

St Mary of Charity Parish Church Faversham

Third Sunday in Advent 17 December 2017

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 the natural disasters in the world;
- the Rohingya seeking safety;
- those who work in disaster relief;
- those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire;
- those who are experiencing financial hardship;
- those who are homeless or vulnerably housed;
- those who work for the emergency services;
- those who are receiving medical treatment;
- those who volunteer their time for the good of others;
- the people of Syria, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan; and
- all who live in fear of violence and aggression.

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

Readings:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

COLLECT:

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards
of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and
make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient
to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people
in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Next Sunday:
**Fourth in Advent/
Christmas Eve**
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38



Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

My brothers and sisters, Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they

said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

**Come and Sing Carols
at Faversham Cottage Hospital
on Tuesday, 19 December at 2pm
in the Dayroom**

Carol Sheets will be provided.

This short Carol Service is being conducted by St Mary of Charity, Faversham Parish Church.

Any queries to Ros Parrett 01795 530380



Thank you!


Everyone who helped with the
St Mary of Charity
Christmas Craft Fayre
on 9 December.

The amount raised so far is just over £1,000



Christian Aid Christmas Cards

Wish your brothers and sisters in the church a merry Christmas by putting a card on the screen at the back of the nave and donating the equivalent card/postage money to Christian Aid! Donation envelopes and Velcro coins (to stick your card up) are at the back of the church on the marked blue screen.



Thank you to everyone who gave their time
(and greenery) to decorate the church
yesterday.

You have made our lovely building a delight
for the senses and an especial treat for
visitors.

An especially big thank you to Val Tyler
for organising all the behind-the-scenes
essentials and being the calm voice of
encouragement for everyone, along with her
Top Team (you know who you are!).

The Vicar and Churchwardens would also like to
thank those involved in collecting, erecting and
decorating the tree (with thanks too to M & J
Supplies for the use of their truck!)

**Thank you to everyone who organised, set up, cooked,
served, cleared, tidied away and helped *in any way* with the
St Mary of Charity parish lunches over the past year; your
hard work has had consistently excellent results and is
much appreciated.**



**St Mary of Charity special services and events
for Advent and Christmas 2017**

**Sunday morning services follow the usual pattern unless
indicated otherwise**

Sunday, 17 December 2017

6 pm A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Monday, 18 December 2017

All Day - Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Christmas
Services

Wednesday, 20 December 2017

9 am Ethelbert Road School Christmas Service

1.30 pm St Mary of Charity Primary School Christmas Service

Sunday, 24 December 2017

5 pm Crib Service

11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Monday, 25 December 2017 - Christmas Day

10.30 am Family Eucharist (no 9 am service)

Sunday, 31 December 2017

10 am Benefice Family Eucharist only (no 9 am service) *at
Davington*

**There is no Wednesday Eucharist on
27 December 2017 or 3 January 2018**

**Churches Together in Faversham need
stewards for Carols in the Marketplace on
Saturday, 23 December.**

Last year around 2,000 people attended and marshals are needed to hand out carol sheets, direct people and ensure everything goes smoothly and *safely*. Each church has been asked to provide two volunteers. CTiF can provide quite a few Hi-Vis vests but if people have access to their own that is even better!

**If you're happy to do this, please let Catriona
know as soon as possible!**

Advent Reflections

Rev Sharran Ireland and Rev Simon Young
7.30 pm, on Monday 18 December

At St Mary Magdalene
with St Lawrence, Davington



Notices to Catriona by noon Wednesday, latest!

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The Coming Week at St Mary of Charity, Faversham

Monday, 18 December 2017

All Day Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Carol Services
 7.30 pm Advent Reflection at St Mary Magdalene with St Lawrence,
 Davington

Wednesday, 20 December 2017

8.15 am Deanery Chapter
 9 am Ethelbert Road School Carol Concert
 10.30 am Eucharist (BCP)
 1.30 pm St Mary of Charity Primary School Carol Service

Friday, 22 December 2017

10.30 am Prayer in the Trinity Chapel

Saturday, 23 December 2017

8-9 am Early Morning Prayer
 10 am-noon Church Cafe
 7 pm Carols in the Market Place

Sunday, 24 December 2017; Fourth in Advent/Christmas Eve

9 am Eucharist (BCP)
 10.30 am Parish Eucharist (CW)
 5 pm Crib Service
 11.30 pm Midnight Mass



The St Mary of Charity usual monthly pattern of services:

First Sunday	9 am	Eucharist (CW with hymns)	10.30 am	All Age Worship <i>Family-friendly service</i>	6 pm	Choral Evensong
Second Sunday	9 am	Eucharist (BCP said)	10.30 am	Parish Eucharist		
Third Sunday	9 am	Matins	10.30 am	Family Eucharist <i>Family-friendly service</i>		
Fourth Sunday	9 am	Eucharist (BCP said)	10.30 am	Parish Eucharist		
Fifth Sunday (if applicable)	NO EARLY SERVICE AT ANY BENEFICE CHURCH		10 am	Benefice Eucharist CW <i>Please check for details on which church this will be held at</i>		