



The Parish Newsletter

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". Mt. 28:19

Sunday 2nd December 2018 – Sunday 9th December 2018
Advent Starts Today

Messiah

The story of the Messiah in the Bible is a complicated one. In the earliest biblical texts, the word originally referred to the king of that time. It later came to refer to some future ruler, then eventually a heavenly redeemer along the lines of the archangel Michael before, in the New Testament, Jesus is born and the mantle of Messiah falls firmly on his shoulders.

What does 'Messiah' mean?

It means "anointed one." The term was originally used to refer to the king. Over time the word developed the connotation of something in the future—of a time when there is no longer an actual king. To call somebody anointed meant that he had a special role to play, whether or not any anointing oil was used.

How did the word *messiah* come to mean a future saviour figure, as we understand Jesus Christ today?

2 Samuel, Chapter 7 tells the story of God's promise to David that one of his sons would always sit on the throne in Jerusalem. That promise held good for about 360 years, which maybe is a reasonable approximation of forever. But then the Babylonians came in and put an end to the native kingship in Jerusalem. The people had a record of a divine promise that something would last forever and had to face the fact that this was actually not the case. This is what gives rise to the hope that God will restore the monarchy, which is to say bring a new messiah, a new anointed king. People's original messianic expectations were the hope for the restoration of the monarchy.

It should be noted that Jesus never claimed to be the Messiah. This was what the crowd called him when he entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. After his death, his followers concluded, yes, he is the Messiah, but not the kind of messiah that everybody was expecting - i.e. not a political ruler. Jesus made this quite clear to Pontius Pilate when he explained that his Kingdom was not of this earth. Jesus is a messiah who has to die first and then come back - which is what happened.

So, as we anticipate the Lord's birth, let us remember that he comes not to stand in for those who rule (in any sense) but to bring forgiveness, and joy as we journey towards paradise.

T.C.

PARISH CONTACTS

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Our Churches

St Thomas', Brandon Road, Weeting, Brandon IP27 0PT

St John's, St John's Close, Mildenhall IP28 7NX

No More Robins!

GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS NOW was the caption splashed across a photo in a magazine I read recently. The photo was of a mouth-watering dish of roast turkey and vegetables, bathing serenely in a tasty gravy. The rich browns and greens of this depiction of seasonal joy were enhanced by bright pinks, pale blues and purples in confections and presents strewn around the photo's edges.

No, this is not going to be a rant about the excessive indulgences of this season. It is simply that all of this **HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CHRISTMAS** and **CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ADVENT!** Nor do Robins, Dinosaurs, Deer, Tasteless Jokes or any of the other images that festoon so-called Christmas Cards, if any of this is meaningful, it is that it distracts from the purpose of Advent and the reality of the Nativity.

This is **not** an argument to desist from eating luscious food on December 25th, for not buying presents and for not sending Christmas Cards. However if our effort and attention is all on these material things we will build walls within which we will imprison our spirit and become blind to the meaning of Christmas.

If we are to celebrate the real Christmas, we must take care not to imprison ourselves in this way. We simply don't need to. Advent and Christmas are occasions for joy because Christ is coming again. We can rejoice because he comes with the best presents of all - Himself, salvation and freedom from self-imposed prisons. Alongside these gifts, everything else is rather puny - and we can leave the robins to enjoy the garden that God has created for them.

What should we be doing during Advent?

To experience the joy of Advent, we need to engage with it. So, in addition to the events already organised, here are some things you could do:

Compile and use a playlist of Advent Music

Radio 3 has a long list you can download from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01p2q1z>

Buy someone a World Gift from CAFOD.

These gifts are of practical use to the recipients. They give people life chances and can make the difference between living, learning and growing as opposed to starving, struggling and dying.

Arrange a special Sunday dinner for family and Friends

This could also be a good occasion to have a short Advent Prayer session.

T.C.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community: Sue and Tony Aldous, Marion Arkell, Patrick Blakey, Elizabeth Bohoni, Elizabeth Bolton, Rose Bruton, Sonia Buonocore, Tom Blong,, Bev and Amie Drill, Sheila Douglas, Clare Dower, Dorothea Edwards, Beth Fox, Pati Edmonds, Gill Foster, Bob Gorman, Yuang Rong Fen, Claire Hall, Kelly Hanson, Bridhe Heron, Douglas Knab, Melinda Lloyd, Emma Marshall, Mike Murray, Derek Newman, Leonora O'Hanlon, George Pearson, Rosemary Peters, Penelope Post, Neville Reeve, Blanche Richardson, Phil Richardson, Aira Siczek, Sheila Smith, Clive Townsend, Robert Williams, and Philomena Wiswell ... **and all those in our intercession books.**

May the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, especially: Edward Adams, Barbara Blong, Nora Breen, Catherine Bruce, Margaret Burrell, Sally Cheung, Rosemary Chisholm, Michael Clifford, James Collins, Robert Condon, Doreen Corr, Jim Cottrell, Patricia Ann Day, Philip Dean,, Connie Doyle, Bernard English, Ronald Emery, Margaret (Peggy) Farr, Ronald Farr, Eileen Foulger, Brendan Fulham, Egilda Rosina Gooch, Fr Ben Grist, Patricia Hardy, Queenie Harwood, Michael Hassey, Eileen Hazard, Ellen Hood, Irene Human, Janina Janiszewska, Chester (Czestaw) Jureko, Julian Jureko, Violet Jureko, Helen Kaznowski, Charles Keatkey, Krzystov Lewandowski, Peter Lynham, Annie McCafferty, Bridie McGowan, Daniel McKenna, Eileen McLoughlin, Patrick MacLoughlin, Dorothy Matthews, Mary Mulvihill, John Murray, Bridie O'Brien, Josef Palik, Beverly Pierce, Kenneth Pullen, Nuala Putnam, Margaret Rose, Fr .Ivan Rudkin, Michelle Sansom, Peter Seekings-Foster, Paulo Silva, Eira Sims, Mollie Starr, Patricia Townsend, Fr Paul Trinder, Mavis Tristram, Brian Vallack, Rosamund Wass, Robert Wyndhan.

