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

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**Newsletter for the week commencing 23rd December 2018**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)**

Today’s Readings:

**First Reading**: Micah 5: 1 – 4

Micah says that God will make a fresh start by choosing Bethlehem as the birthplace of the future King.

**Psalm** 79

Response: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading**: Hebrews 10: 5 - 10

Many Old Testament writers call attention to the powerlessness of animal sacrifices in pleasing God. The author of Hebrews argues that the sacrifice that Christ offered with his own blood is a sacrifice far superior to the sacrifices of old.

At the 1030 Mass Offertory we listen to the choir sing the 15th Century English carol "There is no rose of such virtue"

**Father John writes:**

St Luke’s Gospel today tells us that, after the angel announces to Mary that she is to be the Mother of God, she immediately goes to visit her elderly cousin Elizabeth, who is also pregnant. The narrative relates this so casually as though Mary had completely accepted without any hesitation the incredible message of the angel - so much so that she was instantly able to give priority to the needs of her cousin, Elizabeth. And her trust and total joy is powerfully reflected in her great prayer of faith, the ‘Magnificat’. Mary proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and her spirit exults in God her saviour.

May **our** spirits exult this Christmas, and may we, too, proclaim the greatness of the newly born Lord Jesus. And I wish you all a very happy Christmas and new year.

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

* 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: - Mary Stevenson, Rosina Cordell, Richard Diedo, Liz Goodwin, Rose Mount and Mary Anne Simmons.

**Next week’s events**

**Reminder: Midnight Mass is at 10 pm, preceded by carols and readings from 9.45 pm!**

**Next week’s services**

**4th Sunday of Advent (C): 23rd December 2018**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Date** | **Feast** | **Time/Detail** |
| Saturday | 22nd December | Feria | 10am to 10:45am Reconciliation  6pm Vigil Mass of Sunday – Liz Goodwin (Maureen) |
| Sunday | 23rd December | 4th Sunday of Advent | 8:30am Mass  10:30am Mass - People of the parish |
| Monday | 24th December | **Feria**  **Masses of**  **Christmas** | 10am Mass welfare *of Morrison family*. Sacrament of Reconciliation  10.30am -11.30am  **10pm** NATIVITY **OF THE LORD**  **MASS OF CHRISTMAS NIGHT** (preceded by Carols 9.45pm) |
| Tuesday | 25th December | **CHRISTMAS DAY**  8.30am MASS (*Pat Sargent’s parents RIP*) 10.30am MASS |
| Wednesday | 26th December | St. Stephen | 10am Mass followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament |
| Thursday | 27th December | St. John, Apostle | 9am Mass - Ester Boylan RIP |
| Friday | 28th December | The Holy Innocents | 10am Mass followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament |
| Saturday | 29th December | St. Thomas of Canterbury | Reconciliation 10am to 10:45am  6pm Vigil Mass of Sunday – Liz Goodwin RIP (M. Escott) |
| Sunday | 30th December | The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph | 8:30am Mass  10:30am Mass |

**The Collection at the Christmas Masses is for your parish priest.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Duties for Christmas Masses** | | | |
|  | “Midnight” Mass 10pm | 8.30am | 10.30am |
| Readers | Frances Lawrence | Tony Mallett | Suzanne Vickers |
| Extra-ordinary Ministers | TBA | TBA | TBA |

**Next week’s responsibilities**

**29/30th December 2018**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **6:00 pm Saturday** | **8:30 Sunday** | **10:30 Sunday** |
| **Reader** | Roger Styles | Elena Peck | Frances Lawrence |
| **Extra-ordinary Ministers** |  | Louise Carter  Michael Payne | Kathleen Bishop  Martin Heinrichsmeier |
| **Flowers** | Suzanne | **Cleaners** | Val and Bea |

**Food Bank**: please support this great initiative and remember someone else at Christmas. Bring your donations to any of the Masses and leave them in the Parish Room! Thank you.

I have been asked to draw your attention to a notice (on the board in the porch) about fostering children. There is a presentation on the 16th January at Ashford, where foster carers share their experience.

Wishing you a Happy and Holy Christmas and a peaceful 2019,

from Pat, Brian and Breda (the newsletter team!)