



**SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017**  
**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*We welcome Rev. David Knight at 8am*  
*Rev. John Morris at 10am*

<b>TODAY:</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist with Sunday School Children's Choir Practice after the service</b>
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Nine Lessons and Carols</b>
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1.45pm</b>	<b>Carol Service – Balcombe School</b>
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Funeral of Leslie Fairweather</b>
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Avon House Carols</b>
	<b>7.45pm</b>	<b>Bell Ringing Practice</b>
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Crib Service</b>
	<b>11.00pm</b>	<b>Midnight Mass</b>
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Family Eucharist for Christmas</b>

***TODAY – 6.00PM***

**NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

*Please join us for Mulled wine and mince pies  
after the service*

**SAVE THE DATE – PARISH QUIET DAY AT CHEMIN NEUF COMMUNITY  
STORRINGTON PRIORY**

**\*\*FRIDAY 09<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018\*\***

**FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

**Website: [www.stmarys-balcombe.org](http://www.stmarys-balcombe.org)**

## READINGS AND PRAYERS

### *The Collect*

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### *The New Testament Reading 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24*

My brothers and sisters, 16Rejoice always, 17pray without ceasing, 18give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19Do not quench the Spirit. 20Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; 21hold fast to what is good; 22abstain from every form of evil.

23May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

### *The Holy Gospel John 1: 6-8, 19-28*

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

19This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' 20He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' 21And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' 22Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' 23He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

24Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' 26John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' 28This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

### *The Post Communion Collect*

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. Amen.

**THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS:**

Monday	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5: 12-end
Wednesday	2 Thessalonians 1
Thursday	2 Thessalonians 2
Friday	2 Thessalonians 3
Saturday	Jude

**PRAYERS THIS WEEK:**

All those who live in

All those who are sick, especially

The departed: and our own departed loved ones

And those whose anniversaries occur during the week:



**St. Mary's**

**EVENTS AND NOTICES**

***TONIGHT AT 6PM***  
***SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS***  
***(MINCE PIES AND MULLED WINE AFTERWARDS)***

***CRIB SERVICE – 4PM CHRISTMAS EVE***  
***Please join in this service for the whole family in which we recreate the nativity scene at the altar***

**MOZART REQUIEM**  
***A candlelit performance by***  
**Coro Nuovo**  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – 7.15pm**  
**St Mary's Church, Balcombe**

## **RAMBLINGS FROM THE RECTORY 2010 – 2017**

**\*\*ON SALE AT ONLY £5 PER COPY\*\***

We have this wonderfully compiled book of Desmond's letters for sale at the back of the church. Harveys Brewery have kindly contributed towards the printing of a special collection of 'Words From the Rectory'. The book will make a great gift this Christmas. Our grateful thanks go to Ali Cunningham and Pennie Burton for their hard work on this project.

There are just a few copies left of the **Balcombe Recipe Book**. Just the gift for Christmas at £8 or £15 for two. It's spiral bound, stand-alone, beautifully illustrated and has colour and vintage photos. Some recipes have wine pairing, too. Please take a look at the Sample book on the Welcome Desk.

## **THE TRUTH PROJECT**

Excerpt from a letter written to parishes by Mark, Bishop of Horsham:  
"The Truth Project has been set up in light of sexual abuse cases which have taken place in various organisations in British Society, including the church. The courage of victims and survivors has led to a number of prosecutions and convictions but we cannot be confident that we know and understand the full extent of church-related sexual abuse.

The Truth Project is designed to allow anyone to talk about their experiences and be heard with respect. It offers the opportunity to disclose what has happened to you or to others. This might be sexual abuse or it might be the failure of someone to respond when abuse was suspected or reported.

It is important that anyone who has suffered abuse has the opportunity to make sure their story has been heard. It is also important that the truth about abuse, and about how it has been responded to, is brought into the light. It is for this reason that I commend the Truth Project to you. You will find their contact details below".

**Website:** <https://www.iicsa.org.uk/victims-and-survivors/how-share-your-experience>

**Email:** [truthproject@iicsa.org.uk](mailto:truthproject@iicsa.org.uk)

**Phone:** 0800 917 1000

**(A full copy of the letter is at the back of the church and on the noticeboard in the porch)**