



Mother of Good Counsel Clare Priory

2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C 5th December 2021

A voice cries out!(Luke 3:4) *Source of content: mycatholic.life*

Today we ponder on the person of St. John the Baptist and his ministry. He is a gift to the world of his time a lone voice that cries out speaking the truth and justice in the world of confusion and lukewarmness. To a world that is sleeping in the darkness he brings and shows the path to the truth and light.

Jesus honours his cousin John saying that “among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist” Matthew 11:11. What a compliment!

Two things about John that make him great- he was the transition between the Old and the New Testament prophets. He is a bridge to prepare a new path for Jesus’ ministry. His unique mission is to decrease and make Jesus to increase.

Secondly John is humble; he knows his place and is ready to carry out his task without getting jealous about someone else. He rather remains so humble that he feels unworthy to untie Jesus’ sandals.

He speaks the word and that Word is Jesus. He points to the Word. Despite being popular he is aware that “He (*Jesus*) must increase and I (*John*) must decrease” John 3:30. He is so clear that his mission is to point to the One, the Saviour of the World. He despises the honour and glory of this world and receives the glory of heaven by shedding his blood for the truth and the sanctity of marriage.

Reflect, today, upon this humility in your own life. Do you tend to point to yourself or to Christ? Do you seek the praise of others, or do you humbly point all praise and glory to God? Humility is the path that St. John the Baptist took and it’s the path we must strive for each day.

Readings: Baruch 5:1-9, Psalm 125(126), Philippians 1:4-6,8-11, Luke 3:1-6

Today’s readings can be found at universalis.com/mass.
Please set your devices to silent mode during Mass.

Address: Mother of Good Counsel Church, Clare Priory, Ashen Road, Clare, Sudbury, CO10 8NX

Tel: 01787277326 ▪ Website: <https://www.clarepriory.org.uk/parish>

MASS TIMES **Sundays:** 8 am,10.00 am ▪ **Monday-Friday:** 10:00 am ▪ **Saturdays:** 10:00 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

SACRAMENTS, DEVOTIONS & PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Reconciliation (Confession): Available by appointment

Parish Priest: Fr. Gladson Francesco Dabre OSA. Email: parishpriest@clarepriory.net

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Jane and Desmond Crone: Email: janejsc1@gmail.com

AUGUSTINIAN COMMUNITY (ORDER OF ST AUGUSTINE) Province of England & Scotland

Fr. Stefan Park OSA (Prior), Fr. David Middleton OSA, Fr. George Donaghy OSA,

Fr. Gladson Dabre OSA, Mary Handforth, Barbara Sierp

Mother of Good Counsel Church is under the care of the Order of St Augustine and part of the Diocese of East Anglia registered Charity no. 278742



PARISH DIARY

See back page for regular Mass & Liturgy schedule

Sunday 5th December: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Monday 6th December: St. Nicholas, Bishop

Tuesday 7th December: St. Ambrose of Milan, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday 8th December: Immaculate

Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity

Thursday 9th December: Thursday of the 2nd week of advent, St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoazin

Friday 10th December: Friday of the 2nd week of Advent, Our Lady of Loreto

Saturday 11th December: Saturday of the 2nd week of advent, Pope St. Damasus I

Sunday: 12th December: 3rd Sunday of Advent

SAINTS OF THE WEEK:

St. Nicholas: He was bishop of Myra, in Lycia (now part of Turkey) and died about the middle of the fourth century. He has been venerated throughout the Church, especially since the 10th century. Because of his help to the poor he is the patron saint of pawnbrokers, whose insignia of three golden balls represent the three purses of gold he is said to have given secretly to a poor man who could not afford dowries for his three daughters.

St. Ambrose of Milan: Ambrose was born in Trier (now in Germany) between 337 and 340, to a Roman family: his father was praetorian prefect of Gaul. Ambrose was educated at Rome and embarked on the standard *cursus honorum* of Roman advocates and administrators, at Sirmium, the capital of Illyria. In about 372 he was made prefect of Liguria and Emilia, whose capital was Milan.

