

# Catholic Parish of Walsingham

ST PETER, BLAKENEY ✕ ST HENRY WALPOLE, SJ, BURNHAM MARKET ✕ OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION, WALSINGHAM ✕ OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA

(1836)

Parish Mass Book, Readings & Prayers 90-92 Prayer of the Church, 4

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT  
YEAR OF ST MARK  
DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

The gospel for the fourth Sunday of Advent, so close to the celebration of Christ's birth, is always taken from the infancy narratives. This year it is St Luke's



account of the Annunciation, the starting point of the great mystery of the Incarnation. For those of us who live in the Walsingham Parish this event is constantly before us. The angel, Luke tells us, was sent, "to a town in Galilee called Nazareth." The Shrine of Our Lady in this place is often referred to as 'England's Nazareth'. Living our Christian lives within its ambit we seek, and promote, an affinity with everything Nazareth represents. It was not a place of any importance and Mary, to whom God's messenger was sent, was young, not yet married and aptly described as 'lowly'. Even at this early stage in the telling of the good news we are reminded that in the kingdom of heaven, the criteria by which importance is discerned are different from those devised by human beings. Later in the story Jesus teaches us that, "unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3) The angel greets the lowly maiden as, "so highly favoured," and assures her that

"the Lord is with you". This is the Word of the God being spoken to Mary by his messenger who goes on to tell her, "you will bear a child". This is the creative word of God which says, "Let there be light" and, as a result, "there *was* light," (Genesis 1:3) Mary has been 'overshadowed' by the power of God; filled with his Holy Spirit. Nothing can resist the power of God's Word. And yet, so far beyond our comprehension is the mind of God, Mary is left free to consent: "Be it done to me as you have said." The nativity, which we celebrate later in the week, is the coming to visible fulfilment of what had already occurred at the time of the annunciation: God made man in Jesus Christ. In human society the moment of birth is of enormous significance. We celebrate birthdays – the feast of the nativity is one off these – and, as anyone who has been in hospital knows, are even identified by our date of birth. There is, however, more to becoming a human being than being born. The process of incarnation which began in Nazareth continued there. In the obscurity of that place Jesus grew to maturity under the care of Mary and her husband Joseph. Luke records that, even as an adolescent Jesus, "He went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority." (Luke 2:51). That authority, we can be sure, would have embraced the values of God's kingdom. Guided by Mary, who knew that God had 'looked on her lowliness' and 'done great things for her', and by Joseph, who, "did what the angel told him to do" (Matthew 1:24), Jesus the Son of God grew up to become the kind of man he was.

from FRATELLI TUTTI

*"We should also recognize that "even though the international community has adopted numerous agreements aimed at ending slavery in all its forms, and has launched various strategies to combat this phenomenon, millions of people today – children, women and men of all ages – are deprived of freedom and forced to live in conditions akin to slavery... Today, as in the past, slavery is rooted in a notion of the human person that allows him or her to be treated as an object... Whether by coercion, or deception, or by physical or psychological duress, human persons created in the image and likeness of God are deprived of their freedom, sold and reduced to being the property of others. They are treated as means to an end...A perversion that exceeds all limits when it subjugates women and then forces them to abort. An abomination that goes to the length of kidnapping persons for the sake of selling their organs. [... (24)*

**Remember: You can take part in the liturgy via the internet at the Catholic Shrine webpage:**  
[www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk)

*"Be it done to me according to thy word..."*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

It is hard to keep in touch under the present circumstances and to know who amongst us is suffering from ill health. Please pray for all of them and keep Tom and myself informed. Tim Matthews, Mary Pegg, Brenda Winch, Fr John, Maureen and Derek Schofield, Len Judge, Charles Butler, Paula's grand-nephew, Marie Strong and, I'm sure, others are in need of your prayer at this time.

### CHURCH OPENING

As the current lockdown ends on December 1<sup>st</sup> and we enter 'tier 2' restrictions, the churches will once again be open for Mass as well as private prayer at the usual times from Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Our Lady of the Annunciation, Walsingham:

Sunday 10.30 Mass

Monday to Saturday 9.30 Mass

(followed by exposition on Monday. Confessions on Saturday)

Tuesday to Friday inclusive, 10 – 11.30 Private Prayer

#### Our Lady Star of the Sea, Wells-next-the-Sea:

Saturday 6.00 pm Mass

Thursday 9.30 Mass

#### St Peter's, Blakeney:

Sunday 11.00 Mass

Wednesday 9.30 Mass

#### St Henry Walpole, Burnham Market:

Sunday 9.30 Mass

Friday 9.30 Mass

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1030-1130 Private Prayer

### CRIB

Pamela Tester writes: Instead of raffling a knitted crib, as in previous years, I am inviting offers for this. Please ring me on 01328 711306.

### CAROLS

Churches Together in Wells Sunday 20 December 2 pm at the Maltings courtyard On The Green, Burnham Market from 4.30 pm on Saturday 19th December Reverend Steve Wood is going to lead Socially Distanced Carols Outside Our Lady Star of the Sea, Wells at 5 30 pm on Christmas Eve.

# HAPPY CHRISTMAS

TO YOU ALL

### FINANCE

We are refurbishing the house at St Peter's Blakeney in order to let it; for details, see the Distanced but Together section on the website. This will involve considerable expense and the parish income is diminished because of Covid 19 restrictions. If you are able to contribute something towards this it would be greatly appreciated. I would ask those who do not already do so to consider supporting the parish by standing order. Please contact Fr Keith for bank and gift aid details.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

As you know, space is limited in our church buildings because of Covid 19 regulations. We would like all parishioners to have the opportunity to take part in the Christmas Masses: Blakeney, Burnham Market and Wells, 6.00 pm on Christmas Eve; Blakeney 11.00 am. Burnham Market 9.30 am, Walsingham 10.30 am on Christmas Day. There is also a vigil Mass at the Shrine.

To make sure no one is left out we will have to 'book' places. There are lists in Burnham Market, Walsingham and Wells to write your name and those of family members or others who will be with you who are going to attend. You can ask someone to do this for you. For Blakeney, contact Catherine Blyth. Let's hope that by next year – even by Easter? – everything will be back to normal. In the meantime, thanks for putting up with the inconvenience.

### THE YEAR OF THE WORD



**Befriending the Scriptures** cannot, of course, meet at present. We can, however, keep reading Matthew's gospel and the readings appointed for the Mass of the day even though we cannot meet.

Sunday:	2 Samuel 7:1-16	Psalm 88	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
Monday:	Song of Songs 2:8-14	Psalm 32		Luke 1:39-45
Tuesday:	1 Samuel 1:24-28	1 Sam 2:1-8		Luke 1:46-56
Wednesday:	Malachai 3:1-24	Psalm 24		Luke 1:57-66
Thursday:	2 Samuel 7:1-16	Psalm 88		Luke 1:67-79
Friday:		<b>The Nativity of the Lord: Christmas Day</b>		
	Isaiah 52:7-9	Psalm 97	Hebrew 1:1-6	John 1:1-18
Saturday:		<b>St Stephen, the First Martyr</b>		
	Acts 6:8-7:59	Psalm 30		Matthew 10:17-22

Parish Clergy: Revv. Keith Tulloch, SM, (Parish Priest), Thomas Goonan, SM,  
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