

PARISH OF MILFORD
St Paul's-by-the-Sea, Milford
Sunday 15th December Third Sunday in Advent

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Sentence - Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. Matthew 11:11

Collect - Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love on our journey to meet the One who is coming: strengthen our weak hands, make firm our feeble knees, and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom, so that our hearts may rejoice as we behold the majesty of our God. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

8.00am - Advent Liturgy

9.30am - Advent Liturgy

Introit - 597 God, whose almighty word

Gradual - 505 His eyes will guide my footsteps

Offertory - 384 My song is love unknown

Dismissal - 55 O for a thousand tongues to sing

Readings for today Sunday 15th December
Third Sunday in Advent

1st Reading - Isaiah 35: 1-10

Epistle - James 5: 7-10

Gospel - Matthew 11: 2-11

Readers - To be advised

Readers - Megan Bowden and Chris Maud

Isaiah 35: 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5: 7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient.

Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged.

See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 11: 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

We remember in our prayers - Lorna, Lyn, Tommy, Shobha, Bob, Jessica, Dennis, Pat, Hazel, Robert, Shelley, Cynthia, Hilda, John, Logan, Kelvin, Bob and Gabriel, and Gail. And residents and parishioners in Stanley Avenue, Stratford Avenue, Sudan Avenue, Sylvan Park Avenue.

This Week

Tuesday 17th December - 9.30am Selwyn Centre. Final meeting for the year. We will resume on Tuesday 4th February.

Wednesday 18th December - Mid week Holy Communion 10.00am. Followed by morning tea. This will be the final midweek service for 2019. We will resume again on Wednesday 5th February.

Thursday - Mainly Music in recess until Thursday 13th February.

Sunday 22nd December Nine Lessons and Carols - There will be only **ONE** service this Sunday at 9.30am.

Children's Christmas gifts for ATWC - We will be taking the Christmas gifts to Anglican Trust for Women and Children tomorrow the 16th December. Please do not wrap your gifts. Christmas paper is very acceptable.

Readings for next Sunday 22nd December

Fourth Sunday in Advent Nine Lessons and Carols
Only one service today 9.30am

COME & JOIN US
St Paul's Anglican Church, 10 Otakau Road Milford

Sunday 22nd December 9.30am
Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December
5.00pm Christingle Children's service for the whole family
11.00pm Carols, Candles and Communion

Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Holy Communion



Vicar Rev. Grant Robertson • PH. 486 1010