In 374 the bishopric of Milan fell vacant and when Ambrose tried to pacify the conflict between the Catholics and Arians over the appointment of a new bishop, the people turned on him and demanded that he become the bishop himself. He was a layman and not yet baptized (at this time it was common for baptism to be delayed and for people to remain for years as catechumens), but that was no defence. Coerced by the people and by the emperor, he was baptized, ordained, and installed as bishop within a week, on 7 December 374.

He immediately gave his money to the poor and his land to the Church and set about learning theology. He had the advantage of knowing Greek, which few

people did at that time, and so he was able to read the Eastern theologians and philosophers as well as those of the West.

He was assiduous in carrying out his office, acting with charity to all: a true shepherd and teacher of the faithful. He was unimpressed by status and when the Emperor Theodosius ordered the massacre of 7,000 people in Thessalonica, Ambrose forced him to do public penance. He defended the rights of the Church and attacked the Arian heresy with learning, firmness and gentleness. He also wrote a number of hymns which are still in use today.

Ambrose was a key figure in the conversion of St Augustine to Catholicism, impressing Augustine (hitherto unimpressed by the Catholics he had met) by his intelligence and scholarship. He died on Holy Saturday, 4 April 397.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin

Mary: The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is the doctrine that the Virgin Mary was conceived without *original sin*, that twist in our nature that makes our will tend not to follow what it knows to be right. It was this grace that enabled Mary to give a true and considered “Yes” to the request, conveyed by the Angel Gabriel, that she should consent to be the mother of the incarnate God.

Because it is so old, this is one of the Marian doctrines that Islam shares with the Catholic Church, though of course the theological details are very different. ‘in a famous *Hadith* attributed to the Prophet, it is affirmed that: “Every child is touched by the devil as soon as he is born and this contact makes him cry. Excepted are Mary and her Son”. From this *Hadith* and from verses 35-37 of Sura III, Moslem commentators have deduced and affirmed the principle of Mary’s original purity.’ (Giancarlo Finazzo. *L’Osservatore Romano*, 13 April 1978).

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was almost universally believed over the centuries but was only formally defined as a doctrine of the Church by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoazin: He was born in about 1474 in Cuauhtitlan in the kingdom of Texcoco, part of present-day Mexico. As an adult he embraced Christianity and he and his wife were baptized. In 1531 the Mother

of God appeared to him, on the hill called Tepeyac near Mexico City, and told him to ask the bishop to have a church built on the spot. Through the purity of his faith, his humility and his fervour, a church was built, in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe (whose feast is celebrated on 12 December). He left everything and devoted himself to the care of the sanctuary and the reception of pilgrims until his death in 1548.

Our Lady of Loreto: Since the Middle Ages veneration for the Holy House of Loreto has been the origin of that particular shrine which still today is visited by many faithful pilgrims in order to nourish their faith in the Word of God made flesh for us.

In the Holy House, before the image of the Mother of the Redeemer and of the Church, Saints and Blesseds have responded to their vocation, the sick have invoked consolation in suffering, the people of God have begun to praise and plead with Mary using the Litany of Loreto, which is known throughout the world. In a particular way all those who travel via aircraft have found in her their heavenly patron.

In light of this, Pope Francis has decreed, by his own authority, that the optional memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto should be inscribed in the Roman Calendar on 10 December, the day on which the feast falls in Loreto, and celebrated every year. This celebration will help all people, especially families, youth and religious to imitate the virtues of that perfect disciple of the Gospel, the Virgin Mother, who, in conceiving the Head of the Church also accepted us as her own.

Pope St. Damasus I: A Spaniard, he was born about 305. Joining the Roman clergy, he was elected Pope in 366, in calamitous times. He held many synods against heretics and schismatics. He promoted the cult of the martyrs. He died in 384.

