

**Chesterfield Parish Church
Saint Mary & All Saints**

Pray without Ceasing

I sometimes think that people have forgotten what God looks like.

I don't mean that they have a strange mental picture of God (though some of them are most odd!) but that they have had so little to do with God that they wouldn't recognise God if he came up to them in the street.

God worked through John the Baptist, but the 'holy' people (the churchpeople of the time) had to ask John who he was.

Constant prayer is the only way to make sure we are clear what God looks like. At least then if God comes to demand an account of our lives we will know who it is that is asking!



**ADVENT III
(17th December 2023)**

- 08.30 Holy Communion (1662)
- 10.30 Choral Mass
- 18.30 Sung Compline

ALSO THIS WEEK:

Monday 18th December

- 09.00 Morning Prayer
- 12.15 Mass
- 16.00 Evening Prayer
- 17.30 'Thank You' Reception, Saints

Tuesday 19th December

- 09.00 Morning Prayer
- 09.30 Mass
- 16.00 Evening Prayer

Wednesday 20th December

- 09.00 Morning Prayer
- 09.30 Holy Communion (BCP)
- 16.00 Evening Prayer

Thursday 21st December

- 09.00 Morning Prayer
- 09.30 Hady School Carol Service*
- 17.00 Evening Prayer
- 17.30 Mass

Friday 22nd December

- 09.00 Morning Prayer
- 12.15 Mass
- 16.00 Evening Prayer

Saturday 23rd December

- 09.00 Morning Prayer
- 09.30 Mass
- 16.00 Evening Prayer

* *Public access will be limited*

Please respect those who wish to prepare for Mass in quiet prayer; also those who wish to listen to the closing Organ Voluntary.

ADVENT III - CHORAL MASS

Processional Hymn: 11

Setting: Wood in the Phrygian Mode

Collect Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Gradual Hymn: 5

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint John

Glory to you, O Lord

John 1.6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

Homily, Creed, Intercessions & Peace

Offertory Hymn: 57

Communion Motet: This is the record of John
(Orlando Gibbons)

Post-Communion Hymn: 466

Voluntary: *Canzona in D minor BWV588*
(Johann Sebastian Bach)

SUNG COMPLINE

Special Service Sheet

Prayer Intentions This Week:

Today 17th December - Advent III

- For all attending carol services to encounter Christ
- ◇ The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea
- ✦ *Dorothy Lord; Jack Johnson; Eric Ford;*
Liz Bagshaw; Peter Bates; Malcolm Phipps

Monday 18th December

- Benefice of Wiine, Draycott & Breaston
- ◇ Bentiu - The Episcopal Church of South Sudan
- ✦ *Sandra McKeown*

Tuesday 19th December

- Those who are struggling financially
- ◇ Bermuda - (Extra Provincial)

Wednesday 20th December

- Benefice of Winshill & Bretby
- ◇ Bethlehem - The Episcopal Church
- ✦ *Heather Lacey*

Thursday 21st December

- Those working in retail and hospitality
- ◇ Bhopal - The Church of North India
- ✦ *Keith Fawthrop*

Friday 22nd December

- Those struggling with mental or physical ill health
- ◇ Bida - The Church of Nigeria
- ✦ *George Insley; Peggy Wood*

Saturday 23rd December

- Benefice of Brimington
- ◇ Biharamulo - The Anglican Church of Tanzania
- ✦ *Martha Asquith*

- Diocesan Cycle of Prayer
- ◇ Anglican Worldwide Cycle of Prayer
- ✦ Year's Mind

Vicar: Canon Patrick Coleman
The Vicarage, 11 Bryn Lea, Chesterfield,
Derbyshire, S41 0EP
vicar@crookedspire.org

Clergy Team: Revd Mark Crowther-Alwyn; Revd
Iain Faulkner; Venerable Karen Hamblin; Revd
John Pinder-Packard; Revd Steven Tricklebank

Parish Office: 01246 206506
(a duty priest is available 24/7)

Parish Reader: John Gascoyne

Churchwardens: John Hague
Colin McKenna

Organist & Choirmaster:
Peter Shepherd choir@crookedspire.org

Our prayers have been asked for:

June Frankland; Andrea Sutcliffe; John
Robinson; Jean Madin; Valerie Alice Seeney;
Colin Hutson; Christopher Cain; Jean Morris;
Wendy Layton; Ambrose Mason; Paul Bates;
John Lockwood; Ian Bennett; Tony Ragan; Sue
Hastings; Terry Bell; Iain Bushe; Jane Bushe;
Fiona Solberg; Marian Mathews; Barbara
Carter; Jack; Roger Davies

Volunteers' Reception

So that he can thank you personally, Fr Patrick invites anyone who has volunteered at the church in any capacity during 2023 to a Reception on Monday 18th December at 5.30pm in the Saints Parish Centre. 'Significant others' welcome.

Christmas Flower Arrangement Pedestals

Christmas pedestals are again available for sponsorship of £40. Contact Dorothy Turner on 07974 829350.

Church 'Post Box'

The annual A-Z post box system for your cards to other members of the congregation is in place at the back of church.

Events

A programme of events scheduled for December is available at the back of church.

Gift Shop

The final shopping day of 2023 will be Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December, 12 noon until 4pm. The Shop will then close until Thursday 4th January 2024.

Next Sunday - 24th December - Advent IV/ Christmas Eve

09.30 Morning Prayer (St Leonard's, Spital)

10.30 Said Mass

Readings: Romans 16.25-end
Luke 1.26-38

15.00 Crib Service

19.15 Nine Lessons & Carols

23.30 Midnight Mass

Readings: Titus 3.4-7
Luke 2.1-20

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