

Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity and honour through devotedness.'
Arise Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.
Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you like royal prizes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
And the forest and every fragrant tree will provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Psalm response:

What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Phil. 1: 3-6. 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good

work in you will see to it that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness that Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!*

Luke 3: 1-6

It was the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Iturea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went though the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.



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Parish Priest Fr. John O'Donnell

Sunday 9th. December 2018
Second Sunday of Advent
Eucharistic Prayer 3
Psalter Week 2 - Weekday Series 1

SAT. 8th.	6.00 pm. St. Mary's C of E Parish Church Horncastle	Mass	Private Intention
SUN. 9th.	10.00 am.	Mass	People of the Parish
MON. 10th.	St. Francis Xavier 10.00 am.	Mass	Deceased Relatives/Friends
TUES. 11th.	Advent Feria 10.00 am.	Funeral Mass	Elizabeth Carraher RIP
THURS. 13th.	St. Lucy 7.00 pm.	Mass	Norah & Vincent Conroy RIP
FRI. 14th.	St. John of the Cross 10.00am. <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	Mass	Deceased Relatives/Friends
SAT. 15th.	Advent Feria 10.00 am.	Mass	Pauline Bell RIP

Sunday 16th. December Third Sunday of Advent			
SAT. 15th.	6.00pm. St. Mary's C of E Parish Church, H/castle	Mass	People of the Parish
SUN. 16th.	10.00 am.	Mass	Private Intention

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Woodhall Spa - Sat. 10.30 am. - 11.00 am.
Horncastle Sat. 5.30 pm. - 5.50 pm.
or on request.

Baptism : By arrangement with the priest.
Marriage: Six months notice - at least.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Anna Neikel, Norah Bish and those whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

Please pray for the soul of Elizabeth Carraher whose funeral Mass will be on this coming Tuesday morning. Elizabeth lived in our parish, but was unable to attend Mass. May she rest in peace.

Finance:

Envelopes: £248.30 Loose: £184.55 Standing orders: £78.92
Total: £511.77 Thank you.

Collection for Poor and Needy parishes on leaving Mass on weekend of 16th December.

Diocesan year books on sale at the back of the church - £3.50

Lincs. Churches Trust desk calendars for sale - our church is featured for the month of August. One is on display at the back of the church - cost £7.00 incl. postage, please put your name on the list by the calendar if you would like one.

The Banovallum choir concert raised £300. Many thanks to the donors of cakes – the news is that the choir enjoy coming here for that very reason – the quality of the baking! But high honours go to the kitchen staff in dealing with hundreds of delf items requiring washing-up.

Ecumenical prayer breakfast at the 'Old Stables', Horncastle on Saturday 15th December 9-10am. All welcome.

ST HUGH'S CHURCH, LINCOLN - 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Bishop Patrick will celebrate the 10am Mass on **Sunday, 16th December**. There will be refreshments in the church hall after Mass, and then at 4pm you are invited to join Fr Matthew, former priests and seminarians of St Hugh's for Vespers.

Churches Without Walls"

Centering Prayer & Contemplative Meditation: Open to All

We will meet from 7.00pm till 9.00pm on **Tuesday 4th. Dec. only** then **Tues. 22nd. Jan.** thereafter every 1st & 4th (**not 5th**) Tuesday of each month, at the **Lions Den, 26A, Silver Street, Coningsby, LN4 4SG. Free parking** available in Silver Street Car Park. Coming out onto Silver Street, driveway entrance to Lions Den bungalow is across the road, between Ginger Cow Coffee Shop and Doctor's Surgery.

"Come and see!" (Jn 1:39,46;4:29)

"Churches Without Walls" : Programme.

We are exploring "Centering Prayer", "Lectio Divina", and "The Cloud of Unknowing", in relation to each other, leading into a **silent** session of "Contemplative Prayer".

"Intercessory Prayer" may be offered, **on request**.

Deacon James' email: james.hunter200@btinternet.com

Catholic paper snippets:

- Cardinal Burke has said that cardinals do not know each other well enough to be

able to vote at the next conclave and so has suggested regular meetings be held. *The Catholic Herald (26/10)*

- As reported on more than one occasion previously, violence against Christians has significantly increased in Nigeria in recent years, with Boko Haram in particular being active. The latest happening has been the kidnapping of five religious sisters having initially been shot at as they returned from a funeral. Five priests were also abducted earlier in the year. *The Catholic Times (2/11)*
- Federal officials sought entry to two properties belonging to the Diocese of Brownville, Texas seeking to survey the land for construction of a border wall on it. Bishop Daniel Flores said he did not give consent to such use because such a structure 'would limit freedom of the Church to exercise her mission to the Rio Grande Valley.' *The Catholic Times (2/11)*
- Just days after the canonisation of Archbishop Oscar Romero, a judge in El Salvador issued a capture order of a former military captain suspected of killing the prelate in 1980. The man is believed to be in hiding. *All the papers (2/11)*
- African bishops have cautioned churchgoers against a false 'gospel of prosperity' that is taking hold within Pentecostal and charismatic evangelical movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America where poverty is widespread. 'People seeking quick solutions are being hypnotised into believing a single prayer will bring riches and the good life,' said Fr. Paul Sandi, secretary-general of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Gambia and Sierra Leone. The prosperity Gospel is promoted by suggesting God rewards financial donations to a Church. Many of the preachers associated with such a gospel are listed by 'Forbes Magazine' as being among Africa's richest residents. *All the papers (2/11)*
- China has torn down two shrines dedicated to Our Lady just weeks after the Holy See signed an agreement with the country over the long-disputed issue of appointing bishops. With one shrine, the reason given was 'too many crosses and holy paintings,' with the authorities saying the other lacked the proper building permits. Despite the historic agreement, Beijing seems bent on pursuing its long campaign of 'sinicisation.' Anything that hints of a different culture is seen with suspicion and only tolerated up to a certain point. *The Catholic Herald (2/11)*

Thought for the week:

Love is both who you are and who you are still becoming, like a sunflower seed that becomes its own sunflower.

Richard Rohr OFM