

The Anglican Parish of  
**St MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS**  
Christchurch



**The Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
24 December 2023

## From the Vicar...

Dear friends,

We come to the last Sunday before Christmas which also happens to fall on Christmas Eve this year. The Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass readings speak about the preparations that God made for Jesus to be born among us and as one of us. As the story is told by Luke, Mary must have been truly alarmed at the words of her unexpected visitor. In the whole passage (as in the rest of Luke's infancy narrative), we are getting an indication of what can be expected in the Gospel which follows.

First, the incident is taking place in Nazareth, not exactly the centre of the earth, or even of Palestine. A future disciple of Jesus will be heard to say with not a little cynicism: *Can anything good come out of Nazareth?* (John 1:46)

Truly in the eyes of the more sophisticated it was something of a backwater. Yet this is the place God chooses to enter our world – not Rome, not Athens, nor any of the other great centres of power, culture and learning in the world of the time.

*Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.*

How did Mary react to such an extraordinary salutation from an angel? The Gospel says that she was “greatly troubled” and well she might be! As a young and probably illiterate girl in an obscure little town what could the words possibly mean?

“Favoured one” means that she is being showered with God's special graces. It is more something that is happening to her than something she already has. The nature of that favour is expressed in what follows – she is to become the mother of a son whom she will call Jesus (a word which means ‘Saviour’) and who will be a King who:

*...will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*

What an extraordinary thing to be told! As we celebrate this final Sunday of the Advent Season let us like Mary, be willing and ready to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Messiah.

God Bless you,



Fr Jordan

If you would like a copy of the music for the mass setting and hymns please speak to one of the Sides People.

### Parish Practices

- Mask wearing is optional. Hand sanitizer is available for you to use, and you are encouraged to use it - especially as you come to Communion.
- In greeting one another nearby at The Peace, please be conscious that some people may not wish to touch other people (even with a handshake).
- You may receive Communion in one kind only (Consecrated Bread). You may come up for a Blessing (hold your hands crossed across your chest, rather than held out to receive the Bread). You may receive in both kinds (Consecrated Bread and Wine, by drinking or intinction).

### Online Services

**Sunday** 10.00 am [facebook.com/SMAAChristchurch](https://facebook.com/SMAAChristchurch)  
Solemn Mass—this is a livestreamed service  
(pews in front of the sound desk are not filmed)

**Health & Safety Regulations:** In an emergency, use the closest exit and assemble in the drop-off zone. In an earthquake, drop down and shelter behind or under a pew, covering your head. Follow instructions.

**The Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
24 December 2023

**Celebrant 8.00 am:** Fr Jordan Greatbatch  
**Celebrant 10.00 am:** Fr Jordan Greatbatch  
**Mass Setting:** St Mary's Mass  
**Organ:** Paul Ellis  
Anthony Caesar  
**Organ:** Ave Maria Enrico Bossi  
**Introit Hymn:** 185

Sing we of the blessed Mother  
Who received the angel's word,  
And obedient to his summons  
Bore in love the infant Lord;  
Sing we of the joys of Mary  
At whose breast that child was fed  
Who is Son of God eternal  
And the everlasting Bread.

Sing again the joys of Mary  
When she saw the risen Lord,  
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,  
Waited on his promised word:  
From on high the blazing glory  
Of the Spirit's presence came,  
Heavenly breath of God's own being,  
Manifest through wind and flame.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,  
Of the sword that pierced her through,  
When beneath the cross of Jesus  
She his weight of suffering knew,  
Looked upon her Son and Saviour  
Reigning high on Calvary's tree,  
Saw the price of man's redemption  
Paid to set the sinner free.

Sing the chiefest joy of Mary  
When on earth her work was done,  
And the Lord of all creation  
Brought her to his heavenly home:  
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,  
Raised on high and crowned with grace,  
May your Son, the world's redeemer,  
Grant us all to see his face.

**Greeting:**

Ki te ingoa ✠ o te Matua, me te Tamaiti, me te Wairua Tapu. Amine.  
(In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.)

Grace and peace to you from God. **God fill you with truth and joy.**

Light the Advent candle, four:  
Think of joy forevermore;  
Christ child in a stable born,  
Gift of love that Christmas morn.

Candle, candle, burning bright,  
Shining in the warm Summer night;  
Candle, candle, burning bright,  
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

*The people are invited to call to mind their sins in silence.*

**Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done, and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

**Kyrie, eleison, Kyrie, eleison.  
Christe, eleison, Christe, eleison.  
Kyrie, eleison, Kyrie, eleison.**

Through the cross of Christ, ✠ God have mercy on you, pardon you, and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts.  
**The word of Christ dwell in us richly.**

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**First Reading:** *(sit)* 2 Samuel 7: 1–11, 16

Marla Hughes

Now when David the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle:** Magnificat

**R. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. For you, Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant, and from this day all generations will call me blessed. **R.**

You, O most mighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your name. You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation. **R.**

You have filled the hungry with good things, and the rich you have sent empty away. You have come to the help of your people, for you have remembered your promise of mercy. **R.**

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my Gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** (*stand*)

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.** Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

**The Lord bless you**

**Praise and Glory to God**

**Gospel:**                      Luke 1: 26–38

Deacon Simon Green

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of Christ. **Praise to Christ the Word.**

**Sermon:**                      Deacon Simon Green

### **Affirmation of Faith:**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became fully human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection ☩ of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Intercessions:** Rachel Watson

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord: **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**  
May they rest in peace and rise in glory. **Amen.**

**Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with you,  
blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

### **The Peace**

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

*At the Peace all may exchange a non physical greeting with those near them.*

E te whanau, we are the body of Christ.

**By one spirit we were baptised into one body.**

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace:

**Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.**

**Offertory:** Adrienne Curtis, Joy Coulter

### **The Preparation of the Gifts**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share  
in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become our spiritual drink. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Hark! A herald voice is calling:  
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;  
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heaven;  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes in glory,  
And earth's final hour draws near,  
May he then as our defender  
On the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,  
To the Father and the Son,  
With the co-eternal Spirit,  
While unending ages run. Amen.

Pray, sisters and brothers,  
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty One.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Sanctify these gifts of your Church, O Lord, and grant that through these venerable mysteries we may be nourished with the bread of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.  
Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son. For all the oracles of the prophets foretold him, the Virgin Mother longed for him with love beyond all telling, John the Baptist sang of his coming and proclaimed his presence when he came. It is by his gift that already we rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity, so that he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father. Send your Holy Spirit, that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

On the night before he died, your Son Jesus Christ took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them, and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Glory to you, Lord Christ: your death we show forth;  
your resurrection we proclaim; your coming we await.  
Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.**

Therefore, loving God, recalling your great goodness to us in Christ, his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ, our great high priest. United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,  
here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.**

As Christ teaches us we pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and for ever.  
Amen.

Kua ākona nei tātou e tō tātou Ariki,  
ka inoi tatou:  
**E tō mātou Matua i te rangi  
Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.  
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.  
Kia meatia tau e pai ai,  
ki runga ki te whenua,  
kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.  
Hōmai ki a mātou āianeī  
he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.  
Murua ō mātou hara,  
Me mātou hoki e muru nei  
i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.  
Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;  
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:  
Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,  
me te korōria,  
Āke ake ake. Āmine**



**Eucharistic Ministers:** Jack Barrie, Jane Evans

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.**

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Happy are we who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*For Communion, leave your seat by the side aisle and come down the central aisle. You are encouraged to use the hand sanitizer.*

**Carol:** The Angel Gabriel

arr. Edgar Pettman

**Advent Prose:** 501

**Refrain: Drop down, ye heavens, from  
above, and let the skies  
pour down righteousness.**

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord,  
neither remember iniquity forever:  
thy holy cities are a wilderness,  
Sion is a wilderness,  
Jerusalem a desolation:  
our holy and our beautiful house,  
where our fathers praised thee.  
**Refrain...**

We have sinned,  
and are as an unclean thing,  
and we all do fade as a leaf:  
and our iniquities, like the wind,  
have taken us away:  
thou hast hid thy face from us:  
and hast consumed us,  
because of our iniquities.  
**Refrain...**

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,  
and my servant whom I have chosen:  
that ye may know me and believe me:  
I, even I, am the Lord,  
and beside me there is no Saviour:  
and there is none that  
can deliver out of my hand.  
**Refrain...**

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,  
my salvation shall not tarry:  
I have blotted out as a thick cloud  
thy transgressions:  
Fear not, for I will save thee:  
For I am the Lord thy God,  
the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.  
**Refrain...**

**Prayer after Communion:**

Nourished by these divine gifts, almighty God, we ask you to grant our desire: that, aflame with your Spirit, we may shine like bright torches before your Christ when he comes. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Notices

### Blessing:

May God give us the courage to receive him; may we greet him with joy and carry him in our hearts to others.

May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Mass is ended. Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

**Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

**Final Hymn:** 186

Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of the Lord:  
Unnumbered blessings,  
give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of his word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of his name:  
Make known his might,  
the deeds his arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of his might:  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills  
are put to flight,  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul,  
The glories of his word:  
Firm his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul,  
the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and for evermore.

**Organ Voluntary:** Fugue on the Magnificat

JS Bach

**4.00 pm** Children's Crib Service

**11.00 pm** Carols

**11.30 pm** Midnight Mass

### EVENSONG

There is no Evensong during January.  
Services recommence on 4 February 2024 at 7.00pm

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

From  
1.30pm 21 December 2023

Reopens 8.30am 15 January 2024

**THIS WEEK****NOTICES**

**Inasmuch Basket**—please continue to support the work of the City Mission.

**NEXT WEEK**

**The First Sunday of Christmas  
(The Feast of the Holy Family)**

31 December 2023

**8:00 am Mass**      **Celebrant:** Fr Jordan Greatbatch      **Server:** Andrew Moorhouse  
**10:00 am Mass**      **Celebrant:** Fr Jordan Greatbatch

**Preacher:** Fr Jordan Greatbatch

**Servers:**      **SD:** Jack Barrie      **MC:** Michael Graveston  
**Th:** Thomas Visakan      **Cr:** Robert Calvert  
**Ac:** Liam Moore, Andrew Moorhouse

**First Reading:** Johann Williams      Isaiah 61: 10-11

**Second Reading:** Brenda Withell      Galatians 4: 4-7

**Gospel:** Deacon Simon Green      Luke 2 15-21

**Eucharist Ministers:** Jack Barrie, Andrew Moorhouse

**Sides people:** Jane Ellis, Joy Coulter

**Intercessions:** Robert Maclagan

**Offertory:** Joy Coulter, Mary Stevenson

**Morning Tea:** -

**Sacristan:** Joshua Wilson Black

**Sacristy:** Joy Coulter

**Livestream:** Jane Evans

**Flowers:** Toni Stewart

**Evensong Readers:** -

**Evensong Servers:** -

**Please pray for...**

**The Sick:**

Alastair Scott, Rita Libeau, Claire & John Preston, Lois Peters, Denis Coulter,  
 Betty Mechen, Suzanne Keys, Ghislaine Brewer-Quirke, Lesta Smithson, Peter Easterbrook.

Sr Annette, Anne Fenton, Kay Burgess, David & Sandra, Philip Souter, Ongloon Yee,  
 Deb Smith, Andrew Lawson, Anthony & Chrissie Coulter.

**Anniversaries:** (Mon) Amelia Seymour, Marcia Gray, Jessica Pasea, John Flavell—Priest  
 (Wed) Marie Ellis (Fri) Isabel Tuck

**Pastoral Care Team**

Gloria Moyle:—Coordinator      0274355347

Carol Fraser:	021332068	Pat Pilkington:	021356116
Barbara Moreton:	021940890	Simon Green:	0276421987
Vince Moreton:	021611867	Pip Judge:	0220446026

**The Anglican Parish of  
St Michael and All Angels  
Christchurch**

**This Sunday      The Fourth Sunday of Advent - 24 December 2023**

8.00 am	Low Mass
10.00 am	Solemn Mass
4.00 pm	Children's Crib Service
11.00 pm	Carols
11.30 pm	Midnight Mass

**Monday              The Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

8.00 am	Low Mass
10.00 am	Solemn Mass

**Tuesday            St Stephen**

**Wednesday        St John the Evangelist**

**Thursday            Holy Innocents**

**Friday                Thomas of Canterbury**

**Saturday             Josephine Butler**

**Next Sunday        The First Sunday of Christmas  
(The Feast of the Holy Family) —31 December 2023**

8.00 am	Low Mass
10.00 am	Solemn Mass

**NO DAILY MASSES THIS WEEK**

**Contacts**

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