

THIS WEEK

Sunday 17 December - Third Sunday of Advent

8.00am HOLY COMMUNION, page no 51

President: Revd Kate Moore

8.30am Breakfast with the Bible, led by Heike Prentice

9.30am PARISH EUCHARIST

President: The Vice Dean; preacher: Revd Kate Moore

11.15am CHORAL EUCHARIST

President: Revd Kate Moore; preacher: The Vice Dean

3.30pm EVENSONG Address: *The Canon Theologian*

6.30pm CEREMONY OF CAROLS

This morning the Dean is leading the worship at St Peter's, Roydon and this afternoon is taking part in Nine Lessons and Carols at Brentwood Cathedral; on Sunday 31st December the Dean is leading the worship at All Saints, Cranham.

THE WEEKS AHEAD

Sunday 24 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION, page no 52

President: The Vice Dean

8.30am Breakfast with the Bible led by *The Canon Theologian*

10.30am PARISH EUCHARIST

President: The Canon Theologian; preacher: The Dean

4.00pm CRIB SERVICE

11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS *President and preacher: The Dean*

Sunday 31 December - First Sunday of Christmas

8.00 am HOLY COMMUNION, page no 61

President: The Vice Dean

8.30am Breakfast with the Bible led by *Revd Kate Moore*

10.30am PARISH EUCHARIST

President: Revd Kate Moore; preacher: The Vice Dean

3.30pm EVENING PRAYER

Daily Prayer through the Week (Mon to Sat):

Morning Prayer: 7.45 am

Holy Communion: 8.15 am (also Wed at 12.35 pm & Thurs at 10.00 am)

Midday Prayer in St Cedd's Chapel

Evensong/Evening Prayer: 5.15 pm (sung on Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri, said on Wednesday & Saturday)

On certain Saturdays Evensong is sung by a choir
– please check the Music & Services list for dates

CATHEDRAL LIFE WEEKLY

Advent 3 & 4, 17 & 24 December 2017

1st Sunday of Christmas, 31 December 2017



Christmas tide

Christmas kicks off a season of celebration that lasts forty days - that is why you will see the Christmas Crib at the heart of the Cathedral from Christmas Day until the end of January.

Through these weeks we celebrate Christmas itself, welcoming thousands through the Cathedral's doors for great carol services and the extraordinary celebrations of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Epiphany is Saturday, 6 January, marked this year with a special sung Eucharist at 9am, and everyone is welcome.

January gives us the celebration of the Baptism of Christ, our own recommitment to be committed disciples following Jesus in our daily lives.



And the season reaches its climax at the end of January with Candlemas - Christ presented in the Temple and our own celebration of welcoming young people to their first communion.

A season of blessing for all of us. God's invitation to us is that we join in!

Contact us at:

Cathedral Office, New Street, Chelmsford CM1 1TY
01245 294492 (Emergency out of hours contact: 07518 124858)
and visit our website: chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk
Facebook: /chelmsfordcathedral Twitter: @CCathedral
Safeguarding Officer: Elizabeth Marshall 07717 043202



Diocese of
Chelmsford

Study Notes on the Sunday Gospel

John 1.6-8, 19-28

Introduction & Context

The Gospel tells of John *the baptizer*, who is sent to point to Jesus, to “testify to the light” (v. 7). He is the lamp that illuminates the way, but Christ is the light (v. 8). When the religious authorities (“Jews”, v. 19) send emissaries (“priests and Levites”) to assess the authenticity of this religious figure, John tells them that he is neither “the Messiah” (v. 20) nor the returned “Elijah” (v. 21). (Jews believed that one or both would establish a kingdom on earth free from Roman domination.) Nor is he “the prophet” who was expected (by some) to be instrumental in establishing the Messiah’s kingdom. John says simply that he is the one who prepares “the way of the Lord” (v. 23), who announces the Messiah’s coming, fulfilling Isaiah 40:3. Representatives of the Pharisees (who enforced traditional Jewish law and practice) ask in v. 25: why are you performing an official rite without official status? (Jews baptized proselytes at the time.) John tells them that the one to whom he points is already on earth (v. 26); he is so great that I am not even worthy to be his slave. Surprisingly, per v. 28, this occurred outside Israel.

Once you are settled and are ready to go:

- Read the passage slowly and reflectively
- Note anything that particularly strikes you and refer to the notes if they are helpful
- Spend a few moments in quiet reflection
- If you are a group, share your reflections in pairs or as a whole group (remembering that each person will have different perspectives and views on the passage)
- Read the passage for a final time and give thanks to God for the gift of his holy word.

THE WEEKS AHEAD

Wednesday 20 December

9.30am Baby & Toddler Group (Chapter House)
10.35am Holy Communion

Friday 22 December

12.30pm Carols for Everyone

Thursday 21, Friday 22, Saturday 23 December

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols (tickets not required)

Saturday 6 January 2018

9.00am Choral Eucharist followed by coffee

Wednesdays

1.00 - 3.00pm Welcome on Wednesday continues throughout the Christmas season

Thursdays

10.00am Eucharist

Sunday 14 January

Christingle collecting candles will be available at the west door from today. There will be a cake stall after the 9.30am service on 14 January to raise funds for the Christingles at Candlemas.

