



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PAPHOS



St. Stephen's
Tala



Ayia Kyriaki
Kato Paphos



St. Luke's
Prodromi

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WEEKLY NEWS

Sunday 19th & 26th December (4th of Advent & Christmas 1)

WELCOME

Bumper issue as this edition covers the next two weeks. I don't know about you, but I love Christmas. I love the decorations, the carol singing (although a lot of people would prefer me not to sing when they hear my out of tune voice), the lights, the trees, the presents and the busyness of it all. I even enjoy the shopping! But please feel sorry for my wife, Wendy, because she knows at this time of year all three 'Santa Clause' films as well as every other Christmas film will be played in our household whenever I get the time. I think it's a real miracle that at the busiest time of the year for the clergy I can still manage to watch a few Christmas films. I do really love this time of year. Holly and mistletoe going up. My wife has to put up with a permanent silly grin on my face, and my constant Christmas music at

home and in the car; and I can hardly sleep on Christmas Eve. I'm always first up, even when my children were young, I was the one who woke them up with "come on, he's been!" I don't think I'll ever change – I'll still be the first at the tree for the presents, even my grandchildren don't stand a chance of beating Granddad Ken! But still more exhilarating for me, is the other side of Christmas that really gets me just as excited, and that's the real reason why we celebrate this time of year - the birth of Christ. Over 2,000 years ago a small baby was born who would change the world by his birth, life, death and resurrection. He was born to save us. Now that's a present. I hope to see many of you at the services over Christmas – come and feel warm from the inside and give thanks for all our blessings. Merry Christmas to one and all.

"Has he been yet? No go back to sleep"

Revd. Ken

COLLECT and PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

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. Amen

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

A Prayer for this week:

Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth, may we begin to see the world in the light of understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving. Amen.



Christingle Service 2021 at St. Stephen's



Christingles made by the Brownies and Guides

Our Diocese:

We thank God for his provision over many years. We give thanks and pray for the continuing ministry within our Diocese and among those most in need in our community. Lord, you have given us, at times, what seems like an impossible task. Bind us together as a Diocese and Church community. Guide us and teach us to always trust in you and walk in your ways, all the days of our lives. Amen.

See the downloadable Prayer Calendar here: www.cypgulf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Diocesan-Prayer-Guide-Nov21-May22.pdf

In our own Parish of Paphos:

Heavenly Father, we rejoice that we are created in your image, that we are called to be your sons and daughters. May our church at times reveal your glory and lead many to the glorious liberty that is for the children of God. We pray for each of us as we are called to share the faith. Let this time fill are hearts and souls with the knowledge of your love and your Spirit give us the grace and courage to share the blessing of knowing you. Amen

God Slot:

CHRISTMAS is coming! He's nearly here! Of course I'm talking about Jesus and our celebration of his birth. Obviously there will be Christmas decorations, Santa Claus and all the usual things that go on around this time of year; BUT it's good to remember the reason we celebrate. That baby born in such poor circumstances (a stable) to unmarried parents, who then had to travel to a foreign country (becoming immigrants) to avoid the baby being killed by a worried king, and couldn't return to their home until that king had died. That baby was to grow up and become our saviour. He told us we could pray directly to God and even call him Abba (Father). He was then brutally killed around the age of 33 on a cross. But he rose from the dead and left us with a promise of eternal life. Not a bad legacy for such a life and what a gift. At Christmas we will exchange gifts with those we love. In this we reflect God's love for us in the love we have for our families and friends. Gift invites gift. Jesus gives us himself – what then is our response? I think of the words in Christina Rossetti's poem 'In the bleak mid winter' usually sung as a Carol to the tune written by Gustav Holst:

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

*Yet what can I give Him: **give my heart.***

Please enjoy Christmas and all the fun and festivities; but do spare a thought for the reason we are celebrating. Maybe by even coming to one of our services just to say THANK YOU for the greatest gift of all. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR for 2022.

God Bless,

Revd. Ken

Joke Spot: *Little Johnny was asked to say the blessing before Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the stuffing, the cranberry sauce, the roast potatoes, the pigs in blanket, even the Christmas pudding. Then he paused, and everyone waited, and waited. After a long silence, Little Johnny looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the sprouts, won't he know that I'm lying?"*

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Come on folks, get those forms filled out and back to me.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 19th December

8.15am Sung Eucharist - Ayia Kyriaki

11.00am Morning Worship – St Luke's

11.00am Holy Communion – St Stephen's

6.00pm Lessons & Carols - Ayia Kyriaki

Readings:

Micah 5: 2-5a; Canticle: Magnificat; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45

Friday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6.00pm Early Midnight Mass – St Luke's

11.00pm Midnight Mass – St Stephen's

Readings: Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1.1-12]; John 1.1-14

Saturday 25th December – Christmas Day

8.15am Sung Eucharist - Ayia Kyriaki (with Incense)

11.00am Holy Communion – St Stephen's

Readings: Isaiah 9: 2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-20]

Sunday 26th December

11.00am Holy Communion – St Luke's

Readings: Isaiah 63.7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2.10-18; Matthew 2.13-23

LATEST NEWS

Website/Facebook

Have you checked our Parish website. There are photographs of the latest events, information about our services and forthcoming events. Check out Facebook too.

A MESSAGE FROM GERRY ROCK

Dear Friends, I have decided this year not to send Christmas cards and donate to charity instead. My running club, West Coast Runners, have chosen St Michaels Hospice, Paphos, as their charity this year so this is where I have donated my Christmas card money along with sponsorship for my 10km race, which I completed on 5th Dec. Thank you for cards sent to me & Pete and we wish you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2022. God bless, Gerry Rock.

BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless us now and forever. Amen