

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
1st December 2024

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Parish Eucharist & Posada Launch
Hymns: Advent Prose; 30; 54; 50; 41
6:00 pm Advent Carol Service at St Mary Magdalene

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open
2:00 pm Phoenix Group Games Afternoon
7:30 pm Standing Committee

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
10:00 am Church open

WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
9:30 am Said Eucharist
10:00 am Church open

THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer



9.30am-11.30am - ST. NICK'S NIPPERS
Play, Worship, Coffee & Friendship for young children and those who have care of them.

10:00 am Church open

FRIDAY

10:00 am Church open

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church open

NEXT SUNDAY – PATRONAL FESTIVAL

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Parish Eucharist
6:00 pm *Choral Evensong at St Mary Magdalene*

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER</u>	<u>WEDS. 11TH DECEMBER</u>
Isaiah 61:1-3	Isaiah 40:25-end
Psalms 68:1-10	Psalms 103:8-13
1 Timothy 6:6-11	Matthew 11:28-end
Mark 10:13-16	

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office

☎ 01522 540614; stnicholaslincoln@gmail.com

Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

Online & Social Media

🐦 @StNicksLincoln 📘 @stnicholaslincoln

www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Advent Sunday is the beginning of the Church's year and of its season of preparation for Christmas, yet in the Gospel of the day, we hear Jesus in the Temple, just before his passion, teaching about the end of the world.

Advent, in fact, prepares us for two comings of the Lord: first, in humility at Bethlehem; then in glory at the end of time to judge the world in righteousness and establish God's reign in which all things are brought to completion.

The Church traditionally prepares for a feast by keeping a fast: a time of simplicity and recollection. Then the feast is kept, not just for a day but for a season, to reflect on the mystery celebrated. So we have the 'octave' of Christmas, the eight days which conclude with the feast of the Naming of Jesus on January 1st. Then we have the twelve days of Christmas which conclude with the Epiphany on January 6th. And if that is not sufficient time for reflection on the mystery of the Incarnation, there is the 40 days which conclude with the Presentation of Christ in the Temple on Feb. 2nd.

That is at odds with the world's way. Consumerist culture has co-opted Advent and Christmas as marketing opportunities: Christmas cards on sale in August; Advent calendars to sell chocolate; shops taking down their decorations on Christmas Eve to make way for sales notices. There is no profit to be had in contemplating the traditional Advent themes of the 'last things': death and judgement, heaven and hell.

Yet the dramatic imagery of the first half of today's gospel (and Matthew and Mark's parallel passages), and in books like Daniel and Revelation, challenges us to do just that. Such startling writings emerged at times of "fear and foreboding." They sought to encourage hope and perseverance by seeing present woes, war and natural disaster, political turmoil and persecution, in the context of God's purposes for the whole creation, which will ultimately triumph.

Jesus has just foretold the destruction of the Temple; a catastrophe that, when it occurred in AD 70 after the Romans had crushed a Jewish revolt, made many think the end of the world was near.

Some early Christians expected Christ to return quickly. When he did not, anxiety and despair set in. Paul addresses this problem in I Thessalonians; the earliest Christian document we possess. Jesus does, too, in the latter part of today's gospel. Both counsel disciples on how to behave between the first and second comings – the time in which we still live. Paul encourages believers in mutual love and holiness of life.

Jesus says: "Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place." Luke uses 'this generation' to refer to those who opposed Jesus during his ministry. Their successors are with us still. As, too, are war, disease, natural disaster. We are not persecuted, as some of our fellow-Christians are, but

we feel depressed by statistics of decline and scandals of abuse.

Faced with all this, we might fall into cynicism and despair, but Jesus inspires hope: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." Words of hope are accompanied by words of challenge. I have not seen any evidence of drunkenness and dissipation among the congregation of St. Nick's, but we can still find ways to distract ourselves from reality, and so miss Christ's coming to us now: in word and sacrament, in prayer and in those in need. Advent recalls us to spiritual discipline, to watchfulness in prayer, to renewed holiness in the midst of this world. We are to be alert and pray at all times. We might begin by following the Prayer Book's instruction to use the Advent Collect every day in this season.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alan

NOTICES

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Sunday 1 December - Advent Sunday

