

St John's, Pevensey Road

www.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk



Pews News & Service Sheet for Sunday 15th November: 2nd Sunday before Advent

People for whom our prayers are asked:

Grace, Angela, Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Kath, and Ali.

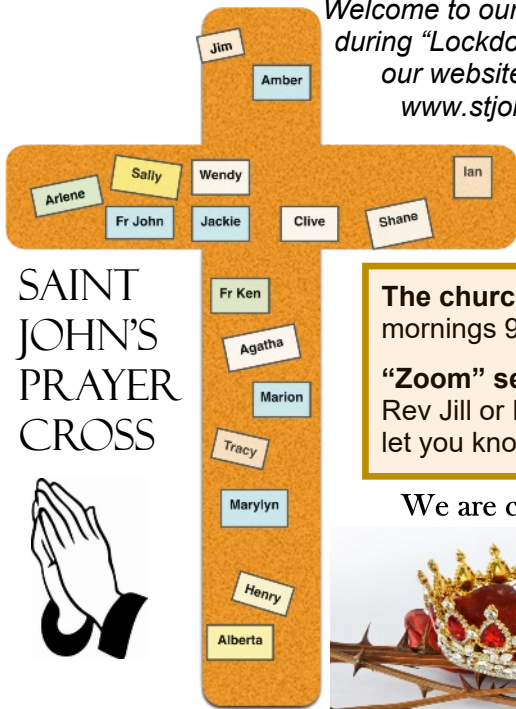
Please pray also for...

...the repose of the souls of the departed,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time,
especially Frank Fentiman, Jenny Burge, Rhodesia, Peter Clarke,
Joseph Quartey-Cofie, and Maggie,

...and all who mourn.

Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - albeit online during "Lockdown 2.0". View via the Broadcast Page of our website, or listen via the Media/Audio page. www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast



This week:

SAINT JOHN'S PRAYER CROSS



The church is open for private prayer weekday mornings 9:30 - 12:30.

"Zoom" service: 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Send Rev Jill or Deacon Michael an email and they will let you know how to join in.

We are currently in Kingdom Season...



May Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven, bring us to reign with him in glory. Amen.

Hymn of the week: **Amazing Grace**

This has to be a contender for the world's best known hymn. It is estimated to be sung publicly some ten million times a year, in many languages. It was written by John Newton (1725-1807), a seafarer and slave trader, who had a conversion experience during a life-threatening storm at sea. His words reflect on the extreme grace required for salvation from a life of extreme sinfulness.

The poem is based on the contrast between our own experience of sin and fallenness (in one's own life as well as in the wider world), and an upper world of ideal experience - the best that can be imagined. So words like *wretch, lost, blind, dangers, toils* etc are set against positive words like *grace, found, good, hope, joy*. The poem roots us in the fallen earthly order, but gives us hope, comfort and confidence in the Lord's promise of salvation – a vision of bliss, of eternity in God's presence.

Each verse has its own theme, taking us from the moment of conversion to eternity in heaven. The verses cover the whole spiritual life – past, present and future.

Biblical reference: Titus 2:11-13 is a good parallel passage to the sentiments expressed in the hymn.

Don't forget we are interested to have your choice for **Hymn of the Week**, and perhaps a line or two explaining why you like it. Please contact Fr David or Rev Rosemary (details on back of pewsheets) or Richard our organist.



John of the Cross (1542-1591) was a Spanish Catholic priest, mystic, and Carmelite friar, much influenced by Theresa of Avila. John became known as a remarkable and influential poet, especially following his death. He has been cited as an influence to many poets, mystics, and artists, even Salvador Dali. Several people have said they liked the quotation printed in a recent Pews News, so here are some more from him:

In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on our earthly possessions and human success, but rather on how much we have loved

Silence is God's first language

God leads every soul by a separate path

In the dark night of the soul, bright flows the river of God



Sunset at St Leonards, Dec. 2019

Where there is no love, pour love in, and you will draw love out

Live in the world as if only God and your soul were in it; then your heart will never be made captive by any earthly thing

It is great wisdom to know how to be silent and to look at neither the remarks, nor the deeds, nor the lives of others

The soul that walks in love neither tires others nor grows tired



Sunrise over Chapel Park Road, Nov. 2020

Mass for the 2nd Sunday before Advent

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Prayer of Confession

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All Almighty God,
our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus
Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in
newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

The priest says the Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all
goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria in Excelsis is said:

All 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 sin 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**

The Collect

Let us pray:

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah

Zephaniah 1.7,12-18

Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem
with lamps,

and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.'

Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is
bitter,

the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against
the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like
dust,
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;

in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of
the earth.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Concerning the times and the seasons,
brothers and sisters, you do not need to
have anything written to you. For you
yourselves know very well that the day of
the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
When they say, 'There is peace and
security,' then sudden destruction will
come upon them, as labour pains come
upon a pregnant woman, and there will be
no escape! But you, beloved, are not in
darkness, for that day to surprise you like
a thief; for you are all children of light and
children of the day; we are not of the night
or of darkness. So then let us not fall
asleep as others do, but let us keep awake
and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at
night, and those who are drunk get drunk
at night. But since we belong to the day,
let us be sober, and put on the breastplate
of faith and love, and for a helmet the
hope of salvation. For God has destined
us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died
for us, so that whether we are awake or
asleep we may live with him. Therefore
encourage one another and build up each
other, as indeed you are doing.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

John Newton (1725-1807)

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.
Blessed is the King who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the
highest heaven.

All Alleluia

The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Matthew
All Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 25.14-30

Jesus said to his disciples,
'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man,
going on a journey, summoned his
slaves and entrusted his property to
them; to one he gave five talents, to
another two, to another one, to each

according to his ability. Then he went
away. The one who had received the five
talents went off at once and traded with
them, and made five more talents. In the
same way, the one who had the two
talents made two more talents. But the
one who had received the one talent went
off and dug a hole in the ground and hid
his master's money. After a long time the
master of those slaves came and settled
accounts with them. Then the one who
had received the five talents came
forward, bringing five more talents,
saying, "Master, you handed over to me
five talents; see, I have made five more
talents." His master said to him, "Well
done, good and trustworthy slave; you
have been trustworthy in a few things, I
will put you in charge of many things;
enter into the joy of your master." And the
one with the two talents also came
forward, saying, "Master, you handed
over to me two talents; see, I have made
two more talents." His master said to him,
"Well done, good and trustworthy slave;
you have been trustworthy in a few
things, I will put you in charge of many
things; enter into the joy of your master."
Then the one who had received the one
talent also came forward, saying,
"Master, I knew that you were a harsh
man, reaping where you did not sow, and
gathering where you did not scatter seed;
so I was afraid, and I went and hid your
talent in the ground. Here you have what
is yours." But his master replied, "You
wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did
you, that I reap where I did not sow, and
gather where I did not scatter? Then you
ought to have invested my money with
the bankers, and on my return I would
have received what was my own with
interest. So take the talent from him, and
give it to the one with the ten talents. For
to all those who have, more will be given,
and they will have an abundance; but
from those who have nothing, even what

they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All 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,
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.**

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for the coming of God's kingdom.

You sent your Son to bring good news to
the poor,
sight to the blind,
freedom to captives
and salvation to your people:
anoint us with your Spirit;
rouse us to work in his name.
Father, by your Spirit
All bring in your kingdom.

Send us to bring help to the poor
and freedom to the oppressed.
Father, by your Spirit
All bring in your kingdom.

Send us to tell the world
the good news of your healing love.
Father, by your Spirit
All bring in your kingdom.

Send us to those who mourn,
to bring joy and gladness instead of grief.
Father, by your Spirit
All bring in your kingdom.

Send us to proclaim that the time is here
for you to save your people.

Father, by your Spirit

All bring in your kingdom.

