

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you."

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever'".

The word of the Lord.

*Response:* **Thanks be to God**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 88*

**Response: I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.**

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure,  
that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established  
as the heavens. **R/**

"I have made a covenant  
with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages." **R/**

He will say to me: "You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me."  
I will keep my love for him always  
for him my covenant shall endure. **R/**

### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of

a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

*Response:* **Thanks be to God**

### ALLELUIA VERSE

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**I am the handmaid of the Lord:**

**let what you have said be done to me.**

**Alleluia!**

### THE GOSPEL

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David: and the virgin's name was Mary.

He went in and said to her, "Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, "Mary, do not be afraid: you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end."

Mary said to the angel, "But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?"

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you" the angel answered, "and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too; your kinswomen Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God."

"I am the handmaid of the Lord," said Mary "let what you have said be done to me."

And the Angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Response:* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Parish Office is now closed until 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Fr Ravi is available on 07447 632733 if you need a priest.

Last week's Offertory Collections:

St Patrick's £ 1287.25

Our Lady's £ 355.98

Caritas Appeal £ 136.50

*Crib offerings will be added to this amount.*

Many thanks for your continued generosity.



# CHRISTMAS BEACON

Sat	23rd	17:30	Kevin Wyse		St Patrick's
Sun	24th	08:45	Mass in Polish		St Patrick's
	<b>The 4th Sunday of Advent</b>	09:00	Kathleen Conway		Our Lady's
		11:00	Nugent Family Intentions		St Patrick's
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup>	17:30	Shrimpton Family Intentions	(Livestreamed)	St Patrick's
	<b>Christmas Celebrations of Mass</b>	19:30	For Our Lady's Parishioners	(Carols from 19:00)	Our Lady's
		20:00	Mass in Polish		St Patrick's
		00.00	For St Patrick's Parishioners		St Patrick's
Mon	25th	08:45	Mass in Polish		St Patrick's
		09:00	For Our Lady's Deceased Parishioners		Our Lady's
		11:00	For St Patrick's Deceased Parishioners	(Livestreamed)	St Patrick's
		14:30	Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite		Our Lady's
Tues	26th		<b>St Stephen, Martyr</b>		
		12:00	Mass in Polish		St Patrick's
Wed	27th		<b>St John, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b>		
		12:00	David Donohue RIP		Our Lady's
Thurs	28 <sup>th</sup>		<b>The Holy Innocents</b>		
		19:00	Martin Reid RIP		St Patrick's
Fri	29th		<b>St Thomas Becket, Bishop &amp; Martyr</b>		
		12:00	Norman Brumby RIP		St Patrick's
		18:00	Mass in Polish		St Patrick's
Sat	30th		<b>Sixth Day of the Christmas Octave</b>		
Sat	30th	15:30	Gorman Family Intention		St Patrick's
Sun	31st	08:45	Mass in Polish		St Patrick's
	<b>The Holy Family</b>	09:00	Fr Bill Fitzgerald (Health)		Our Lady's
		11:00	Debbie Venezia's Intentions		St Patrick's
		23:45	Midnight Mass of the New Year		St Patrick's



## ADVENT 2023

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Baminelli Sunday. **Please bring the statue of baby Jesus from your family Nativity set to be blessed during Mass.**

### A MESSAGE FROM JOHN DOONEY'S FAMILY

Anna, Julia and Elizabeth would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Father Ravi and all parishioners for their kind words, visits, help and support over recent weeks as John continues to recover in hospital.

Keep the prayers coming! Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas.



*Christmas Greetings to You  
and to all the members of your Families  
from Fr Ravi, Fr Michal, Fr Alban  
and Fr Joe.*