

Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - whether you are here in person, or viewing via the Broadcast Page of our website.
www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast

Following today's Mass, due to the current Covid-19 situation, St John's will be closed for Public Worship services until further notice. So there will be NO daily Morning Prayer, or Midweek Mass.

Sunday Parish Mass will be online only - recorded in the closed church and broadcast via our church website at 10:30 a.m.

Online "Zoom" service: 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Send Rev Jill or Deacon Michael an email and they will send you the necessary "link".

People for whom our prayers are asked:

Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Jackie F, Ian M, Brenda R, Jane G, Cynthia H, Jo, Amber, Shirley, Andrew N, Liisa & Junior, and Libby V.

Please pray also for...

...the repose of the souls of the recently departed,
especially Brian Webb, Peter Turnbull, Jean Broscheit, Pat, Sara, and Tracey P,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time, especially
Arnold Kingsnorth, Bob Byrom, Reg & Rita Burge, Peter Crighton, Brian Reade, and Maurice Harper,

...and all who mourn.

Hastings
foodbank

This week's urgently needed items:

- Tinned meat (but not corned beef or pork)
- Tinned veg. (especially peas & carrots)
- Tinned fruit
- Long-life milk (full fat or semi-skimmed)
- Tinned spaghetti in sauce

Also welcomed:

- Toiletries, loo rolls
- Tinned fish, potatoes, rice pud
- Tea, coffee, fruit juice.

There are collection points in various local supermarkets, if unable to access church

Thank you

HYMN OF THE WEEK



"As with gladness men of old"

Inspired by the Epiphany gospel, Matthew 1:1-11, William Chatterton Dix wrote this text in 1858 whilst recuperating from illness.

Taking Matthew 1: 1-11 as his theme for the first three verses, Dix likens the journey of the wise men, who came to worship the Christ, to our own Christian pilgrimage. The pattern of these verses is "as they ... so may we."

Verses four and five are a prayer that our journey on the "narrow way" may bring us finally to glory where Christ is the Light (Revelation 21:23) and where we may perfectly sing his praise.

Mass for the Baptism of Christ (Epiphany I)

Welcome

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 of Confession

The grace of God has dawned upon
the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us
to purify a people as his own.
Let us confess our sins.

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.

Then 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

Priest Let us pray

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as
your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved
children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All Amen.

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Genesis 1.1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 19.1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what

then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – altogether there were about twelve of them.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
to that lowly manger-bed,
there to bend the knee before
Him whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
at thy manger rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesu, ev'ry day
keep us in the narrow way,
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down.
There for ever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

W. Chatterton Dix (1837-98)

Gospel Reading

Dcn Alleluia alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh,
proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world.

All Alleluia.

Dcn The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Dcn Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Mark

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1.4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the

Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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.

**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

Jesus calls us out of darkness into his
marvellous light.
Washed clean by the waters of baptism,
let us pray that we may live the life to
which he has called us.

Lord Jesus, eternal Word,
proclaimed as the Christ by John the
forerunner,
hear us as we pray for all who proclaim
your word ...
Lord of truth,
All hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, baptizing with the Spirit and
with fire,
strengthen us to withstand all the trials
of our faith ...
Lord of truth,
All hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, bringing forgiveness to all
who repent,
teach your Church dependence on
your grace ...
Lord of truth,
All hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, fulfilment of the promises of
old,
give hope to all who suffer or are
ignored ...
Lord of truth,
All hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, beloved Son of the Father,
anoint us with the gifts of your Holy
Spirit ...
Lord of truth,
All hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope,
share with all the faithful the riches of
eternal life ...
Lord of truth,
All hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ,
in you the Father makes us and all things
new.
Transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory.
All Amen.

The Peace is introduced

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of
peace there shall be no end. *cf Isaiah 9.6,7*

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

Open the heavens, Holy Spirit,
for us to see Jesus interceding for us;
may we be willing to share his baptism,
ready to share his cup
and strengthened to serve him for ever.

All Amen.

The president takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

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

All honour and praise be yours always
and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our
Lord:

for at this time we celebrate your glory
made present in our midst.
In the coming of the magi
the King of all the world was revealed to
the nations.

In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,
the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed at the
wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches,
sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory
of your name
and declare our joyful hymn of praise:

**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

Believing the promises of God, 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 the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

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

The priest says the invitation to communion.

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All Lord, give us this bread always.

Communion is received

Prayer after Communion

The priest prays the Post Communion:

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and
revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your
beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of
our rebirth
through the waters of the new
creation;
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

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the
image of his glory
and gladden your hearts with the good
news of his kingdom;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Concluding voluntary: *War March of the Priests (Mendelssohn)*



**Christian Aid
Christmas Card**

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas card this year either by donations in church or online.

Although we are in difficult times we are able to donate a total of £450 which is great and will help Christian Aid in their desperate struggle to help those in need.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe 2021,

The Christian Aid team

January 12th is the feast day of Saint Antony Pucci.

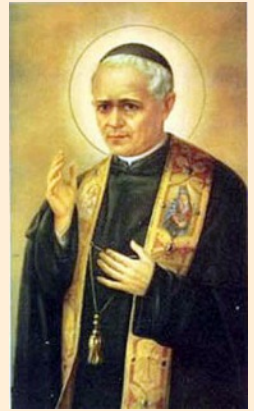
It has been sobering over the past few days to see TV footage showing nearly exhausted doctors and nurses valiantly battling to save the hardest hit Covid-19 patients in hospital Intensive Care Units, and our hearts go out to them.

