

The United Benefice of Henley-on-Thames with Remenham  
**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN**  
*Registered Charity*

**Sunday 29th December 2019**  
**The First Sunday of Christmas**

*Welcome to this ancient Parish Church. If you are a visitor or a new member of the congregation, you will find the order of service in the booklets. The hymns are not announced - they can be found on this sheet. The crèche is available throughout the service for toddlers and parents; Junior Church also takes place in the Chantry House. Tea & coffee are served in the Chantry House after the service: please join us and make yourself known.*

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**Entrance Hymn:** 21 A great and mighty wonder

**The Opening Prayer**

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.

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**The First Reading:** Isaiah 63:7-9

*God's Mercy Remembered*

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us,  
and the great favour to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.  
For he said, 'Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely';  
and he became their saviour  
in all their distress.  
It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

**The Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 148

**R/ Praise the Lord from the heavens and praise him in the heights.**

Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights.  
Praise him, all you his angels;  
praise him, all his host.

**R/**

Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you stars of light.  
Praise him, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.

**R/**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for he commanded and they were created.  
He made them fast for ever and ever;  
he gave them a law which shall not pass away. **R/**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

Fire and hail, snow and mist,  
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word; **R/**

Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
Wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and birds on the wing; **R/**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
Young men and women,  
old and young together;  
let them praise the name of the Lord. **R/**

For his name only is exalted,  
his splendour above earth and heaven.  
He has raised up the horn of his people  
and praise for all his faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. **R/**

**The Gospel Reading:** Matthew 2:13-end

*The Escape to Egypt*

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

*The Massacre of the Infants*

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

**THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**The Offertory Hymn:** **39** Unto us a boy is born!

*During which an offertory collection will be taken*

**The Communion Hymn:** **28** In the bleak midwinter

**The Final Hymn:** **32** O little town of Bethlehem

**The Organ Voluntary**

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**Today's Sung Eucharist:**

Sidesmen	Pauline Lester and George Constantinidi
Lessons	Anthea Redmond
Intercessions	Sue Hockley
Servers	Sheila Croton and Sue Hockley
Chalice	Sheila Croton and Sue Hockley
Coffee	Joan Edwards

**Please replace the kneelers on your pew before leaving. Thank you!**

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**This Week**

Mon 30 Funeral of Jean Pippard 12noon (SM)  
Tues 31 Funeral of David Supran 12noon (SM)  
Wed 1 *The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus* Eucharist 11.00am (SM)  
Thurs 2 Eucharist 10.00am (SM)  
Choir Practice: Juniors 6.00pm Seniors 7.00pm  
Fri 3 Praying Together 9.30am (CH) Eucharist 12noon (SM)  
Wedding rehearsal 4.00pm (SM)  
Sat 4 Wedding 12noon (SM)  
*Morning Prayer will be said at 9am and Evening Prayer usually at 5pm at St Mary's on weekdays*

**Sunday 5th January ~ The Epiphany**

8.00am Eucharist (SM) 9.30am Sung Eucharist, Junior Church and Creche (SM)  
11.15am Holy Communion with Hymns (BCP) (SN)

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***Please pray for***

***The church:***

*The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia  
The Most Revd Philip Richardson - Bishop of Taranaki and Primate  
The Most Revd Don Tamihere - Pihopa o Aotearora and Primate  
The Most Revd Fereimi Cama - Bishop of Polynesia and Primate  
Bishop Colin, confirming in Didcot*

***Those to be married this week:***

*Timothy Helliwell & Helen Arbuthnot*

***The sick:***

*Nicola, Neil, Helen, Stella, Maria, Henry, Richard, Duncan, Robert, Anne, Caroline*

***The departed:***

*Jean Pippard, David Supran, Michael Jones*

***Those whose year's minds falls this week:***

*Henry Johnson (30), Vera Halsall (2), Christiane Harvey, Marion Fletcher (3)*

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**Notices for the week beginning 29th December**

The Henley Food Bank Box can be found by the crèche. Please bring donations on Sunday mornings - toiletry items, tinned veg, tinned fruit, savoury biscuits, tinned meat, long lasting milk, cereal, crisps, biscuits, squash, pasta sauce.

The parish office will be closed between Christmas and New Year and will open again on Friday 3 January. In case of any pastoral emergency, please call Fr Jeremy on his mobile 07906172730.

***Parish Office ~ Mon, Tues 9.30am-12.30pm : Wed, Fri, 9.30am-4.30pm  
tel: 577340 email: office.hwr@btinternet.com rector.hwr@btinternet.com  
Fr Jeremy is always happy to talk to parishioners about any subject, please call the parish office to make an appointment. Saturday is his day off and Monday morning. Friday is his study day.***