

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
19th December 2021

TODAY

9:00 am Family Eucharist
Hymns: 85; 712; 313; 394

10:30 am Parish Eucharist
Hymns: 32; 45; 313; 394

4:00 pm Christingle Service

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open

WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
9:30 am Said Eucharist
10:00 am Church open

THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer



9.30am-11.30am - ST. NICK'S NIPPERS
Worship & Coffee & Friendship for young
children and those who have care of them.

FRIDAY – CHRISTMAS EVE

10:00 am Church open
4:00 pm Crib Service

11:30 pm Midnight Mass

SATURDAY – CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am Christmas Day Eucharist

NEXT SUNDAY – ST STEPHEN

No 9 o'clock service on Boxing Day

10:30 am Parish Eucharist

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER</u>	<u>WEDS 29TH DECEMBER</u>
Acts 7:51-end	1 John 2:3-11
Psalms 119:161-168	Psalms 96:1-4
Galatians 2:16b-20	Luke 2:22-35
Matthew 10:17-22	

FROM THE VICAR

Over the years we've enjoyed welcoming Mount Street infant school to St Nick's for their Christmas carol concerts. We are inspired and moved as each year group presents their own unique version of the Christmas story in readings and song.

However, one of the songs has stuck in my mind in much the same way as a piece of discarded chewing gum can sometimes get stuck on your shoe. (I don't mean to be harsh, and I am directing my remarks at the song itself, not at the children or the school.)

I took against the song because (like many others) it presented the Blessed Virgin Mary as two things that she most certainly was not. Our Lady was not an example of what mainstream society looks for in a mother. Neither was she a passive bystander in someone else's drama.

We know for sure that Mary got pregnant and married in the 'wrong' order. We know, also, that she took some persuading to agree to what God had asked her to do, and that her manifesto once she *had* agreed praised God's revolutionary transformation of the political and economic structures of society. We know that the Holy Family were refugees, and that the only people who recognised Mary's baby for who he really was were those whom mainstream society despises and ignores. We know that on occasions she questioned and challenged her Son's ministry and that he rebuked her for it. This is not an idealised picture of suburban middle class family life.

Thank God for that! Few of us, if any, live in families that meet the standards of the lifestyle magazines. We struggle to make ends meet, we fall out over each other's decisions, we face obstacles and challenges to our safety and security, and we have to accept the friends and support that we're offered because that's usually all there is. All of this was true of the Holy Family too.

I'm uncomfortably conscious of the vast number of people who are excluded from what 'Christmas' means in our society. I want to remind us all, on this weekend when we reflect on the Blessed Virgin Mary, that the real Christmas is *for those people*. It's for shepherds on a freezing hillside, and everyone who has to work through the night on Christmas Eve. It's for Magi far from home, and all migrants who've set off with little more than hope to guide them. It's for the millions of young women who become mothers without the resources and support that they need.

The Mary we find in our Bibles, and in the deep traditions of the Church, is nowhere close to the saccharine sentimentality of the song I mentioned earlier. She is an inspiration that reminds us that God comes closest to those who need him most.

May God bless you all,

Hugh

PARISH INFORMATION

Vicar: Rev'd Dr Hugh Jones

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Parish Office

☎ 01522 540614; stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com
Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

Online & Social Media

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www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

NOTICES

THANK YOU, HUGH

Sunday, December 26th will be Hugh's final day as our Incumbent. However, owing to popular demand and pre-planned holiday arrangements for so many of the congregation, Hugh has accepted an invitation to return to St Nick's on **9th January** for a 'proper goodbye'. He will preach and preside at 10:30 – this will be the *only* service that Sunday.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our Christmas 'special' services are as follows:

Christingle Service – TODAY @ 4:00 pm

Crib Service – 24th December @ 4:00 pm

Midnight Mass – 24th December @ 11:30 pm

Christmas Day Eucharist – 25th December @ 10:00 am

All are welcome.

BOXING DAY

As shown in the 'This Week' column, there will be only one service on Boxing Day, Sunday 26th December. This will be the 10:30 Eucharist. The same will apply on Sunday 2nd January, when we will be keeping Epiphany.