Lord of the Church,

All hear our prayer,

and make us one in mind and heart

to serve you in Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace is introduced

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the
whole.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We may exchange a sign of peace

Preparation of the Table

*The table is prepared and bread and
wine are placed upon it.*

MUSIC: Impromptu (John E. West)

To you we come, Father of lights,
with angels and saints,
where heaven and earth unite.

May Jesus meet us in the breaking
of the bread.

All Amen.

The priest takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should always sing of your glory,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For you are the hope of the nations,
the builder of the city that is to come.

Your love made visible in Jesus Christ
brings home the lost,

restores the sinner
and gives dignity to the despised.

In his face your light shines out,
flooding lives with goodness and truth,
gathering into one in your kingdom
a divided and broken humanity.

Therefore with all who can give voice in
your creation

we glorify your name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.

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 Saint John the
Evangelist, Saint 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

Uniting our prayers with the whole company
of heaven,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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

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.

Agnus Dei is said:

All Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Grant us peace

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to
his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to
receive you,
but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.

Communion is received

Music during Communion:
Berceuse (Guilmant)

Prayer after Communion

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
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

The Blessing and Dismissal

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

Christ our King make you faithful and strong
to do his will,
that you may reign with him in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour and the majesty;
All **for everything in heaven and on earth
is yours.**

Yours, Lord, is the kingdom:
All **and you are exalted as head over all.
Amen.**

Concluding voluntary: *Allegro alla Marcia*
(A.L. Peace)

This Friday, November 20, is the feast day of St Edmund - the original Patron Saint of England

We celebrate St George's Day on April 23rd when the red cross of St George flies proudly from flag poles. But should we instead be raising the White Dragon flag on November 20th?



It is surprising to learn that Saint George was not the first patron saint of England. That honour was originally held by St Edmund, or Edmund the Martyr, King of East Anglia in the 9th century AD.

Born on Christmas Day 841 AD, Edmund succeeded to the throne of East Anglia in 856. Brought up as a Christian, he fought alongside King Alfred of Wessex against the pagan Viking and Norse invaders (the Great Heathen Army) until 869/70 when his forces were defeated and Edmund was captured by the Vikings. He was ordered to renounce his faith and share power with the pagan Vikings, but he refused.

According to the 10th century account of the saint's life by Abbo of Fleury, who quotes St Dunstan as his source, Edmund was then bound to a tree, shot through by arrows and beheaded. The date was 20th November. His decapitated head is said to have been reunited with its body with the help of a talking wolf who protected the head and then called out "Hic, Hic, Hic" ("Here, Here, Here") to alert Edmund's followers.

In 902 his remains were moved to Bedricsworth (modern Bury St. Edmunds) where King Athelstan founded a religious community to care for his shrine which became a place of national pilgrimage. King Canute built a stone abbey on the site in 1020 to house the shrine.

Such was the influence of St Edmund that on St Edmund's Day in 1214 rebel English barons held a secret meeting here before going to confront King John with the Charter of Liberties, the forerunner to Magna Carta which he signed a year later. This event is reflected in the motto of Bury St Edmunds: 'Shrine of a King, Cradle of the Law'.

St Edmund's influence began to fade when, during the Third Crusade in 1199, King Richard I visited the tomb of St. George in Lydda on the eve of battle. The next day he won a great victory. Following this triumph, Richard adopted St. George as his personal patron and protector of the army. Although the banner of St. Edmund was still carried into battle by the English army, by the time of Edward I it had been joined by the flag of St. George.

In 1348, Edward III founded a new order of chivalry, the Knights of the Garter. Edward made St George the patron of the Order and also declared him Patron Saint of England.

What became of Edmund? During the Dissolution of the Monasteries under Henry VIII, his remains were removed to France where they remained until 1911. Today they are kept in the chapel in Arundel Castle.

It has been questioned whether St George, patron saint of 16 other countries and cities, ever even visited England. From time to time various campaigns have suggested he should be replaced by an Englishman, and who better than the Anglo-Saxon Martyr-King Saint Edmund!

The Small Print for today's service:

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