

St Mary of Charity Parish Church Faversham

Fourth in Advent

23 December 2018

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 Benefice of Faversham clergy team and lay ministry and all whose ministry is in Faversham and the Ospringe Deanery;
- all visitors to our church and town;
- those affected by 'natural disasters' and extreme weather in the world;
- those affected by political unrest;
- those who strive for reconciliation;
- the bereaved;
- those who work in disaster relief;
- those affected by the Lockerbie disaster 30 years ago;
- 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 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:
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

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 in Christmas
(Joint Benefice Service at St
Catherine's, Preston-next-
Faversham)
Colossians 3:1-12
Luke 2:41-52



Epistle

Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,
‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

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).’

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), then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. 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 is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-45

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And

why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

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

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.





St Mary of Charity (along with the rest of The Benefice of Faversham) will be using the *#FollowTheStar* books from Christmas Eve until the end of Epiphany. Please see notices at the back of the church for further information. **Please do take a book/pass a book to someone you feel could benefit and join us at 7.30 pm on 8 January 2019 for an informal *#FollowTheStar* meeting** (details at the back of the church).

On behalf of the PCC, I would like to thank everyone for their donations to this church over the past twelve months.

Those of you who are still deliberating over the recent stewardship campaign, I am still accepting response forms.

Please contact me if you wish to join the Planned Giving scheme or have any queries about donating.

Finally I wish everyone a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year

Brian Wimlett, Gift Aid Secretary

**Notices for Monthly Notice Sheet to Catriona by
Friday, 21 December latest!**

01795 530553

admin@stmaryofcharity.org

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