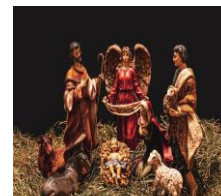




St John the Evangelist

Christmas



'For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' Isaiah 9:6

Church Services (also on-line)

Saturday 24 December – Christmas Eve

10.00 Mass and Holy Hour – Fr Brendan Clover

16.00 Crib Service with Dress Up Nativity

23.00 Midnight Mass- Fr Brendan Clover

Sunday 25 December – Nativity of Our Lord

10.30 Family Mass– Fr Brendan Clover

17.30 Evening Prayer

Monday 26 December – St Stephen, Martyr

18.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Tuesday 27 December – St John, Apostle

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Wednesday 28 December – The Holy Innocents

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Thursday 29 December -St Thomas Becket

12.30 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Friday 30 December – The Holy Family

10.00 BCP Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Saturday 31 December – Christmas Octave

10.00 Mass

Sunday 1 January – Mary, Holy Mother of God

10.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

17.30 Evening Prayer

The Mass readings for this Sunday:

Isaiah 52:7-10 (Reader: Gary)

Psalm 98

R: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God

Hebrews 1: 1-6 (Reader: Judith)

St John 1: 1-18

Intercessor – Martin

Please pray for those in our congregation and those known to us who are ill at this time, for those who are homeless and without shelter at Christmas, for those for whom Christmas is a time of anxiety, fear and mourning and for those who are lonely at this time.

Words from Fr Brendan Clover

Dear friends,

First let me wish you a very happy Christmas with those you love, family and friends. Thank you to everyone who has sent cards and gifts, all very much appreciated.

And thank you to everyone who has taken part in our faithful keeping of Advent. There have been some memorable occasions amidst the daily round of prayer and Eucharist.

Tomorrow is Christmas Eve, and we have Holy Hour 10-11am, our 'pop-up' Nativity Service and Midnight Mass at 11pm.

Mass on Christmas Day is at our usual 10.30am.

And then, in quick succession, some beautiful feast days: St Stephen, St John the Evangelist, the Holy Innocents, and St Thomas Becket before the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God on New Year's Day. There is Mass every day next week, and the holiday - a word which abbreviates holy day - provides a chance to attend to the things of God whilst keeping the Feast.

Saint John, our beloved patron, in his gospel went to the heart of the matter: "He came to his own and his own received him not". This refers first and foremost to Bethlehem: the Son of David comes to his own city but has to be born in a stable because there is no room for him at the inn. Then it refers to Israel: the one who is sent comes to his own people, but they do not want him. And truly it refers to all mankind: he through whom the world was made, the primordial Creator-Word enters into the world, but he is not listened to, he is not received. And these words refer also to us, to each individual and to society as a whole. Do we have time and space for God? Can he enter into our lives? Does he find room in us, or have we occupied all the available space in our thoughts, our actions, our lives for ourselves? That's the challenge of the Gospel.

With my love and prayers,

Fr Brendan

Festive Celia Quiz

1. Which OT prophet foretells the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem?
2. When and from where did the Queen deliver her first Christmas message on TV?
3. From which country did the idea of decorated trees at Christmas come?
4. Who wrote the words of the carol Hark The Herald Angels Sing?
5. Our carols are played in Church on an organ designed by whom?
6. In which century was 25 December first announced as Christmas Day?
7. In which district in the Holy Land is Nazareth located?
8. 'Who' plays Bob Cratchit in The Muppet Christmas Show?
9. Christmas puddings should be made on Stir Up Sunday - which is?
10. Which was the first Christmas in England after rationing?
11. From which country do turkeys originate?
12. In the 17th century what ingredients different from ours were used in mince pies with raisins and lemon peel?
13. Father Christmas's red robe, first worn in the 19th century, was 'taken' from which Church official?
14. The 19th century introduction of what caused a surge in the popularity of Christmas cards ?
15. The Star leading the Wise Men would have been made up of what element - as they all are?
16. In which town was Handel's Messiah first performed.

GORDON'S POSERS

a: Significantly down; b: Pylle ; c: Beer making centre, N or S