PARISH LIFE:

Seating arrangements: after a period of discernment and discussion we have decided that we will no longer have reservations to attend the Holy Mass from this weekend. 4th and 5th December 2021. In the interest of safety we encourage everyone to wear masks if possible.

Parish Confessions: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on the weekend of **11th and 12th December after the 5:30 pm, 8 am and 10 am Masses.** You are also welcome to see a priest before or after this weekend for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Volunteers required: The Church's Together here in Clare have a joint venture of distributing Christmas Cards to the people in Clare. The cards are ready. However, we need volunteers to put distribute them around the town. Can you help? If so, please contact Kathy at the Priory office

Christmas Masses: The Celebration of the Holy Masses for Christmas will be held on the 24th December at 4pm, 6pm and 8pm and on the 25th December we will have Masses at 8am and 10am.

If you wish to attend 6.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass you will need to book in advance. Please contact Fr. David on davidmiddleton01@gmail.com

Invitation to readers (December 24th, 25th, 26th): If you are a reader and wish to read over the Christmas Masses please let us know. The rota will be left at the entrance of the Church. Please write your name to indicate at which Mass you wish to read.

Parish Visits – Fr. Gladson would like to visit you in your homes and pray with your family over the coming weeks. If you want Fr. Gladson to visit your home, then please contact Kathy at the Parish Office so that a suitable date/time can be organized.

Church Cleaning –we are looking for at least 3 new volunteers - if you can spare some time to come and help in cleaning the Church, please speak with Fr. Gladson.

Priory Announcements:

A Day with Mary, Our Mother

The 8th of December is an important day the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a perfect opportunity to receive as much graces as possible for us, our families and friends and for the whole world.**

In 1947 Our Blessed Mother (*under the title of Mystical Rose*) gave us the Hour of Grace 12:00-13:00 in Montichiari. She promised: "Many divine and bodily graces will be received through

this devotion. Our Lord, my Divine Son Jesus, will send His overflowing mercy if good people will pray continuously for their sinful brother/sister....”

The Blessed Virgin promised that whatever a person asked her for during this Hour of Grace (even in impossible cases) would be granted to them, if it was in accordance with the Will of the Eternal Father.

Let us come together to celebrate this day as a family. Don't miss out when heaven will open its gate to pour out graces as many as we ask for. And in these difficult times let us pray for our country too! We need it!

Please bring your own refreshments. Lunch can be provided, please let us know if you would like to join us.

Clare Priory Craft Fair

Many hands make light(er) work

The last Craft Fair in 2019 raised almost £20,000* - one of the most successful - and, following the Channel 5 programme later that year which was recorded partly at the Priory ("The Wonderful World of Crafting"), there was a surge of interest and enquiries. Sadly Covid-19 and lockdown got in the way and we've been unable to run one for the last 2 years, but we are hopeful that 2022 will be different.

We're very grateful for the huge numbers who help out immediately before and after the event, but we really need extra support with the advance planning. You might have skills that will help (although you may not even know it!), and we would be very grateful to hear from you. (You don't necessarily need to be able to attend the monthly meetings).

We particularly need help with the bar, entertainment and social media, and we'd also like to introduce cashless payments, but there is a huge array of other tasks so please don't be shy in coming forward!

Have a word with Lisa and Chris Lord (chris.chamalise@btinternet.com),

Robin Hughes (robin.hrh@gmail.com)

or Bernard Rushton

(bernard.rushton@gmail.com)

PRIORY RETREATS:

✦ Immaculate Conception

Wednesday 8th December 10.00am to 3.00pm
Mass, Confession, Rosary, Meditation, Talk, Individual Blessing. Led by the Priory Team

✦ Special Healing Service: this will be conducted online on the 10th December 2021 at 7:30 PM in collaboration with New Dawn Scotland. You are most welcome to attend in person or online. The link for the service is: <https://youtu.be/11BfDm8JXH4>

✦ 'By His Wounds We Are Healed'

17th to 19th December

Led by Fr Gladson Dabre OSA.

