

AMPLEFORTH ABBEY

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

When John heard in prison what Jesus was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

MASS TIMES IN THE ABBEY CHURCH

Sun.	12 Dec.	3rd Sunday of Advent	10.00
Mon.	13 Dec	Mem. St. Lucy	12:35
Tues.	14 Dec	Mem. St. John of Cross	12:35
Weds.	15 Dec	Feria	12:35
Thurs.	16 Dec	Feria	09:00
Fri.	17 Dec	Feria	09:00
Sat	18 Dec	Feria	09:00

GREAT EXPECTATIONS



John the Baptist, hardly surprisingly, needs some help in finding out exactly who this newly-arrived preacher and healer is. It is only to be expected that the crowds listening to Jesus should be similarly confused and that they fill the gap with their home-grown assumptions of what a great prophet and possible Messiah might say and do. From our privileged vantage-point – knowing at least in part how events unfold thereafter – we might be lulled into a dangerous complacency and the assumption that ‘Of course, we know.’ But – of course – ‘knowing’ who Jesus is involves a life-time of prayer, reflection – and action – which, at least in part, witnesses to the conviction that he is indeed the one who is to come” and that there is no call to “wait for another.”

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SMA "DOWN MEXICO WAY"



December 8 at St Martin's Ampleforth had a distinctively Hispanic flavour. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception was marked with a Mass in Spanish to also celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of Mexico. This year, the feast (normally on Dec. 12) was 'saved' by being moved forward. Fr Kentigern Hagan, based at St. Martin's for 15 years until last summer, returned to preside at Mass. He was assisted by a team of readers and servers drawn from the Spanish-speaking pupils – including one Mexican boy. Bilingual texts of readings and prayers were distributed to those present.

'WEATHER GOD' SENDS A REALITY CHECK



Unexpectedly early severe winter weather over much of Britain is a timely reminder that our longing to be In control of our lives has some built-in limits. But this should also be a source of wonder and praise of God the all-powerful Creator: *He scatters hoarfrost like ashes/The waters are frozen at his touch. /He sends forth his word and it melts them/At the breath of his mouth the waters flow. (Psalm 147)*

WEEKDAY MONASTIC OFFICE IN THE ABBEY CHURCH

6.00 a.m. Matins

7.30 a.m. Lauds

8.45 a.m. Little Hour

6.00 p.m. Vespers

8:15 p.m. Compline