

Time to Reflect

So here's a test; if I start "Blessed are you among women" can you finish the rest of the line? For those who can (and those who point out that this text has already started and I've missed a bit out) the likelihood is that either you were brought up and/or educated in Roman Catholic circles or you have been exposed to a generous, broad, 'catholic' Christianity. If you don't know what I am talking about or if you find your hackles rising, then either your Christian education was at the more Protestant end of things or you have somehow become resistant to all things "Mary".

Today we hear the encounter between Mary and her cousin Elizabeth. Like the early bits of Luke, what we hear is women talking. And what we listen into more specifically is women exploring God's involvement in their lives. And what we even more specifically hear is Elizabeth recognising that her younger relation is different, is special because the child she is carrying is different and special. 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb'.

The Christian spiritual tradition around Mary flows not from Mary but from Elizabeth. Why that should make some hostile to Mary is anyone's guess. Like Elizabeth, we also ought to honour the place that Mary carries for carrying Jesus. God's choice was not random. In a church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, Elizabeth's prayer ought to be simply part of our spiritual armoury too. We ask Mary to pray for us, that we too might carry Jesus in our hearts.

Worship and Activities this week

Today 2.00pm Concert Artur Kojder
6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve

Mon 9.30am Morning Prayer
3.30pm Christingle and Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Christmas Eucharist

Christmas Day

Tues 8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Family Christmas Day Eucharist
Wed 11.00am Holy Communion: St Stephen
Thurs 12.45pm Holy Communion: St John
Fri 11.00am Holy Communion: Holy Innocent
Sat 2.30pm Afternoon Tea in the Rectory

Next Week: Christmas 1 30th December

8.00am Said Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Eucharist
6.30pm Said Evening Prayer

A prayer for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus Christ.

Hail Mary, full of grace.

Our Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Hail Mary is based on these passages from the Bible: Luke 1:28-35, 42-48.

Baptisms, Blessings, Weddings.

Speak to any of the clergy after the service. They will be at the back of church. Spot the dog collar! Our monthly Parish Magazine has a full list of contact details for clergy and organisations on the inside of the back page. For inclusion on the weekly pew sheet: please email: bpc.office@tiscali.co.uk by Wednesday.

Advent 4

23rd December 2018
www.buryparishchurch.com



We welcome you and hope you enjoy being with us. If you're not familiar with our services, don't worry. We follow a written order of service and at times will tell you which page we're on.

We also welcome children in church. If your child gets restive in church, don't be afraid to get up and move around if this helps. There is a toilet at the back of church. There is a children's area at the back of Church.

8.00am Said Holy Communion

President: Rhiannon Jones, Assoc Rtr

10.00am Parish Eucharist & Nativity

President: Julian Heaton, Rector

Hymns: 61vv1,2&6; 240; 52; 38; 362

Motets: Elizabeth Poston :

Jesus Christ the apple tree

Sergei Rachmaninoff :

Bororoditse Devo

6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Minister : Julian Heaton, Rector

Preaching : Julian Heaton, Rector

There is a published Order of Service

The church and coffee shop will be closed until Wednesday, 2nd January.

The church is open for services.

CORNERSTONE

Serving Bury, deepening our faith, caring for the marginalised, sharing the Good News of Jesus.

Today's Readings

The 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.**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

(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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke *(Luke 1.39-45)*

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 leaped 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 leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Christmas Day Lunch

Tuesday, 25 December at 1.30pm

If you or someone you know would enjoy some company on Christmas Day, please join us for a Christmas meal in the Parish Hall. Contact : 07855 306074. Transport is available.

Afternoon Tea at the Rectory

Jackie and Julian invite you to the Rectory on Saturday 29 December from 2.30pm. Come when you can, go when you must. Chance to chat, to eat and drink and catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Please let us know: 0161 764 2452 or julian.heaton_1@outlook.com



Advent 4

People of God: prepare!

God, above all, maker of all, is one with us in Christ. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God, the mighty God,
bends down in love to earth.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God with us, God beside us,
comes soon to the world he has made.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

We are God's children, we seek the coming Christ.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!



The Archbishops of Canterbury and York invite you to sign up for daily emails to take the life-changing Christmas journey. Sign up here; www.churchofengland.org/followthestar

Parish Magazine

Marc is the new editor of our Parish Magazine. Please email your contributions to : marcm1969@gmail.com by Sunday, 13th January 2019

Please note that the Magazine material will need to be in by the **second Sunday** of each month. This is different! We will need to be organised!