Teaching, prayer, ministry, sacraments, praise & worship. Day visitors are welcome, please contact Kathy.

LITURGY

✦ Live Streaming Masses and Services – Daily Masses will continue to be livestreamed via YouTube Channel.

To view, click on the link or visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaXPP-AVGxuAvJrdb616cqA>

✦ Lectio Divina: Lectio Divina group meets on Thursday morning after 10am Mass. All are welcome.

✦ Silent Prayer Group: meets every Friday after 10am Mass. All are welcome.

SACRAMENTS

ABC (About Being a Catholic) – we cannot love what we do not know. It is now the need of the time that we Catholics need to know and learn more about our faith. If you wish to know more about your faith or anyone who wishes to become Catholic, we will be starting this course soon. Please submit your details to the Parish Office if you are interested.

Baptisms - Please contact Kathy for more information.

First Holy Communions:(FHC) 2022 preparations will commence in January 2022. Parents who would like to enrol their children for preparatory classes leading to FHC in June 2022 and who have children of the appropriate age are requested to contact Fr. Gladson. Diocesan policy suggests that children will normally be in school year 3 (the year in which the child turns 8 years old).

Fr. Gladson would like to meet with the candidate parents on the 12th December 2021 after the 10:00 am Mass.

Confirmations – if any young person 14+ wishes to be Confirmed please contact Kathy to register your interest.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion: (Eucharistic Ministers) if you are doing this ministry or wish to get involved in this ministry, please contact Fr. Gladson. **We will be recommissioning the ministers in December 2021.**

Marriages - If you would like to get married, we need at least six months' notice, longer if you wish to marry abroad. You also need to attend a Marriage course. Please contact Kathy for more information.

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

SICK: William Marston, Jean Henderson, John Platt, David Sowerby, Donna Coveney, Jim Coe, Grace Farrant, Liz Webber, Joe & Freda Boylan.

Name (Feast) Days: we also pray for all those named Nicholas, Ambrose, Mary, Juan, Diego and Damasus.

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE:

Welcome of St. Joseph's Icon: An Icon of St. Joseph is with us this weekend. We seek his intercession on our Parish and families during the Masses at weekend. A special prayer to St. Joseph is included below which we can start praying to prepare for this special event.

Prayer:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ grew to maturity.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.
(Prayer from Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter

Retreat for Women and Girls. Saturday January 15, 2022, at Blackfriars, Cambridge. To be run by the Dominican Sisters of Cambridge.

'Back With A Bang' - Sunday 2nd January 4pm

A special Christmastide Mass for all young people and their families from across the diocese. Followed by hot dogs, a bonfire and fireworks. There will be a collection of presents

for children who are refugees (please bring presents unwrapped). Held at The White House, 21 Uppgate, Poringland, NR14 7SH. Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service.

WORLDWIDE CHURCH NEWS:

Honouring Sunday: Many of our faithful have been asking questions regarding Sunday obligation in this time. The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales have made a statement on Honouring Sundays as the Day of the Lord. The Honouring Sunday Statement can be found on our website under the Latest News section.

THE SYNODAL PATH

The survey for the Synodal Path in our Diocese is now online on our Diocesan and parish websites.

Please take the time over the coming weeks to prayerfully complete the survey and return it to the Parish Team Leader Jane Crone janeccs1@gmail.com

Every response is valuable!

Synod on Synodality 2021-2023:



Synod news 2– ‘an invitation to encounter, listen and discern.

In today's gospel we encounter John the Baptist calling for repentance; a challenging message for those who first heard him and a challenging message for us today. But his message was one of hope too – all people will see the “salvation of God”.

During the Holy Mass at the launch of the synodal process Pope Francis reflected on three verbs that characterise it: encounter, listen and discern. Developing ‘the art of encounter’ requires us to spend time with God and our sisters and brothers in a spirit of openness and courage and with a willingness to let ourselves be challenged and changed. During these encounters we need to patiently listen with our hearts rather than just our ears. We will find that the Holy Spirit surprises us, suggesting fresh paths and new ways of being the pilgrim people of God.

