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# NEWSLETTER

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ALL SAINTS, SCRAPTOFT & NETHERHALL - DECEMBER 2017

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## GRATITUDE AND WAITING...



"I want it and I want it now!" - words we might expect to hear from a little child perhaps, but not a grown up? But sadly the modern world seems to have made us into spoiled brats, for how many of us have gone to the supermarket and found there are no aubergines, or our favourite pizza has run out, or maybe the make of tomatoes we always buy isn't there, and we get annoyed, thinking to ourselves: 'good grief, why aren't they here?' We have become so used to a world of plenty and choice that we are taken aback when what we want isn't available. And this approach to life has invaded all aspects it seems: 'I want that parking place', 'I've had my eyes on that piece of chicken, don't let anyone else have it'. And now we can watch whichever TV programme we want, whenever we want, we don't actually have to wait for much. As the saying goes, the world is our oyster.

And so we come to the Christmas Season - or at least Advent, as we should call it. But it only gets called Advent by a few religious types or for Advent Calendars (which probably have little to do with Advent and more to do with chocolate, or perfume, or whisky - take your choice!) We are living in impatient times when we can't wait for anything. So we bring Christmas into November and live as if 12 days isn't long enough for the Feast. The modern world is greedy for more, for the next thing, and we're not satisfied until we've got it.

So now as the Church begins this special Advent Season, maybe we will do well to stop and reflect and to realise just how amazing this next month can be if we approach it wisely and with a spirit of gratitude and waiting. For waiting is what Advent is about - not shopping, or partying or anything else - waiting for the Coming of the Lord Jesus: God made man, who comes to bring purpose and hope to lives that are lost and confused. A Saviour who truly saves his people, opening to us the good news of God's love for those he has created.

And so this time is also one of gratitude for all that God has given us, including this time of waiting: a time in which we can weigh up how are lives are going, where they might be out of sync, where we have been sucked into lifestyles that may not be good for us, and to focus once again on the miracle that is waiting for us - the true meaning of Christmas - the Light that comes to us on Christmas Day. Then may we have real gratitude for all we have. With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

*Father Thomas*

## Calendar - December

- 1st 5.30pm Christmas Market
- 2nd 10.00pm Christmas Market
- 3rd **ADVENT SUNDAY**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist  
6.00pm Taizé Service
- 6th **St Nicolas**  
2.30pm Community Hub Open Afternoon  
7.30pm Eucharist
- 9th 10.00am Flower Group
- 10th **ADVENT 2**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 13th **St Lucy**  
7.30pm Eucharist
- 14th 6.00pm Wedding Rehearsal
- 16th 10.00am Coffee Stop  
2.00pm Wedding: Hickson & Robson
- 17th **ADVENT 3**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist  
3.00pm Messy Christingle  
(service at 4pm)
- 20th 7.30pm Eucharist
- 21st 7.30pm Carol Service
- 24th **ADVENT 4**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
11.30pm Midnight Mass
- 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
10.00am Family Festival Eucharist
- 31st **THE HOLY FAMILY**  
10.00am Sung Eucharist



## Daily Inspirational Bible Readings for each day

- 1st John 1:1-2
- 2nd Hebrews 1:1-2
- 3rd John 6:35
- 4th John 8:12
- 5th John 10:7
- 6th John 10:14-15
- 7th John 11:25
- 8th John 14:6
- 9th John 15:5
- 10th Deuteronomy 18:15
- 11th Isaiah 7:14
- 12th Galatians 4:4-5
- 13th Matthew 2:4-6
- 14th Luke 1:26-28
- 15th Luke 1:30-33
- 16th Luke 1:46-47
- 17th Matthew 1:20-21
- 18th Luke 1:68-70
- 19th Luke 1:76-78
- 20th Luke 2:1
- 21st Luke 2:6-7
- 22nd Luke 2:8-11
- 23rd Luke 2:11-14
- 24th Luke 2:16-20
- 25th Isaiah 9:6
- 26th Luke 2:28-32
- 27th Psalm 103:1-2
- 28th Matthew 11:28
- 29th John 14:1-3
- 30th John 16:33
- 31st Isaiah 43:16

These are very small passages, but just take a moment to find them, read and spend 2 minutes each day thinking what they may be saying to you.