As someone once said: "In times like these, it helps to recall that there have always been times like these", and Covid-19 is by no means the first epidemic or indeed pandemic disease to sweep through human populations with such devastating effect.

Cholera, for example, has been a regular unwelcome visitor to many countries around the world over the centuries, often carried via cargo ships and spread through unclean drinking water.

So cue this week's Saint, the unassuming Antony Pucci (1819-92), whose feast day is on Tuesday. He came from nowhere – a peasant family in Tuscany. And he went nowhere – spending his life as a parish priest in the Tuscan city of Viareggio, working 45 years in service to his flock, being called *il curatino*, "the little parish priest" by his parishioners. Plain to look at, and quiet - he wasn't good with words – people found him awkward and shy.

So why do people still remember him today? Because Antony Pucci used the one gift he did have in the service of others. He was an excellent organiser, and his care for the sick in the cholera epidemics of 1854 and 1866 was outstanding. As we are discovering, these situations need firm, inspired leadership, and clear decision-making and messaging. The currently much used expression "flip-flopping" would not have been part of Saint Antony Pucci's vocabulary! He used to say that organisation is the servant of charity, not its substitute. But he used his gift for organisation as a way of showing his charity, and for that he was loved.



Fiona Bruce, MP for Congleton, has recently been appointed as the new **Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB)**, having regularly raised the issue of persecuted believers with the House of Commons.

She said: "There is much to do, and my post will be placed at the service of some of the most vulnerable people across the world." She listed just some of the "continuing large scale horrors taking place" – such as those against Uighur Muslims in China, Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and Yazidis in Iraq. She agreed with the former Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks, when he had stated: 'the persecution of Christians throughout much of the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, and elsewhere, is one of the crimes against humanity of our time'. Fiona Bruce said: "These are some of the most deeply concerning issues of our generation, with which it will be a privilege to engage as Special Envoy, both nationally and internationally."

Our friends at **Seaview Project**, the local charity helping people with complex lives, filmed an uplifting little Christmas video here at St Johns, with help from Barefoot Opera and Isolation Station. To watch it online please go to www.seaviewproject.co.uk and you will find the video on the home page. There you will also find links to their latest Newsletter, information about the good work they do, and an opportunity to donate.

Editor: The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers the New Year ahead.

Five things I'd like to see in 2021

I keep hearing people say that 2020 was a 'year like no other.' But I've been looking ahead to 2021 and thinking about the five top things I'd like to see in the year ahead. I wonder if you'll agree with them or not? Maybe you could put together your own list...

1: Let's make sure the vaccines are distributed fairly and speedily. Those who need the vaccine most urgently should receive it first, with a fair system for ensuring everyone else can be vaccinated quickly and efficiently. We need to ensure that everyone receives the vaccine wherever they live in the world – from the poorest to the richest. Especially, in those parts of the world where there is war, and people are living as refugees.

2: Let's learn the lessons of the pandemic – not just going back to how life was, as quickly as possible. Many of us learnt to appreciate our family so very much more – especially when we could not be with them for months on end. We learnt lessons about how important our neighbours and local businesses are, how precious our NHS, medical researchers, care providers and other frontline workers are. Let's not forget them.

3: Let's value nature. Those of us with gardens, or with parks or fields nearby, have been massively blessed. I've learnt to pay attention to birdsong, to the changing colours of the trees, and how unexpected plants have taken root in our garden. Pets have played a major part in helping us endure the lockdowns, especially for people who live alone. May we all learn to value the natural world on our doorsteps in the year ahead and beyond.

4: Let's bless technology. Without the use of the internet, meeting people 'online' or keeping in touch via email, Facetime or other technologies, 2020 would have been a whole lot tougher. Churches across the country moved their Sunday services online, and soon adapted to a different way of worshipping – not the same, but still helping us to worship together and see familiar faces. Let's continue to give thanks for the science that made that contact possible in 2020.

5: Let's value our church family. Imperfect we may be, like any family. But the months without being physically able to worship with them, share communion with them, sing alongside them have been hard. I value so much how many churches have risen to the pandemic challenge and sought to serve their communities in all kinds of ways. May we take all this experience into 2021 and build upon it.

Whatever 2021 holds for you and all those that you love, I pray that you may know the love of God in your life, and be able to pass it on to others.

The Small Print for this pewsheet:

Some graphics reproduced from Lindisfarne Scriptorium, under license.

Some material included in this service is copyright:

© 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA

Some material included in this service is copyright:

© The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2002, 2004

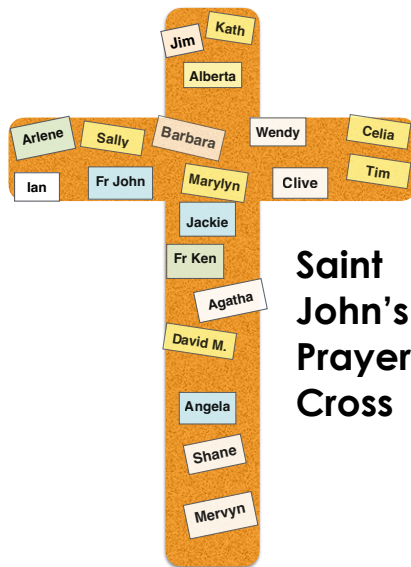
Gospel Acclamation (Epiph. to Eve of Presentation)

© The Crown/Cambridge University Press: The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

Hymn words reproduced under CCLI Licence no. 219821



The printed version of this pewsheet is printed on 100% recycled paper. Please take it home with you and recycle after use.



Saint John's Prayer Cross