

**Pews News and Service  
Sheet for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
December 2024**



**Tonight!  
6pm  
Nine  
Lessons  
and Carols**

**St John's  
Pevensey Road**

*Welcome to  
Mass this  
morning -  
the Fourth  
Sunday in  
Advent*

Next Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> :  
**NO 8am Said Mass**  
**10.30am Sung Parish Mass**

Christmas Eve:  
**4pm Crib service**  
**6.30pm Carols in the churchyard**  
**11pm Midnight Mass**  
Christmas Day:  
**8am Said Mass**  
**10.30am Sung Festival Mass**



God fills me with joy.

Please do add names to the prayer cross in church if you wish the church to pray for someone with longer-term needs. To add names to this printed prayer cross or to the more `acute` intercessions list below, please email the PN editor on [pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com) Names will remain there for 4 weeks unless you notify us otherwise, and any `years mind` for one week. Thank you .

## St John's Prayer Cross

Catherine; Ramona;  
Tom V; Bostik;  
Diane; Goldie;  
Louice T; Lorenzo

Anna  
Mog  
Don  
John  
The  
Freebury  
family

Please let us know of those who require this longer-term prayer support. Or pin their names, via the slips of paper provided, on the wooden Prayers Cross at the back of the Church. Thank you.



### Our prayers are asked for:

Helena O, David S, Ken, Royston Hill, John T

### Please pray also for

the repose of the souls of the recently departed especially Catherine M and Gill T, ...and those whose Years Mind falls around this time, ... and all who mourn.

Instead of our usual Christmas Card scheme here at St Johns we are simply asking throughout Advent for donations to

### The Christian Aid Christmas Appeal

Please put money in the Christian Aid box in the wall (or on the desk). If you wish to use the contactless system please make the donation then also put a note in the box with the amount you have given and the date.

*Prayer at the altar said by the choir:*

.... grant that what we sing with our lips may we believe in our hearts and what we believe in our hearts may we show forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Introit: Creator of the stars of night*

## Opening Hymn

Lo! he comes with clouds  
descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints  
attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluya!  
God appears, on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at nought  
and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him  
to the tree,  
deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens  
of his Passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers:  
with what rapture  
gaze we on  
those glorious scars!

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power  
and glory,  
claim the kingdom  
for thine own:  
O come quickly!  
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

## The Welcoming of the People

*Priest* In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy  
Spirit. **All Amen.**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.  
**All and also with you.**

## Prayer at the lighting of the fourth Advent Candle

*Priest* People of God: prepare!  
God, above all, maker of all, is one  
with us in Christ. Maranatha!  
**All Come, Lord Jesus!**

*Priest* God, the mighty God, bends  
down in love to earth. Maranatha!  
**All Come, Lord Jesus!**

*Priest* God with us, God beside us,  
comes soon to the world he has  
made. Maranatha!  
**All Come, Lord Jesus!**

*Priest* We are God's children,  
we seek the coming Christ.  
Maranatha!  
**All Come, Lord Jesus!**

## Prayers of Penitence

*Deacon* When the Lord comes, he  
will bring to light the things now  
hidden in darkness, and will  
disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let  
us confess our sins.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather  
the nations into the peace of your  
kingdom:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament  
to strengthen us in holiness:

L

Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory  
with salvation for your people:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*Choir and Congregation sing:*

**Lord have mercy,  
Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy,  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy,  
Lord have mercy**

### **Prayer of Absolution**

*Priest* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *All Amen.*

### **The Collect**

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
*All Amen.*

### **The Liturgy of the Word *all sit***

**A reading from the prophet Micah**  
*Micah 5. 2-5a*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

For the Word of the Lord.  
*All Thanks be to God.*

### **A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

*Hebrews 10. 5-10*

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes

the first in order to establish the second.

And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

For the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** *during which the Gospel is brought amongst us.*

**Hark what a sound,  
and too divine for hearing,  
stirs on the earth  
and trembles in the air!  
Is it the thunder  
of the Lord's appearing?  
Is it the music  
of his people's prayer?**

**Surely he cometh,  
and a thousand voices  
shout to the saints,  
and to the deaf are dumb;  
surely he cometh,  
and the earth rejoices,  
glad in his coming  
who hath sworn: I come!**

**This hath he done,  
and shall we not adore him?  
This shall he do,  
and can we still despair?  
Come, let us quickly  
fling ourselves before him,  
cast at his feet  
the burden of our care.**

**Through life and death, through  
sorrow and through sinning,  
he shall suffice me,  
for he hath sufficed:  
Christ is the end,  
for Christ was the beginning,**

**Christ the beginning,  
for the end is Christ.**

*Frederic W H Myers, (1843-1901)*

**Gospel Reading** *When the Gospel is announced the Deacon says*

Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **All Alleluia.**

**Deacon** The Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

**Dcn** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Luke 1. 39 -55*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?"

