



All Saints' weekly email: Advent 4

Dear Friends,

This year the Advent 4 Gospel reminds us of the moment when the Christmas miracle begins - the Annunciation, which we celebrate as a Solemnity on 25 March, nine months before the Nativity.

As I've remarked elsewhere, one of the most moving pilgrimage experiences of my life has been a visit to Loreto, near Ancona, where the original Holy House in which the encounter between Mary and Gabriel took place is preserved: a chill went up my spine at the simple text over the altar, 'here the Word was made flesh'. We sometimes think of the Resurrection as the great Technicolor miracle of our Faith, but I would argue that this is the greater moment, for two reasons.

First, without the incarnation, which begins in this encounter, the Resurrection would still be a miracle, but it wouldn't be shared with us. Unless the Lord takes our humanity we are not gifted with his glory.

And second, Jesus always points us to the quiet and hidden places in our search for God, our pilgrimage home to our loving Father. This small and intimate exchange is a game-changer for humanity.

Repeatedly, insistently, Jesus tells us to value the small, the interior, the apparently insignificant. As I annoyingly repeat in sermons, the Gospel and our faith are *local, personal and particular*. That's why big rallies, impressive sales campaigns and everything that shouts power to the world are so often a diversion from God and why, when two or three are gathered together in love and devotion, we can be confident that the Lord is there.

Have a happy and holy Christmas and keep well.

Fr Michael

Click on the following links for mass on SUNDAY:

[Propers for Advent 4](#)

[YouTube link for live stream](#)

and for Evensong and Benediction at 3pm

[Order of Service](#)

[YouTube link for live stream](#)

The **monthly Requiem** for December will be offered tomorrow, Saturday 19th December, at noon. If you would like anyone prayed for by name please let Fr Michael know by Friday 18th.



Prayer List

Prisoners and captives: Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, Ismaeil Maghrebinejad, Nasrin Satoudeh, Ahmed Almour, Mayshee Eyob, Maira Shabhaz.

The sick:

David Fettke, Joan Cooper, Vallery Tchukov, Sara Vice, Katherine Lee, Nicky Yeo, Lorna Smith, Beth Klausung, Hilary Porter, Keith Peers, Bruce Ross-Smith, Benjamin Woolf, James Shrimpton, Tony Rodger, Rachel Pereira, Victor Sharp, Fr Michael Gudgeon, Audrey Williams, Chris and Carole Radley, Fr Harry Hodgetts, Simon Little, Rosemary Orr, Andrew Rodger, Martin Berka, Elaine Bullock, Bishop Mano Rumlshah

Those known to us recently departed:

Chris Gudgeon

Rita Mather

Jean Claxton

Anniversaries of death:

20th - Lily King, Jack Monk

21st - Charles Hillier, Adam Reddington, Harry Nuttall

22nd - Elizabeth Ross, Anthony Greek, Richard Routledge, Helen Turner

23rd - Harold Pobjoy *Pr*, Anne Scott

24th - Cynthia Tucker, Miriam Smith, Augustus Thompson, Paul De Fortis *Pr*, Doreen Forde

25th -

26th - Hugh Warren *Pr*, Lennox Berkeley

Supporting All Saints

Parish Giving Scheme:

Thank you to all who give in various ways to support the work of All Saints. While we regret that the previous online registration facility for the **Parish Giving Scheme** is no longer available, our Treasurer recommends that this remains our preferred option for giving: it allows contributions to be anonymous and deals with GiftAid, which saves our office a lot of time.

It is no longer possible to register for the scheme online.

There are now two options, for each of which you need the parish code: 230623075.

You can join the scheme either

by phoning [0333 002 1271](tel:03330021271) and quoting the code

or

by requesting a form from the parish office.

The following link will take you to a page which explains how the scheme works:



www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/how-it-works

Donations for general Church purposes: To give by BACS please use the following details, advising the Administrator to collect Gift Aid:

PCC All Saints (*Charity # 1132895*)

Sort Code **60-09-15**

A/C **04559452**

Parish Legacy Policy We are always delighted to hear from anyone who wants to support us with a donation. Our PCC Legacy Policy encourages people to leave bequests specifically to one of our two related charities to be used for purposes of lasting value (rather than day to day costs):

***All Saints Choir & Music Trust (Charity # 802994) or
The All Saints Foundation (Charity # 273390).***