10:30am Sung Eucharist with Posada launch

The start of the Holy Family's journey around the Parish

6:00 pm Advent Carol Service at St Mary Magdalene

Sunday 8 December - Patronal Festival

We remember St Nicholas

Saturday 21 December

4:00pm A Festival of Lessons and Carols

The traditional candlelit start to Christmas

Tuesday 24 December - Christmas Eve

4:00pm Crib Service

Especially suitable for the very young

11:30pm Midnight Mass

The First Eucharist of Christmas

Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day

10:30am Christmas Day Eucharist for All

POSADA - ADVENT 2024

Over this time of expectant waiting and preparation we welcome our Nativity figures of Mary & Joseph into the homes, groups and schools of our parish & congregation. In the Mexican tradition the Posada is a 9 day celebration leading up to Christmas Eve, but we observe this practice for the whole of Advent to enable as many as possible to be part of this collective reflection. Please do sign up at the back of church for the figures to come and spend time with you. The Posada will begin its journey today, Advent Sunday, at the 10:30am service, and we will welcome it back to church on Christmas Eve.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE AT ST MARY'S

6 PM, SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER

Members of the St Nick's Choir have been invited to join with the choir of St Mary Magdalene at their very atmospheric Advent Carol Service. Do wrap up warm and go along to begin the journey to Christmas with our friends at St Mary's.

LINCOLN MEDIEVAL MYSTERY PLAYS 2024

Saturday 8th December, 6 pm, Lincoln Cathedral

Friday 20th December 7 pm St Mary Magdalene's

Saturday 21st December 4 pm St Mary Magdalene's

Sunday 22nd December 3 pm St Nicholas' Church

Five medieval plays bring humour, human dilemmas, heavenly interventions and fabulous medieval music to the Nativity Story. Performances last about 45 minutes, and are suitable for all. No charge, but donations welcome.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER APPEAL

We'd be grateful for contributions to the Flower Fund, to make it possible for us to dress the church for Christmas, when it comes. Perhaps you'd consider a donation in memory of a loved one. Sandra Gratrack would be delighted to hear from you.

PCC TREASURER NEEDED

After many years of diligent service as our Treasurer, Sandra Gratrack will retire at the end of this financial year - 31st December. Sandra intends to complete the annual report and balance the accounts for the year ending 2024 for next year's APCM - but a new Treasurer is needed to take up the baton from the beginning of January 2025. Could this be you? The role is a very important aspect of the running of St Nick's. To find out more, please speak to Fr Alan, to Sandra, or to one of our Church Wardens.

REGULAR GIVING ENVELOPES

We are truly thankful for your generous responses to our recent Parish Giving Review.

If you have not yet given new instructions to the Parish Giving Scheme (our preferred method) or to your bank, please try to do so soon. If you presently use numbered envelopes for your regular giving, new sets for 2025 will be issued later this month. Please talk to me about queries you may have about your donations or about Gift Aid. *Joan Beresford, Parish Giving Officer*

PHOENIX GROUP ACTIVITIES

1st and 3rd Mondays, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

1st Mondays: Board Games and refreshments

3rd Mondays: Speakers and refreshments

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

December 2nd: Games Afternoon

December 16th: Dan Matthews, Senior Lecturer at Lincoln University - Forensic Science

**For further information, please contact Betty Brown
email address: bettybkbrown@yahoo.co.uk**

ST MARY MAGDALENE

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

Evening services at St Mary Magdalene are on second and fourth Sundays, starting at **6:00 pm**.

DECEMBER

Sunday 1st: Advent Carol Service

Sunday 8th: Choral Evensong

Sunday 22nd: Carol Service

READINGS

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE

Purify our consciences, almighty God, by your visitation, that your Son when he comes in these holy mysteries, and finally to judge the world, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

PRAYERS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Heavenly Father, you have created a universe of light: forgive us when we return to darkness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world:

cleanse and heal our blinded sight.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you give us light in our hearts:

renew us in faith and love.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
born in David's city of Bethlehem,
born like him to be a king:
be born in our hearts at Christmas,
be King of our lives today.
Amen.**

Sunday 1st December

COLLECT

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

PSALM

PSALM 25:1-9

Refrain: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame,

but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated. **R**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord,

and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you have I hoped all the day long. **R**

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,

for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth

or my transgressions,

but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,

according to your steadfast love. **R**

Gracious and upright is the Lord;

therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

He will guide the humble in doing right

and teach his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth

to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

R

SECOND READING

1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-END

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 21:25-36

Jesus said to his disciples,

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have

taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Wednesday 4th December

COLLECT

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 25:6-10A

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples

a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured
wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain

the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,

and the disgrace of his people he will take away from
all the earth,

for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he
might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

PSALM

PSALM 98

Refrain: I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Lord is my shepherd;

therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures

and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul

and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his
name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death,

I will fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me

in the presence of those who trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil

and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **R**

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 15:29-37

After Jesus had left the district of Tyre and Sidon, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.' The disciples said to him, 'Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?' Jesus asked them, 'How many loaves have you?' They said, 'Seven, and a few small fish.' Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**