For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **The Creed**

*Deacon* We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,  
who created all things:

**All for by his will they were  
created and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,  
who was slain:

**All for with his blood,  
he purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language,  
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**All the Spirit and the Bride say,  
'Come!' Even so come, Lord  
Jesus! Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

### **The Peace**

*Priest* In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **All and also with you.**

*Deacon* Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

**Offertory hymn** *during which the altar is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

**Ye who own the faith of Jesus  
Sight the wonders  
that were done,  
When the love of God the Father  
O'er our sin the victory won,  
When he made the Virgin Mary  
Mother of his only Son.  
Hail Mary, Hail Mary,  
Hail Mary, full of grace.**

**Blessèd were the chosen people  
Out of whom the Lord did come,  
Blessèd was the land of promise  
Fashioned for his earthly home;  
But more blessèd far the Mother  
She who bare him in her womb.  
Hail Mary, Hail Mary,  
Hail Mary, full of grace.**

**Wherefore let all faithful people  
Tell the honour of her name,  
Let the Church in her  
foreshadowed  
Part in her thanksgiving claim;  
What Christ's Mother**

sang in gladness  
Let Christ's people  
sing the same.  
*Hail Mary, Hail Mary,  
Hail Mary, full of grace.*

Let us weave our supplications,  
She with us and we with her,  
For the advancement  
of the faithful,  
For each faithful worshipper,  
For the doubting,  
for the sinful,  
For each heedless wanderer.  
*Hail Mary, Hail Mary,  
Hail Mary, full of grace.*

May the Mother's intercessions  
On our homes a blessing win,  
That the children  
all be prospered,  
Strong and fair  
and pure within,  
Following our Lord's own  
footsteps,  
Firm in faith  
and free from sin.  
*Hail Mary, Hail Mary,  
Hail Mary, full of grace.*

*V. S. Stuckey Coles (1845-1929)*

### **Prayer at the Preparation of the Altar**

*The priest takes the bread and wine.*

As this bread was scattered and  
then gathered and made one, so  
may your Church be gathered into  
your kingdom.

**All Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

Wisdom has built her house; she  
has mixed her wine; she has set  
her table.

**All Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer (B)**

*Priest* The Lord is here.

**All His Spirit is with us.**

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord  
our God. **All It is right to give  
thanks and praise.**

Father, we give you thanks and  
praise through your beloved Son  
Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all  
things; who was sent by you in your  
great goodness to be our Saviour.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit he  
took flesh; as your Son, born of the  
blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and  
went about among us; he opened  
wide his arms for us on the cross; he  
put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by  
rising to new life; so he fulfilled your  
will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks  
because your Son our Lord was  
awaited by the prophets, announced  
by an angel, conceived by a virgin,  
and proclaimed at last to men and  
women of every race.

Therefore with angels and  
archangels and with all the company  
of heaven we proclaim your great  
and glorious name, for ever praising  
you and singing

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth  
are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. 🕯

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. 🕯

*Deacon* Great is the mystery of faith

**All Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence

and serve you.  
Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of St John the Evangelist, St Peter, Mary the Mother of God, and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **All Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Deacon* Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:  
**All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

*We sit as Agnus Dei is sung by all.*  
**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy upon us.**



Jesus, bearer of our sins:  
have mercy upon us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world:  
give us your peace.

### **Giving of Communion**

*The priest says the invitation.*

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Communion is received. Please bow your head if you prefer to receive a blessing.*

The Body of Christ. **Amen.**  
The Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

**Anthem:** *I saw a maiden (15<sup>th</sup> century Basque Noel)*

### **Hymn**

The advent of our God  
with eager prayers we greet,  
and singing haste upon the road  
his glorious gift to meet.

The everlasting Son  
Scorns not the Virgin's womb;  
That we from bondage may be won  
He bears a bondsman's doom.

