

Sunday 3rd January 2021 – Second Sunday of Christmas

Father Hugh writes:

A Happy New Year to you all, in what looks as if it could be a year of momentous change.

The good news on a wintry morning, but happily no snow, (though our young people may not agree with that!) is that the second vaccine has been approved, which may really make a change to all our lives, along with setting out detached from our European neighbours and friends.

There is no going back, but only forward into a world that is very different from the early '70's when we made that decision to join the Common Market.

We older people may have voted for that when we were much younger and now it's our younger people who will take us into this changed world.

King George VI broadcast, Christmas 1939: *"I said to the Man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'.*

And he replied:

'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'

So I went forth and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East".

That message of hope and faith was in a different way given to us this Christmas by Her Majesty; as we go forward into 2021, we must put our hands into the hand of God, who will lead us onward.

My grateful thanks to you all for your generous Christmas offering of £1340. I am most grateful and also for so many cards and additional gifts.

Cards have been such an important message of support in 2020 and from this point a year ago none of us could have envisaged the drama of the pandemic that unfolded across the year.

Our thanks too for the splendid Christmas flowers in the church and for our simple but profound crib. There is a plate at the crib for any offerings you may wish to make for the Children's society. There is a poster too on the notice board with more details.

Masses this week include the Solemnity of the Epiphany on Wednesday at 10am and on Friday a Requiem Mass also at 10am for Paulina Manfredini.

New Diocesan directories for 2021 are in the narthex. Priced at £5.00. Please put monies in the paper box.

Looking in the rain gauge again we've had approx 7" rain in December, added to the earlier falls it amounts to about 20" this autumn, which like 2019 made for a very wet autumn. Happily there seems to be less flooding.

January is marmalade making time if that's one of your treats for breakfast. We should be on the look out for the Seville oranges, which, when we make our own has a nice tang to it even though it has plenty of sugar.

A pleasant job for a winter day! .

