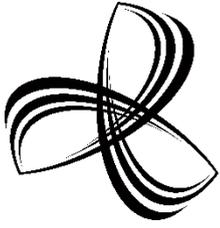


December 2 2018
First Sunday of Advent



Holy Trinity Brussels Newsletter

Today's Services 9:00 – Holy Communion: Paul Vrolijk
10:30 – Holy Communion: Paul Vrolijk
14:00 – Holy Communion & Baptism: John Wilkinson
18:00 – Evening Service & Holy Communion: John Wilkinson
Every Wednesday lunchtime, there is a service of Holy Communion in the church at 12:30

Our readings this week

Advent is a time both to prepare for the celebration of Christ's coming at Christmas and to make ourselves ready, in reflection and renewed commitment, for his coming in judgement.

Jeremiah 33:14-16 The picture of a new shoot coming from the old withered stump inspires hope, the fulfilment of a promise that many had thought abandoned. This shoot is clearly a king in the line of David, who will establish justice and righteousness. Everyone will recognise that the source of the righteousness will be the Lord.

Psalms 25 This psalm can be read in three sections, beginning at verses 1, 8 and 15; as surging up to verse 11 and then ebbing, in a patient mirror of the first half; or as a progress through life, a sort of alphabet, that moves on, not back. Whichever we choose, the psalm speaks of the need for ever-deepening commitment to living for God.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-end Two "second comings" are mentioned here. Paul, who has heard how the church in Thessalonica withstood persecution, is anxious to return to them, to help bring their faith and practice to full maturity. Then they will be in good shape to withstand the problems that they will face before the second coming of Jesus. Nothing could be more important than to be ready for the return of Jesus.

Luke 21: 25-36 As Jesus prepares for his earthly judgement, he warns his disciples to be prepared both for the opposition that will strike them and for his coming again in judgement. The passage contains three very important messages for Christians: to hold up their heads against persecution, for beyond it lies the coming of Christ in judgement; to recognise trouble as signs of the end to come, just as spring shoots herald the summer; and to be alert and well-prepared to meet Christ.

Pointers for prayer

- Pray for those who have lost hope, that it may be reborn in the message of Christmas;
- How mature is my faith? What am I doing to deepen it?
- Pray for all Christians who face persecution to see through it to the reality of Christ's triumph.

Would you like to reflect more with us on these passages? Listen to today's sermon and others at www.holytrinity.be/sermons

Our Life Together

Welcome to Holy Trinity. Coffee and tea are served after the 10:30 service, the bar is also open. Do come and join us downstairs and introduce yourself if you are new or visiting Brussels. At the 14:00 service today we welcome to baptism baby **Jeremy William Scalzo**, brought by his parents Salvatore and Caroline.

Christmas cards. Ann Milton will be selling cards downstairs after the 10:30 service made by her daughter Alice, to raise funds for Alice's fundraising venture for aids orphans.

Our first special service in Advent is the Nativity Service '**Light of the World**', which the children are performing next **Sunday 9 December** at 10:30. In order to allow them to rehearse properly in the church, today *the 10:30 service is in the Walker Hall*.

The **Advent books of meditations** are available from today, **Sunday 2nd December**, and will also be on our Facebook page, the website and holytrinitybrussels.blogspot.com/. Many thanks to the people who have volunteered to write them.

Khaled and his wife **Khadijah**, the Syrian refugees whom the Anglican church in Belgium is sponsoring under the Belgian "**Humanitaire Corridor**" scheme are about to arrive and move into the flat in Ghent. Please pray for them as they settle in.

Word Made Flesh - Advent Workshop – Thursday 6 December 19:30 at HTB.

As we prepare to celebrate Jesus coming into the world as a baby this evening provides the opportunity to reflect and discuss the spiritual significance of embodiment and how that can affect the relationship we have with our own bodies. It would be helpful to have an idea of numbers attending this event. If you plan to come please email the church office admin@holytrinity.be

Bun Sunday is taking limited orders for **Christmas goodies** (puddings, cakes and mince pies). These can be collected at the December bake sale on the 9th after the 10:30 service or at the evening service on the 9th or 16th. Please place your orders via annbarleycorn@belgacom.net or 0496 468540.

Our **Have a Heart campaign** ends today. Thanks for your support!! **Today is the last Sunday** to bring your named, wrapped presents (total value maximum €20) to church. You can leave your gift in the back of the church. If you have not yet been able to buy your present and bring it with you, please come to me or contact me.

I will deliver the presents this Tuesday 4 December. I will also leave some invitations for our upcoming Christmas services, so may I ask you to pray for these families and children. For further details or questions, please contact me on 0484 775939 or anitaverdoes@yahoo.com. Thank you. *Anita Verdoes*

Bishop's Advent Appeal 2018. This year's Advent Appeal aims to enable St. Andrew's Moscow to equip their church with a kitchen. You can read Bishop Robert's full letter on the notice-board in the lobby. If you wish to support the appeal you can either put your donation in an envelope clearly marked "Bishop's Advent Appeal" in the collection, or make a bank transfer to BE14 3100 3441 5383, with the same communication.

The **St Gilles home group** has re-started on **Tuesday evenings**, at **19:30**, hosted by Gloria Crichlow. Please contact Sue Bird (suebird121059@gmail.com, or 0476 410875.

David & Anne Fieldsend wish to say a big thank you to all the Holy Trinity congregations for their generous contributions towards a leaving gift for us as David finished his ministry at Holy Trinity last month. As we set up home again back in the UK this will be very helpful!

