

**ARCH Group's aim: "To show our love for God and You"**



**Weekly Notices**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**



**Today's Collect**

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Today's Post Communion Prayer**

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Next Week's Services**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024: Christmas Eve**

4.00 pm	Church Lench	Carol and Crib Service
6.00 pm	Harvington	Carol and Crib Service
9.00 pm	Abbots Morton	Christmas Communion+
11.30 pm	Harvington	Midnight Communion+

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024: Christmas Day**

9.30 am	Harvington	Christmas Communion+
11.00 am	Church Lench	Christmas Communion+

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

10.00 am	Harvington	Benefice Communion+
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## **For Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray today that we may know in our lives the quality of peace that Mary knew as she accepted God's will. May we also rest serene in the knowledge that God has a plan for us and is guiding our lives.

**Our souls rejoice in you, O Lord, and we seek your peace in our hearts.**

Father, may your house be a haven of peace for those who struggle at this season; for those who slip in at quiet times when the carols are silent, because they long for the blessing of peace without the jollity; for those who lack the energy to rejoice because of bereavement or illness, but who desperately seek peace to still their souls and renew their strength.

**Our souls rejoice in you, O Lord, and we seek your peace in our hearts.**

Lord of all, we pray that all members of our community will feel included and involved in the events of this season; may the peace of the Christ-child enfold our neighbourhood and our town/village/city. And we pray for peace in a world where so many wars and conflicts continue; may the warmongers fail, and the peacemakers prevail.

**Our souls rejoice in you, O Lord, and we seek your peace in our hearts.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for peace among people who may not get along with the company they are obliged to keep at Christmas. We pray for the peacekeepers, those who work hard to maintain the façade of family peace when it may be lacking. Father, please heal all divisions and let true peace be known among families and friends gathered round the table.

As we ponder these thoughts, we pray for all who will be alone this Christmas, in a society in which extended families are fewer, and relationship breakdowns more numerous. May they know that you are with them and find peace in the knowledge of your presence.

**Our souls rejoice in you, O Lord, and we seek your peace in our hearts.**

Finally, Lord, we rejoice with Mary in the unfolding of your will for her, and for the world, in the birth of Jesus Christ. May we all know the peace of that moment when your love became flesh on earth, for every year we can replay the miracle in our hearts and minds. Come to us again in this season of hustle and bustle; revisit us with the true meaning of Christmas, so we may know your peace, the peace that surpasses all understanding.

**Our souls rejoice in you, O Lord, and we seek your peace in our hearts.**

**Amen**

## **This Week's First Reading: *Micah 5:2-5a***

The LORD says to his people: <sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

## **This Week's Cantic: *Magnificat***

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.
- 4 He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
- 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
- 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy,

## *Magnificat continued*

8 The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever.

### **This Week's Second Reading: *Hebrews 10:5-10***

<sup>5</sup>When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' <sup>8</sup>When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

### **This Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 1:39-45***

<sup>39</sup>Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that

## *Luke 1:29-45 continued*

there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

## **Next Week's First Reading: *1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26***

<sup>18</sup>Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod.

<sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

<sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD'; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup>Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and with the people.

## **Next Week's Psalm: *Psalms 148:7-14***

7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

8 Fire and hail, snow and mist, tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;

9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

10 Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing;

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

12 Young men and women, old and young together; let them praise the name of the Lord.

13 For his name only is exalted, his splendour above earth and heaven.

14 He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

## **Next Week's Second Reading: *Colossians 3:12-17***

<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## **Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:41-52***

<sup>41</sup>Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' <sup>49</sup>He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.