



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

St Bridget & St Cwyfan Parish Church Dyserth.

Issue 21

December 2021



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Canon Timothy writes

How very uncertain life is at the moment. We seem to be adapting to living with the Corona virus, but the figures that are published each day, do not bode well and we still have to be very careful in our everyday lives. But none of this affects the Church's calendar and December means Advent and Christmas, no matter what. I am very surprised to see in the shops that there are very few religious Christmas cards and stupid Advent Calendars, which would be appropriate every month and merely indulge in chocolates and with no meaning or teaching.

This season of Advent is quite a serious time. For we have so much to think about and to contemplate each week before the Christmas season. The four weeks are concerned with the Patriarchs, the Prophets, S. John the Baptist, and the Virgin Mary. All in all, these people cover a large portion of the Bible and we look at the history of God and his people over the ages. It all affects us deeply, as we look at the background to each week and see how that fits in with our own individual lives. We can be thankful, we can be contrite, we can be humble and we can be grateful for so many blessings. In our self-examination, we are able to prepare ourselves to greet the Christ Child, when he comes. We are also able to prepare ourselves for the Parousia, when Christ will come in glory and in rapture. We shall be taken away from life as we know it and we look forward to the other great mysteries which are before us. It is very hard to think out of this world, but with the teaching that we have received, at least in some way we are prepared. So I ask myself, what do non-believers think about Christmas and how do they identify the day when it is so steeped in holiness and mysteries of God? Perhaps they see it as a nostalgic family day, rather like the modern day Americans view 'Thanksgiving'? Nostalgia is not a bad thing and neither is the coming together of family and friends. It is just so much more special if it has a point and a bearing upon our lives, as God, through his love for us, sent us his Son, as our Saviour. Personally, I love Advent so much, as we immerse ourselves into preparation for the Incarnation. It is so vital and vibrant and quite a lot is demanded of ourselves to get the most out of it.

A blow for this coming Advent is the death of our 'Dear Matriarch', Renee Pinchon. I know she had reached 98 years old, but she has been so much part of our Christian family. Diminutive, lively, smiley, devout and full of fun, Renee knew her own mind and her spirit and her determination belied her size. She was a powerhouse of independence and a delight and a privilege to meet at all occasions. She loved God and her church and appreciated so much all that was done for her. Of course, Harry and Nell have been marvellous to her. Taking her here and there, bringing her to Church, presenting her with the Rice Pudding that she loved, and patching her up, when we fell headlong. It is thought that she died in her sleep, which is what we all would want for her and ourselves. I shall miss her particularly on Sunday, when she used to light the first Advent candle. Nell will take that place in her memory. May Renee rest in peace and enjoy the promise of the Heavenly Banquet, this Christmas.

You will see on the website and in the calendar of the Magazine, that we have got some dates for Advent and Christmas. Can I first of all draw your attention to **Sunday 12th December**, when we shall be having a **Nativity and Christingle Service at 3pm**. Help with Christingles gratefully received! On **Friday 17th at 7pm**, there will be a Christmas Quiz and reminiscing evening at the Church hall. Please bring a Christmas object or a Christmas Poem with you. There will be refreshments. On **Sunday 19th December at 5pm**, there will be Solemn Evening Prayer, Exposition and Benediction in Church to herald and emphasize Our Lady's part in the Incarnation. On **Tuesday 21st**, there will be a **10am Eucharist instead of the Wednesday** one; in order to allow Gaynor and friends to decorate the Church, which takes a long time! No doubt, it will be exquisite. Christmas Eve, 24th December: There will be a **Midnight Mass at 9pm** and **Saturday 25th**, Christmas day a **10am Eucharist**. In addition, Boxing day is a **Sunday (26th)**, so the Eucharist will also be at 10am, as usual. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me and I can explain. We shall be singing Hymns and Carols.

When it comes, may I wish you all a very happy, holy, HEALTHY and blessed Christmas.
Thank you for being my family and for all the support you have given me as your Priest.

With love from Fr. Timothy.



NOTICES

Wednesday 8th December at 1300 Funeral Of Miss R Pinchon

Christmas wreaths please contact Alison to place an order

Donations for Christmas flowers will be gratefully received by Gaenor Johnson.

Friday 17th December at 19:00 Church Hall—Christmas Quiz.

Tuesday 21st December at 10:00 Midweek Eucharist.

Collection for Canon Peter—Donations may be left on collection plate in an envelope labeled for Canon Peter.

