

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year B • Psalter Week 2



PREPARE THE WAY! (MARK 1:1-8)

Relief of St John the Baptist in the Church of San Alessandro della Croce in Bergamo, Italy

Our Advent Gospel passage today presents us with the figure of John the Baptist. Mark casts him in the mould of the prophet Elijah, summoning his listeners to repent and return to the Lord their God.

He is preaching in the wilderness, a place associated in Jewish thought with that period during the Exodus when God and the people of Israel enjoyed a relationship of particularly close intimacy. However, the main emphasis in this extract is on John as the one who heralds the coming of the Messiah and calls on his hearers to prepare themselves for the coming of the one they are waiting for. The evangelist may be exaggerating when he says that *all* Judaea and *all* the people of Jerusalem answered his call, but John is shown elsewhere as enjoying widespread respect.

Mark presents Jesus as the fulfilment of the Jewish scriptures by quoting from the prophets Isaiah and Malachi in John's call to prepare a way for the Lord: John describes Jesus as the one who is more powerful than he is, which indicates that although later he baptises Jesus, he is not greater than Jesus. John's baptism is a symbol of the person's willingness to amend their life. The baptism of the one coming who is greater than John will be with the Holy Spirit: this Spirit represents the power of God at work to bring about holiness in the person, and so represents a deeper renewal than that of the Baptist. This is the beginning of the Good News. ■

LEARN

The Gospel according to Mark has no "infancy narrative": the evangelist introduces Jesus as an adult.

Mark presents John the Baptist in terms of the Old Testament prophet Elijah.

The Old Testament reading at Mass is connected with the reading from the Gospel and shows the connection between the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.

REFLECT

The Gospel of Mark opens with Jesus as an adult; there are no stories about the circumstances of his conception and birth. The evangelist confronts us immediately with the uncomfortable figure of John the Baptist and his call to rethink our way of life and our priorities, especially our relationship with our God. By presenting his understanding of Jesus as a story, Mark is inviting us to become part of the story, to involve ourselves in what is going on as we read or hear the various Gospel episodes. So today we can listen to John the Baptist's preaching not simply as something which happened a long time ago, but as something addressed to each one of us individually today.

The word *metanoia*, usually translated as "repentance", really means "to change one's way of thinking". In many ways, it is easy to adjust our behaviour, to correct faults and adopt positive practices. It takes more effort, and honesty, to examine our attitudes and beliefs and to change those. Advent is the time when we are invited to think, not so much about the baby Jesus, but rather about the coming of God the Lord into our lives and hearts here and now. We might think about our own baptism and what that means to us. If we use the next three weeks to look at what Jesus means to us and draw closer to him in friendship, it will be time well spent. ■

DO

Make the Sign of the Cross with holy water and think about your baptism: how could you deepen your relationship with God during Advent?



SAY

**Prepare a way for the Lord:
make his paths straight.**
(Mark 1:3; Isaiah 40:3)

**ST. ANNE'S CHURCH
PILLORY STREET
NANTWICH. CW5 5SS
Tel: 01270 625494**

Email stannesnantwich@btinternet.com Website www.stannesnantwich.org.uk
Parish Twitter Feed @stannesnantwich
Parish Priest: Fr. Tony Grace
Fr Michael Ryan OMI
Permanent Deacons: Rev. Peter Mascarenhas and Rev. John Penny

6th December 2020 Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday	5	6.30pm	Vigil Mass	Ivy Campbell RIP Mike Devaney (sick)
Sunday	6	9.30am	Mass Second Sunday of Advent Bible Sunday	Arthur Cunliffe RIP Margaret Cunliffe RIP Christine Nicholls RIP Recently Deceased
Monday	7		St Ambrose	
Tuesday	8	10.00am	Mass The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Jacky Karas RIP Recently Deceased David Wilcox RIP Anniversary
Wednesday	9		St John Diego Cuahtlatatzin	
Thursday	10	10.00am	Mass Our Lady of Loreto	Yvonne Golden (sick) Veronica Ann Beamish RIP 1 st Anniversary
Friday	11		St Damascus	
Saturday	12	6.30pm	Vigil Mass Our Lady of Guadalupe	Thanksgiving Intention
Sunday	13	9.30am	Mass Third Sunday of Advent	Christine Nicholls RIP Recently Deceased Mike Devaney (sick)

IN NEED OF A PRIEST Please contact Fr Grace on 01270 877736

Prayer and Mass Intentions can be sent by email to us at stannesnantwich@btinternet.com

Masses

With effect from Thursday 3rd December we opened the church for the celebration of Mass. We will be following the strict number guidelines we had in place before the latest lockdown.

