



THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS,  
NORTH HILLINGDON UB10 9BT  
+  
~SERVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY~  
+  
THE SECOND SUNDAY  
AFTER CHRISTMAS  
(YEAR B)  
+  
3 JANUARY 2021

*The most recent Government regulations allow churches to remain open for public worship. However, we still need to take care, not least by maintaining social-distancing inside and outside All Saints.*

***You need to continue to wear a face-covering in church (unless you have a good reason for not wearing one).***<sup>1</sup>

**A thought for this Sunday:** We gather to celebrate the first Sunday of 2021, with thankfulness for the year just ended. We ask God for his continuing care and protection as we face the challenges of this New Year, not knowing what it will bring, save for ongoing pandemic, at least for the moment! To-day, we hear once again the famous reading from S John's Gospel, which was read at the *Mass of the Day* on Christmas morning. The wisdom which God planted among his people has now taken flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. *Thanks be to God!*

**Introit:** When peaceful silence lay over all and night had run her swift course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, leaped down from heaven, from the royal throne.

**Collect:** *Let us pray that all mankind may be enlightened by the Gospel:* God of power and life, glory of all who believe in you, fill the world with your splendour and show the nations the light of your truth. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

### **THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus (24:1-4 & 8-12):** *The wisdom of God has pitched her tent among the chosen people.*

Wisdom speaks her own praises, in the midst of her people she glories in herself. She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High, she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One; "Then the creator of all things instructed me, and he who created me fixed a place for my tent. He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob, make Israel your inheritance." From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall remain. I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle and thus was I established on Zion. In the beloved city he has given me rest, and in Jerusalem I wield my authority. I have taken root in a privileged people, in the Lord's property, in his inheritance."

The response to the Psalm (147) is: **The Word was made flesh and lived among us.**

**A reading from the letter of S Paul to the Ephesians (1:3-6 & 15-18):** *He determined that we should become his adopted sons through Jesus.*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved. That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (1:1-18):** *The Word was made flesh and lived among us.*

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man, but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: "This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me, because he existed before me." Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given

through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

### **AT THE INTERCESSIONS**

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

**All: hear our prayer.**

**We pray:** for our parish and its needs; for God's blessing on all that we do in the coming year; for the Christian communities in and around Long Lane; for the recently bereaved; for a successful *Covid-19* vaccination programme in 2021; for local medical professionals; for local schools; for local solicitors.

**We commend to God our Father the sick, the housebound & others in trouble or need:** Peter Bennett, Charlotte Bergdahl, Lesley Carrington, Helen Dey, Lorraine Dixon, Karen Harle, Mike & Evelyn Kirby, Brian Measures, Phil Parris, Stephen Patrick, Marc Pooley, Rob Scoates, Julia Shears, Sarah Turk, Liz Wakling and Frank & Irene Wilkinson.

**the recently departed:** Cliff Bergdahl, Ted' Wakling.

**those whose anniversary falls at about this time:** Beatrice Allen, Winifred Beere, Dorothy Bounden, Jon Bristowe, Pamela Bruce, Richard Burridge, Mary Coleman, Stanley Edward Denton, Brian Dey, John Longley, Edward Noble, Walter Parker, Gladys Roper, Alf Pike, Margaret Salmon, **May they rest in peace and rise in glory!**

We commend all that we have just prayed for, our families, our friends & those we love to the intercession of Mary (the mother of Jesus), S Joseph (her spouse), Ss Basil (of Caesarea) & Gregory (Nazianzen), S Raymund (of Peñaford) & all the saints. *Hail, Mary...*

**NB:** There is no Evening Service to-day, as congregational singing is not (yet) allowed.

### **FATHER DESMOND'S NOTES THIS WEEK**

1. For your own sake and all our sakes, you must not come into church, if you have (or have had within the last ten days) any symptoms of COVID-19. If you have been exposed (or think you may have been exposed) within the last ten days, you must also stay away from All Saints', even if you have no symptoms.

2. At the end of our time together in church, there is some cleaning to be done; please volunteer.

3. **Please take a moment** to look at the crib and reflect on the following before you go on your way this morning. The crib is a picture of simplicity and poverty. Yet it is rich in meaning. The scene contains all the elements of our created world. The hay and straw of the stable represent the fruit of the cultivated



earth. The ox, ass and the sheep are the animal kingdom. At the centre is the person of Jesus. And, without ever romanticising poverty, there is a certain harmony between all these elements. Each one has its place. Each one has its space. And all serve the well-being of the weakest and most vulnerable person, the new-born child.



4. On Wednesday, 6/1, the Three Kings will arrive at the crib with their gifts. If you are not working, try to come along to the Eucharist **at 1000** that day. A thought for Epiphany: *Solemn things of mystic meaning! Incense doth the God disclose; gold a Royal Child proclaimeth; myrrh a future tomb foreshows.* (by Aurelius Prudentius, AD348-413)

### **5. The Eucharist this week at ASH**

- a. Wednesday, 6/1; 1000: **The Lord's Epiphany**
- b. Thursday, 7/1; 1830: Thursday after the Epiphany
- c. Saturday, 9/1; 1800: Vigil Eucharist of the Sunday

6. **NB:** There is no OFRA Meeting in January.

7. The January edition of *Saints Alive!* will be ready no later than next week-end.

8. Many thanks to those who bought marmalade this week, thus raising a further **£10.50** for church funds. (There is now just *one* pot left!)

### **9. NEXT SUNDAY, 10/1: The Baptism of the Lord**

- a. 0800: Said Eucharist
- b. 1000: Parish Eucharist

### **Parish Priest:**

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*Our Saturday morning Vestry Hour resumes next Saturday, 9/1 at 0930. To enquire about **Banns of Marriage, Weddings, Baptisms or other items of parish business**, please come along at that time. No appointment is necessary. Alternatively, e-mail or telephone Father Desmond at the Vicarage.*

Parish Website:

[www.allsaintsnorthhilligdon.co.uk](http://www.allsaintsnorthhilligdon.co.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ASHillingdon](https://www.facebook.com/ASHillingdon)

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