

Father Hugh writes:

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Gaynor, who died at home last Sunday morning. Please also remember Alice and their family in your prayers.

We have received the following message from Alice:

John passed away peacefully at home after a long illness, bravely fought, on Sunday 6th December with his family present.

*Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to invite all those we would want to John's Requiem Mass. We would love for you to share in the celebration of John's life at his Mass *online,* via this link: https://schmittat.uk/live/2020-12-17_jg/*

The service will take place on Thursday 17th December 2020 at 11am and broadcast live. For those unable to join at this time, there will be a saved film at the same web-link after the service.

We are collecting donations, instead of flowers or gifts, for St Barnabas House, who provided valued support to John and Alice, in his last few weeks. Donations can be made through their website: www.stbarnabas-hospice.org.uk/donate/giving-in-memory/

Mass is being offered for the Repose of John's soul on Sunday 20th at 10am. If you particularly wish to attend this Mass please do make sure that you have 'booked'.

Christmas Cards: here as in most parishes, it has been the custom to exchange Christmas cards through the church, but this cannot happen this year, since we must restrict all papers in the church to reduce the spread of Coronavirus. There are a number of cases in the Cowfold area, which reminds us that it is not far away and that we are all vulnerable to infection.

Christmas Offering – just a reminder, that in your gift aid envelope boxes there is a blue envelope for the offering, please do use them as it makes accounting easier for Dan. Please make any cheques payable to Corpus Christi parish.

As Advent journeys on we move to the second part on Thursday as our preparations for Christmas change with a focus on the birth of the Messiah. Before that we keep a memoria of St John of the Cross on Monday.

This Sunday, the Third of Advent we are offered the theme of 'rejoice' Be Happy at all times' so says St Paul writing to the people in Thessalonika. He then teaches us to pray constantly and never to try and suppress the Spirit. That's quite a lot to absorb in a few words but it is right, and it's what we try and be and do in our daily lives. We also realise the limitations of this too as we journey through life and in the midst of this pandemic know that we can't be joyful continually, and yet with a trust in the Lord we can still have that sense of a hidden joy. This Christmas time is perhaps as important as any to send and share greetings in the different ways that we can.

The Jewish community have begun their winter feast of Hanukkah on Friday last and continues for a week. It is also known as the festival of lights, during which the candles are lit in the menorah. The feast marks the rededication of the Temple after it was rebuilt when the Judean people returned after the exile.

Some of our Christmas lights that we place in our windows resemble the Menorah which usually are all on one level apart from the centre candle.

A reminder that if you wish to attend either of our Christmas Day Masses you need to book your place (please contact Deacon Paul). If you are in contact with anyone in our village who is not a regular visitor please make them aware of this year's arrangements.

New Year's Day Mass: Details to follow but we expect places will need to be booked.

Epiphany Wednesday 6th Jan: Mass times to be confirmed nearer the time.

NB. Look out for our newsletter next weekend which will also include details of all Mass days/times for the week after Christmas, ie from Sunday 27th December.