Wearing of a mask is compulsory

Number of attendees are restricted

Only attend in your household bubble

Follow directions of the stewards who will take your details and guide you to seating

We are operating a one-way system entry through the main doors and exit through side doors

Windows will be open for ventilation, so it would be a good idea to wrap up warmly

Welcome to Deacon John ordained on 21st July 2001, two years before Deacon Peter who has known John since 2000. Prior to joining us here at St Anne's John was the permanent deacon at St Vincent de Paul Altrincham. John is one of two Assistant Directors for Permanent Diaconate and with two others has responsibility for Diaconate On-going Formation and Pastoral Care. John and Debbie moved to the Parish a few months ago and have two daughters, a son and a dog! Debbie is a retired primary Headteacher and is now a governor of St Anne's School and her knowledge and experience will no doubt be of considerable value. John has undoubtedly much to offer us all here at St Anne's and in the wider community in Nantwich. Debbie readily assumed responsibility for putting COVID safeguards in place when we reopened in July becoming our Safety Lead completing Risk Assessments and training Stewards. John produced the signs in and around the church as well as cordoning off benches etc

Community Hub Hooray!! We have reached our 1st initial target of £173k and can now progress to planning permission stage. Thank you to everyone who has donated, this really does mean a lot to the Parish and community. We need to continue fundraising to reach our next target of £87k to reach £260k. Please do help by making donations via this link <https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/17726/st-annes-church-nantwich/st-annes-community-hub> or to the presbytery.

200 Club November winners. Congratulations to 1st Paul Muskin £100, 2nd Michelle Burns £60, 3rd Sheila Devaney £40.

St. Anne's Catholic School Admissions.

We are welcoming lots of new families to our school community. We still have a few places left for our Pre-School Nursery Sunflowers and School in 2020/2021. If you know anyone who is new to the area and/or is looking for a place, please let them know to contact us at office@stannes.cheshire.sch.uk or 01270 685353. For school places parents need to apply through Cheshire East Admissions. Details are on School website. Parents must apply by 15th January 2021 for Reception places for September 2021. If you know of anyone interested, please let them know.



Last week's collection. Thank you

£207.60

Envelopes, standing order and gift aid forms are available from the Presbytery. Online donations <https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donor/page/stannesdioceseofshrewsbury2168>

Caritas at Christmas Appeal 2020: There will be a collection basket available. Thank you for your support. Your donations will go to those most vulnerable within the Diocese, ensuring they have a Christmas meal and gifts to celebrate the Nativity of Christ and create happy memories in a time of crisis.



St Anne's Christmas Mass Timetable (May be subject to change depending on Covid rules)	
22 December 2020	10am
Christmas Eve	3pm, 6:30pm, 9pm
Christmas Day	9:30am, 11am
Boxing Day	6:30pm
27 December 2020	9:30am
29 December 2020	10am
31 December 2020	10am
New Year's Day	10am
02 January 2021	6:30pm
03 January 2021	9.30am
06 January 2021 Epiphany	10am

Pope Francis' prayer for December: Pope's December prayer intention: 'For a life of prayer' In a video message for his December prayer intention, Pope Francis speaks about the power of prayer to change reality and our hearts, and prays that, through a life of prayer, we may nourish our relationship with Jesus Christ. <https://youtu.be/0c3CEjJ4MKk>

Prayer in Difficult Times – Talks by Fr. Matt Blake OCD Drawing on the Carmelite tradition to help us pray and live deeply our Christian lives during this time of lockdown. Monday November 30th Times: 10.00am and repeated at 8.00pm www.carmelitechurch.org You Tube "Kensington Carmelite Church" You'll notice that the talks, as well as being given live at 10.00 am and 8.00 pm and streamed from the Kensington Carmelite Church will also be streamed on YouTube, where they will continue to be available as recordings.