Encounter and listening are not ends in themselves, through prayer, reflection on scripture and adoration the Holy Spirit will guide us as we discern what God is saying to us and where he is leading us.

Two thousand years ago John the Baptist's words challenged his audience but brought hope too. Our synodal journey is the same, as Pope Francis said at the end of his homily, 'even as we seek the Lord, he always comes with his love to meet us first'

It is possible to complete the parish survey online [here](#). If you do this we would be very grateful if you would be prepared to share your thoughts with us – emailing them at clarepriory@clarepriory.net There will also be an opportunity to meet to listen, discern and complete it together during a face to face discussion after Mass and an evening meeting, dates to be arranged.

The Synod Prayer cards are available at the entrance of the Church please pick a copy for yourselves.

We also request you to think about the following questions.

- 1. How welcoming is our Parish? How do we embrace and reach out as a parish, and as individuals, to the community with us each Sunday- in person or via live-stream - as well as those who are still anxious about returning, those who seem to have fallen away, and those enquiring and coming to us as newcomers?**
- 2. How good are we at listening? Our world is full of noise and opinion; full of people making their voices heard, and those who feel that they go unnoticed. Are we good listeners? Do we feel listened to? How do we learn to listen well, to each other, to the wider world, to God Himself?**

STEWARDSHIP & GIVING

We thank those who have continued to support our Parish during these difficult times. Last Sunday's Collection: (including Standing Orders paid directly into the Bank) amounted to £912.50.

Thank you for your generosity. God bless you abundantly

The Virtual Posada 2021 The Posada is on its **virtual journey** around our parish. Here are names of villages where, or nearest, to where our parishioners live, so that everyone may consider themselves included. Our parishioners are pretty wide-spread, in many cases well beyond the geographical limits of the parish.

Please pray the litany and the blessing prayer on the day or days that the Posada is closest to where you live.

Sunday 28 th November	Clare
Monday 29 th November	Stradishall
Tuesday 30 th November	Kedington
Wednesday 1 st December	Hundon
Thursday 2 nd December	Stoke By Clare
Friday 3 rd December	Baythorne End
Saturday 4 th December	Sturmer
Sunday 5 th December	Haverhill to Linton
Monday 6 th December	Steeple Bumpstead
Tuesday 7 th December	Sible/Castle Hedingham
Wednesday 8 th December	Great Yeldham
Thursday 9 th December	Tilbury juxta Clare
Friday 10 th December	The Belchamps
Saturday 11 th December	Sudbury
Sunday 12 th December	Borley
Monday 13 th December	Long Melford
Tuesday 14 th December	Foxearth,
Wednesday 15 th December	Glensford, Stanstead, Shimpling
Thursday 16 th December	Lavenham, Bradfield Combust
Friday 17 th December	Horringer
Saturday 18 th December	Ousden
Sunday 19 th December	Wickhambrook
Monday 20 th December	Brockley Green
Tuesday 21 st December	Hartest
Wednesday 22 nd December	Stansfield
Thursday 23 rd December	Cavendish
Friday 24 th	Return to Priory

The Posada Litany and Prayer Litany

Jesus, born in a stable
Bring hope to the homeless
 Jesus, child of Mary and Joseph
Bring hope to all families
 Jesus, light of the world
Bring hope to the dark places of the world
 Jesus, bearer of peace,
Bring hope to those suffering from conflict & war
 Jesus, who fled to another country
Bring hope to all refugees
 Jesus, who was hungry in the desert
Bring hope to the poor and starving
 Jesus, who died for us
Bring hope to those near death
 Jesus, Son of God, Messiah
Bring us hope this Christmas. Amen

Prayer of Blessing

Heavenly Father, look kindly on our families who this Advent prepare to welcome Jesus. May our actions be a symbol of our wider generosity to all in need. Bless us and protect the homes of all our families and friends. Bring all of us to a deeper sense of Christ's presence in our lives. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.