

Notices for 2nd Sunday of Christmastide 3rd January 2021

Events this week

Ecumenical Prayers: Tuesday 10-10.30am, on suitably distanced chairs at the back of church. Masks and sanitiser compulsory

The Church will be Open for Private Prayer at the usual times: Wednesday 2-4 and Saturday 10-12

Wednesday is the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Masses at Arundel Cathedral are at 10am and 7pm, no booking required. There will be no public Mass here on that day and the obligation to attend Mass remains suspended.

Requiem Mass for Yvonne Carroll RIP, Friday 12noon

Next Weekend: If you'd like some Holy Water to take home then please bring your own sealed bottle of water to Mass next weekend to be blest. Podcast listeners may also want to have a bowl of water to hand next weekend too.

BUT, BUT, BUT...

...It would not be a surprise if the worsening COVID situation forced either the government, or the diocese, or indeed individual parishes, to impose tighter restrictions on our activities. This could happen at short notice. Please check in with the parish towards next weekend for updates.

Prayer Intention: Madeleine and Frank Dougharty RIP

With great sorrow, our parish mourns the tragic deaths of parishioners Madeleine and Frank Dougharty RIP. They were killed in a fire at their farmhouse late on Christmas Day or early the following morning. Prior to COVID, Madeleine and Frank regularly attended the 6pm Mass every week. Please pray for the repose of their souls and for the comfort and consolation of their traumatised family.

In place of a homily this week I encourage us all to take some time out with today's Gospel as a *Lectio Divina*: a slow reflective 'sacred reading'. The words need little amplification; rather they need time and space to breathe, to enter deep within us, to allow us to taste the wonder and majesty of the mystery opened to us.

Gospel text overleaf...

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us

In the beginning was the Word:
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh
or will of man
but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims:

‘This is the one of whom I said:

He who comes after me ranks before me
because he existed before me.’

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –
yes, grace in return for grace,
since, though the Law was given through Moses,
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father’s heart,
who has made him known.