

St. Luke's & St. John's

Proclaiming Christ in Devon

Dearest friends,

As we enter the Christmas Octave, we turn to the baby in the manger and delight in all that we see around us. We reflect the shared love of the Holy Family in all that we do.

I don't know about you, but this year has felt very special indeed. I've lost count of the number of carol services and nativity services I've attended and prayed at. Each time I've been invited into a school or a group, I've been touched by the warmth and love shown, how the very mention of the word 'nativity' makes people smile, and guards come down.

It's been a delight to talk about Jesus, to tell people about His mercy, grace, and peace. To SHOW them what that can mean in practice.

It's also been a time of change, and I know that some of you are feeling that more than others. But, as Advent started a new year dawned for both parishes, and I pray that over the Christmas Octave, you are able to reflect on what has been

good, what has been helpful, and what may have hindered, and perhaps bring those thoughts to the planning meeting in January.

I've loved sharing a new mass setting with you, and although it has at times been... tough...! There have been moments of pure delight and I've enjoyed watching you engaging with the liturgy with a new energy and concentration.

We'll return to the 'old' setting over Christmas before introducing a new setting for Ordinary Time in January - if you want to listen to it beforehand you can watch a taster video on this website:

<https://tinyurl.com/SLSJMass>

I pray you have a wonderful Christmas and as you prepare for the new calendar year, that your faith will grow, your hearts will expand, your love



explode, and your mercy know no bounds.

In love, & wishing you a very Happy Christmas,

Fr. Matthew

Notices

Final Advent Lecture

This Thursday (18th) - a talk on the Apostolic Succession. 7pm, Wickham Hall).

Dates for next year

I'm starting to populate dates for next year, you'll see I've added some longer term dates for the Owestry events - the pilgrimage, the Chrism Mass, and the regional festival - do pop them in your diary now.

Father Matthew Cashmore

father@slsj.co.uk
07555 924862

Churchwardens

[SL] Mr David Dunn - david@slsj.co.uk
[SJ] Elizabeth Brooks - elizabethbrookso86@gmail.com

Associate Clergy

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

Planning Meeting

Please put 15th January, 7pm in your diary for our termly planning meeting. We'll review Advent and Christmas and will plan the term ahead, including Easter. If you would like to see something or change something, come and say!

Today

Sunday 21st December

4th Sunday of Advent ●

9am - Sung Parish Mass [SJ]

11:15am - Sung Parish Mass [SL]

7pm - Solemn Evensong [SJ]

Psalter Week 4, A(II), Advent 4,

O Oriens (O Rising Dawn/Morning Star)

Sunday 28th December

The Holy Family ●

9am - Sung Parish Mass [SJ]

11:15am - Sung Parish Mass [SL]

Psalter Week 1, A(II), Christmas 1

Upcoming Dates

December

18th - Advent Course, 4th lecture, 7pm [WH]

20th - 9 Lessons & Carols, 6pm, both churches

21st - 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, 2pm (Exeter)

Further Ahead

26/2 - Lent Course Starts, 6 weeks, 7pm [WH]

26/3 - Oswestry Chrism Mass, Exeter Cathedral

25/4 - Oswestry Regional Festival, Truro Cathedral

5/9 - Glastonbury Pilgrimage

The week ahead:

Monday 22nd December

22nd December - O Rex gentium

(O King of the Nations) ●

[prayers offered at home]

Tuesday 23rd December

23rd December - O Emmanuel! ●

10am - Coffee Morning [SJ]

Wednesday 24th December

24th December - Christmas Eve ●

4pm - Live Nativity [SJ]

8pm - Vigial Mass of Christmas [SJ]

11:30pm - First Mass of Christmas [SL]

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Day ●

10am - Sung Mass [SL & SJ]

Friday 26th December

St. Stephen, the first Martyr ●

[prayers offered at home]

Saturday 27th December

St. John, Apostle, Evangelist ●

[prayers offered at home]

Monday 29th December

Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr ●

[prayers offered at home]

Tuesday 30th December

6th day within the octave of Christmas ●

10am - Mass [SJ]

Wednesday 31st December

7th day within the octave of Christmas ●

11am - Mass [SL]

Thursday 1st January

Mary, the Holy Mother of God - Solemnity ●

10am - Sung Mass [SJ]

Friday 2nd January

Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops ●

[prayers offered at home]

Saturday 3rd January

3rd January ●

[prayers offered at home]

Sunday 4th January

2nd Sunday of Christmas ●

9am - Sung Parish Mass [SJ]

11:15am - Sung Parish Mass [SL]

Psalter Week 2, A(II), Christmas 2

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, Peter Canham, Peter Facey and all those who have asked for our prayers.

Pray for the souls of:

Rodney Trigger, John Hearder, John Wilbourne, Bob Wellington, Kenneth Martin, Elizabeth Christie, Fiona Gilman, Brenda Silsby, Gladys Blackler and the souls of all those whose anniversary of death falls this week.