

St. Luke's & St. John's

Proclaiming Christ in Devon

Dearest friends,

The third Sunday in Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete simply means 'rejoice'.

It's taken from the latin introit for the day's Mass:

'Gaudete in Domino semper'

Or in English:

'Rejoice in the Lord always'

And so today we look at what we have to rejoice about. Over the last two weeks we have been encouraged to 'wake up', then to 'stay awake', this week we take joy in our faith and one another.

We have woken in the dark ahead of the coming of The Light - and this week - we lift our heads and remind ourselves that the coming of Jesus Christ is something that we rejoice about.

The introit for the Mass continues:

'Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand; have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God'

Today we try to take our anxiety and we hand it over to God and in doing so we find a peace that only He can give us.

In that peace we discover the joy of loving God and in that

joy - that gift - we should rejoice!

Sometimes it's hard to find that peace and when it is difficult we must give God everything in prayer - and in opening ourselves to God in prayer we are changed.

That is the power of prayer, not that God changes the world for us, but that we are changed to be more like God.

In love,

Fr. Matthew

Notices

Christmas Explorers

What a wonderful afternoon! 55 people, 25 children - all singing and learning about Jesus Christ in the Nativity. Thank you all so much for all the hard work and help as we proclaimed Christ in Heathfield!

Crib & Christingle @ St. Luke's
Sadly we're unable to offer the Crib & Christingle service this year due to a lack of volunteers. We'll look at it again next year.



Third Advent Lecture

This Thursday (4th) - a talk on the women in the bible. 7pm, Wickham Hall).

Dates for next year

I'm starting to populate dates for January, one of the important ones is the 15th January at St. Luke's, where we'll have (our now) customary planning meeting for the coming term, in this case Spring & Easter. It's also a chance to review the Autumn and Christmas term and see if there are any lessons to learn or new ideas for next year.

Choice Words

Come visit Choice Words, the largest second-hand Christian bookshop in the southwest! We are open 9.30am-4.30pm Monday through to Saturday. You can find us at 71 Queen St. Newton Abbot, or call us on 01626 334 027, or email us at, shop@choicewords.co.uk

O Antiphons

The O Antiphons are ancient Advent chants invoking titles of Christ, expressing longing for the Messiah and highlighting salvation themes in the days before Christmas. They start this week on the 17th December.

Today

Sunday 14th December

3rd Sunday of Advent

9am - Sung Parish Mass [SJ]
11:15am - Sung Parish Mass [SL]
Psalter Week 3, A(II), Advent 3

Upcoming Dates

December

11th - Advent Course, 3rd lecture, 7pm [WH]
18th - Advent Course, 4th lecture, 7pm [WH]
20th - 9 Lessons & Carols, 6pm, both churches
 Solemn Evensong with Benediction, 7pm [SJ]
24th - Live Nativity, 4pm [SJ]
 Midnight Mass, 8pm [SJ]
 Midnight Mass, 11:30pm [SL]
25th - Christmas Day Mass, 10am [SL & SJ]

January

7th - St. Luke's PCC
15th - Joint Planning Meeting for Spring & Easter, 7pm [SL]
24th - Rosary Group, 10am [SL]
26th - History of the Anglo Catholics Talk, 6pm [SL]
31st - Burns Night Supper [SL]

Table Top Sale at Wickham Hall every 3rd Saturday at 10am.
St. Luke's Women's Group meets first Wednesday of every month.

[SJ] St. John's | [SL] St. Luke's | [WH] Wickham Hall
[SC] St. Catherine's School

The week ahead:

Monday 15th December

Monday of the 3rd week of Advent
[prayers offered at home]
Prayer focus: Our Clergy

Tuesday 16th December

Tuesday of the 3rd week of Advent
10am - Said Mass [SJ]
Prayer focus: The Parish of St. Luke's

Wednesday 17th December

17th December - O Sapientia (O Wisdom)
10am - Said Mass [SL]
Prayer focus: The Parish of St. John's

Thursday 18th December

18th December - O Adonai (O Lord)
10am - Said Mass [SJ]
7pm - Advent Course, Week 4 Lecture [WH]
Prayer focus: The Mission of St. Luke's and St. John's

Friday 19th December

19th December - O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)
[prayers offered at home]
Prayer focus: Children in hospital

Saturday 20th December

20th December - O Clavis David (O Key of David)
6pm - Nine Lessons & Carols [SL & SJ]
Prayer focus: All Families

Sunday 21st December

4th Sunday of Advent
9am - Sung Parish Mass [SJ]
11:15am - Sung Parish Mass [SL]
3-5pm - Christingle & Crib Service [SL]
7pm - Solemn Evensong [SJ]
Psalter Week 4, A(II), Advent 4,
O Oriens (O Rising Dawn/Morning Star)

Please pray for:

Sr Sylvia, Phil and Jean, Rosemary, Simon Stevenette, Alan Randall, Peter Thompson, Steve Jefferies, Eileen Skinner, Bryan, Vicky Pearce, Mark, Glad & Stan, Carol & Sophie, Pam, Sue King, Marilyn, Arthur Pengelly, Jennifer Benney, Viv & Lyn, Bob Julian, David, Cliff and all those who have asked for our prayers.

Pray for the souls of:

Vivion Brimblecombe, Harry Mugford, Brenda Silsby and the souls of all those whose anniversary of death falls this week.

Father Matthew Cashmore

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Churchwardens

[SL] Mr David Dunn - david@slsj.co.uk
[SJ] Elizabeth Brooks - elizabethbrooks086@gmail.com

Associate Clergy

Fr Christopher Robins, Fr Robin Eastoe SSC
Fr Alan White and Deacon David Rogers