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ADVENT III (YEAR C) -Gaudete Sunday

Sat 11th Dec 6.00pm Mass in St Peter's No Music

Sun 12th Dec 9.00am Mass in St Michael's (Pro Populis)

11.00am Mass and Holy Baptism of Albert

Glinn in St Peter's



2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEK FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

WORSHIP THIS WEEK [*Advent Week 3 – But from the 17th Dec, readings etc. are found by date, not day of the week*]

Mon 13th Dec St Lucy of Syracuse

Fr P's Day Off – Parish Office Closed

Tues 14th Dec St John of the Cross

11.00am Funeral Mass for Bronislaw Bek in St St Peters's

Wed 15th Dec Advent Feria

7.00am “Rorate Mass” in St Michael's

Thurs 16th Dec Advent Feria

7.00am“Rorate Mass” in St Peter's

Fri 17th Dec Late Advent Feria - O Sapientia (Start of the O Antiphons)

9.30am Mass in St Peter's

Sat 18th Dec Late Advent Feria - O Adonai

10.00am Mass in St Michael's



ST MICHAEL’S TABLE TOP SALE AND RAFFLE

Table Top Sale today after Sunday Mass. Donations of New Items should be left in the porch. **RAFFLE TICKETS are on sale now for the Draw on NEXT SUNDAY 19th December with coffee and mince pies in the hall.** Thank you for supporting us in our endeavors as we try to come together as a Parish Socially after what has been a difficult year for all of us.



PRAYER FOR THE EPISCOPAL SYNOD 2023

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may

journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen

For the bishops in synod and all who assist them in fulfilling their task that, through their work, the faithful of their Churches may be purified and strengthened in spirit.

RED BOXES@ ST MICHAEL’S If you could bring your Red Box to the Sacristy, asap for counting, please, that would be much appreciated, thank you.

VOLUNTEERS FOR ST MICHAEL’S Thank you to those, who have offered to help the Parish. Please hand your completed form to Elaine.

NEXT WEEK–ADVENT IV – O Clavis David (YEAR C)

Sat 18th Dec 6.00pm Mass in St Peter's

Sun 19th Dec 9.00am Mass in St Michael's

11.00am Mass in St Peter's

2nd COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



CONFESSIONS ARE BY APPOINTMENT. PLEASE RING TO ARRANGE

A WARM WELCOME We welcome visitors and newcomers to join our 'regulars', asking God to bestow His blessings & graces on us all. Do join us for coffee and refreshments after 11.00am Mass in St Peter's

NEW TO THE PARISH? Please fill in a registration form and take an active part in our two welcoming Parishes.

MASS PROPERS

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

No Gloria during Advent

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18 *Shouts of joy as on a day of festival.*

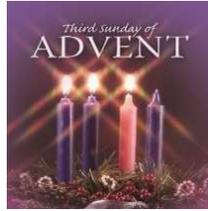
Resp. Psalm: Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7 *The Lord is very near*

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel: Gospel: Luke 3:10-18 *What must we do*

Communion Antiphon: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

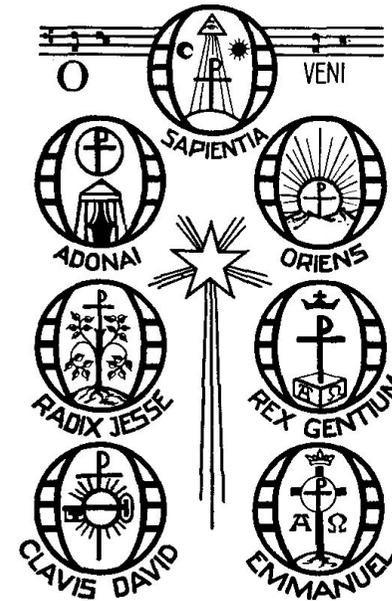


FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- The dead in Christ. Bronislaw Bek
- Our Diocesan Prayer Link – parish of Warminster

AN ADVENT PRAYER TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS Lord Jesus Christ, at Your first coming You sent John the Baptist as Your messenger before You, to prepare Your way: Grant that the ministers and stewards of Your mysteries may prepare and make ready the celebration of Your first coming in the same way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, so that, at Your second coming to judge the world, we may be found an acceptable people in Your sight, Who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

GAUDETE SUNDAY Gaudete Sunday is like Laetare Sunday - They both are light-hearted breaks from the earnestness and discipline of preparation. You could be forgiven for thinking, however, that the coming celebrations were simply grim, materialistic occasions for over-eating and selfishness, if you looked around the faces in the shops! We must not be so wrapped up in wrapping presents and stocking larders that we lose sight of the joy and relaxation, which accompany these holidays. A stepping back to enjoy and appreciate on this Rose Pink Sunday allows us also to keep an eye on folks other than ourselves. We can spot those without joy in their lives or the wherewithal to celebrate as we do. Don't wait until the feast of Stephen to look out with St Wenceslaus and see those in need of our help and a share in our joy.



THE GREAT O'S AND LATE ADVENT

The keeping of the end of Advent as special days of preparation for Christmas is something that has grown and developed over the centuries. Anciently, the Sunday readings and propers were repeated on each ferial day of the week. Exceptions were made for the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle on the 21st December and for the morning of Christmas Eve, as well as for the Advent Ember Days. It was these days of prayer for those being ordained in the Winter, with their very Marian readings, that inspired and guided our modern series of readings, telling of God's preparation for Jesus' birth and the birth of John the Baptist.

The ancient tradition was to mark these last few days not at Mass, but at Evening Prayer, Vespers. Since the 8th Century at least, each evening a different Antiphon was solemnly sung at either end of the Magnificat or else at the end, on St Thomas'

day, to commemorate the season. These antiphons all start with the word O and weave together words from the Old and New Testaments to hail the Coming Saviour.

This is still the case today and life is easier because we now keep St Thomas the Apostle in July. We also use the Great O's as the Alleluia verses at Mass, though inexplicably the Lectionary publishers have put them in the wrong order. In Rome there were and are 7 O Antiphons. Other parts of Christendom had more. Medieval England had 8 and others 9 or even 10

Many of us recognise these Great O's as the verses of the Advent hymn 'O Come O Come Emmanuel', though they are all mixed up in their order. When recited in the correct order in Latin, they antiphons have a hidden message, for backwards they spell Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia - the Latin words *ero cras* are formed, meaning, "Tomorrow, I will be there".