Sunday January 14 12.45pm

The Meeting Point lunch is being held at Côte Brasserie (opposite the Cathedral). All welcome but booking required. Contact Maureen tel: 01245 697781.

Friday 26 January 7.30pm

CCCA winetasting evening in the Cathedral. Tickets £8 from Robin Greatorex. Or contact the Cathedral Office for details.

Christmas on the Bookstall

New!
Cathedral
Logo
China mug

Children's
Christmas
Books from
50p

Cathedral
Tea Towel

Candles &
Pottery

Packs of Cathedral
Christmas Cards

NOTICES & DATES FOR THE DIARY

A very warm welcome to Chelmsford Cathedral especially if you are a visitor or here for the first time. Everything you need for the celebration is contained in the service booklet. Please ask one of the welcome stewards on duty at the doors if you have any questions.

Junior Church meets today for the last time this year, 9.30am in Chapter House. This week's theme is 'The Christmas Story'.

Yellow Envelopes If you are a UK tax payer, please use a yellow Gift Aid envelope (available at the doors) to increase the value of your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you. Remember to fill in your name, house number and postcode and the date.

Photos from the Christmas Market and Advent Sunday (Parish Eucharist and Procession) are at chelmsfordcathedral.smugmug.com and on the Cathedral's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

The Friendship Club resumes after Christmas on Wednesday 10 January 2018

Monday 18 December 11.30am

The funeral of Jim Little takes place at the Cathedral on Monday. All are welcome.

Weekly giving envelopes are by the South Door ready for collection. If you would like to start making regular donations this way, speak to Caroline Robinson.

If you are in charge of a Cathedral group, please could you send your 2018 programme to Clare Broome in the Cathedral Office. This will mean that your events will be advertised in the newsheet and updated regularly on your website page.

Sunday 24 December 4pm

Crib Service - come dressed as your favourite character (or animal) from the Christmas story!

Sunday 7 January 12.30 for 1pm

Epiphany lunch at Cuton Hall to support the English for Women project. Tickets are £12.50 from John or Yvonne Spence tel: 01245 465108.

Saturday 13 January 7.15 for 7.45pm

The Cathedral Ball in the Cathedral - a four course dinner with dancing to The Julie Cooper band. Tickets priced £35 are available from Yvonne Spence email: yvonnespence@hotmail.com or tel: 01245 465108 / 07889 610048. This is a popular evening so don't wait until January to get your tickets!

Daily Gospel Readings for this week, to use in your daily prayer:

Sunday: John 1.6-8,19-28
Monday: Matthew 1.18-24
Tuesday: Luke 1.5-25
Wednesday: Luke 1.26-38

Thursday: Luke 1.39-45
Friday: Luke 1.46-56
Saturday: Luke 1.57-66
Sunday: Luke 1.26-38

You can find a simple 10 minute reflection at: pray-as-you-go.org

Thought for the day

The Church is not self-made, it was created by God and is continuously formed by Him. This finds expression in the Sacraments, above all in that of Baptism: I enter into the Church not by a bureaucratic act, but with the help of this Sacrament. - *Benedict XVI*

Please pray for:

- Rosemary Duffin, Julie Liney, Bartholomew Mullane, Rachel Penny; all those receiving home communion and all in need of our prayers
- Moulsham Lodge & Hall Street Methodists, Mid-Essex Hospitals & North Springfield Baptists
- The Church of England Guild of Vergers and give thanks for the work and devotion of the men and women who carry out this important ministry
- The members of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary and the Company of Servers and all people who serve Christ at the altar
- The staff of the Cathedral, the events to be held there and for all those who will visit during the coming year. Give thanks too for all who generously give of their time as volunteers
- The Diocese of Wyoming (Province VI, the Episcopal Church)
- The Diocese of Yola (Jos, Nigeria)
- The Diocese of Zululand (South Africa)



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Let it snow!



SUNDAY READINGS IN THE COMING WEEKS

Christmas Eve - 24/12/17

10.30 am:
2 Samuel 7.1-11,16
Luke 1.26-38

11.30 pm:
Titus 2: 11-14
Luke 2: 1-20
John 1.1-14

Christmas I - 31/12/17

10.30 am:
Isaiah 61.10 -- 62.3
Psalm 148.vv9-14
Galatians 4.4-7
Luke 2.15-21

3.30 pm:
Ps 148
Jeremiah 23: 1-6,
Colossians 2: 8-15

Baptism of Christ - 7/1/18

9.30 am & 11.15 am:
Genesis 1.1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19.1-7
Mark 1.4-11

3.30 pm:
Pss 46, 47
Isaiah 43.1-7
Acts 8.14-17
Luke 3.15-17, 21-22