



**St Mary's Church, Putney**  
**Sunday 23rd December**

**This week at St Mary's**

<b>Tuesday, 9.30pm</b>	Breathing Space ( <i>last session of 2018, resuming 8th Jan</i> )
<b>Wednesday, 12.30pm</b>	Parish Advent lunchtime Eucharist
<b>Monday, 24th Dec, 4pm</b>	Crib Service
<b>Monday, 24th Dec, 11.30pm</b>	Midnight Mass
<b>Tuesday, 25th Dec, 10am</b>	Christmas Day service
<b>Wednesday, 26th Dec</b>	<b><i>No Lunchtime Eucharist</i></b>
<b>Sunday, 30th Dec, 10am</b>	Parish Eucharist ( <b><i>no Caritas at 6pm</i></b> )
<b>Wednesday, 2nd Jan</b>	<b><i>No Lunchtime Eucharist</i></b>

A very warm welcome if you are here for the first time.

To stay in touch, please approach one of the welcomers who will take your details.

**4th Sunday of Advent**

**"Quiet Christmas" Caritas**

**Celebrant and Preacher Revd John Whittaker**

**Introit Hymn (O700)**

1. Unto us a boy is born!  
King of all creation:  
came he to a world forlorn,  
the Lord of ev'ry nation,  
the Lord of ev'ry nation.
2. Cradled in a stall was he,  
watched by cows and asses;  
but the very beasts could see  
that he the world surpasses,  
that he the world surpasses.
3. Then the fearful Herod cried,  
'Pow'r is mine in Jewry!'  
So the blameless children died  
the victims of his fury,  
the victims of his fury.
4. Now may Mary's Son, who came  
long ago to love us,  
lead us all with hearts aflame  
unto the joys above us,  
unto the joys above us.
5. Omega and Alpha he!  
Let the organ thunder,  
while the choir with peals of glee  
shall rend the air asunder,  
shall rend the air asunder.

## The Collect

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## First Reading

(Colossians 1:15-20)

A reading from St Pauls' letter to the Colossians:

St Paul wrote: "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. "

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## Gradual Hymn (CP242)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drift-ed snow, his eyes as flame.  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maid-en,  
Mary, most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

'For known a blessèd Mother thou shalt be.  
All generations laud and honour thee,  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.  
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said.  
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.'  
Most highly favoured lady! Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
'Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

## **The Gospel Reading**

(John 1: 1-14)

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the gospel of the Lord

### **Offertory Hymn** (CP238)

*(During which the collection will be taken. If you are a visitor or new to the church it increases your donation by over 25% if you put it in a completed gift aid envelope. Regular members of the congregation in planned giving may use one of the small laminated cards to indicate this).*

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| 1. For Mary, Mother of our Lord,<br>God's holy name be praised,<br>who first the Son of God adored,<br>as on her child she gazed.    | 3. Dear Mary, from your lowliness<br>and home in Galilee<br>there comes a joy and holiness<br>to ev'ry family.                           |
| 2. The angel Gabriel brought the word<br>she should Christ's mother be;<br>Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,<br>made answer willingly. | 4. Brave, Mary, you are full of grace,<br>above all women blest;<br>and blest your Son, whom you embrace<br>in birth and death confessed |

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## Final Hymn (O641)

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds  
in fields as they lay:  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

### **Chorus**

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night:

This star drew nigh to the north-west,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence,  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
who with the Father we adore  
and Spirit blest for evermore.

**The church office will be closed from Friday 21st December reopening Thursday 3rd January. Please contact Revd John to speak to clergy.**