



## Advent candles

Traditionally at St Thomas' we have an Advent wreath with five candles: one for each Sunday of the season plus one for Christmas Day. Today's candle is purple and would be lit as we recited this prayer in church:

*Stir up thy power, O Lord, and come, that by thy protection we may be rescued from the dangers that beset us through our sins; and be a Redeemer to deliver us; who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.*

### ROSEMARY CHAPMAN

We give thanks for life of Rosemary Chapman who has passed away. She died peacefully in her new home, where she had settled well, aged 90.



We shall miss her and pray especially at this time for her family and friends. The funeral service will be in church at 10.30am on Tuesday 12th December, by invitation of the family, to comply with Covid restrictions in force.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Parish prayer requests may be sent by email to Fr. Herbert or via Trevor using email, telephone or through his letterbox..

### PRAYERS

We pray for all those in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity at this time; including: Phil, Pam Swabey, Joan Bishop, Ken Allbon, Jean Burges, Susan Larkin and Rosemary Burnett.



### COFFEE & TOILETS

While we still cannot meet in the hall for coffee, the toilets are accessible. Ask the sidesman for the key.

### PCC MEETING

Due to lockdown, the next meeting has been moved to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in the Hall.

### SERVICES RESUME

We are looking forward very much to re-starting worship next Sunday with our 9.45am Parish Communion for Advent II on 6th December.

Weekday services can resume on Thursday, 3rd December with both the 7am and 10am services followed by Evening Prayer at 6pm. Alleluia.

### CHRISTMAS MUSIC

We very much hope to welcome the Lewes Singers to St Thomas' on 20<sup>th</sup> December for their Christmas recital. This very much depends, of course, on the level of Covid restrictions in place. More details to follow.



The Parish Church of  
**St Thomas à Becket**  
Cliffe High Street, Lewes



29<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
ADVENT I



### The Collect - to be said every day during Advent

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

### The Epistle - Romans 13.8-14

Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

### The Gospel - St. Matthew 21.1-13

When they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them. All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass. And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them; and brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord; Hosanna in the Highest. And when he was come into Jerusalem all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? And the multitude said, This is Jesus the Prophet of Nazareth of Galilee. And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple; and overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and the seats of them that sold doves; and said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.



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**FROM Fr Herbert:**

Dear Parishioners, It is very good news that we shall be allowed to resume our services on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December and celebrate the joyful season of Advent at St. Thomas'. This Sunday is also the start of a new church year and my

prayer is that in the year ahead at St Thomas à Becket we may all seek to draw nearer to God together and as a community witness to our neighbours and friends around us of God's love. With my very best wishes and prayers, Fr Herbert.

**PEW SHEET**

With our normal pattern of services resuming, this will be the last Pew Sheet to be distributed. In future, it will be available in church on Sunday morning.

If anyone would like the

sheet emailed, please let Trevor have your email address and he will send it out each week.

To join the mailing list, just email him at: [warden@st-thomas-lewes.org.uk](mailto:warden@st-thomas-lewes.org.uk)



## SERMON

**W**ELL, dear friends we have arrived to our First Sunday in Advent and also the start of a new church year! The season of Advent, arrayed in purple, is a joyful expectation of our coming Lord Jesus.

Our gospel today heralds the triumphal arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem. It commences at Bethphage, just to the eastern side of Jerusalem and at the approach of the Mount of Olives from where Jesus makes His triumphal kingly entry into Jerusalem. Mountains, as we have recalled over several weeks recently in our homily reflections, are places where God reveals something of Himself to us, his created.

Here no less is the sacred Mount where Jesus not only enters into God's city of Jerusalem but from where He will later ascend into Heaven and back to the right hand of God, the Father. In the Old Testament Zechariah speaks of the Mount of Olives which was held by the Jewish people as that place associated with the Messiah. So the Mount of Olives is most blessed indeed.

St Matthew describes the procession as a solemn and regal event, for a king is arriving. There seems something of a mystery perhaps at first, for Jesus directs His disciples to go and find

a particular ass and colt which must be brought back to Him. However, this is to fulfil the Old Testament passage in Zechariah chapter 9 which says 'Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion... behold thy king cometh unto thee...riding upon an ass and upon a colt...'

So the scene is set for the entry of Jesus, God's Son, coming as the king, the Messiah, unto His people. We read that the crowds and great multitude of the people welcome Jesus and witness to His Kingship by the spreading of their clothes upon the ass and colt as well as making a carpet of cut palm branches upon the road. Furthermore, the crowd shouts aloud 'Hosanna to the son of David' the royal title of their coming king and prophet to all before them, as Jesus, their king enters Jerusalem the royal city of King David.

Then we read that Jesus, having entered the city to such great welcomed acclaim, then enters the temple of God. There He finds the money changers and those who sold and bought within the sacred House of God and overturns their business transactions, saying they have turned the house of God into a den of thieves, a reference from Jeremiah Chapter 7 'Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of

robbers in your eyes?...? Interestingly, historians tell us that all the temple financial transactions were carried out using a single coinage of Tyre and as a consequence great profits were to be made from the exchanges. The reference to the house of prayer reflects that quotation in Isaiah Chapter 56 '..for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.'

So, in conclusion, this Sunday, the first in the season of Advent, presents to us in our gospel reading the wonderful image of Jesus' triumphal arrival and entry into Jerusalem with its resounding ring of God's majesty in Jesus, His Son, being king. It is also a fore image of Jesus' kingship which will be proclaimed at His second coming.

The Collect for this Advent Sunday says 'Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility.....' The season of Advent is that dawning light of joy which heralds the coming Messiah and invites us to draw near to His coming. So let us do as the appointed psalm 25 for today says 'Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul'. Amen. Fr Herbert.