St George

Bickley

The Order for Mass on

**the SEVENTH SUNDAY**

**in Ordinary Time**

23rd February 2025 at 10.30am

Parish Priest

Fr Henry Everett SSC

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*Welcome to St George’s! This booklet contains all the material you will need for today’s celebration of Mass. We hope that you will find this service easy to follow, but please do not be afraid to ask if you are unsure what to do at any point. The building is fitted with an induction loop and you will find the best results away from the pillars.*

*Families with small children are very welcome to make use of the carpeted play area at the back of church, where you will find books, crayons and soft toys. There are two further play stations in the side aisles. Older children should join Children’s Church.*

*A toilet is at the back of church, behind the screen. After Mass, please join us in the hall for refreshments. Before Mass, please try to maintain an atmosphere of quiet prayer.*

*Mass setting: Congress Mass.*

*Please stand when the bell rings, for the procession of the clergy and servers, and to sing hymn 271:*

**Christ is our corner-stone,
On him alone we build;
With his true saints alone
The courts of heaven are filled:
On his great love
Our hopes we place
Of present grace
And joys above.**

**O, then with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise
The Three in One to sing;
And thus proclaim
In joyful song,
Both loud and long,
That glorious Name.**

**Here, gracious God, do thou**

**For evermore draw nigh;**

**Accept each faithful vow,**

**And mark each suppliant sigh;**

**In copious shower**

**On all who pray**

**Each holy day**

**Thy blessings pour.**

**Here may we gain from heaven
The grace which we implore;
And may that grace, once given,
Be with us evermore,
Until that day
When all the blest
To endless rest
Are called away.** *John Chandler (1806-76) based on 6th century Latin.*

*The priest sings:*

*Priest* In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*People* **Amen.**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you**.

*The priest introduces the Mass, sends Children’s Church to their activities and invites the people to recall and confess their sins:*

*Priest* The Lord is generous and full of compassion: his mercy is over all his works. Trusting in the goodness of God our Creator we turn to him in penitence for our sins.

*Cantor* Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father. Lord, have mercy*.*

*People* **Lord, have mercy***.*

*Cantor* Lord Jesus, you have sent us the Spirit of truth.

Christ, have mercy.

*People* **Christ, have mercy***.*

*Cantor* Lord Jesus, you are the source of eternal life.

Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest* May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life,

*People* **Amen.**

*We all sing the Gloria.*

*People* **Glory to God, glory to God in the highest, and peace, peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen.**

*Then the priest prays the collect:*

*Priest* Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

*Now sit to listen to the first reading:*

*Reader* A reading from the first book of Samuel. *(1 Samuel 26; 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23)*

In those days: Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.

David and Abishai went to the army by night. And there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and Abner and the army lay round him. Then Abishai said to David, ‘God has given your enemy into your hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the earth with one stroke of the spear, and I will not strike him twice.’ But David said to Abishai, ‘Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the Lord’s anointed and be guiltless?’ So David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul’s head, and they went away. No man saw it or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen upon them.

Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them. David said, ‘Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it. The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord’s anointed.’

This is the word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 103 follows the reading. Remain seated to sing:*

**1 Praise the Lord, | O my | soul :
and all that is within me | praise his | holy | Name.**

**2 Praise the Lord, | O my | soul :
and for- | get not | all his | benefits;**

**3 Who forgiveth | all thy | sin :
and | healeth | all ' thine in- | firmities;**

**4 Who saveth thy | life ' from de- | struction :
and crowneth thee with | mercy ' and | loving- | kindness;**

**8 The Lord is full of com- | passion ' and | mercy :
long-suffering, | and of | great\_ | goodness.**

**10 He hath not dealt with us | after ' our | sins :
nor rewarded us ac- | cording | to our | wickednesses.**

**12 Look how wide also the east is | from the | west :
so far hath he | set our | sins\_ | from us.**

**13 Yea, like as a father pitieth | his own | children :
even so is the Lord merciful | unto | them that | fear him.**

*Remain seated for the second reading:*

*Reader* A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians. *(1 Corinthians 15; 45-49)*

Brothers and Sisters: ‘The first man Adam became a living being’; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

This is the word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand for the gospel acclamation after a brief pause for reflection.*

*Choir*  Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*People* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Choir* A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

*People* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Priest* The Lord be with you,

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. *(Luke 6; 27-38)*

*People* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Priest* At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you; and from one who takes away your goods, do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

‘If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

‘Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.’

