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

**Parish Priest:** The Rt. Rev. John Hine, (Emeritus Bishop)

**Address:** The Presbytery, 47 Ashford Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6LL.

**Telephone:** 01580 762785

**Parish E-mail** [tenterden@rcaos.org.uk](about:blank) **Parish Website:** www.standrewstenterden.org

**Deacon:** Rev. Jolyon Vickers **Email:** j.vickers1@btinternet.com **Hire of Parish Hall:** Lesley McCarthy 07791 949652 **E-mail:** [bookings.standrews@talktalk.net](about:blank)

**Newsletter Editor:** Patricia Sargent 01233 850963 **E-mail:** sargentpat51@gmail.com

**Newsletter for the week commencing 7th/8th December 2019**

**Second Sunday of Advent (A)**

**First Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10**. Prophet Isaiah announces the coming of the Messiah who is the righteous King.

**Psalm 71 Response:**  In his days, justice shall flourish, and peace 'til the moon fails

**Second Reading: The letter of St Paul to the Romans 15: 4-9** Paul exhorts the Christians of Rome to live in peace and harmony so that they may glorify God with one voice.

**Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12** John the Baptist invites his listeners to repentance and conversion.

10.30 MASS - At Holy Communion the choir will sing the carol "Jesus Christ the apple tree" by Elizabeth Poston

**Father John writes:**

It is customary for the Parish Priest to encourage you all to use your vote – and this is the week to do so. Interestingly enough, Pope Pious IX (1868) banned Catholics from voting in their Italian elections! However, he was very much on his own in this. Catholics are very much expected to do their duty to discern the best choice.

We tend to think that democracy finds its roots in Christianity – not so! There can never be an “opposition” to a God of infinite goodness and truth! Nonetheless, there are no gods on the electoral list so we have to do our best to discern the party with policies that might reflect Christ’s gospel teachings rather than our self-concerns

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**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:** Ann Collins, Nathaniel “Nat” Kennell, Barbara Beresford, Gwladys Webbe-Wood, Kieran McNamara, Roy Sturdy, Norman Blackman, Nancie Gribble, Elisabeth Berardi-Cools, John Hannington, Violet Barrie, Hella Reed, Mary Ann Roberts, Margaret Maloney and Norah Pillano.

**This week’s events**

**A plea to Extra-ordinary Ministers**: as you must be aware by now, Christmas is creeping up very fast!  This is an appeal for Extra-ordinary Ministers for the “Midnight” Mass (10pm) and the 10.30am Mass on Christmas Day. We need at least five people at the Midnight Mass and the same again to help Deacon Jolyon in the hall at the 10.30 Mass. In the porch there is a form for you to sign if you are available and willing to serve at either of these Masses, this weekend if possible. Thank you.

There will be a **retiring collection next Sunday**, December 15th, to provide floral decorations at Christmas.

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week.** “In these daily Advent reflections, we have resolved to be bearers of light and bringers of joy to a world so in need of both, for we have come to know them ourselves in Christ. It is our prayer that these little embers, the lectio of our lives, will provide light for your path as we walk one another home.”  The Sisterhood of St John the Divine, a monastic community within the Anglican Church of Canada, provides beautiful daily reflections for Advent.  Access these, and other rich online Advent spiritual resources at [www.NewPilgrimPath.ie](about:blank)

**Repository**

Christmas Cards are still available in the Church porch after all the weekend Masses from now until we run out.  Nuala

**This week’s services**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Date** | **Feast** | **Time/Detail** |
| Saturday | 7th December | St Ambrose | 6:00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday |
| Sunday | 8th December | Second Sunday of Advent | 8:30am Mass. *Neil Edwards RIP*  10:30am Mass. *Roy Sturdy RIP* |
| Monday | 9th December | **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** | 10:00am Mass. *Maurice Cowley RIP* |
| Tuesday | 10th December | Feria | 10:00am Mass.  *Private intention* |
| Wednesday | 11th December | St Damasus I, Pope | 10:00am Mass followed by Adoration |
| Thursday | 12th December | Our Lady of Guadalupe | 9:00am Mass |
| Friday | 13th December | St Lucy, Martyr | 10:00am Mass followed by Adoration |
| Saturday | 14th December | St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church | 10:00 to 10:45 Reconciliation  6:00pm Vigil Mass |
| Sunday | 15th December | Third Sunday of Advent | 8:30am Mass  10:30am Mass. *Maureen Davidson*  12.30pm Mass - Latin extraordinary rite |

**Next week’s responsibilities (15th/16th December)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **6:00pm Saturday** | **8:30am Sunday** | **10:30am Sunday** |
| **Reader** | Noel J | Alex W | Rachel H |
| **Extra-ordinary Ministers** |  | Allan Shipton  Peter Lonergan | Lorraine Sharp  Liz Dumbleton |
| **Flowers** | Kathy G | **Cleaners** | - |

**Regular activities**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Event | Where | When |
| Mothers’ Prayers | The Parish Room | Tuesdays at 4.30pm |
| Choir practice | St Andrew’s Church | Wednesdays at 7.00pm |

**Forthcoming events**

**An appeal for new readers for the 6pm and 8.30am Masses!** If you feel able to read at either of these Masses and would like to become part of the readers rota, please let Fr John or Deacon Jolyon know and Fr John will have a chat with you. The more readers there are, the less frequently your turn comes around, and dates can be changed to accommodate holidays etc. Give it a go. It is an honour to take a more active part in the Mass in this way.

Please remember that all the offerings at the Christmas Masses are your personal gift to the parish priest. If you are a Gift Aider do use your numbered envelope and, if donating by cheque, please make it payable to 'St. Andrew's Church’

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