

**The Parish of Christ Church
with St Mary Magdalen and St Peter and St Paul
St Leonards on Sea**



**The 2nd Sunday of the Year
16th January 2022
For those at Home**

THE GATHERING

Antiphon

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Hymn

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!

Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;

With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,

Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,

High on his heart he will bear it for thee,

Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,

Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness

Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:

Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,

These are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,

He will accept for the name that is dear;

Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,

Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

The Greeting

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit **Amen.**

The Penitential Rite

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

Christ Jesus, you come now in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness
Christ, have mercy

Lord Jesus, you bring light to those in darkness and the shadow of death
Lord, have mercy

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to
everlasting life. **Amen**

Gloria in excelsis Deo

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth,
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father; we worship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glory:
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you
take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you are seated at the
right hand of the Father, receive our prayer:
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the
most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the
Father. Amen**

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on
earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on
our times. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns
with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah 62. 1-5; 1 Corinthians 12. 4-11; John 2. 1-11

First Reading A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

About Zion I will not be silent,
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
until her integrity shines out like the dawn
and her salvation flames like a torch.
The nations then will see your integrity,

all the kings your glory,
and you will be called by a new name,
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.
You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;
no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',
nor your land 'Abandoned',
but you shall be called 'My Delight'
and your land 'The Wedded';
for the Lord takes delight in you
and your land will have its wedding.
Like a young man marrying a virgin,
so will the one who built you wed you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
so will your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm from Psalm 96 (95)

Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among the peoples.

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth,
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. /R

Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory,
and his wonders among the peoples. /R

Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name. /R

Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: God is king. /R

Second Reading

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

The word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Alleluia, **alleluia!** Through the Good News God called us to share the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia!**

Gospel

The Lord be with you **And also with you**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John **Glory to you, O Lord**

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water', and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Homily - *Fr Thomas*

There is something very telling about the fact that Jesus' first miracle - what John calls the 'first of His signs' - was at a wedding feast. In part, of course, we can see that choosing the setting of a wedding powerfully reminds us of that final wedding which Isaiah prophesies in the First Reading today: the fulfilment of God's purpose - the final wedding feast of God and His people. At the outset of His public ministry, here is a clear indication that what has been promised for generations is finally here. An end to exile, a time of rejoicing and delight by God in His holy people whose salvation has come.

But there's something else too: this exciting start to Jesus' ministry amongst mankind gives us an insight into what *sort* of a ministry it will be - and even more so, into what sort of salvation it is that He is bringing. It's at a party: Jesus first public miracle, His first sign of glory, is to ensure that a party can continue: 'they have no wine' says His Mother, and so He sets about fixing this little obstacle to the revelries. In what one of the more famous passages of Scripture, Jesus commands the servants to fill their large jars with precious water and have them served. Tasting it, the steward discovers wine - and not just any wine, but delicious wine. Indeed, 'the best wine.'

What can this mean? What kind of tone does it set? Certainly, it's not to say that Jesus has come to ensure we all can keep getting drunk, and live a life of debauchery. Far from it. Any illusions you might have on that front are dispelled by reading Paul's letters - especially to those dissolute Corinthians! But nonetheless, He makes sure that the party doesn't stop: Jesus acts to ensure that the joy can continue. As He says later on in this Gospel, 'I came that they might have life, abundantly.' (John 10.10) Abundant life is what Jesus is concerned with: life in all its fullness. A life lived in joy, not in fear. A life of celebration and delight and love - living fully not just in the life we have now, but celebrating and delighting in the one that is to come too; the one won for us by His sacrifice.

This eternal life, offered freely to us all, is of course the primary focus of Jesus' presence on earth, as it should be ours. We can see when Mary first comes to tell Him about the lack of wine that His first reaction is to consider this bigger picture: 'why turn to Me? My hour has not yet come?'. Yet despite the gravity, the immensity, the enormity of His mission here, He still shows His love and attention to every aspect of our lives, by nevertheless performing this miracle. By keeping the party going.

As I've said above, this doesn't mean we are to live drunkenly, or to spend our whole lives feasting: life is a mixture of feasting and famine, of highs and lows. But what it does mean is that we shouldn't punish ourselves needlessly either through denying the joys that creation offers: the life Jesus came to share on this earth is to be a full one. We do Him and ourselves a disservice if we don't seek to live our lives as fully, as boldly, as joyfully as possible. Yes, by all means, we have to look ahead and be mindful of that bigger picture: of the promise of life in heaven. We absolutely mustn't lose sight of that. But as we do so, as we are guided there by the Lord, we have to live our lives in delight and celebration as much as we can: we have to keep the party going (even if not literally.) It's not always going to be easy, but it's what Jesus did: as His mother said, 'do whatever He tells you'. This should always be our motto for living; but especially as the tide finally seems to be turning against lockdowns, and against living in perpetual fear and aversion to all risk – with all the pain, sadness and loneliness that that brings – it has never been more important. So let's try to keep the party going; to live life focussed on all that is good and joyful in the world, on all that God has given us here in this life, and with our eyes looking to our place in heaven that has been won for us.

The Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*all bow*) was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Intercessions

Heavenly Father we come before you with open hearts, and ask that you will enter into our lives. Fill us with your holy spirit and transform our way of life, that we may always strive to serve you in all that we think, say and do.
Lord in your mercy...

Father we bring before you the needs of your whole church here on earth, and pray for her leaders and members. We pray especially for Pope Francis, Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop Justin, for Martin our own Bishop and Will his suffragan, and all who minister in your name and preach the truth.

Father we pray for our sisters and brother across the world who suffer for their faith in you, we ask that they will always be aware of your comforting presence. We pray too for those who persecute them.

We pray too for our local community, for St Leonards and all who live, work and worship here. For our parish and congregation, that all may grow in love and knowledge of you.

We pray for those who are sick or ill, especially those on our daily list. We pray for those who have died recently and those whose anniversary of death falls around this time. Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

We join all these prayers with the prayers of all the company of saints,

especially the Blessed Virgin Mary who we greet in the words of the angel...

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Hymn

Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar;
Branch of royal David's stem
In thy birth at Bethlehem;
Anthems be to thee address,
God in Man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight,
Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill;
Anthems be to thee address,
God in Man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding-guest
In thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in power divine,
Changing water into wine;
Anthems be to thee address,
God in Man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
Mirrored in thy holy word;
May we imitate thee now,
And be pure, as pure art thou;
That we like to thee may be
At thy great Epiphany,
And may praise thee, ever blest,
God in Man made manifest.

Words Christopher Wordsworth Tune ST EDMUND Charles Steggall

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil. Graciously grant us peace in our days, that by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will; who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always **And also with you**

Act of Spiritual Communion

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.

Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have won for us, for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.

O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen**

Hymn

Author of life divine,
who hast a table spread,
furnished with mystic wine
and everlasting bread,
preserve the life thyself hast given,
preserve the life thyself hast given,
and feed and train us up for
heaven.

Our needy souls sustain
with fresh supplies of love,
till all thy life we gain,
and all thy fulness prove,
and strengthened by thy perfect
grace,
and strengthened by thy perfect
grace,
behold without a veil thy face.

Prayer

Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those
you have nourished by this one heavenly Bread one in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayer (after St Augustine of Hippo)

Eternal God, the light of the minds that know you, the joy of the hearts that
love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you; grant us so to know you
that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may fully serve you,
whom to serve is perfect freedom, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

May almighty God bless us, keep us free from evil, and bring us to
everlasting life. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord **Thanks be to God**

During the week

Monday to Friday the Mass will be offered at 10.30 and at 6.00 pm & Saturday at 10.30 Rosary Wednesday 10 am.

Monday to Friday the Church will be open 8.30 – 6.30.

The calendar, intentions and readings for Mass are below

Anthony Ab Monday	1 Samuel 15. 16-23 Mark 2.18-22	PCC Standing Cttee
Feria Tuesday	1 Samuel 16. 1-13 Mark 2. 23-28	Christ Church Old Buildings Trust
Wulstan B Wednesday	1 Samuel 17. 32-51 Mark 3. 1-6	Bishop Martin
Fabian PM Thursday	1 Samuel 18.6-9, 19.1-7 Mark 3. 7-12	St Richard's House
Agnes VM Friday	1 Samuel 24 3-21 Mark 3. 13-19	Persecuted Christians p.m. Requiem
Vincent DnM Saturday	2 Samuel 1. 1-27 Mark 3. 20-21	Self-supporting clergy

We continue this week the history of Israel from the life of Samuel to the reign of King David and those who ruled after him. We are reading the Gospel according to St Mark until Lent.

NEXT SUNDAY 23rd January – 3rd Sunday of the Year

Next Sunday's Readings: Nehemiah 8. 2-6,8-10; 1 Corinthians 12. 12-30;

Luke 1. 1-4, 4. 14-21 Intention: The parish

For Your Prayers

From the congregation

Lesley Manser, Kathleen Hughes, Wil Jewitt, David Dawkins, Mary Ralph, Julie Harrison, Pauline Gregory, Christopher Goodman, Eric Hanney, Cath Towner

For those in urgent need

Cameron Matheson, Bruce McGillvray, Betty Hansell, Gary Virgo, Sharon Foster, Mark Lamprell, Pippa Parker, Martin Green, Heather Morrey, Kevin Towner, Rod Larkin, Diana Richardson, Ian Graston, Barbara Symes

