**St. Andrew’s Catholic Church, Tenterden**

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**Newsletter for the week commencing**

**First Sunday of Advent (Year A)**

**First Reading: The prophet Isaiah 2: 1-5** This oracle depicts the true eminence of Zion because the Lord, the Universal King, dwells in her midst.

**Psalm 121 Response:**  **6pm & 8.30am I rejoiced when I heard them say "Let us go to God's house"**

**10.30am I rejoiced when I heard them say "Let us go to the house of the Lord"**

**I rejoiced when I heard them say "Let us go to the house of the Lord"**

**Second Reading: The letter of St Paul to the Romans 13: 11-14** Paul write that salvation is at hand. Christians face a critical time and must respond to it with vigilance.

**Gospel: Matthew 24: 37-44** Jesus makes a comparison between the days of Noah and the coming of the Son of Man.

During Holy Communion at the 10.30 Mass the choir sing the carol \*This is the truth sent from above" (Traditional Herefordshire, arranged by Ralph Vaughan-Williams)

**Father John writes:**

The Church’s season of Advent starts today. During the next few weeks you will hear more than once the phrases from Scripture: “Stay awake” and “Wake up”. It is not because it is a sleepy time of year, but rather an encouragement to us to be alert for the coming of Christ, both at Christmas, and at the end of time. But almost every day nowadays you will also read or hear the challenge to “Wake up” about **climate change.** Floods, rising sea levels, melting polar ice, droughts causing starvation, record-breaking temperatures, destructive gales, all hit the headlines again and again. And apparently that is only the beginning! God made our beautiful world with all its many attributes, and we are beginning to recognise that both our predecessors and we, of this generation, have (sometimes unwittingly – but not always so) contributed to all the above problems. We have to “wake up” rapidly to our responsibility to care for this planet for future generations, even if it involves a less than welcome change of lifestyle.

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:**

**Those ill or infirm:** Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Eric Booth, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton and Josie Payne.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time**: David Daniels, Ethel Currie, Rose Hewer-Hearst, Edith Margaret Corbett, Alex Mickle, Elizabeth de Blaby, Agnes Finnan, Nora Cregan, Francis Kelly, Ann Collins and Nathaniel (Nat) Kennell.

**This week’s events**

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week.** The renowned Jesuit websites, Sacred Space and Pray as You go, collaborate to provide an online Advent Retreat focusing on ‘new beginnings.’  It looks at how our lives can take a completely different direction when God enters our story, a little like St Ignatius's "cannonball" moment.  Over the five weeks of Advent, the retreat follows different people in the gospels - John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and the Wise Men. The retreat can be prayed alone, or with others.  It is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas. Access this, and other rich online spiritual resources at www. NewPilgrimPath.ie

The **Christmas Tree Festival held at Zion Baptist Church** last weekend was very successful. Over 2000 visitors admired the trees decorated on the theme of *The Pantomime and Ballet* erected by many of the local churches, schools and voluntary organisations and resulted in donations amounting to over £779 to be divided between Team Ben Hammond and Tenterden Christmas Cheer. St. Andrew's entry was well received and its panto theme - created by Kathy, Lorraine and Frances - invoked much laughter. The **first prize went to The Memory Club**, which meets in our hall. Special thanks to Leslie for getting the tree down from the loft! Zion Baptist donated all the festival expenses, refreshments and manned the exhibition for which we were very grateful.

**ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP!** This weekend Lorraine is running this popular festive workshop to help us prepare for Christmas. The workshop will be held this Saturday 30th November from 4pm until and after the 6pm Mass and on Sunday 1st December after the 10.30 Mass. Everyone is welcome. For more details ring Lorraine on 01580 762764.

**It’s finally time for Gaudete**! A Christmas Celebration - a **musical evening next** **Saturday 7th December from 7.30pm** **at St Mildred’s Church,** provided by the **Tenterden Singers**. Enjoy mince pies and mulled wine and beautiful music! It is in aid of **FEGANS**, a fund-raising campaign run by St Mildred’s Church, for counselling young people with mental health issues, which affects so many. Leaflets with more details about this worthwhile charity are available at the back of the church. **Please support them.**

**Last chance** to donate items for the **Big Christmas Wrap** **and Foodbank** next Saturday, **7th December from 11am**. Bring them to Highbury Hall (see the poster in the porch for all the details) and enjoy a cuppa in their café whilst you’re there!

We are holding our Christmas sale in the hall after all the Masses on Sat 30th November and Sun 1st December.  Our card sale this year will be in support of The Church in Need Charity which supports Christians in various war-torn countries and The Catholic Children’s Society. We also have Advent calendars and sets of candles for Advent Wreaths, cribs and books for children, together with our usual selection of greeting cards and Missals.

After this second sale, any remaining cards and other items will still be available in the Church porch where the Repository Is located.    Nuala.

**This week’s services**

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| **Day** | **Date** | **Feast** | **Time/Detail** |
| Saturday | 30th November | St Andrew, Apostle | 6:00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday |
| Sunday | 1st December | First Sunday of Advent (A) | 8:30am Mass  10:30am Mass *People of the parish* |
| Monday | 2nd December | Feria | 10:00am Mass |
| Tuesday | 3rd December | St Francis Xavier, Priest | 10:00am Mass *Fr Tomas Creagh-Fuller RIP* |
| Wednesday | 4th December | St John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church | 10:00am Mass followed by Adoration |
| Thursday | 5th December | Feria | 9:00am Mass *Fr Brian Sandeman RIP* |
| Friday | 6th December | St Nicholas, Bishop | 10:00am Mass followed by Adoration |
| Saturday | 7th December | At Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church | 10:00 to 10:45 Reconciliation  6:00pm Vigil Mass |
| Sunday | 8th December | Second Sunday of Advent (A) | 8:30am Mass *Michael Edwards RIP (Hilary)*  10:30am Mass |

**Next week’s responsibilities (7th/8th Dec)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **6:00pm Saturday** | **8:30am Sunday** | **10:30am Sunday** |
| **Reader** | Roger S | Peter L | Kathleen B |
| **Extra-ordinary Ministers** |  | Michael Payne  Maria Milton | Rani Thomas  Kathleen Bishop |
| **Flowers** | Hilary E | **Cleaners** | Val & Bea |

**Forthcoming events**

**Christmas Eve Mass:** As last year, the **Mass on Christmas Eve will be at 10.00pm** rather than midnight.