Christmas Services 2018

Sunday 9 December

10:30 **'The Light of the World'** - *this year's Nativity Service*

18:00 **Christmas Light** – *a contemporary Carol Service*

Sunday 16 December

15:00 **Festival of Lessons and Carols** - *a Carol Service with the same choir and orchestra as the 19:30 service but a little shorter and easier for parents with children. There will be readings and a sermon. Why not consider coming at 15h to make more room for guests at 19h?*

19:30 **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** - *a Carol Service with choir and orchestra, readings and a sermon.*

Sunday 23 December

18:00 **'Light in Darkness'** - *a quiet service for any for whom Christmas might be more difficult and are looking for a safe place to bring their needs before God.*

Christmas Eve

16:00 **Christmas Eve Service** - *a service for people of all ages to celebrate Christmas together. There will be no Holy Communion, and the service should last under an hour.*

22:00 **'Midnight' Holy Communion** - *a traditional Christmas Eve Holy Communion service, with carols, readings and a sermon too. Preacher: Paul Vrolijk President: Bishop Robert*

Christmas Day * no service at 9h *

10:30 **Holy Communion** - *a service for all ages Preacher: Bishop Robert President: Paul Vrolijk*

15:00 **Holy Communion/Sainte Cène** - *in English and French / en français et anglais*

Monday 31 December

23:00 **Watchnight Service** *in English and French / en français et anglais*

Alpha 2019

An Alpha Course will be offered in the New Year, in English and in French. We are looking for people who are willing to take on a number of roles to make this happen.

We are looking for **volunteers** for both our **Christmas services** and **Alpha 2019**. If you did not receive a pink "volunteer sheet" last week please take one.

Solar Panel Project. As part of aiming to become a more eco-friendly church, we will be installing solar panels on the church roof next year. At a cost of €400 each, the Building Fund can support the investment in 56 panels, but the roof has the capacity for 112 panels, we are inviting donations for the remaining 56 panels in order to have a complete installation. If you would like to invest in this project, please send your donation to the account of The Friends of Holy Trinity asbl. IBAN BE 14 3101 9409 6783, with the message "Solar Panel Project". You may also pay by credit or debit card using our new card reader. If you would like to know more before investing and / or you wish to pay by card, please contact the Treasurer (treasurer@holytrinity.be).

The Prayer Chain welcomes requests for prayer for any situation with complete confidentiality. Please contact Janine Vrolijk on Janine.vrolijk@gmail.com

For rent: 110 square meters apartment with a small balcony in a typical 1930s Brussels house (4 flats in the house). 2 bedrooms, large living space (living room and dining combined), kitchen, separate toilet, bathroom. Fully equipped. Washing machine and dryer in the flat. 2nd floor without lift. In Uccle with a large Parc de Wolvendael round the corner, a supermarket down the road. Close to public transport, trams and buses that get you quickly to the city centre. 15 min by tram to Gare de Midi. To rent from end of January to mid/end of June. Monthly cost with all charges: 1000 euros + 200 euros charges. Contact andrew.james@free.fr or 0497 05 04 27.

The Wider Church

FCJ Centre of Spirituality 211 Ave. Winston Churchill, 1180, Brussels is organising the following events: Wednesday 5 December, 10:30-12:00: **Open Door** Scripture prayer session. All welcome. Sunday 9 December, 14:30-17.30: **Retreat: Inner Peace in Divine Love:** Love in Service: session 4 of 4 sessions, based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Each session can stand alone. For further information, visit www.fcjcentre.be, email fcj@fcjcentre.be or phone GSM 0477 734551.

The Brussels International Singers are holding their **Christmas Carols** concert on Saturday the 8th December at 19:30 at the Conservatoire Royal de Musique de Bruxelles. Further details and ticket information are on the poster in the church lobby.

Alternatively, **Bachwerk** are performing **Bach's Christmas Oratorio** here at Holy Trinity, on Saturday 8 December at 19:00. Again, details of performers and tickets are on the poster in the lobby, or visit www.bachwerk.be

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Website: <http://www.holytrinity.be> **Facebook:** @HolyTrinityBrussels **Instagram:** @holyltrinitybrussels

Phone: 02/511 71 83 **Email:** admin@holyltrinity.be

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9:15 to 12:30
Tuesday 9:15 to 16:00

Newsletter items: to admin@holyltrinity.be by 9:00 Tuesday

Senior Chaplain: The Venerable Dr Paul Vrolijk paul.vrolijk@holyltrinity.be

Associate Chaplains: The Revd Canon John Wilkinson, The Revd Canon Dr Jack McDonald and The Revd Fiona Simon fiona.simon@holyltrinity.be

Assistant Curate: The Revd Jean Bosco Turahirwa

National Anglican prison chaplains based at HTB: Mrs Grace West, The Revd Charles Kabera, Mr Eric Sibomana

Reader: Ms Heather Roy. **Intern:** Mr Mark Van Eker

Precentor/Music Director: Dr David Mitchell

Children, Youth & Discipleship Worker: Mrs Natalie Jones

Pastoral Assistant: Mrs Janet Sayers **Outreach Worker:** Mr Jeremy Heuslein

Gift account for pledges and donations to Holy Trinity Brussels:

IBAN: BE14 3100 3441 5383 BIC: BBRUBEBB

Also by *Payconiq*: Look for the merchant called "Holy Trinity Offering" to make your donation.

Payments for Drongen, Chassepierre, Men's Retreat & other events:

IBAN: BE51 3635 2047 5162 BIC: BBRUBEBB

Also by *Payconiq*: Look for the merchant called "Holy Trinity Events" to make your payment.