COVID RESTRICTIONS

Following recent government announcements, it is now compulsory to wear face masks when attending acts of public worship, unless you are specifically exempt. For the safety of all those who worship with us, please respect this requirement.

VIRTUAL POSADA

The Posada, our travelling crib set, is virtual this year. You can watch our video as many times as you like, and pray that as you welcome Mary and Joseph into your home you will be made ready to welcome Jesus into your heart. The link for the video is:

<https://youtu.be/JwtTWdg7r8c>

(You may need to copy the text of the link into your browser to access the video.)

LIFTS TO CHURCH

We have some people who find it difficult to get to church, would there be anyone prepared to give them a lift? Please contact the office if you can help. *Carolyn Jones*

CHURCH KEYS

If you have a church key – of any sort – that you no longer need, would you please return it to the Parish Office or to Sandra Gratrack as soon as possible.

FAIR TRADE GOODS

I am still able to obtain fair trade goods, the sale of which benefits the church and the producers. However I shall not be able to operate a monthly

stall with goods on display. I have catalogues for people to browse, both the Christmas Gift Guide and the main autumn/winter edition from which goods may be ordered. If interested, please speak to me at church or by telephone on 526783. *John Simmons*

FINANCIAL MATTERS

FROM THE TREASURER

First, I would like to thank all the members who have continued with their giving during this difficult year. This has helped keep us afloat. However, as we start to renew our usual activities in this final quarter of the year we are now spending more than our income. So I am sending out a plea for the New Year and hope people will think it is time to increase their giving. No matter how small, every little will help. We are due a visit from the Covenant Team asking us to review our Parish Share. In lieu of this visit I have budgeted for our projected income requirement for the coming year to be £7,086 a month in order to cover the committed expenses. Based on our current income which is £5,907 we have a shortfall of £1200 every month that needs to be made up by fundraising, centre lettings, legacies, drawing on reserves and other fees. I trust these figures will give you an idea of our position for the coming year. Thank you taking the time to read this appeal. *Sandra Gratrack*

REGULAR GIVING

Those who have used numbered envelopes this year will receive new envelopes for 2022 during December. These will be boxes of 52 weekly envelopes. Just use the one with the date nearest the date of your donation and discard the rest. Envelopes are the most expensive and time-consuming way for us to collect regular donations. Perhaps you could consider a different method?

The **Parish Giving Scheme** is our preferred method and costs us next to nothing in bank charges and manhours. You can register online at <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/> Or, you can set up a standing order to pay directly into our current account. Contact me on 01522 520729 or 07722 121161, or at joanberesford1@gmail.com, for the account details.

Regular giving is vital to our plans for mission and development at St Nicholas'. If you are not yet a member of one of our schemes, make this the day you start. Do not hesitate to contact me if you need more information.

Joan Beresford – Planned Giving Officer

READINGS

Sunday 19th December

COLLECT

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

MICAH 5:2-5A

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure,
for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

CANTICLE

MAGNIFICAT

Refrain: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name. **R**
He has mercy on those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly. **R**
He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
to remember his promise of mercy,
The promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children for ever. **R**

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken

no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

POST COMMUNION

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**

Wednesday 22nd December

COLLECT

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

1 SAMUEL 1:24-END

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.'
She left him there for the Lord.

PSALM

PSALM 113

**Refrain: From the rising of the sun to its setting
let the name of the Lord be praised.**

Alleluia.

Give praise, you servants of the Lord,

O praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,

from this time forth and for evermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

let the name of the Lord be praised. **R**

The Lord is high above all nations

and his glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God,

that has his throne so high,

yet humbles himself to behold

the things of heaven and earth? **R**

He raises the poor from the dust

and lifts the needy from the ashes,

To set them with princes,

with the princes of his people.

He gives the barren woman a place in the house

and makes her a joyful mother of children.

Alleluia. **R**

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 1:46-56

Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has

shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

POST COMMUNION

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**