



# ADVENT SUNDAY

29th November 2020

Welcome to St Mary's online for the First Sunday of Advent, the start of a new liturgical year. Advent is the season of anticipation and preparation for the coming of our Lord.

Our president today is Fr Andrew, our preacher is Revd Sarah and our organist is Darren Jameson.

To join us online, go to: <https://bit.ly/StMarysKT>. (You shouldn't need a password, but if asked for one it is: 5Tw84D.)

You can also join the service by phone on **020 8080 6591**. When prompted, key in the **Meeting ID: 981 5467 9178** and **Password: 254560**.

This service will be recorded and posted online afterwards.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING (Isaiah 64, verses 1–9)

Reader: Margaret Green

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.  
This is the word of The Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 80, verses 1–8**

*Refrain:*

**Turn us again, O God;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you that led Joseph like a flock;

Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength  
and come to our salvation.

**Turn us again, O God;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

You feed them with the bread of tears;  
you give them abundance of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

**Turn us again, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

## THE EPISTLE (1 Corinthians 1, verses 3–9)

Reader: Michael Folkard

My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of The Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL (Mark 13, verses 24–37)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the

doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

This is the Gospel of The Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The **HOMILY**, by **The Revd Sarah Van den driessche**

The **INTERCESSIONS**, led by **Gladys Mundowa**

The **LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

## **CHRISTMAS COMFORT & JOY AT ST MARY’S**

Christmas is inevitably going to be different at St Mary’s this year, but it will still be very special – perhaps even more meaningful than usual.

We are hoping to hold all of our usual Christmas services, including the carol service at 5pm on Sunday, 13 December. We will also have the trees, flowers, crib, candles and wonderful organ music as we do every year. Plus we shall be delivering small gifts to people in our community whom we haven’t been able to see as much as we would like this year – people who are shielding, or are protecting their loved ones, and who have endured some very long and lonely months. And even though we won’t be able to host our regular sit-down Christmas Day lunch in the church, we plan still to fund some form of Christmas fare for the people who would normally join us.

Sadly, however, we cannot host the revenue-generating concerts and other events we usually have in December that help pay for our Christmas costs. So we shall be doubly grateful for donations towards these this year. If you can help, please do! It is our hope that with a beautifully decorated, warm and welcoming church, and the kindness of volunteers, we can bring comfort, joy and hope to our community in spite of the pandemic.

Donations can be made via our JustGiving Christmas Appeal page here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/StMarysJoy>

Alternatively, please hand cash donations to Fr Andrew when lockdown eases.

*Enquiries about baptism, confirmation, marriage, funerals, confessions, and counselling may be made to the Vicar, **Fr Andrew Woodward**, by phone: 01273 698601 or email: [ruraldeanbrighton@gmail.com](mailto:ruraldeanbrighton@gmail.com).*

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