



19-24 December 2021 • Faith 24/7

## Blessed are you

 **Luke 1.39-45,(46-55)**

Mary travels to see her cousin Elizabeth during a time of both their pregnancies. As Elizabeth hears Mary's greeting, Elizabeth feels her baby leap for joy. She feels blessed by Mary's visit, and is surprised that she has been chosen in this way. Elizabeth also reassures Mary that it is because she believed in the word of the Lord that she too has been blessed.

Now read **Luke 1.39-45,(46-55)** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

Any pregnancy is miraculous, but for Elizabeth who thought she could not conceive and Mary who was a virgin, they understandably felt very blessed! Sometimes, when someone is kind or over generous to us, we can become overwhelmed and possibly even feel not worthy enough to have received such a blessing. This passage reminds us that God loves us all – with overwhelming blessings – and we too can be blessings to the people that we meet.



**Ask yourself:** If we could see the signs of greeting we exchange, what would that look like?



## LISTEN

Alongside the carols and Christmas number ones, start each day this week by listening to the song '10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)', Matt Redman on *Spirit & Song*, when you wake up, to focus your mind on the blessings around you. Try to also write down 10 reasons why you feel blessed each day. Or 10,000 reasons, if you have the time!



The week before Christmas can be a busy time. Can you guess how many people you might come into contact with in some way, e.g. on a bus, in the supermarket or at a school nativity? This week, challenge yourself to treat every greeting as a chance to bless someone new, wish them a Merry Christmas, share a smile or offer to help when needed.

## WELCOME

How do you feel when you are reunited with friends and family after being distant for a while? Do you travel to see loved ones at Christmas, or do they come to you? If you are hosting in any way this year, make a 'Welcome' poster to greet your guests. Make it as bright and large as possible!

## Sing

Singing can bring great joy and blessing for those leading and listening. This week, safely organise a carol singing event at your local church, care home or even door to door. Be sure to include hymns of love, blessing and greeting.



When you count your blessings, how many of those are family and friends? Spend some time looking through photographs of past Christmases remembering all the blessed times which you have had with your loved ones. Perhaps you could get one or two of the photos framed or printed out, if you only have digital copies. Can you remember what made you smile, what were you doing, and how were you feeling?



In an effort to keep everyone safe and reduce the chances of infection, with heavy hearts we have decided to cancel the planned Nine Lessons and Carols service on Sunday afternoon. This service will now be available to see on our YouTube channel from Sunday evening. Stay safe.



**100 Club winners for December:**  
**1<sup>st</sup> No. 50 Williams Keys**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> No. 37 Helen Maycroft**



Instead of handing out Christmas Cards this year we are asking you to consider making a small donation to church funds and posting a message to everyone on our Christmas newsletter. If you would like to do this, please pass on your message to Penny either by phone (01905 351468) or email (penny.welford@googlemail.com) by Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December and we will compile a list of messages for circulation. If you choose to make a small donation (cash or cheque), or paid directly into the church bank account with a reference 'Christmas message'. (Sort code 30 99 90 a/c 00451458). Payments by card can also be made – please see the Vicar.

Daily Readings for week commencing 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2021		
<b>Monday</b>	Malachi 1: 1, 6-end	Matthew 19: 1-12
<b>Tuesday</b>	Malachi 2: 1-16	Matthew 19: 13-15
<b>Wednesday</b>	Malachi 2: 17-3:12	Matthew 19: 16-end
<b>Thursday</b>	Malachi 3: 13-end of 4	Matthew 23: 1-12
<b>Friday</b>	Nahum 1	Matthew 23: 13-28
<b>Saturday</b>	Isaiah 62: 1-5	Matthew 1: 18-end

***Pray for those in need...**Sally, Tristan, Mark, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy, Mandy, Joyce, Ian, Pamela, Juliette and Nicki. **Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...**Pete, Rosina and Carole.*



### Christmas services 2021

Christmas Eve 11.30 p.m. **(Online only)** Midnight Mass for the Worcester South East Team – please let Rob know if you would like joining instructions.

Christmas Day 10.00 a.m. at the Community Centre – Christmas Communion.

The service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December will be a Team service at St Martin's at 10.00 a.m. There is no service at Ronkswood that day.