

The Liturgy of the Sacrament (service continues on page 6 in the Mass booklet)

For your prayers:

Those who are ill: Marie Simmons, Mary Cosh,
David McClure, Lois Paine, Hannah Rae, Richard Shepherd,
Jean Kennedy, Tracey Llewellyn

Those who have died recently: Clive Broad

Offertory Hymn: 26 Hark the Herald Angels Sing (omit * verses)

Anthem: Bululalow –Warlock, Rejoice Greatly – Handel

Thanksgiving hymn: 30 O Come all ye faithful (omit * verses)

Please join us after the service for Christmas drinks and nibbles in the rectory

Readings next Sunday, Holy Family, Year A

Ecclus 3:2-6&12-14, Col 3:12-14, Mt 2: 13-15 & 19-23

Notices

St Vedast's traditional **Midnight Sung Eucharist** will be celebrated on **Tuesday 24th December at 11.45pm**. All are very welcome. There will also be a Eucharist on Sunday, 29th December at 11am as usual.

Apart from opening for the services on 24th, 29th December, 5th January the church will be **closed from 5.30pm on Christmas Eve until 8am on 6th January 2019**.

There will be no Parish Breakfast on 5th January 2020.

St Vedast-alias-Foster

Peace and contemplation at the heart of the City

vedast.org.uk

 St Vedast-Alias-Foster  @stvedast  @stvedastaliasfoster

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Administrator: Joanna Sorohan administrator@vedast.org.uk, 020 7606 3998

22nd December, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: Fr Paul Kennedy

Setting Missa in Simplicite - Langlais

Hymn 34 Once in Royal David's City

First Lesson Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Christ's Birth and Kingdom is Foretold

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Thanks be to God

Hymn 25 God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Second Lesson Micah 5:2-4

Micah Foretells the Glory of Bethlehem

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Thanks be to God

Hymn 32 O Little Town of Bethlehem (omit * verse)

Third Lesson Luke 1: 26-38

The Annunciation to Mary

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God

Hymn 42 While shepherds watched their flocks by night

Fourth Lesson Luke 2: 1-20

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God

Hymn 29 It came upon the Midnight clear

Remain Standing

Fifth Lesson John 1: 1-14

The Incarnation of the Word of God

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God