For those for whom our prayers are asked in the longer term

Alex Farrant, Maureen Pocock, Monica Ellis, Howard Hill, Marley Nassey, Katie Robinson, Christine Lee, Colin Rushforth, Nita Carder, Hugo Rudolf, James Bradley, Tim Chappel, Jeffrey Dawson

THE DEPARTED

Recently departed Pamela Simmons, Anne Buchan, Peter Clark, priest

Anniversaries

16th Hubert Sturdey, Geoffrey Charles Duxson, Helen Cheetham

17th Joan Candler

18th Winifred Rogers, Jill Owen

19th Sheila Joyce Hart, Michael Mataragas, Jean Claridge

20th Dora Linton

22nd Derek Allen *priest*, Adrian Mitchell, Isabelle Vautrin, Muriel Manning
Ernie Spurr

Notices

Changes to the times of Mass from Sunday 6th February

When in the summer of 2020 the lockdown was sufficiently lifted for us to begin public worship again, we arranged for four Masses to be celebrated on a Sunday morning so that we could be easily socially distanced and in small numbers in church at any one time. I am grateful to everyone and especially my priest colleagues for facilitating this and then to David Smith, our organist, for playing at three of the Masses instead of the original one, once when we were permitted to have music. We were unable to use the more

cramped conditions of the crypt for work with children and so at the same time we introduced a Mass at 10.30 which is meant to be more accessible to young people and to those unfamiliar with church worship. From the survey we undertook last year and from comments received, I was pleased to see how supportive people were for what we are doing at the 10.30 Mass.

Those of you who worship at 9.30 and 11.30 have, in the majority, expressed the wish to worship together again with a full Sung Mass. The compromise on timing would be to celebrate a Solemn Mass at 10.30. It means asking those who have been worshipping at 10.30 to consider moving to 9.30. I propose that we experiment with these timings from the beginning of February: 8.00, 9.30 & 10.30. It may be that those of you who have appreciated the timing of Mass at 9.30 will continue to worship then, which would also help to strengthen that celebration. For those at home we shall live-stream the Mass at 10.30 from Sunday 6th February.

We look forward to the time when we can socialise with refreshments after Mass. Perhaps that will come in the summer when we can review the experiment. In the meantime - and especially as Lent approaches - do remember that Mass is celebrated twice daily at 10.30 and 6.00 pm. It is important that 'the voice of prayer is never silent' and attendance then is not just for oneself but for the benefit of others too.

+Peter

This week

Monday Standing Committee of the PCC meets at 10 in the Parish Office.

Tuesday Safeguarding Committee of the PCC by Zoom at 7 pm

Wednesday Funeral of Anne Buchan RIP

Anne's funeral will be in Hastings Crematorium at 11.15 followed by a reception here in Church. We continue to remember her in our prayers and her husband, Stewart, daughter, Penny and granddaughter, Katy. The Mass at 6.00 pm will be a Requiem Mass for her soul.

Trustees of Christ Church Old Buildings Trust meet in the afternoon.

Vaccination Centre in Church

The NHS has put on hold Clarity Pharmacy's request for this, noting the lessening of requests for vaccination locally, but thanking us for our support at this time.

Sales will resume on the first of the month Saturday 5th February.

Parish Meal The Epiphany meal that was postponed will now take place on Sunday 27th February. To book please contact Sue Shaw.

Your Epiphany Gift

By the crib you will find some envelopes. Each one is a potential gift for you to return when we celebrate Candlemass. You will find an assortment of envelopes, each giving the cost of sanctuary items: the idea is that you might select one or more of these envelopes, enclose the appropriate sum of money, returning them to the collection or to a Churchwarden before Candlemass as a gift to the new born King, recalling the gifts presented by the Magi. Your gift will help and support our daily worship. Every gift offered will be another way of supporting the church. If you can gift aid your donation we would be very grateful. Cheques may be made payable to: Christ Church PCC. Please give money or cheques to a Churchwarden or put in the collection.

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2022 Our parish pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham has been booked for **Monday 20th - Friday 24th June 2022**. There are still some places available – the deadline for names and a £40 is the 27th Feb; the remaining places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like to find out more about Walsingham, there is a meeting after the 11.30 Mass on Sunday 30 January or contact Julie Gidlow or Fr Thomas (whose details are on the back page)

Dates for the diary

Candlemas Wednesday 2 February

Ash Wednesday 2 March

Annunciation Friday 25 March

Palm Sunday 10 April which begins HOLY WEEK until

EASTER DAY 17 April.

Parish Directory

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Self Supporting Priest:	Fr Richard Ralph (01424) 422722
Hon Asst Priests (Retired):	Fr Richard Rushforth (01424) 755554 Fr David Sherwood SSC (01424) 254510
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