

St. Francis of Assisi, Isleworth
www.stfrancis-isleworth.org

2nd Sunday before Advent
Sunday November 17th, 2019

Hymns: 105, 616, 695, 619

Today's Gospel Reading has Jesus predicting appalling situations in the world not least for his followers. In our own day, Christians are persecuted just for being Christians so Jesus's words ring true. His call to endurance is very real for our brothers in sisters in Christ. How can we support them? Yes, through prayer, but how about a contribution to an organisation this Christmas that supports them?

For your prayers

For the wider Church especially Justin our archbishop, Sarah our bishop, and Graham our area bishop
Those Christians persecuted for their faith
For the needs of the world
For the United Kingdom as a general election approaches
For our local community
For the sick and the suffering
For the departed especially those whom we have known and loved

Collect

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading *Malachi 4.1-2a*

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 98*

R The Lord has made known his salvation.

Sing psalms to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn,
raise a shout before the King, the LORD. R

Let the sea and all within it thunder;
the world, and those who dwell in it.
Let the rivers clap their hands,
and the hills ring out their joy
at the presence of the LORD. R

The Lord comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with justice,
and the peoples with fairness. R

Second Reading

2 Thessalonians 3.6-13

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Gospel Reading

Luke 21.5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.' They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them. When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.'

Notices

Refreshments after worship do come into the church hall for tea or coffee after the service.



Aid to the Church in need today's Gospel reading should make us think about persecuted Christians. Yes, pray, but also how about a Christmas gift? Two organisations come to mind: Barnabas Fund, and Embrace the Middle East. Details of both can be found online and details, also, on the board at the back of the church.



Local development public meeting this Wednesday in church from 7.30-9pm. This is a meeting organised by Cllr. Tony Louki and OWGRA to discuss planned developments on the Tesco and Homebase sites, and to seek a way forward in response to them. The developers will not be present.

Thursday Eucharist at 10am.

Archdeacon Stephan A thanksgiving service is being held on Friday 22 November at 7pm at St Paul's, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith, to mark the retirement of Stephan Welch, Archdeacon of Middlesex.

Fellowship Lunch before Christmas Christmas lunch will be on Sunday December 8th. Names to Jane Whitlock. The cost is £5.

Vicar
and Assistant Area Director of Ordinands
The Revd. Peter Vannozzi
07368 453600
revpetervannozzi@gmail.com