

St Clement's Church, Ewell

Parish Priest: Fr. Graham Bamford

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, Charity No. 252878

St. Clement's Primary School: 020 8393 8789

St. Andrew's Secondary School: 01372 277881

Sunday 6th December, Second Week of Advent

Sunday 6th Dec 8.30am All parishioners
" 10.30am Deceased of the Thomas family
Wednesday 9th Dec 10.00am Rev Mgr Barry Wymes R.I.P.

Sunday 13th November, Third Week of Advent

Saturday 12th Dec 6.00pm Margaret Cosgrove R.I.P.

Sunday 13th Dec 8.30am All parishioners

" 10.30am Jean Taylor & Pat Taylor Cross RIP

Wed 16th Dec 10.00am All souls

Saturday 19th Dec 6.00pm All parishioners

Sunday 20th Dec Fourth Week of Advent

8.30am

10.30am

FEASTS. Mon 7th is St Ambrose & Tuesday 8th is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Reflection on Third Sunday of Advent

The readings in these days of Advent, especially today, are full of joy and hope. The joy and hope are found in the promises of God that are being fulfilled before our very eyes, even as we listen. The Lord calls on each of us to play our part in the unfolding of his plan of salvation. Our part may feel small. We may wonder, as John himself would have done, what exactly God is asking us to do and say that will make a difference. But what matters is that we try to help each other to see and recognise Jesus - standing among us. This is the Good News; and our joy and privilege, like John's, lie in proclaiming this to others. Always we take heart not from our own abilities or worthiness but from God's love and faithfulness. The words of St Paul in today's second reading give

us great encouragement as we try to live our Christian lives generously: "May the God of peace make you perfect and holy ... God has called you and he will not fail you"

Christmas Home Service Sheet

This can be used if attendance at church or streaming Mass on Christmas Day is not possible, will be available from 12th December at church or to download from the parish website. It can be used in families or alone.

Primary School admissions, September 2021

Please place school reference forms in the box at the exit of the church or through the presbytery letter-box. St Clement's School forms will be handed directly back to the school.

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I hope you are keeping well. Quoting the Prime Minister, "The cavalry is coming over the hill" - namely some prevention from the invisible enemy.

The Government regulations allow us to have Masses at Christmas-time, albeit under tight restrictions. So therefore we cannot have more than 75 at each Mass. We will have four Christmas Masses: two Vigil Masses at 6.00pm & 10pm; and two on Christmas morning at 8.30 and 10.30am. Unfortunately there will need to be a booking system; this can be found on the parish website. A few seats will be available by telephone for those who have no internet access. Do please remember that there will be several Masses over the Christmas Octave and

season which ends on Sunday 10th, January with the feast of Our Lord's Baptism.

Online booking will open on Friday, 11th December. The system has been created thanks to website manager John Lodge, aided by Ciaran Inns. Please remember that each Mass will be restricted, e.g. no singing, limited accommodation. Recently a new CD system was put into the church, thanks to Robert Emmerson and we will use this to help create a suitable atmosphere in church. A new boiler for the narthex will be in place next week - the old one was condemned recently in an inspection. This will be good news for our Mass stewards; we are appreciative to them for their patience and loyalty.

Keep safe and God bless,

Father Graham

ONLINE BOOKING FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES OPENS ON FRIDAY, 11th DECEMBER

to God and prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. His mission is clear – to prepare for the Lord a people fit for him.

In Luke's understanding John the Baptist is the last prophet of the Old Testament: "Up to the time of John it was the Law and the Prophets; since then, the kingdom of God has been preached" (Luke 16:16). The child who is born of ancient parents will close the Old Testament; Jesus, born of the young Virgin Mary, will open the New Testament. In these two figures the unity of the whole biblical story is linked.

PRAYER

Almighty God,
who sent your servant John the Baptist
to be a herald of the coming kingdom
and to prepare a way for your beloved Son:
we pray that you might continue to call
men and women from every race and nation
to be, like John the Baptist,
a witness to speak for the light
so that people might believe in him
through the integrity of their life
and the power of their example.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, your Son.
Amen.

Fr Denis McBride's book *Stations of the Infancy* is available from
Redemptorist Publications. Visit www.rpbooks.co.uk to order.
CODE:1861 ISBN: 9780852315590

Mass text

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.**

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

PSALM Psalm 84

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

1. 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.**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

3. 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

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

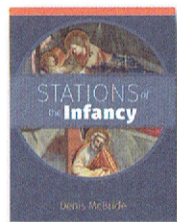
Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8. 19-28



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SUNDAY BULLETIN

THE ANNUNCIATION TO ZECHARIAH

THE ANNUNCIATION TO ZACHARIAS, DOMENICO GHIRLANDAIO,
1486–1490

This fresco is part of the series Ghirlandaio made for the Tornabuoni family chapel in the church of Santa Maria Novella in Florence. Ghirlandaio turned the Jewish Temple into a typical Renaissance church. We see the priest Zechariah interrupted while he dutifully incenses the altar of sacrifice. The angel comes to announce the coming birth of his son John. The painter illustrates lavishly Luke's line: "the whole congregation was outside" – in this case members of the Florence government and the Tornabuoni family.