Readings for December

Sunday 5 December 2021 Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5. 1-9 or Malachi 3. 1-4 Cantic: Benedictus (Luke 1. 68-79) Philippians 1. 3-11 Luke 3. 1-6

Monday 6 December 2021 Nicholas (c342), Bishop

Isaiah 61. 1-3 Psalm 28. 6-9 1 Timothy 6. 6-11 Mark 10. 13-16

Sunday 12 December 2021 The Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3. 14-20 Cantic: Isaiah 12. 2-6 or Psalm 146. 5-10 Philippians 4. 4-7 Luke 3. 7-18

Sunday 19 December 2021 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5. 2-5a Cantic: Magnificat (Luke 1. 47-55) or Psalm 80. 1-7 Hebrews 10. 5-10 Luke 1. 39-45,

Friday 24 December 2021 Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9. 2-7 / Psalm 96 / Titus 2. 11-14 / Luke 2. 1-14, [15-20

Saturday 25 December 2021 The Nativity of Our Lord

Isaiah 62. 6-12 / Psalm 97 / Titus 3. 4-7 / Luke 2. [1-7,] 8-2

Sunday 26 December 2021 Stephen - Deacon and First Martyr

2 Chronicles 24. 20-22 Psalm 119. 161-168 Acts 7. 51-60 Matthew 23. 34-39

OR

Acts 7. 51-60 Psalm 119. 161-168 Galatians 2. 16b-20 Matthew 23. 34-39

OR

The Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 Or Psalms 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10

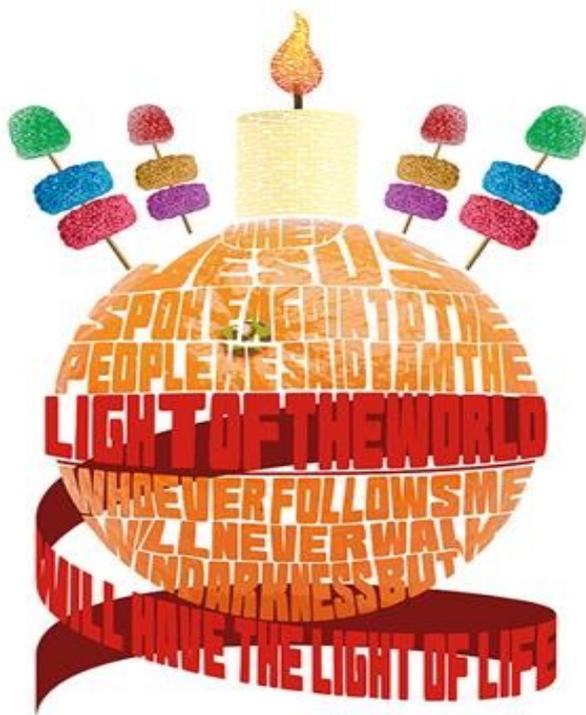
Colossians 3:12-21 Or Colossians 3:12-17 or 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 Luke 2:41-52

Monday 27 December 2021 John - Apostle and Evangelist

Exodus 33. 7-11a Psalm 117 1 John 1 John 21. 19b-25

Tuesday 28 December 2021 The Holy Innocents

Jeremiah 31. 15-17 Psalm 124 1 Corinthians 1. 26-29 Matthew 2. 13b-18



The orange represents the world.



The red ribbon indicates God's love wrapped around the world and the blood Christ shed on the cross.



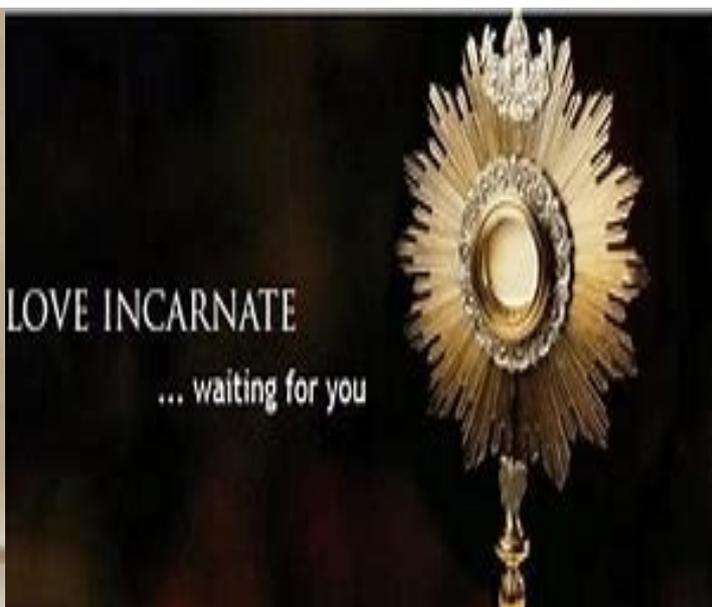
The dried fruits and sweets are symbols of God's creations. For many people, they also represent the four seasons.



