T E N T E R D E N K E N T

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**Newsletter for the week commencing 6th December 2020**

**Second Sunday of Advent (B)**

**Entrance antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11**

**Psalm 84 Response: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.**

**Second Reading: Second letter of St Peter 3: 8-14**

**Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!**

**Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8**

**Communion antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

**Father Behr writes:**

**Dear Parishioners,**

**Tuesday 8 December**:

On Tuesday 8 December we celebrate the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and we have Mass **at 9.30am****.**

It is great to remember how Mary, the mother of Jesus, was preserved from the stain of original sin by a singular grace.  She is the Immaculate Conception and, as was revealed to St Catherine Labouré, Mary has been given a special role in these extraordinary times.

I would strongly encourage every Catholic, and indeed every Christian, to wear the medal of the Immaculate Conception, known popularly as the Miraculous Medal.

This medal is indeed aptly named for the countless graces and miracles that have been granted through the intercession of the Virgin Mary to those who devoutly wear the medal.

The prayer which is inscribed on the medal should be written on the heart of every Catholic. *O Mary Conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee.*



**Saturday 12 December**

We are not going to have a reconciliation service this year for Advent. However, I have invited Father Michael Woodgate to come and hear confessions for us **on Saturday 12 December**.  Some of you may know Father Michael as he lives in Headcorn and looks after the church there.

Father Michael will offer Holy Mass at 10am and stay to hear confessions **from 10.30am****.** I urge you to take this opportunity to make your Advent confession as a wonderful way of preparing for the joyful season of Christmas.

Best wishes

Father Behruz Rafat

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased**: Jo Venables RIP. Jo's funeral will take place at Charing Crematorium on Tuesday December 15th at 10:00 am. There is limited space in the Chapel at Charing, so please book a place with Jolyon if you wish to attend.

**Those ill or infirm:** Charlotte Elliot (daughter of Maureen Davidson), Jennifer Jorden, Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton, Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those self-isolating or suffering from COVID-19.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:** Nora Cregan, Francis Kelly, Ann Collins, Nathaniel ‘Nat’ Kennell, Barbara Beresford, Gwladys Webbe-Wood, Kieran McNamara, Norman Blackman, Nancie Gribble, Elisabeth Berardi-Cools and John Hannington.

**This week’s services (6th – 12th December)**

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| **Mass will be held daily at 10am except on Wednesday when there will be****a Service of the Word and Holy Communion at 10am** |
| **Feasts during the week** |
| Sunday 6th December 10am Mass12 midday Latin Mass | **Second Sunday of Advent** | Thursday 10th December 10am Mass | The Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto |
| Monday 7th December 10am Mass | St Ambrose Bishop | Friday 11th December 10am Mass | St Damasus I |
| Tuesday 8th December 10am Mass | **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** | Saturday 12th December10am Mass | Our Lady of Guadalupa |
| Wednesday 9th December10am Service of the Word and Holy Communion | St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin | Sunday 13th December 10am Mass | **Third Sunday of Advent** |
| **Flowers for Sunday 13th December** | **Kathy Gibbs** |

**Christmas is almost with us…**

Our church always looks beautiful at Christmas, thanks to the amazing work of our **flower arrangers.**

However, due to Covid-19, they **need your help** this year in order to keep everyone healthy for this wonderful festival.

So, to minimise the amount of time the flower arrangers would be in the church and to limit their numbers please help by bringing a vase or arrangement of flowers to the church on the afternoon of 23rd December, 2pm to 4pm.

**We need ten** for the window ledges - not above the radiators - in **bright red, gold/yellow and white with greenery**. Please let Frances know if you could prepare one and if you would need a holder and oasis. Seasonal evergreens and anything with berries e.g. holly, yew, ivy, cotoneaster would be gratefully received on the weekend 19/20 December and can be left in buckets in the courtyard outside the 'wet' Sacristy. **Release your inner creativity!**
Please let Frances know if you can help. (Frances Lawrence 01233 732657    f.lawrence999@btinternet.com)

**A gentle reminder about booking seats**

**Deacon Jolyon needs positive confirmation** of which Sunday services you will be attending and an early indication of your Christmas attendance.You will appreciate he does not know whether you are self-isolating or in quarantine, following a COVID positive contact or preparing to make a family visit etc. so please let him know asap.

**Supporting the Tenterden Foodbank etc**

Our recent Christian breakfast meeting had to be cancelled and we missed the opportunity for meeting up.

However, news on the virus front does give some encouragement, that we may be able to meet again. sometime next year. We can look forward to seeing each other, enjoying fellowship over a meal and being challenged in our faith by the speaker. If there is anyone who needs help in the meantime, please let us know and we can see what can be done.

Christmas is on the horizon - a time of joy and celebration of Jesus birth However there will be those who will struggle through the school holidays or find it an even lonelier time. Just a thought – we will all be saving the £10 cost of our breakfast perhaps each of us could consider giving it to help. You probably have your own charities but some local ones include: Tenterden Family Foodbank, The Old Schoolhouse Larder (providing hot meals), Christmas Cheer.

With very best wishes, Chris Cheesman, co-ordinator Tenterden Christian Breakfasts