

The Haverfordwest Local Ministry Area
Third Sunday of Advent: Sunday 11^h December

COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING (Isaiah 35:1-10)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle: Magnificat (Luke 1:47-55)

My soul proclaims the / greatness • of the / Lord :
my spirit re/joices in / God my / Saviour;

Who has looked with favour on his / lowly / servant :
from this day all gener/ations • will / call me / blessed;

The Almighty has done / great things / for me :
and / holy / is his / name.

God has mercy on / those who / fear him :
from gener/ation to / gener/ation.

The Lord has shown / strength with • his / arm :
and scattered the / proud in / their con/ceit,

Casting down the mighty / from their / thrones :
and / lifting / up the / lowly.

God has filled the hungry with / good / things :
and has / sent the / rich • away / empty.

He has come to the aid of his / servant / Israel :
to re/member his / promise • of / mercy,

The promise / made • to our / forebears :
to Abraham / and his / children for / ever.

SECOND READING (James 5:7-10)

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient.

Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL (Matthew 11:2-11)

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of mercy and power, whose Son rules over all, grant us so to live in obedience to your holy will, that at his appearing we may be raised to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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Notices

Sunday 11th December

8:00am Low Mass at St Martins, Haverfordwest

9:30am Sung Parish Mass at St Martin's, Haverfordwest

10:15am Holy Eucharist at St Ishmael's, Camrose

11:15am Sung Parish Eucharist at St Mary's, Haverfordwest

3:30pm Landsker Singers Christmas Carol Concert at St Marys

Tuesday 13th December

7:00pm Sir Thomas Picton School Carol Service at St Martins

Wednesday 14th December

10:00am Mass followed by coffee at St Martins

7:00pm Tasker Milward School Carol Service at St Marys

Thursday 15th December

1:30pm St Marks VA School Service at St Marys

7:00pm Mayor's Civic Carol Service at St Marys

Friday 16th December

11:00am Holy Eucharist followed by tea and toast at St Marys

12:30pm Penfro Minstrels Concert at St Marys Church

6:00pm Mayor's Walking Carol Service starting at Castle Square

7:00pm Ecumenical Carol Service at Haverfordwest Priory ruins

Saturday 17th December

3:00pm Family Crib Service at St Martins

Services on Sunday 18th December

Advent 4

8:00am Low Mass at St Martins, Haverfordwest

9:30am Sung Parish Mass at St Martin's, Haverfordwest

10:15am Holy Eucharist at St Ishmael's, Camrose

11:15am Sung Parish Eucharist at St Mary's, Haverfordwest

3:00pm Parish Family Service at St Mark's School, Merlin's Bridge

6:00pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Martins

Parish Clergy

Vicar: Fr Nick Cale, St Martin's Vicarage, Barn Street, Haverfordwest. Tel. 01437 762303.

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Assistant Curate: Fr Alun Evans, St Thomas House, Scarrowscant Lane, Haverfordwest.

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Assistant Curate: Rev. Heather Cale, St Martin's Vicarage, Barn Street, Haverfordwest.

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Haverfordwest Parish Website: www.parishofhaverfordwest.co.uk

Haverfordwest Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/parishofhaverfordwest

Camrose Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/CamroseParishChurch