Diocese of Shrewsbury's prayer for the ending of the pandemic <http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/National-Day-of-Prayer-for-the-ending-of-the-pandemic.pdf>

The Nantwich Foodbank is indebted to the support from the Nantwich Churches Together and congregations. The support from churches comes in many forms but it is the prayers of God's people that we believe makes the most difference to the work of NFB. You may have heard that Jane Emery, the NFB Manager and the person who had the vision for the project in Nantwich, is leaving her role at the end of December 2020. We are grateful to Jane for her vision, her incredible hard work, her example of compassion for all people, and her inspirational and infectious enthusiasm for all things Foodbank. The Foodbank Trustees recognise that this is a time to re-evaluate our practices and the role of the Manager and are working to create a job specification before beginning the search for a new Foodbank Manager. The Nantwich Foodbank Trustees ask you to pray for us at this challenging but exciting time. Please Pray...

For the NFB Trustees as they write the job specification for this essential role, that it will be visional and achievable.

For the seed to be planted in the heart of the next Manager, and ears to hear the call of God to this work.

For Jane and all the volunteers as they enter into their most busy period of the year both for donations and delivering help and support. For those clients known and not yet known, that they will receive much 'more than food' with compassion and love in the run up to Christmas.

Charity Christmas Cards from Cards for Good Causes will be in the Grosvenor Shopping Centre, at 15 St Michael's Row. Alternatively, cards can be bought online at www.cardsforcharity.co.uk All enquiries Mary Thompson 01829 733642.

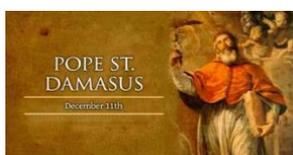
Bible Timeline Course - If you have struggled to read the Bible, this course is designed to help you understand the history of salvation. There are seven sessions from 7pm - 8.30pm starting Wednesday 4th November. It is free and looks at the Bible story in a clear and simple way. You will need access to a Catholic Bible to read a section prior to each session. A description of the course is available in the link below as well as details of how to register. 'comeandsee.org' The course is held live on 'Zoom' but you do not need a zoom account, the course leader will send you a link enabling you to join in.

Feast and Memorial Days



The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary 8th December. In 1854, Pope Pius IX's solemn declaration clarified with finality the long-held belief of the Church that Mary was conceived free from original sin. In proclaiming the Immaculate Conception of Mary as a dogma of the Church, the pope expressed precisely and clearly that Mary was conceived free from the stain of original sin. This privilege of Mary derives from God's having chosen her as Mother of the Saviour; thus she received the benefits of salvation in Christ from the very moment of her conception.

This great gift to Mary, an ordinary human being just like us, was fitting because she was destined to be Mother of God. The purity and holiness of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a model for all Christians.



St Damasus Pope – 305-384 Born in Rome, son of a priest. Damasus died there on this day. Elected Bishop of Rome, he was active in opposing 4th century heresies. After Christianity became the official religion of the Roman state and Latin was becoming principle Liturgical language, he commissioned St Jerome to prepare a new Latin translation of the Bible. He is also remembered for promoting the cult of the Roman martyrs, inscribing their tombs with epitaphs in verse.

mary's meals

a simple solution to world hunger

Donate

Give from today until 31 January 2021 and your **donation will be doubled** by the UK government, up to £2 million – meaning we can reach even more hungry children in Liberia with life-changing school meals.



Subject: Autumn talks on Spirituality. A series of eight, fortnightly talks about Spiritual Masters, given by distinguished speakers. They are free to view live-streamed, although there will be a fee to view recordings. Saints, Scholars and Spiritual Masters. A series of online talks on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm, starting on 3 September organised by the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst. For details and to register: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/event/saints-scholars-spiritual-masters/>.

