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

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

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 **Newsletter for the week commencing 16th December 2018**

**Third Sunday of Advent (C)**

**Today’s Readings:**

**First Reading**: Zephaniah 3: 14 – 18

Visualising the blessings already coming from God’s hand, the prophet Zephaniah calls his people to rejoice. Fear of evil and feeling of powerlessness are things of the past because God Himself lives in their midst.

**Psalm**: 12: 2 – 6

**Response**: 1800 & 0830 “Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel”

 1030 – “We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing joyfully,

          we shall draw water joyfully from the wellsprings of salvation”.

**Second Reading**: St. Paul to the Philippians 4: 4 – 7

The theme of joy which is characteristic of this Letter comes again emphatically in this passage. Anxiety has no place in the lives of Christians because they can take all their concerns to God in prayer

**Gospel Reading**: Luke 3: 10 – 18

John the Baptist issues instructions to different groups of people regarding the right way of living. People belonging to ordinary class must show generosity to one another. Tax collectors and soldiers must act honestly and justly.

At the 1030 Mass Offertory, we listen to the choir sing the carol "People, look east" (Old French carol melody from Besancon arr. Stainer

**Father John writes:**

Those of you conversant with Latin from your schooldays would have spotted that this Sunday, known as ‘Gaudete’ Sunday, means that it is REJOICING Sunday! During Advent there is a quiet mood of patient expectancy, but all of a sudden on this Sunday we can’t keep ‘cool’ any longer, and rejoicing happiness bursts out: “Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel” (response to today’s psalm) and “I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord: I repeat, what I want is your happiness” St Paul tells the Philippian Christians ! (second reading). Today we have the Baptism of baby Agnes at our 10 30am Mass -a truly joyful occasion for her family and for our parish. In only nine days time we will all be celebrating the birth of the “Holy One of Israel” –Jesus the Son of God -the greatest moment of human history.

**This Sunday – Retiring collection for the flowers for Christmas!**

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

* Those recently deceased – Margaret Maloney RIP
* Those ill or infirm: Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant and David Lloyd-Thomas

Remember that parishioners who would like to be on the sick list must give their permission themselves or via another parishioner for this to comply with the GDPR. Do let Father John or Patricia know.

* Those, whose anniversaries of death occur at this time: Bishop William Brown, Alex Kanas, Norah Wrigley, Joan Gray, Mary Hounsell and Joanna Powell

**THE PARISH WEBSITE**

**Remember** that we have a comprehensive parish website, with all the up to date information of activities within the Parish. The front page not only has the latest parish news, but also offers quick access to the current parish newsletter and helps find details for all activities.

**There** is a wealth of information about the Parish, including rotas for readers, extraordinary ministers, flower arrangers, etc; minutes of recent Parish Council and Finance Committee meetings and the calendar for activities in the Parish Centre. You can also get forms for Gift Aid, see how to make donations to the Church or

add your name to the Parish Directory.

**Each week** the latest parish newsletter goes on line before the Saturday Mass, so you can print it off at home and help to reduce the printing costs within the church.

**For all this**, go to www.standrewstenterden.org. Have a look and let us know what you think. Could we improve it and make it more useful for you?

**Forthcoming events in Tenterden**

**St Mildred’s has organised various events over the Christmas season. If you enjoy the music of Christmas, the Tenterden Town Christmas Carol Service is guaranteed to get you in the Christmas mood and features a special choir which you may want to be part of! Or, if you fancy a festive lunch in Highbury Hall on Christmas Day look at the poster on the noticeboard for details of how to join in. There is also information about an interesting talk to be held in January. The poster has all the contact details that you need.**

**Next week’s services**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Date** | **Feast** | **Time/Detail** |
| Saturday | 15th December | Feria | Reconciliation 10.00 – 10.4518:00 Vigil Mass of Sunday – Elizabeth Gormley RIP |
| Sunday | 16th December | 3rd Sunday of Advent  | 08:30 Mass – Michael Edwards RIP10:30 Mass Baptism of baby Agnes Boyling12:30 Mass Latin Mass |
| Monday | 17th December | Feria | 10:00 Mass – welfare of Morrison family |
| Tuesday | 18th December | Feria | 10:00 Mass – Maureen’s family RIP |
| Wednesday | 19thDecember | Feria | 10:00 Mass followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament |
| Thursday | 20th December | Feria | 09:00 Mass – Ester Boylan RIP |
| Friday | 21st December | Feria | 10:00 Mass followed by Adoration  |
| Saturday | 22nd December | Feria | Reconciliation 10:00 to 10:4518:00 Vigil Mass of Sunday – Liz Goodwin RIP (M. Escott) |

**Next week’s responsibilities**

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| --- |
| **December 22/23 Fourth Sunday of Advent** |
|  | **18:00 Saturday** | **08:30 Sunday** | **10:30 Sunday** |
| **Reader** | Noel Jordan | Alexander Wilson | Rachel Heinrichsmeier |
| **Extra-ordinary Ministers** |  | Elena PeckMaria Milton | Peter HookRani Thomas |
| **Flowers** |  | **Cleaners** |

**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”.**