



Dear Friends

What are we doing now, amongst so many other things such as work, trying to keep warm, planning Christmas and New Year events, shopping, preparing the next meal, washing and ironing perhaps; helping others? We are often so busy....

Our aims and activities are surely a rich mixture at this time of year. We are celebrating Advent: a waiting time with Mary in the Holy Land over 2,000 years ago. At the same time we are looking forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ during the next fortnight: Christ the author of Christianity, who deepens our understanding of our creation, our creator God, our relationship with each other, and the gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit. Many of us are exchanging Christmas cards too.

During this week, following the third Sunday of Advent, the Church remembers on Tuesday the novelist Samuel Johnson and the martyr Saint Lucy.

Samuel is perhaps best known for his compiling a dictionary of the English language in 1755. It is believed that Samuel had a late conversion to Christianity just a week or so before he died. Saint Lucy, whose name means 'light', was martyred in 304 in Syracuse. We remember her as one who gave her life for the sake of the good news of Christ.

On Wednesday we remember Saint John of the Cross, who died in 1591. A Spanish mystic and poet, John de Yepes was born around 1542 near Avila in Spain. He became a Carmelite monk and later, a Prior and author.

John's best known writing is 'Noche obscura del alma', which translates as 'The Dark Night of the Soul'. John describes the soul's progress in seeking and finally attaining union with God through an experience parallel to Christ's crucifixion and glory.

During this busy week as we wait for the coming of Jesus Christ, we remember those who shine light on the paths we lead today. We are thankful for them.

May you and yours each be blessed with the knowledge of God's eternal, saving love.

With all good wishes in Christ

Richard

This week's 'Pews news' is [here](#).

From left to right: Samuel Johnson, Saint Lucy, and Saint John of the Cross [Google images]

