



St. David's Parish
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,
Holywell. CH8 8PE



DECEMBER 24, 2023,

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"For when peaceful stillness encompassed everything and the night in its swift course was half spent, Your all-powerful word from heaven's royal throne leapt into the doomed land" (WISDOM 18:14-15)

Mass Timings

Saturday Vigil Mass 4.00 Pm
Sunday Mass 10.00am
Weekdays 9.00 am In Denbigh House

READINGS

1st Reading 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Reading 2 Rom 16:25-27

GOSPEL Lk 1:26-38

INTRODUCTION: Today's readings focus on the circumstances leading up to the first coming of Jesus, which sets the pattern for his coming to us now and at the end of time. **First reading (2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16) explained:** The historical background: Moses had led God's people in their escape from Egypt around the year 1250 B.C. Joshua led them on an invasion of Palestine around 1220. Judges ruled them from 1200 to 1025. The last Judge, Samuel, anointed for them their first King, Saul, around 1030. David succeeded Saul in 1010. David's first step was to capture Jerusalem from the Jebusites and make it the political capital of his kingdom. Once David had completed the building of his palace, he wanted a more beautiful house to accommodate the *Ark*

of the Covenant representing God's presence in the midst of His chosen people. Though the prophet Nathan initially accepted David's plan, as we heard in the first reading, he eventually returned to inform the king that Yahweh was more concerned with turning David's family into "My House" than with residing in a "house" Himself. In other words, God's presence in families is more important than is His presence in buildings. **Second Reading, (Romans 16:25-27) explained:** Since St. Paul had not founded the Church of Rome nor visited it earlier, his letter to the Romans was a kind of introduction of himself to the Christians in Rome and a partial synthesis of his theology.

The section of Paul's Letter to the Romans which we read today is a prayer praising God for revealing through the Gospels, "*the mystery kept secret for long ages,*" to all nations. The Church has selected this prayer in the final week of our preparation for Christmas to remind us of the sublime facts commemorated at Christmas, namely, how, in becoming man, Christ elevated our nature by uniting it with His own Divine nature and made us adopted children of God with a claim to eternal life and the possibility of sharing in God's Kingdom forever. **Gospel exegesis: The context:** Luke was a Gentile converted by St. Paul at Troas about AD 50. Later, he became a fellow-worker with Paul in spreading the Faith. Luke's Gentile Christian community lived a generation or more later than the apostles, after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70. Since they were not Jews, Luke had to explain to them how Jesus was the Messiah promised to the Jews by God through the prophets. Luke's account also explains how the Messiah had his human origin while retaining His Divine nature.

In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke shows us how Jesus continued to operate among his apostles and in the early Church. Today's narrative of the infancy of Jesus in Luke's Gospel was intended to teach the Gentile converts their Christian heritage and to keep them focused on their new religion's mission. This "Annunciation" of the birth of Jesus also established Jesus in good-standing among the Jews, since King David, presented as Jesus' ancestor, was the most revered early King and the original Messiah (literally, "anointed as king" and earthly savior of the

nation of Israel). **The unique selection of Mary and Gabriel's unique salutation:** Joseph's betrothal to Mary was binding, and it made Mary his legal wife. The angel's salutation to Mary, "Hail, full of grace," reminds us of God's words to Moses at the burning bush, "*I will be with you*" (Ex 3:12); the angel's salutation Gideon, "*The Lord is with you, you mighty warrior*" (Jgs 6:12); and the Lord's assurance to Jeremiah, "*Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee*". Luke says that Mary is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting, "Rejoice, blessed one!" (Greek), translated as "Hail, full of grace." Mary is addressed as "full of grace,":

Mary is filled with God's favor and graciousness, something which she has in no way earned, but which was given as a gratuitous gift by God. Mary is told by the angel Gabriel, the messenger of God that the Lord is literally with her: she is the new Ark, a tent and temple. God is literally and physically in her, and thus she is the greater house of God promised to David. **Angel's annunciation with seven surprising messages:** . In today's Gospel, the Angel Gabriel surprises Mary with seven announcements. i) Even as a virgin betrothed to Joseph, she will become a mother. ii) She will become a mother through "*the Holy Spirit [Who] will come upon you, and the Power of the Most High [Who] will overshadow you.*" iii) The angel continues, "Therefore, the Child to be born will be called Holy, the Son of God."

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS- DECEMBER 16-17

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|-------------------|---------------|
| Loose cash | 156.09 |
| Gift Aid | 195.00 |
| Total | 351.09 |

ANNIVERSARIES (Dec 23- 29)

Fr. Alphonsus May '69: Frank Tighe '93: Kathleen Lewis '94: Daphne Duncan 11, John Doyle '79: Colin Roberts '91: Fr. Frank Hickman, '11, Jenny Rutt '14, Richard Ward: Joan Roberts: Chris Jones:, Maude French, Sr Theresa Fleming, '06, Enid McArdle '91

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER DECEMBER 23- 29

| Date | Offered by | Intention |
|-------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Dec 23, Sat | | For the Parishioners |
| Dec 24, Sun | Carmel Jones, Pamela Chilufia | Ann & David Messham, Matilda Lesa RIP |
| Dec 25, Mon | Carmel Jones, Shelagh Cochran | Christopher and Mary Glynn Staff and sisters of Bryn Mair |
| Dec 26, Tue | Rohit Desouza | Walter and Edda Desouza RIP |
| Dec 27, Wed | Noela Trindade | Thanksgiving for 2023 |
| Dec 28, Thu | Marie | Antony Parry |
| Dec 29, Fri | Mathew Rodrigues | For Holy souls |

Let us Remember the Sick in Prayer

Patrick Ngale, Philip McGreavy, Antony Parry

Christmas Programme Schedule

December 24, Sunday 7.30 pm Carol Hymns

December 24, Sunday 8.00 pm Vigil Mass

December 25, Monday 10.00 am Christmas Mass

Gift to the Christmas Friends

Gifts to the Christmas Friends can be hanged on the Christmas Tree on or before the Christmas Day.

Mass Schedule for January 1, 2024

The Holy Mass on January 1, 2024- the New Year Day and the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God- will be at 10.00 am.

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH

Account Name: Wrexham Diocesan Trust

Account Number: 08190771, Sort Code: 55-81-42

Website: <http://www.pantasaph.org>,

Email: pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com

Phone: 0741-749-4277, 01352 711053,

Registered Charity No. 70042

*Wish you A Merry Christmas 2023 &
Grace filled New Year 2024!!!*