



21<sup>st</sup> December 2025  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

St James' Church  
www.stjamesexeter.org Exeter

### Rector

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297

Day off: Friday

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Charity register number: 1128877

### Notices

#### Decorating the Church

Helpers are welcome on Christmas Eve between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon.

#### A Change for This Week

Morning prayer will be on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday only this week

### TODAY

6.00 pm Carol Service

### Advent Wreath Prayer

*Lord Jesus, Light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news, blessed is Mary, your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us, your children, who long for your coming.*

### 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.*

10.00 am Music

**Processional hymn** 117

**Offertory hymn** 469

Communion anthem

**Recessional hymn** 612

**Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Magnificat (music by Herbert Brewer)

**Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord**

### This Week

Morning Prayer is said at 8.30 am

Online: Mon, Wed

In the church: Tue

**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> December** Luke 1: 46 – 56

7.00 pm Choir practice

**Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> December** Luke 1: 57 – 66

**Wed 24<sup>th</sup> December** Luke 1: 67 – 79

10.00 am Church decorating for Christmas

4.00 pm Crib service

6.30 pm St Mary's JSO Church service

11.00 pm Midnight Mass

**Thu 25<sup>th</sup> December** Luke 2: 1 – 20

10.00 am Christmas Day Parish Eucharist

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup> December** Matthew 10: 17 – 22

**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> December** John 21: 19 – 25

**Next Sunday: 28<sup>th</sup> December**

**Holy Innocents** Matthew 2: 13 – 18

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Eucharist



Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

### First Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-16

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.'

### Second Reading: Romans 1: 1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Gospel Reading: Matthew 1: 18-25

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

### Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is His Name. And His mercy is on them that fear Him throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm, He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as He promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

### Post-Communion Prayer

***Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.***