

Fourth Sunday of Advent 22nd December 2024



Advent Prayer

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle;
to you be praise and glory for ever!
Your light has shone in our darkened world
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;
grant that we who have seen your glory
may daily be renewed in your image
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

Blessed be God for ever.

Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our Saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading (Isaiah 60:1-3)

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Gospel Reading (Luke 1.26-38)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.
In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to
a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to
a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.
The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and
said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with

you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and
pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel
said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found
favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your
womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He
will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most
High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of
his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob
for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary
said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a
virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come
upon you, and the power of the Most High will
overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be
holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your
relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a
son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to
be barren. For nothing will be impossible with
God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the
Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then
the angel departed from her.

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For your prayers

In our Prayers:

Hugh, Josh, Diane Rankin, Lloyd Whitney, Diane, Trevor,
Vera, Chris Hall, Tommy Lacken, Sue, Kathy, Maria
Amparo Garcia, Maria, Lenny Shaw, Pat, Vanessa,
Eamon Irvine, HM King Charles, Steve, Tracey
Sanderson, Fr Michael Shier, Michelle Ferguson, Maria
Vaccaro, Robert Russell, Carol Martin, Nancy Campling,
Philomena Sorrenti, Martin Fletcher, Jan Bone, Francis
Burrows. Fr Peter Rabin, Lynn Williamson, Ms Rebecca
Quansah, Dr Alfred Kwasi Kwarteng.

Among the departed: Calum Naylor, Gladys Mevo,
Ann Douglas.

Anniversaries of Death: Francis William Durand, Ellen
Dawson, Jesse Brett (Pr), Langley Fenning, Christopher
Fenning, Frank Percival Downman (Pr), Dora Bessie
Cackett, Frank Whithead, Cholmondely Webb, Alice
Mary Cackett, Mary Sams, Sarah Cheal, Amelia Fox,
Daisy Longmore, George William Baxter, Herbert Spring,
Shirley Bryant, Ronald Palmer, Sidney Shilton, Dorothy
Dawn, Mona Shier, Rosario Leona

In the Parish: We pray for those working in retail and
distribution at this busy time of year; Rebrick Estate,
and Vibast Community Centre

In the wider world: We Pray for all those with influence
and authority in Syria to bring an end to the civil war, a
just peace, reconciliation and rebuilding.