome Fr Neil Broadbent as Celebrant and Preacher at Mass this morning**

**Services at Holy Trinity for the week ahead and next Sunday**

**Tuesday 24th December 11.30 pm Midnight Mass Fr Bob Boyle**

**Wednesday 25th December 10.00 am Christmas Day Mass Fr Robert Breckles**

**Next Sunday 29th December Holy Family**

**11.00am THE PARISH MASS Celebrant and Preacher: Fr Bob Boyle**

**PLEASE KEEP A TIME OF QUIET AND PRAYERFUL REFLECTION AS WE PREPARE TO CELEBRATE THE EUCHARIST TOGETHER.**

 Welcome to our worship this Sunday. Baptised and communicant members of any Christian denomination are welcome to receive Holy Communion; if you’d prefer to receive a blessing, please carry a Mass booklet or hymn book with you when you come to the communion point. Gluten-free communion hosts are available – please let a sidesperson know if you require one. Large-print copies of the Order of Mass and children’s Mass Booklets are also available. Refreshments are served after Mass in the Hall – please join us.

**This week's news:**

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**Licensing of Fr Max Marsh, Wednesday 15th January 2025**

 We have now received confirmation that the Licensing of Fr Max Marsh as the Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity and of St Laurence's Long Eaton will take place on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 6.30pm. This will take place at St Laurence's and both Bishop Paul Thomas, the Bishop of Oswestry, and Bishop Libby, the Bishop of Derby, will be present. It is hoped that as many as possible will be able to attend so that we can give Fr Max a generous welcome. **Geoff and Sharon**

**Sanctuary Lamp Dedications**

The Sanctuary Lamp burns constantly as a sign of Our Lord's presence in the Reserved Sacrament, and each week of the year is available for members of the congregation to dedicate the burning of the Lamp in memory of departed loved ones. The cost is £3 per dedication and our Treasurer Margaret Breedon will be available after Mass for remaining Sundays of this year to accept your dedications for weeks in 2025. These are then included week by week in our intercessions.

**Christmas cards and Shelter Appeal**

 As in previous years we’re suggesting that instead of sending individual cards to friends at Church, we send a collective greeting which will be displayed on a designated notice board in the Hall. A box for donations to the very worthy charity SHELTER will be available. Please be generous for those less fortunate than ourselves. Many thanks. **Rosemary**

**Christmas floral workshops**

The two workshops held last week together raised the magnificent sum for church funds of £420. Our sincere thanks are due to all concerned -

not only the organisers but also those who helped with the refreshments and thosewho tidied up afterwards. **Geoff and Sharon**

**Advent/Christmas Party**

 As usual many thanks must go to everyone who made the party such a success, with special thanks to the catering team, our entertainment officer, raffle queen, provider of singalong and all who helped in lots of little ways. The event raised, after expenses, a total of £480.00. Included in this amount was the raffle for the splendid hampers which raised a marvellous £285.00. Well done to all who sold tickets as well as grateful thanks to all who very generously provided the wonderful items included in the hampers. **Rosemary**

**School Visits**

During the last week of November we were very pleased to welcome three groups of Year 1 children from Charlotte Infant School for a Christingle Workshop. As usual, the children behaved extremely well and made an excellent job of making their Christingles.

 The school has already booked in for January next year for another three sessions.

 Many thanks to Rosemary for all her help. **Helen and Caroline**

**Children's Society Fundraiser**

Our Christingle fundraiser for the Children's Society has raised the sum of £326.88 at the time of going to press. Thanks from the Brownies for this magnificent effort. **Bev Seals, Brown Owl**

**Please remember in your prayers:**

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 Those who are sick: Pam Bailey, Colin Booth, Oliver Bostock, Fr Michael Brinkworth, Carole Chapman, Frank Clewes, Sue Coman, Pat Daniel, Anne, Esme, and Nigel Gamble, Ann Henshaw, Helen Jarvis, Jean Jarvis, Margaret Lacey, Kev Lea, Richard Pykett, Anne Riley, Andrew Smith, Paul Smith, and Paul Underwood.

 All who have recently died. Please remember also those whose anniversary of death falls this week:. Alec Bostock, Viny Baker, Barry Tompkins Audrey Davidson, Winifred Megan Lacey, Angela Baird, Clarence Marson, Melvyn Shelton, Tom Nicholas Lissett, and Canon John Morton, Priest.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in Memory of the late Ernest Alexander, Priest

**Contacts at Holy Trinity:**

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**For all parish enquiries please either email info@holytrinity.org.uk or phone 07842 719682**

**Churchwardens:**

Geoff Raby: 07905 323116, Email: *geoffreyraby@aol.com*

Sharon Wright: 07794 366310, Email:*spwright38@gmail.com*

**Parish Secretary:**

Mrs Sue Rollisson: 0115 9321087, Email: *sue.rollisson@gmail.com*

**Parish Treasurer:**

Mrs Margaret Breedon: 0115 944 0020 / 07951 060667, Email: *margaretbreedon45@gmail.com*

**Donations to Holy Trinity may be made using the QR code below:**

 

**Parish Safeguarding Link:** Mrs Nicky Bailey 07809 680034, Email: *nickybailey1938@gmail.com* (Nicky also has the honorary title of Churchwarden Emerita)

**5th Ilkeston Holy Trinity Brownies:** Brown Owl: Bev: 07747 142501

**5th Ilkeston Holy Trinity Rainbows**: Sue: 07722 929226

**Holy Trinity Tiny Tots** (Parent and Toddler Group) Helen Crisp

 07790 876015

**Contact for Church Hall Bookings:**Mrs Christine Hudson

Tel. 0115 932 2796, or email: hudson.owlhudson@btinternet.com The Church Hall is a community facility and we welcome bookings especially from local people and groups. Please contact Christine for further details and availability.