Daughter of Sion, rise  
to meet thy lowly King;  
let not thy stubborn heart  
despise  
the peace he comes to bring.  
On clouds of dazzling light,  
as Judge he comes again,  
his scattered people to unite,  
with him in heaven to reign.

Let evil flee away,  
ere that great hour shall dawn,  
let this old Adam day by day  
the new Man all put on.

**Praise to the incarnate Son  
who comes to set us free,  
with Father and with Spirit One,  
to all eternity. Amen.**

*Charles Coffin (1676-1749) Tr H Putman  
(1861-1935)*

### **Prayer after Communion**

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

**All** Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Notices**

## **Blessing of the Congregation**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you**

*Priest* May God the Father, judge all-merciful, make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

*All* **Amen.**

*Priest* May God the Son, coming among us in power, reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

*All* **Amen.**

*Priest* May God the Holy Spirit, make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love.

*All* **Amen.**

and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier, be upon you all now and always.

*All* **Amen.**

## **Final hymn**

Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of the Lord:  
unnumbered blessings,  
give my spirit voice;  
tender to me  
the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour  
shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of his name:  
make known his might,  
the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure,  
from age to age the same;  
his holy name, the Lord,  
the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of his might:  
powers and dominions  
lay their glory by;  
proud hearts and stubborn wills  
are put to flight,

the hungry fed,  
the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul,  
the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise,  
and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children  
and for evermore!

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926 - 2024)*

## **The Dismissal**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you**

*All* **May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

*Priest* May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace...

*All* **and rise in glory. Amen.**

*Dcn* As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Organ voluntary: Prelude and Fugue in A Minor BWV 551 – J. S. Bach*

*Do stay for coffee*



**The Food Bank really needs more donations.** If you are able to bring even one item, everything helps, so please do donate something if you can.

## URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS

**UHT MILK FULL FAT (BLUE) AND SEMI (GREEN)**

**BABIES' NAPPIES AND SANITARY PRODUCTS**

**TINNED VEGETABLES (ESPECIALLY PEAS AND CARROTS) TINNED FRUIT; COFFEE**

**OTHER NEEDED ITEMS ; TOILETRIES (SHOWER GEL, SHAMPOO, DEODORANT, TOOTHPASTE) TOILET ROLLS, TINNED FISH, TINNED POTATOES, TINNED RICE PUDDING, JAM, FRUIT JUICE-** If you are able to donate, please leave items in the container at the back of church and they will be collected by the Food Bank rep. Thank you.

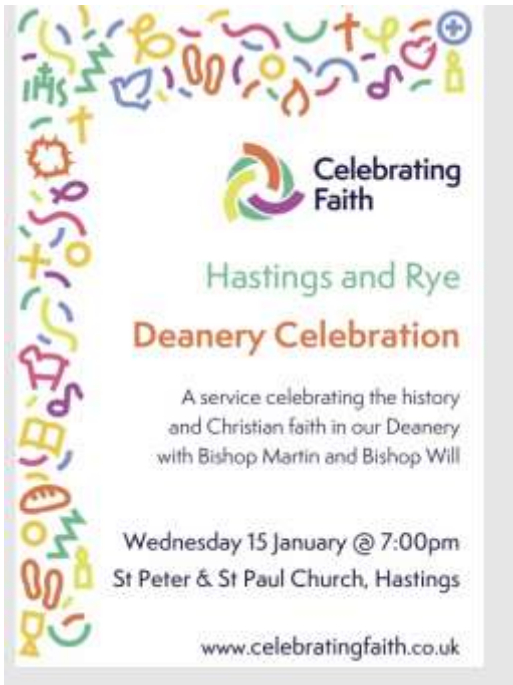
\*Please request a link to the Wednesday Zoom service by emailing [pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com) Also to this email address please send any updates for prayer lists or pews news sheet. The printed sheet will not now be updated until the New Year. Vx



## VFA CHRISTMAS CAROL EVENT

Thank you to everyone who managed to come over last Sunday. We had a wonderful turn-out and were thrilled to raise £343.98 - enough for the next Food Aid. Our support is greeted with overwhelming gratitude from the villagers.

**Village  
Force  
Africa**



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Email:  
[admstjohns30@gmail.com](mailto:admstjohns30@gmail.com)

Lucy is our Administrator.

Please contact her also for  
Church Hall bookings.

Safeguarding Officer can be  
contacted on  
[safestjohn30@gmail.com](mailto:safestjohn30@gmail.com)

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on 100% recycled paper.