Reading: Luke 1:5-17

REFLECTION

To understand the beginning of the story of the adult Jesus, the four Gospels point us to someone else, the figure of John the Baptist. John the Baptist is the independent prophetic force that stands between the hidden life of Jesus and his public ministry. Jesus does not begin alone; none of us does. Jesus, like many other people, is attracted by the person and preaching of John the Baptist; like many of his contemporaries, he submits to John's baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. After his association with John, Jesus' life takes a dramatic turn. He follows John in the prophetic vocation and reinterprets the message of his mentor.

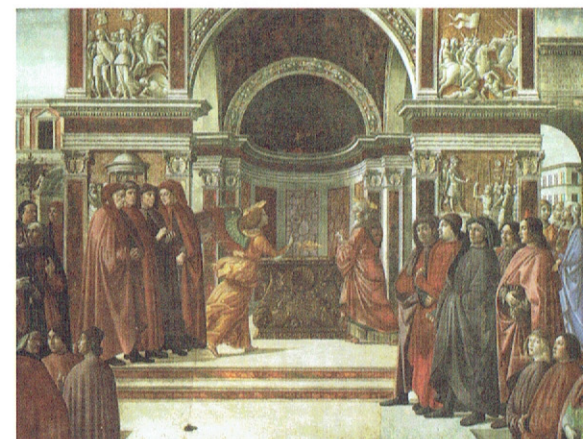
There is a firm anchor point in the Gospels: if you are going to tell the story of Jesus you must first tell the story of John the Baptist. This is underlined in the infancy narrative of Luke's Gospel: before the evangelist introduces us to the parents of Jesus, telling us of the annunciation of the birth of Jesus, his birth and circumcision, he first introduces the parents of John the Baptist, telling of the annunciation of the birth of John, his birth and circumcision. The tradition is firm: Jesus comes after John.

The angel Gabriel tells Zechariah of the joy and gladness which the birth of John will bring to many – not just his parents – and outlines the future career of John. John will lead a movement of conversion

Stations of the Infancy



In this series, based on his book *Stations of the Infancy*, Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R. looks at the Gospel beginnings of the Jesus story and helps us to reflect on them in our prayers.



6 DECEMBER 2020

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK II

We celebrate the birth of John the Baptist because of who John became in his later life. The significance of the adult John is pressed back into the story of his birth, a story appropriate to the measure of this great man. If the adult John the Baptist had played no significant part in the life of Jesus, the Gospel of Luke would not have celebrated his birth. We hallow the birth of John the Baptist because of the man he became for Jesus.

PRAYER

O God our loving Father,
who has crowned the love of Zechariah and Elizabeth
with the gift of their child, John,
the one who would prepare a way for the Lord
and call all people to a change of life:
grant that as we rejoice in John's birth
we may attend the challenge of his message
and his humility before the person of Jesus.
This we pray in the name of Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

PSALM Luke 1:46-50. 53-54

RESPONSE **My soul rejoices in my God.**

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **R.**
3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia!**

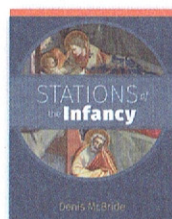
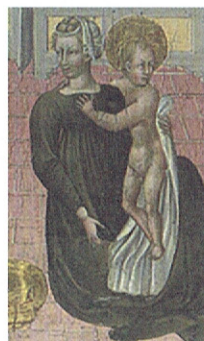
GOSPEL John 1:6-8. 19-28

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not
fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.**

Next Sunday's Readings:

2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38



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SUNDAY BULLETIN

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST, GIOVANNI DI PAOLO, 1454

John the Baptist, who will be celebrated for cleansing people in the waters of the River Jordan, is now washed by a midwife with water from a bowl on the floor. The child looks at his father, Zechariah, who is seated while he writes on the scroll the message he received from the angel: "He shall be called John." In this warm domestic scene Elizabeth rests in her grand bed, pondering recent events, while a female relative dries a towel before the open fire.

Reading: Luke 1:57-66

REFLECTION

In the reading the family rejoices at the birth of John the Baptist, the neighbours are thrilled that the two ancients have a child at last. Everyone hovers and whispers and wonders. A question is on everyone's lips: "What will this child turn out to be?" This is a question pondered by all parents when they look adoringly into the eyes of their newborn child: "Who will our child turn out to be?"

When John the Baptist emerges as an adult prophet, he is not a man who has invented himself out of thin air. He is the product of two particular parents, a particular home, a particular background and a particular love. Like us all, much of who he has become in life he owes to others.

Like all our childhoods, John's childhood is measured by the person he becomes in later life:

- In adulthood he emerges as a man of unique authority, an independent prophet who can dominate the wilderness and attract people to come out to the wilds to listen to his message.
- He can openly confront the religious hierarchy of his day and dismiss them in one line as a brood of poisonous snakes.
- He has the charismatic personality to attract the outsiders, the fringe people, like mercenary soldiers and prostitutes and tax collectors, and offer them something institutional religion can never offer them – real hope.
- He has the unique characteristic of being the only single religious leader to attract Jesus of Nazareth; his reputation draws Jesus to his wilderness outpost. While Jesus is with John he changes his way of life in Nazareth to live as a wandering prophet and teacher.

Stations of the Infancy



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13 DECEMBER 2020

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK III