

Monday-Saturday, 19th —24th December, 2022

Year A—4th Week of Advent

MONDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: He who is to come will come and will not delay, and now there will be no fear within our land, for he is our Saviour.

READING: Jgs 13:2-7. 24-25

A reading from the book of Judges.

There was a man of Zorah of the tribe of Dan, called Manoah. His wife was barren, she had borne no children. The angel of the Lord appeared to this woman and said to her, 'You are barren and have had no child. But from now on take great care. Take no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean. For you will conceive and bear a son. No razor is to touch his head, for the boy shall be God's nazirite from his mother's womb. It is he who will begin to rescue Israel from the power of the Philistines.' Then the woman went and told her husband, 'A man of God has just come to me; his presence was like the presence of the angel of God, he was so majestic. I did not ask him where he came from, and he did not reveal his name to me. But he said to me, "You will conceive and bear a son. From now on, take no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean. For the boy shall be God's nazirite from his mother's womb to his dying day."'

The woman gave birth to a son and called him Samson. The child grew, and the Lord blessed him; and the spirit of the Lord began to move him.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Fill me with your praise and I will sing your glory.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Flower of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: save us without delay! Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Lk 1:5-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

In the days of King Herod of Judaea there lived a priest called Zechariah who belonged to the Abijah section of the priesthood, and he had a wife, Elizabeth by name, who was a descendant of Aaron. Both were worthy in the sight of God, and scrupulously observed all the commandments and observances of the Lord. But they were childless: Elizabeth was barren and they were both getting on in years.

Now it was the turn of Zechariah's section to serve, and he was exercising his priestly office before God when it fell to him by lot, as the ritual custom was, to

enter the Lord's sanctuary and burn incense there. And at the hour of incense the whole congregation was outside, praying.

Then there appeared to him the angel of the Lord, standing on the right of the altar of incense. The sight disturbed Zechariah and he was overcome with fear. But the angel said to him, 'Zechariah, do not be afraid, your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth is to bear you a son and you must name him John. He will be your joy and delight and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord; he must drink no wine, no strong drink. Even from his mother's womb he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, and he will bring back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God. With the Spirit and power of Elijah, he will go before him to turn the hearts of fathers towards their children and the disobedient back to the wisdom that the virtuous have, preparing for the Lord a people fit for him.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel who stand in God's presence, and I have been sent to speak to you and bring you this good news. Listen! Since you have not believed my words, which will come true at their appointed time, you will be silenced and have no power of speech until this has happened.' Meanwhile the people were waiting from Zechariah and were surprised that he stayed in the sanctuary so long. When he came out he could not speak to them, and they realised that he had received a vision in the sanctuary. But he could only make signs to them, and remained dumb.

When his time of service came to an end he returned home. Some time later his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept to herself. 'The Lord has done this for me,' she said 'now that it has pleased him to take away the humiliation I suffered among men.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Dawn from on high will visit us, guiding our feet in the way of peace.

TUESDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: A branch shall sprout from the root of Jesse, and the glory of the Lord will fill the whole earth, and all flesh will see the salvation of God.

READING: Is 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men

without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,

will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Immanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: **Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Come, Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal kingdom: free the prisoners of darkness! Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *Lk 1:26-38*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

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 kinswoman 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.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **The Angel said to Mary: Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.**

WEDNESDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: **The Lord and Ruler will be coming soon, and his name will be called Emmanuel, because he will be God-with-us.**

READING: *Sg 2:8-14*

A reading from the Song of Songs

I hear my Beloved.

See how he comes

leaping on the mountains,

bounding over the hills.

My Beloved is like a gazelle,

like a young stag.

See where he stands

behind our wall.

He looks in at the window,

he peers through the lattice.

My Beloved lifts up his voice,

he says to me,

'Come then, my love,

my lovely one, come.

For see, winter is past,

the rains are over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth.

The season of glad songs has come,

the cooing of the turtledove is heard

in our land.

The fig tree is forming its first figs

and the blossoming vines give out their fragrance.

Come, then, my love,

my lovely one, come.

My dove, hiding in the clefts of the rock,

in the coverts of the cliff,

show me your face,

let me hear your voice;

for your voice is sweet

and your face is beautiful.'

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: **Cry out with joy in the Lord, you holy ones; sing a new song to him.**

ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Come, Emmanuel, God's presence among us, our King, our Judge: save us, Lord our God! Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *Lk 1:39-45*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **Blessed are you who have believed, that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.**

THURSDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT
Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: **O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory.**

READING: 1 Sm 1:24-28

A reading from the first book of Samuel

When Hannah had weaned Samuel, she took him up with her together with a three-year old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.' There she left him, for the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: **My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour.**

ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Come, King of all nations, source of your Church's unity and faith: save all people, your own creation! Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *Lk 1:46-56*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.

'He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart.

He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.

He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy

– according to the promise he made to our ancestors –

of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, for the Almighty has done great things for me.**

FRIDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT
Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: **A child shall be born for us, and he will be called God, the Almighty; every tribe of the earth shall be blest in him.**

READING: Mal 3:1-4. 23-24

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

Know that I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before my day comes, that great and terrible day. He shall turn the hearts of fathers towards their children and the hearts of the children towards their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a curse.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: **Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.**

ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Come, King of all nations, source of your Church's unity and faith: save all people, your own creation! Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *Lk 1:57-66*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The time came for Elizabeth to have her child, and she gave birth to a son; and when her neighbours and relations heard that the Lord had shown her so great a kindness, they shared her joy.

Now on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother spoke up, 'No,' she said, 'he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'But no one in your family has that name,' and made signs to his father to find out what he wanted him called.

The father asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And they were all astonished. At that instant his power of speech returned and he spoke and praised God. All their neighbours were filled with awe and the whole affair was talked about throughout the hill country of Judaea. All those who heard of it treasured it in their hearts. 'What will this child turn out to be?' they wondered. And indeed the hand of the Lord was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.**

SATURDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT
Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: **Behold, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son into the world.**

READING: *2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16.*

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 a 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.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: **For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Come, Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice; shine on those lost in the darkness of death! Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *Lk 1:67-79*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

'Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
for he has visited his people, he has come to
their rescue

and he has raised up for us a power for
salvation

in the House of his servant David,
even as he proclaimed,

by the mouth of his holy prophets from ancient
times,

that he would save us from our enemies

and from the hands of all who hate us.
Thus he shows mercy to our ancestors,
thus he remembers his holy covenant,
the oath he swore
to our father Abraham
that he would grant us, free from fear,
to be delivered from the hands of our enemies,
to serve him in holiness and virtue
in his presence, all our days.

And you, little child,
you shall be called Prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord
to prepare the way for him.
To give his people knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins;
this by the tender mercy of our God
who from on high will bring the rising Sun to
visit us,
to give light to those who live
in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet
into the way of peace.'

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel! He has visited his people and redeemed them.**

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2022—ST KEVIN'S

Christmas Midnight Mass, Saturday 24th December 2022:

11.00 pm: Carols
11.30 pm: Christmas Midnight Mass
Reader: Caroline Gojak

Christmas Day, Sunday, 25th December 2022

10.30 am: Christmas Day Mass
Reader: Veronica Delafosse

**NO 6.00PM MASS ON SATURDAY,
24TH DECEMBER.**

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2022—ST PATRICK'S

Christmas Eve Vigil, Saturday 24th December 2022:

6.00 pm: Carols
6.30 pm: Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
Readers: Teresa and Patrick Leech

Christmas Day, Sunday, 25th December 2022

9.00 am: Christmas Day Mass
Reader: Marianne Somerville

NO 5.00 PM MASS ON SUN, 25TH DECEMBER.