

## The Fourth Sunday of Advent 18<sup>th</sup> December 2016 The Angelic Salutation

For a long while they sat opposite each other, gently holding hands. She with her head bent, her body racked with sobs; the Angel calm, still, waiting for the word that would have to be spoken. At last the woman lifted her head, pushed her hair away from tear stained cheeks, and said, simply, "I can't". Silence followed.

She was gathering her energies to offer a reason, a rationale for why her courage had failed her; why she, who had always been obedient to God's will and law, was now withholding her consent. "Don't be afraid", said the Angel. He'd used those words before, at the very beginning of the meeting, when his sudden presence, and the light that quietly emanated from him, had so clearly scared her.

Now half-formed sentences began to tumble from her: about her place within this close knit community; the shame that the inevitable gossip and accusations would bring both on her and her family; the loneliness of a life as a tainted woman, one no man would take as wife; the pull towards prostitution, in the struggle to sustain herself and the child she would bear. It was too much. Please let this cup pass from her.

The Angel still held on to her as tightly as ever. Only when she had emptied herself of both her words and her tears did he respond. "Fear not", he said, for a third time.

"God loves you. He loves you as deeply as ever. This was never a command, always an invitation to come on a particular journey with him. Go in peace. Marry. Have children, and bring them up in that same love of The Lord which you yourself know. And teach them this; that God, in their generation, will do this great thing. Tell them to be alert, to watch for the signs that the Promised One is coming among them. Live long, do not regret your decision today; but of your mercy, when you hear of Him, pray for His mother."



He stood up, passed out of the house, walked perhaps a stone's throw away from the building, then stopped to wipe a hand across his eyes. He gazed back at the woman's home for some minutes. Silently, he held

her and all that she was before the One who had sent him. From somewhere within his robes he pulled out a scroll and unfurled it. It was a list of names, women's names. Many had already been crossed through, and now there was another to strike out. He looked at the details for his next assignment. Another unpromising village, another pious but conventional upbringing. Another dispiritingly traditional name. Mary.

*Bishop David Walker is the Bishop of Manchester from Thinking Anglicans website, December 2016*

# News & Events

## **THIS TUESDAY AT 7PM:** **THE PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**



The parish Christmas Carol Service will take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00pm. This is An unticketed event and will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies provided by The Hari Hotel. All are warmly invited – do bring your friends!

THE HARI

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2016**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Children's Crib Service** at 5pm

**Midnight Mass** at 11pm – *Missa Brevis in D K 194 – Mozart; Nativity Carol – Rutter; In splendoribus sanctorum - Macmillan*  
Preacher Fr Alan Gyle

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Family Mass** at 9am

**High Mass** at 11am – *Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo – Haydn; Hodie Christus natus est – Sweelinck; Ding dong merrily on high – trad arr. Wood*

Preacher Bishop Michael Colclough

## **CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS**

The Parish office will close for Christmas after midday on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and will reopen on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January. The church will open daily for mass and prayer – details on the porch noticeboard and from the website.

## **DAILY MASS IN ADVENT**

In order to enable us to accommodate some fifteen charity fundraiser carol services during Advent, we will operate a revised daily Mass schedule from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November until

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. During this period the Mass will be celebrated at 12noon on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and at 8am on Tuesday. (No mass this Wednesday)

## **BLUE SKIES AHEAD: SAVE THE DATE 2017**

Booking will open on 4<sup>th</sup> January for three excursions with a spiritual dimension. The Parish Retreat will take place in the five star Donnafugata Hotel and Spa, Sicily from **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017**. This all inclusive 'Mind, Body, Spirit' holistic retreat will be led by Alan Gyle with Jackie Cameron and Lindsey Gray.



For those who wish to stay closer to home, join us for the Parish Pilgrimage to the historic and beautiful Llŷn Peninsula in Snowdonia, North Wales from **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017** for an experience of Welsh spirituality and to visit the shrines of the ancient saints.



And on **24<sup>th</sup> June 2017** there will be a day trip to Salisbury Cathedral in Wiltshire.



For all these trips, **please save the date** – and register your interest on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> January.

# The Ordo & Intercessions

There is a mass daily at St Paul's and all are welcome to attend. Service papers are available outside the Chapel or Chancel.