Sanctuaries, shrines Catholics can 'visit' virtually in Europe, Mideast. <https://catholicsentinel.org/Content/Arts/Arts-and-Entertainment/Article/Sanctuaries-shrines-Catholics-can-visit-virtually-in-Europe-Mideast/6/31/40431>

Journeying Together <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/journeying-together/>

Shrewsbury Youth Mission. <https://www.symt.org.uk/>

The National Shrine for Our Lady of Walsingham www.walsingham.org.uk/livestream

Laudato Tree <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2020-05/laudato-tree-sahel-pope-francis-laudato-si-year.html>

Watch a Mass from home. Live-streaming of Masses Shrewsbury Diocese: <http://www.churchservices.tv/shrewsburycathedral/embed#tab-player> Church Services TV: <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

Prayer resources at: <http://pathwaystogod.org/> <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> <http://ln54.blogspot.com> <http://prayasyougo.org/>

Catholic Bishops Conference <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/> and latest news <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/news/>

Prayer for times of Flu or Illness <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/03/prayer-flu-viruses.pdf>

Stream Father Denis McBride's Mass for the Dead <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pY1bOyrcDbw>

Life. Helplines and Information can be found at <http://www.dayforlife.org/article/helplines-and-information-2020/>

Please count the money in your Red Box and:



Send a cheque

Make it payable to **Missio-Mill Hill** and post it to **Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU**



Give online

Scan the QR code above or go to [missio.org.uk/redbox](https://www.missio.org.uk/redbox) You can use the camera on your phone, just use it to look at the QR code above



Give via Text

Text **REDBOX 5** (to donate £5) or **REDBOX 10** (to donate £10) to **70085** This costs £5 or £10 plus your standard rate message



By phone

Call us on **020 7821 9755** during office hours to donate with your credit or debit card



Bank transfer

Account Name: **Missio**
Sort Code: **16-00-16**
Account Number: **10824230**
Reference: **RB+ your postcode**

Please continue to pray for our sisters and brothers overseas and all missionaries who share God's love - they tell us the love and strength they receive from us keeps them going.

Money given through the Red Box goes to support both the work of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries:

[missio.org.uk](https://www.missio.org.uk)
Registered Charity No 1056651

[millhillmissionaries.com](https://www.millhillmissionaries.com)
Registered Charity No 220690



missio
Today. Tomorrow. Together.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, Behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice
heard
in the joy of your heart.

COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
"Console my people, console them"
says your God.
"Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the
Lord
double punishment for all her crimes."
A voice cries, "Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
"Here is your God."
Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 84

Response:

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

- 1 I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
- 2 Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven (R.)
- 3 The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

SECOND READING 2 Peter 3:3-14

A reading from the second letter of Peter
There is one thing, my friends, that you must
never forget: that with the Lord, "a day"
can mean a thousand years, and a thousand
years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow
to carry out his promises, as anybody else
might be called slow; but he is being patient
with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and
everybody to be brought to change his ways.
The Day of the Lord will come like a thief,
and then with a roar the sky will vanish,
the elements will catch fire and fall apart,
the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.
Since everything is coming to an end like
this, you should be living holy and saintly
lives while you wait and long for the Day of
God to come, when the sky will dissolve in
flames and the elements melt in the heat.
What we are waiting for is what he promised:
the new heavens and new earth, the place
where righteousness will be at home. So
then, my friends, while you are waiting, do
your best to live lives without spot or stain so
that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of
God.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.
The beginning of the Good News about Jesus
Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the
book of the prophet Isaiah:
Look, I am going to send my messenger
before you;
he will prepare your way.
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and so it was that John the Baptist appeared
in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism
of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem
made their way to him, and as they were
baptised by him in the river Jordan they
confessed their sins. John wore a garment
of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and
wild honey. In the course of his preaching he
said, "Someone is following me, someone
who is more powerful than I am, and I am not
fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his
sandals. I have baptised you with water, but
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
PROFESSION OF FAITH
I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers
and offerings,
and, since we have no merits to plead our
cause,
come, we pray, to our rescue
with the protection of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from
God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual
nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the things
of earth
and hold firm to the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

.....
This is the time of year when we remember
that God sent his only son "to serve, not to
be served". He restored love and service to
the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus
Christ.

Queen Elizabeth II