The lit candle symbolises Jesus, the light of the world, who brings hope to people living in darkness.

Christingle & Nativity 12th December 2021 at 15:00



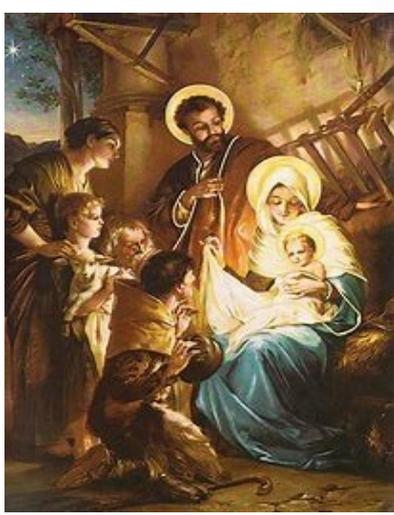


Solemn Evensong and Benediction 19th December 2021 at 17:00



Friday
21:00 hrs

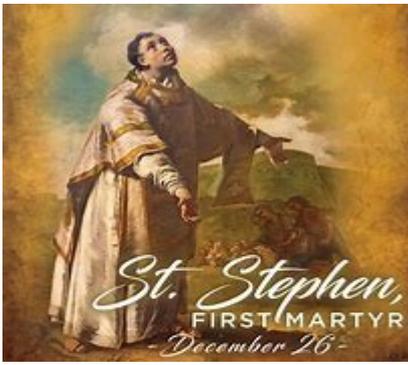
Saturday
10:00 hrs



The **Holy Family** consists of the Child Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and Saint Joseph. The subject became popular in art from the 1490s on, but veneration of the Holy Family was formally begun in the 17th century. The Feast of the Holy Family is a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church, as well as in many Lutheran and Anglican churches, in honour of Jesus, His mother, and His foster father, Saint Joseph, as a family; it has been observed since 1921 when it was inserted by Pope Benedict XV.

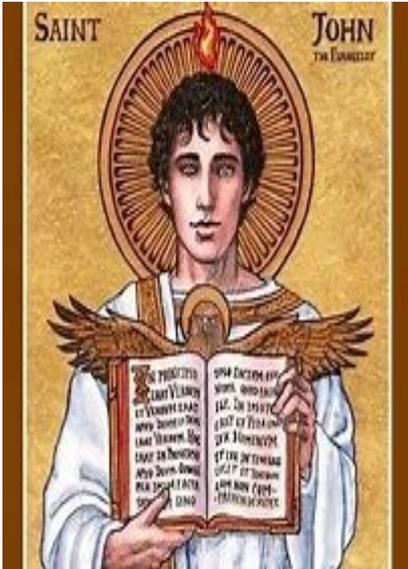
The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families. The Gospels speak little of the life of the Holy Family in the years before Jesus' public ministry.^[6] Matthew and Luke narrate the episodes from this period of Christ's life, namely his circumcision and later Presentation, the flight to Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the Finding in the Temple.^[4] Joseph and Mary were apparently observant Jews, as Luke narrates that they brought Jesus with them on the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem with other Jewish families.

Sunday
10:00
Holy
Family



OR St Stephen

In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, Stephen is described as one of the seven deacons whose job it is to care for the widows in the early Church in Jerusalem. His eloquent speech before the Sanhedrin, in which he shows the great sweep of Jewish history as leading to the birth of Jesus, the long-expected Messiah, and his impassioned plea that all might hear the good news of Jesus, leads to his inevitable martyrdom by being stoned to death. As the author of Acts, Luke's description of Stephen bears direct parallels to that of Christ: for example, the passion; being filled with the Holy Spirit; seeing the Son of God as the right hand of God, as Jesus promised he would be; commending his spirit to Jesus, as Jesus commended his to the Father; kneeling as Jesus did in Gethsemane and asking forgiveness for his persecutors. Witnessing to Jesus by acting like Jesus in every way is thus seen by Luke as of the essence of the Christian life.