**Commentary on the Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent: Andrew Smith writes:**

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**The Theme of the Readings: Recognizing the Davidic Messiah**

 In this last Sunday of Advent, the Church's Liturgy reveals the identity of the Redeemer-Messiah whose coming God promised from the time of Adam's fall from grace and foretold down through the centuries through His holy prophets.

 In the First Reading **(Micah 5:2-5)** today, we learn that one of those prophets was the 6th BC-century prophet, Micah. He reveals that the Messiah is more than a mortal man; He will be a ruler whose origin is ‘from ancient times.’ The faithful must look for His mother to give birth in Bethlehem, the city of the great King David, with whom God made an eternal covenant and promised an heir from David's lineage would rule forever. Micah also prophesies that the Davidic Messiah's rule will be universal, reaching ‘to the ends of the earth.’

 Our Responsorial Psalm **(Ps 80 (79))** comes from a communal lament of the covenant people when they were threatened with destruction and exile by the Assyrians in the 8th century BC. They petitioned for God's intervention to save them despite their failures, directing their plea to Yahweh's Divine Presence enthroned above the cherubim of the Ark of the Covenant. They petitioned God to send a ‘strong man,’ a ‘Son of Man,’ referring to a spiritually strong human man chosen by God and upon whom His favour rests, to save them from destruction. God sent such a man to save His covenant people at the turning point in salvation history. ‘Son of Man’ is Jesus' most common title for Himself. He came to save not only the ‘lost sheep’ of Israel but to redeem all humanity.

 Today's Epistle from Hebrews **(Heb 10:5-10)**, tells us that Jesus is that promised Davidic heir. He is both the son of David and the Son of God destined to reign as an eternal King. Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, and the New Covenant High Priest. Unlike the high priests of the Sinai Covenant, selected because of their hereditary link to Aaron, the first high priest, Jesus was God's choice, like the ancient priest-king Melchizedek, who blessed Abraham and offered him bread and wine, foreshadowing the Eucharist.

 In the Gospel Reading **(Lk1:39-45)**, two mothers take centre stage in Salvation History: Mary of Nazareth and her kinswoman Elizabeth, wife of the chief priest Zechariah and mother of St. John the Baptiser. Mothers are the first to set a child on the path of life, and their influence can profoundly impact a child's future. For this reason, the books of Kings and Chronicles name the mothers of the Davidic kings who bore the heirs of the Davidic covenant. St. Matthew identifies Jesus's mother as the virgin from Isaiah's prophecy who gives birth to a son in the city of David, the Bethlehem of Micah's prophecy in our First Reading.

 Jesus's mother, the Virgin Mary of Nazareth, is a descendant of King David. She is the first person to know His true identity and His first disciple. In our Gospel Reading, when Mary visits her kinswoman, Elizabeth, the baby in her womb, St. John the Baptiser, filled with the Holy Spirit, leaped for joy to be in the presence of the Redeemer of all that was, is and to come, in womb of Mary. Elizabeth, inspired by the Holy Spirit, declared that Mary is ‘the mother of my Lord’ (a more accurate rendering would be ‘… of God) who has honoured her with His presence.

 We rejoice as St. John the Baptiser and Elizabeth his mother rejoiced, for Jesus brings us back to God, His face shining forth on the path of understanding Jesus's true identity as the Son of God the Saviour.

**Saint of the Week: St Stephen, Deacon and Martyr 26th December**

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 Saint Stephen was one of the first deacons of the Christian Church and the first Christian martyr. He is believed to have been a Greek Jew who converted to Christianity. When the number of disciples increased, there was much confusion over the distribution of alms and the serving of the poor. Stephen's trustworthy character marked him out, and he was chosen as one of the seven deacons who would perform this task. An excellent and well trusted orator, his preaching style was so effective that many Jews became worried about his success. They accused him of blasphemy and he was made to stand trial.

 At the Jewish law court, the Sanhedrin, St Stephen recounted the many mercies that God had given the children of Israel, and the ungrateful way in which they had repaid Him. He accused them of murdering Jesus, whose coming, he said, had been foretold by Moses. This did not go down well and he was dragged out onto the streets and was then stoned to death according to the Law, an event that was witnessed by St Paul. It is believed he died around the year 34AD.

 St Stephen is the patron saint of deacons, headaches, horses, coffin makers, and masons, and he is often represented carrying a pile of rocks or with rocks on his head.