AMEN

Christmas and Advent at St Thomas and St John's

St Thomas':

23rd December Carol Service at 4:00 pm at Brandon
24th December Midnight Mass at Brandon, carols from 11:30 pm
25th December 11 am Christmas Day Mass at Brandon

St Johns:

11th December 7:00 pm Reconciliation Service at Mildenhall (Confessions)
24th December 6:00 pm Mass especially suited for Children and Family at Mildenhall
25th December 9:00 am Christmas Day Mass at Mildenhall



St Thomas of Canterbury, Brandon
Brandon Road
Weeting, Brandon
Norfolk IP27 0PT

St John the Evangelist, Mildenhall
Saint John's Close
Mildenhall
Suffolk IP28 7NX

Every Sunday we celebrate Mass in
Mildenhall at St John's at 9.00am.
And in **Brandon at St Thomas' at 11.00am.**
You are always most welcome to join us

Free Advent Books

To help you to enter into the seasons of Advent & Christmas, there are devotional books available at the back of the church entitled 'Walk with Me'. These are excellent devotionals and have readings for each day throughout Advent and until the end of Christmastide. These are free of charge, but normally cost £1 so, if you are able, a donation to offset the cost to the parish would be welcome.

Free Advent Calendars - for children and families. Each day of the calendar has a different idea to help us grow closer to God in little ways this Advent. Please take one from the back of the church.

Advent Programme

December 7th Early Morning, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7:30 – 8:30 am
December 11th Parish Reconciliation Service 7:00 pm at Mildenhall
December 14th Early Morning, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7:30 – 8:30 am
December 21st Early Morning, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7:30 – 8:30 am
December 8th Immaculate Conception Mass at Brandon at 11:00 am
December 23rd Carol Service
December 24th and 25th – See Christmas programme above.

Change of Masses during this week

Please note: No Mass at Mildenhall on Thursday but there is a Mass at Mildenhall on Friday at 9:30 am. There will also be a Mass on Saturday for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at 11:00 am at Brandon.

La Posada!

Mary and Joseph need somewhere to stay! Please sign up to look after them, sign up sheet at the back of the church!



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**December 3rd J&P Group Meeting (OLISE)
7.30 pm**

December 3rd Migrants' Day
(December 10th - UN Human Rights Day)

December 9th Bible Sunday

**December 11th – Parish Reconciliation service
7.00pm at Mildenhall**

**December 23rd Parish CAROL SERVICE at Brandon
4pm**

(December 23rd Expectant Mothers' Day)

December 25th - NATIVITY OF THE LORD

(January 1st 2019 - World Day of Prayer for Peace)

Dates for SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 16th – Diocesan Dependant Priests'

Children's Liturgy: If you would be willing to help run a Children's Liturgy group at Mildenhall or Brandon please speak to Fr Luke.

Altar Servers: If you have made your first Holy Communion and would like to serve at Mass at either Brandon or Mildenhall, speak to Fr Luke. **We need you!**

Finance

Offertory collection, Sunday 18th November

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| Standing orders | £127.80 |
| Gift Aid envelopes | £77.00 |
| Non-Gift Aid envelopes | £40.00 |
| Loose plate | £277.66 |
| TOTAL | £522.46 |
| 2 nd Collection (Society of Mary) | £289.70 |

Prize Draw for Free Dental Polish and Christmas Hamper

Please enter our prize draw to win a free dental polish treatment or the second prize which is a Christmas Hamper. Tickets are £1 see Yolande or Liz to buy tickets.

| Date (Readings Advent 1 and Psalter Week 1) | Feast | Place, Time, Service M: Mildenhall; B; Brandon | Mass Intention/Details |
|--|--|---|---|
| Sunday, 2 nd December | 1 st Sunday in Advent | M: 9:00 AM Mass B: 11:00 AM Mass | Hugh Armour RIP People of the Parish |
| Wednesday, 5 th December | Advent Feria. | B: 09:30 AM Mass | Dominic O'Kane RIP |
| Thursday, 6 th December | Advent Feria | NO MASS* | No Mass Today (Mass Tomorrow) |
| Friday 7 th December | St Ambrose | B: 7:30 AM Adoration M: 9:30 Mass | Hugh Armour RIP |
| Saturday 8 th December | Immaculate Conception | B: 11:00 Mass | Priests Intention |
| Sunday, 9 th December | 2 nd Sunday in Advent Bible Sunday | M: 9:00 AM Mass B: 11:00 AM Mass | Priest's Intentions People of the Parish |

* On Thursday 6th December, St John's will be used to distribute the Mildenhall Charity Grants