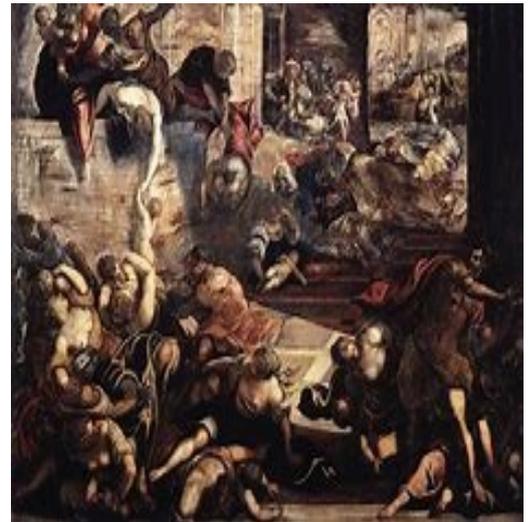


Whether or not John the Apostle and John the Evangelist are one and the same, the Church honours on this day the one who proclaims Jesus as the Word made flesh and who is 'the disciple whom Jesus loved'. John was one of the sons of Zebedee, along with James and Peter, who followed Jesus. John was there at the Transfiguration of Jesus on the holy mountain; he was there with Jesus at the last supper; he was there with Jesus in his agony in the garden; he was there with Jesus and his mother, standing at the foot of the cross; he was there with Jesus as a witness of his resurrection and 'he saw and believed'. John was a witness to the Word, he proclaimed the Word and he lived and died witnessing to the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, who loved him and whom he loved.

St John Apostle Evangelist Monday 27th December

Tuesday 28th December Holy Innocents

Herod 'the Great' was appointed King of the Jews by the Roman authorities in Palestine and he proved to be ruthlessly efficient in his thirty-three years of dealing with his subjects. In Matthew's gospel, he tried to persuade the Magi, to whom he played the host on their journey seeking the one 'who has been born king of the Jews', to bring word of where they had found him. His desire was to eliminate Jesus and, when he realised that the Magi had tricked him and left the country, Herod poured out his wrath on all the male infants in the land. These were God's 'innocent' ones, paralleling the story of Pharaoh slaughtering the Hebrew children in Egypt.



Thomas Becket, also known as Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Thomas of London and later Thomas à Becket (21 December 1119 or 1120 – 29 December 1170), was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1162 until his murder in 1170.

He is venerated as a saint and martyr by both the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion.

He engaged in conflict with Henry II, King of England, over the rights and privileges of the Church and was murdered by followers of the king in Canterbury Cathedral. Soon after his death, canonised by Pope Alexander III.

Wednesday 29th December St Thomas Becket Archbishop

*Bryn a Môr Mission Area, Diocese of St. Asaph
Advent 2021*

Does your house have a window facing a road?
Would you like to decorate that window as one window in an Advent
Calendar that stretches across our Mission Area?
Would you illuminate that window on a set night in Advent and then each
night after until Christmas Eve?
Then please give your name and address and contact details to take part in
this year's

ADVENT CALENDAR

We can decorate and light up our window in any way we want –
Advent Calendars have so many different things behind their windows!

A suggested theme though is

HOPE IN THE LIGHT; HOPE IN THE DARKNESS

We're getting ready to celebrate the light of Jesus coming again – and the
darkness of this time of year and the past year seems intense.

What are our hopes?

The Calendar Windows will begin on 1st December, one new one lit
each night, until all are lit by 24th December.

Please sign up!

*I am happy to have my address shared so that others can see my
Advent Calendar Window from the road
and happy to have a photo of my Window on social media*

Name	Address	Contact details (email or phone number, for John to contact you and assign a date)
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revjohnharvey@googlemail.com

THANK YOU!

Sunday Services:

All Saints, Ffynnongroyw - 9.30 am
Church of the Holy Spirit - 9.30 am
St Bridgets, Dyserth - 10 am
Christ Church, Prestatyn - 10.45 am
Ss Asaph and Cyndeyrn, Llanasa - 11 am
St Melyd's, Meliden - 11.15am
St Melyd's, Meliden - 6 pm

Wednesday Services:

St Bridgets, Dyserth - 10 am
St Michaels, Trelawnyd - 10.30 am
St Melyd's, Meliden - 11 am
Church of the Holy Spirit - 1 pm (every third Wednesday of the month)

Thursday Services:

Christ Church, Prestatyn - 10 am (first Thursday of the month)

Details of our **ONLINE WORSHIP** is detailed below:

Mission Area Zoom Service every Sunday at 9.30 am

Contact DavidLewis@churchinwales.org.uk to obtain the link

Online service from **St Melyd's Meliden** available most weeks

Contact JohnHarvey@churchinwales.org.uk to obtain the link

Online service from **Christ Church, Prestatyn** at 10.00 am

Contact DavidAsh@churchinwales.org.uk to obtain the link

or

go to [Prestatyn Church in Wales Facebook](#) page

Online service from **St. Bridgets, Dyserth** available on YouTube

via www.facebook.com/ssbridgetanddcwyfandyserth