Date and observance → Tuesday 5 February – feria

Colour of vestments → ● Mass at 18:00; DEL p.80, year 1;

Response to the psalm → I will proclaim your name among the people

Page where the lections are to be found →

**COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
O God our redeemer,  
who didst prepare the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of thy Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as  
our Saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he shall come again to be our judge;  
who liveth and reigneth with thee  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,  
who didst choose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us thy servants with thy grace,  
that in all things we may embrace thy holy  
will  
and with her rejoice in thy salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SERVICE TIMES

**Sunday 18 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

[Proper Advent 3A; DEL week 3, year 1]

◆ Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

**Monday 19 December: feria of Advent**

◆ Mass at noon; DEL p. 55;

**R: Deliver me, O Lord, and set me free.**

**Tuesday 20 December: feria of Advent**

◆ Mass at 8:00; DEL p. 57;

**The Lord of hosts is the king of glory.**

**Wednesday 21 December: feria of Advent**

**No mass this Wednesday**

**R: Tear down the heavens and come down, O Lord.**

**Thursday 22 December: feria of Advent**

◆ Mass at noon; DEL p. 60;

**Blessed be the name of the Lord**

**Friday 23 December: feria of Advent**

◆ Mass at noon; DEL p. 61;

**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul**

**Saturday 24 December: Christmas Eve**

◆ Mass of the day at noon; DEL p. 63

**Your love, O God, is established for ever**

◆ Midnight Mass at 23:00

**We pray this week for:**

- Bishop Richard
- Fr Wall and the people of St Paul's, K Street, Washington DC
- Fr Alfredo and the people of All Saints, Nhamavila, Mozambique
- Wisdom to those who govern the nations of the world
- The victims of all forms of abuse
- All people suffering the effects of storms and natural disaster
- The peoples of Syria
- The "English-speaking cause" in Cameroon.

**Among the sick and those in need:**

Stuart MacDowall, Patricia Dopheide; Nick Samuelson; John Watson; Michael Cooke; John King; Alain Jouret, William Guise; Shands Prevost; Ian Powe; Gregoriy Galitzine; John Udal; Dan Gadow; Mary Ann Brashler; John Roberts; Juliette Gimon; Francis Faber; Fr Louis.

**We pray for all the recently departed:**

Sarah Eynstone, priest; Winifred Stone.

**And we remember all those whose year's mind falls at this time:**

James Elstub 20 December  
Patricia Engel 24 December

# ST PAUL'S

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

## WHO'S WHO

### THE PARISH OFFICE

32a Wilton Place, London SW1X 8SH

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### THE PARISH CLERGY



#### Vicar

Fr Alan Gyle

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#### Associate Vicar

Fr Louis Darrant

louis@spkb.org

020 7201 9992 • 07779 103826

### Honorary Assistant Clergy



(l-r) Fr Nick Mercer; Fr Andrew Norwood; Fr Graham Palmer; Bishop Michael Colclough  
*A priest is available before or after the daily Eucharist for confession and spiritual guidance, and also by appointment. A member of the parish clergy is always available in pastoral emergencies and we will be glad to be contacted at whatever hour, seven days a week; however, as a general rule, Fr Alan is unavailable on Mondays and Fr Louis is unavailable on Fridays.*

### IN THE PARISH OFFICE



#### Vicar's PA

Felicity Cranfield

felicity@spkb.org

020 7201 9999



#### Parish Administrator

Kimball Bailey

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### THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



#### Director of Music

Stevie Farr

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#### Assistant Director of Music

Michael Papadopoulos

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### Music Scholars



(l-r) Adam Mathias (Organ); Findlay Spence (Cello & Composition); Tamila Salimdjanova (piano)

### LAY OFFICERS & OTHER STAFF



#### Churchwarden

John Tweddle

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#### Churchwarden

Phil Davies

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### Deputy Churchwardens (Sidesmen)

Roland Brunner, Serena Butt, Caroline Docker, Margaret Gadow, Gardenia Griffith, Nicoletta Lindsay, Aidan Linton-Smith, Jeremy Orlebar, Susie Thornton, Tom Tull, Sarah Tytherleigh.

**Treasurer:** Noel Craven

### Lady Verger & Churchwardens' Deputy

Veronica Scott veronicamscott@hotmail.com

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