 This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

 **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Please sit for the Homily from Fr Henry.*

*All stand to say the Nicene Creed:*

*People* **I believe in one God, the Father almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father, through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Please remain standing for the Prayers of Intercession.*

*Priest*In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to God our Father.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy, / Lord, hear us.

*People* **Hear our prayer. / Lord, graciously hear us.**

*At the prayer for the departed,*

*Reader* Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.

*People* **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*When the prayers of the saints are asked,*

**Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

*In conclusion to the prayers:*

*Priest* Father, you have promised to hear the prayers of those who ask in the name of your Son: grant that what we have asked in faith may be granted to us according to your will. Merciful Father,

*People* **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Please sit, as the Choir sing “Cantique de Jean Racine”, by Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924), and bread and wine are brought to the altar.*

*Stand to sing hymn 385, as the altar is prepared and the collection is taken. If you want to give by card, there is a card reader at the back of church.*

**Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am (thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down),
Now to be thine, yea thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, of that free love
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove,
Here for a season then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.** *Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)*

*The Priest says*

*Priest* Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

*People* **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

*Priest* As we celebrate your mysteries, O Lord, with the observance that is your due, we humbly ask you, that what we offer to the honour of your majesty may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

*The Priest sings the opening of the Eucharistic Prayer:*

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The Priest prays the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer, and then all sing the Sanctus and Benedictus:*

*People* **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

*Please kneel. The Eucharistic Prayer continues, until the Words of Institution. Then all make the Memorial Acclamation:*

*Priest* Great is the mystery of faith.

*People* **Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.**

*The Priest concludes the Eucharistic Prayer, and all sing:*

*People* **Amen! Amen! Amen!**

*Please stand for the Lord’s Prayer.*

*Priest* At the Saviour’s command, and formed by divine teaching, we dare to pray,

*People* **Our Father, who art in heaven**

 **hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

*Priest* Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our day, that by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

*People* **For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.**

*Priest* Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

*Priest* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Now sing the Agnus Dei*

*People* **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.** *(repeated)*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

*Then kneel.*

*Priest* Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

*People* **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

*Priest*  Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God, who is coming into this world.

*The people come forward to receive Communion. If you have not been baptized and confirmed, please come forward for a blessing instead of Communion, carrying this order of service.*

*During Communion hymn 384 is sung, all remaining seated or kneeling.*

**Jesu, thou joy of loving hearts,
Thou fount of life, thou light of men,
From the best bliss that earth imparts
We turn unfilled to thee again.**

**Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood,
Thou savest those that on thee call,
To them that seek thee thou art good,
To them that find thee, all in all.**

**We taste thee, O thou living bread,
And long to feast upon thee still;
We drink of thee, the fountain-head,
And thirst our souls from thee to fill.**

**Our restless spirits yearn for thee,
Where'er our changeful lot is cast,
Glad when thy gracious smile we see,
Blest when our faith can hold thee fast.**

**O Jesu, ever with us stay,
Make all our moments calm and bright;
Chase the dark night of sin away,
Shed o'er the world thy holy light.**

*Latin 12th century, tr Ray Palmer (1808-87)*

*All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:*

*Priest* Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we may experience the effects of the salvation which is pledged to us by these mysteries. Through Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

*Please sit for the notices.*

*Then stand for the blessing and dismissal*

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*People* **Amen.**

*Priest* Go forth, the Mass is ended.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The clergy and servers go to the shrine of Our Lady for the Angelus.*

*Priest* The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,

*People* **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

**Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

*Priest* Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

*People* **Be it unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary…**

*Priest* And the word was made flesh,

*People* **And dwelt among us. Hail Mary…**

*Priest*Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

*People* **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

*Priest* Let us pray. We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, so that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ through the message of an angel, so, by his cross and passion, we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

*Remain standing to sing hymn 552 as clergy and servers depart:*

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven.
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King!**

**Praise him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same forever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.**

**Father-like he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.**

**Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!** *Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)*

*The organist plays “Litanies” by Jehan Alain (1911-40).*

*Scripture readings are taken from the English Standard Version, Catholic Edition.*

**Collection: we take a collection during the second hymn, towards the cost of providing services and the upkeep of this church. If you are a UK taxpayer please place your offering in one of the envelopes in the pews (completed with your name and address) and place it in the collection plate when it is circulated during the hymn. Pens are in the pews. A card reader to give by contactless payment is available at the back of church. Special thanks if you give by standing order, as this helps us to budget.**

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