

# St Mary of Charity

## Part of the Benefice of Faversham

### Fourth Sunday in Advent

## 22 December 2019

Welcome to the beautiful church of St Mary of Charity. Please do stay for a drink and fellowship. If you are here for the first time, please make yourself known to one of the clergy.

For our prayers:

- the St Mary of Charity clergy team and lay ministry and all whose ministry is in Faversham and the Ospringe Deanery;
- those affected by 'natural disasters' and extreme weather in the world;
- refugees throughout the world;
- the bereaved;
- those elected to represent us in local councils or parliament;
- those who work in disaster relief;
- those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire;
- those who are homeless or vulnerably housed;
- those who are experiencing financial hardship;
- those who work for the emergency services;
- those who volunteer their time to help others;
- those who are receiving medical treatment;
- the people of Syria, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan; and
- all who live in fear of violence and aggression.

**9 am Eucharist (BCP)**  
10.30 am Parish Eucharist  
6 pm A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

### Readings:

**Isaiah 7:10-16**  
**James 5:7-10**  
**Matthew 1:18-25**

### COLLECT:

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming  
as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

### Next Sunday:

**First Sunday in Christmas**  
**(Service at St Peter & St Paul,**  
**Ospringe)**



## ***Old Testament***

Isaiah 7:10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Here ends the Lesson.

## ***Epistle***

James 5:7-10

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ we have received grace

and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Reading***

Matthew 1:18-25

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Saint Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him

Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’  
All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken  
by the Lord through the prophet:

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,  
which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph  
awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the  
Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,  
but had no marital relations with her until she  
had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**



**Notices for Monthly Notice Sheet to Catriona by  
Friday, 20 December, very latest!**

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