
NEWSLETTER

ALL SAINTS, SCRAPTOFT & NETHERHALL - December 2019

IT'S WORTH WAITING FOR....



As I was thinking what to write for this Newsletter a cheeky little face appeared on my computer screen: it was my grandson who lives in Portugal. He is just 2½ and this is probably the first Christmas he's had the chance to get really excited about. So he was very eager to show me that he and his mum had got the Christmas Tree out and were beginning to decorate it; I was also especially excited when he asked me if I wanted chocolate from Santa!

It is, of course, a difficult time of the year to truly appreciate from a Christian perspective, because, to all intents and purposes, the season seems to begin in October, when all the seasonal stuff starts appearing in the supermarkets. So fighting off the demands of preparing for the Big Day is no small thing for us adults amidst the clamour of advertising and shelves groaning with goodies, never mind a young child of just 2½ years.

So watching Charlie excitedly prepare his Christmas tree did make me think of what this time of year was like in our house when I was very young. And one big difference was that we didn't put up our tree until Christmas Eve. In early 1960s Bradford, as far as I was concerned, Christmas began on Christmas Eve and then carried on for the Twelve Days. For me, it was a very different time to the present. However, lots of things were different: there just wasn't the abundance of stuff in the shops, there was no internet, no Black Friday, there were only three TV channels and adverts were only on one. And most people just didn't have the disposable cash to buy many presents.

Today, though, it is impossible to escape the Christmas build-up from October onwards and the pressures to get in on the act as early as possible are huge. We expect more and more from Christmas and the Bank of England tells us that a typical household spends over £800 extra in the month of December alone.

The problem with all this, for me, is that once Christmas Day is over, that's it for the majority and within a very short time it'll be Easter eggs lining the shelves! So I propose a 'dare'. I don't expect people to suddenly put away their already erected trees or to wear ear-guards in an attempt to not hear Noddy Holder telling us "It's Xmas!" whenever we hit the shops. But perhaps you might dare to think about what could be held back until it really is Christmas - to cherish the time of Advent in order to prepare well for our celebration of the birth of God's Son. Then when the time does arrive, we might be ready to enjoy Christmas in all its fullness - all twelve days of festivities!

I wish you a truly blessed Advent and a magnificent Christmas season. With every blessing.

Father Tackin

Calendar - December

- 1st **ADVENT SUNDAY**
10.00am Sung Eucharist and lighting of the first Advent Candle
- 4th **John of Damascus**
7.30pm Eucharist
- 5th 7.30pm Patronal Festival at Fleckney
- 8th **ADVENT 2**
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 10th 8.00pm Guild of Servers Office
- 11th 7.30pm Eucharist
- 14th 10.00am Flower Group
- 15th **ADVENT 3**
10.00am Sung Eucharist
3.00pm Messy Nativity
- 18th 7.30pm Eucharist
- 19th 11.00am Aaron Court Christmas Communion
- 20th 7.30pm Parish Carol Service
- 21st 10.00am Coffee Stop
- 22nd **ADVENT 4**
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 24th **CHRISTMAS EVE**
11.30pm Midnight Mass
- 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**
10.00am Festival Family Eucharist
- 29th **THE HOLY FAMILY**
10.00am Sung Eucharist

All Saints, Scruptoft



Carols by Candlelight

Friday December 20th

7.30pm

Everyone very welcome

Daily Inspirational Bible Readings

“Read, mark, learn and inwardly digest.”

- 1st John 1:1-2
2nd Hebrews 1:1-2
3rd John 6:35
4th John 8:12
5th John 10:7
6th John 10:14-15
7th John 11:25
8th John 14:6
9th John 15:5
10th Deuteronomy 18:15
11th Isaiah 7:14
12th Galatians 4:4-5
13th Matthew 2:4-6
14th Luke 1:26-28
15th Luke 1:30-33
16th Luke 1:46-47
17th Matthew 1:20-21
18th Luke 1:68-70
19th Luke 1:76-78
20th Luke 2:1
21st Luke 2:6-7
22nd Luke 2:8-11
23rd Luke 2:11-14
24th Luke 2:16-20
25th Isaiah 9:6
26th Luke 2:28-32
27th Psalm 103:1-2
28th Matthew 11:28
29th John 14:1-3
30th John 16:33
31st Isaiah 43:16 & 18-19

“Come, let us
adore him...”