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 **4th Sunday of Advent (A)** December 18th, 2022

**SUNDAY MASS TIMES**

Saturday 6.00pm St. Patrick’s church

9.30am Christ the King church

11.00am St. Patrick’s church

**WEEKDAY LITURGIES**

Tuesday 10.00am Christ the King

 Wednesday 10.00am St. Patrick’s

 Thursday: 10.00am Christ the King

 Friday: 10.00am St. Patrick’s

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** any time on request

**MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED**: Special Intention, Betty and John Cuthbert, Bob England, Laura Gourlay, Stan Elsey,

Catherine and James Dick and family, Norman and Cassie Chesser, Roy Rogers (15th Anni.), Special Intention,

The O’Donnell family, The Hutchinson family, Private Intention, In Thanksgiving, Peter McGeeney,

**ANNIVERSARIES December 18th – 24th:**

William John Hartley, Ann Harbord, Betty Cuthbert, James Hart (Snr.), Maud Riley, Frank Pritchard, Ellen Connor,

Vincent Thwaites, Alice McReddie, Donna Gourlay, MollyMaley,

**PLEASE REMEMBER** in your prayers all our sick and housebound brothers and sisters.

**The word this week**

Isaiah 7:10–14 The virgin shall be with child.

Psalm 23 ***‘Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.’***

Romans 1:1–7 Jesus is the son of David and the Son of God.

Matthew 1:18–24 Joseph, son of David, have no fear about taking Mary as your wife.

**H**

ere we enter a new stage of Advent. Having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord’s First Coming. Today we focus on the characters of Mary and Joseph, and hear of the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child Jesus, and the reaction of Joseph. This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the promise that the Messiah would come from that line. The link between the First Reading and the Gospel is quite explicit today, since Matthew actually quotes Isaiah. Joseph, descendant of King David, is invited to take his place in the great story of God’s relationship with the Chosen people. There is great sense of a timeless mystery reaching its focal point, as that which was **“promised long ago”** (Second Reading) now takes flesh in the womb of Mary.

**AT MASS TODAY WE PRAY** Eucharistic Prayer 2 and Preface 2 for Advent

At this holy table we dare to dream dreams of everlasting peace and refreshment at the banquet table of eternal life. In thanksgiving for the foretaste of heaven that we experience at this table, we offer this prayer of praise and gratitude.

**ROSARY AND ADORATION:** The Rosary will be prayed at Christ the King church on Tuesdays at 9.00am followed by Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament until 9.50am

**THANK YOU:** “A huge thankyou to everyone that contributed to last Saturdays Christmas Party at Christ the King. The proceeds are being donated to two local charities: Teesside Hospice and The Heart Rehabilitation Centre. Both will receive £300.00 each.

**MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS**

 **Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th 5.00pm at St. Patrick’s church**

 **Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th 7.00pm at Christ the King church {Carols from 6.30pm}**

 **Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th 10.30am at St. Patrick’s church**

**THORNABY FOOD BANK collection this weekend, December 17th/18th. Items can be left in church porch.**

**AN ADVENT BLESSING**

**You believe that the Son of God once came to us; you look for him to come again.**

**May his coming bring you the light of his holiness and free you with his blessing.**

**May God make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life.**

**You rejoice that our Redeemer came to live with us.**

**When he comes again in glory may he reward you with endless life.**

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

**December 18th, 2022**

**First reading** Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, ‘Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.’ ‘No,’ Ahaz answered ‘I will not put the Lord to the test.’

 Then Isaiah said:

‘Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men

without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,

will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Immanuel,

a name which means “God-is-with-us.”’

**Second reading** Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

 This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God’s beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’.

Alleluia!

**Gospel Reading**  Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means ‘God-is-with-us.’ When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.