



The Order for Mass on  
**the FIRST SUNDAY**  
**in ADVENT**

30<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 10.30am

Parish Priest  
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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 is a further play station in the north aisle. Older children should join Children's Church, who will go out to the Hall after the first hymn, and return in time for Communion.*

*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: Dean and Fry.*

*Please stand when the bell rings, for the procession of the clergy and servers, and to sing hymn REH 636, the Advent Prose:*

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
And let the skies pour down righteousness.

**Drop down, ye heavens from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord,  
neither remember iniquity forever:  
thy holy cities are a wilderness,  
Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:  
our holy and our beautiful house,  
where our fathers praised thee.

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,  
and we all do fade as a leaf:  
and our iniquities, like the wind,  
have taken us away:  
thou hast hid thy face from us:  
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,  
and my servant whom I have chosen:  
that ye may know me and believe me:  
I, even I, am the Lord,  
and beside me there is no Saviour:  
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,  
my salvation shall not tarry:  
I have blotted out as a thick cloud  
thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee:  
For I am the Lord thy God,  
the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

*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, and, standing by the Advent Wreath, blesses it:*

*Priest*        God our Father, you formed your plan for us long ago, and  
                     prepared the way for the coming of your Son Jesus as our  
                     saviour; may this wreath we have prepared be blessed +  
                     and keep us in mind of his coming again as our judge.  
                     Through the same Christ our Lord.

*People*        **Amen.**

*A child lights the first candle on the wreath. We all join in singing:*

*People*      **We light the first candle on our Advent ring,  
Looking forward to Christmas, of Jesus we sing,  
Who came once in Palestine when all was night,  
And will come in his justice to bring all things to light.**

*Priest*      Sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors, you called the  
patriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the  
hope of your promised fulfilment. May we be obedient to  
your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ.  
Through the same Christ our Lord.

*People*      **Amen.**

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

*Priest*      Hear the word of the Lord, you peoples: make it known to  
the ends of the earth. Our salvation is near; be not afraid.  
When the Lord comes he will bring to light things that are  
hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of our  
hearts: so we turn to him in penitence, that we may  
receive his light and his grace.

*Cantor*      You raise the dead to life in the Spirit, speak to our hearts  
and bring us to life.

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

*Cantor*      Pardon and peace you bring to the sinner, make us  
repentant and wash us clean.

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

*Cantor*      You bring your light to those in the darkness, shine on us  
now, and wake us from sleep.

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

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

*People* **Amen.**

*Then the priest prays the collect:*

*Priest* Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to  
run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his  
coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be  
worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom. 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 prophet Isaiah. (*Isaiah 2; 1-5*).

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning  
Judah and Jerusalem.

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain  
of the house of the Lord shall be established as the  
highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the  
hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples  
shall come, and say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the  
house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.’

For out of Sion shall go forth the law, and the word of the  
Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall  
beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into  
pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against  
nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of  
Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

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

*Psalm 122 follows the reading. Remain seated to sing*

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- 1 I was glad when they | said ' unto | me :  
We will | go in- ' to the | house ' of the | Lord.

S  
A

(v2) Our feet shall stand in thy gates: O Je - - rusalem

T  
B

- 2\* Our | feet shall | stand |  
in thy | gates\_ : | O Je- | rusalem.

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- 4 For thither the tribes go up, even the | tribes ' of the | Lord :  
to testify unto Israel, to give | thanks un- ' to the | Name ' of the | Lord.
- 5 For there is the | seat of | judgement :  
even the | seat ' of the | house of | David.
- 6 O pray for the | peace ' of Je- | rusalem :  
they shall | pro- \_ | sper that | love thee.
- 7 Peace be with- | in thy | walls :  
and | plenteousness ' with- | in thy | palaces.
- 8 For my brethren and com- | panions' | sakes :  
I will | wish\_ | thee pro- | sperity.
- 9 Yea, because of the house of the | Lord our | God :  
I will | seek to | do thee | good.

*Remain seated for the second reading:*

*Reader* A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans. (*Romans 13; 1-14*)

Brothers and sisters: You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

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

*Stand for the gospel acclamation.*

*Choir* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

*Choir* Show us, O Lord, your mercy  
and grant us your salvation.

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

*Priest* The Lord be with you,

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

*Priest* A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
(*Matthew 24; 37-44*)

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

*Priest* At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the

house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

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.*

*The Priest introduces and concludes the prayers.*

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

*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* We commend ourselves and one another and all for whom we pray to Christ our God: that we may set our hope fully upon the grace that is coming to us at his appearing. Merciful Father,

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

*Please sit, as the Choir sing "The Truth from Above", arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), and bread and wine are brought to the altar.*

*Stand to sing hymn REH 3, 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.*

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free,  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.**

Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit,  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

*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* Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. 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:*

*Choir* Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power, God of might.

*People* **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might.**

*Choir* Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

*People*      **Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

*Choir*      Hosanna in the highest.

*People*      **Hosanna in the highest.**

*Choir*      Blessed is he who comes, he who comes in the name of  
the Lord.

*People*      **Blessed is he who comes, he who comes in the name of  
the Lord.**

*Choir*      Hosanna in the highest.

*People*      **Hosanna in the highest.**

*Choir*      Hosanna in the highest.

*People*      **Hosanna in the highest.**

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

*Priest*      The mystery of faith.

*Choir*      Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our  
life.

*People*      **Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our  
life.**

*Choir*      Lord Jesus, come in glory.

*People*      **Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*Choir*      Lord Jesus, come!

*People*      **Lord Jesus, come!**

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

*People*      **Amen!**

*Please stand for the Lord's Prayer.*

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

*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*        The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield  
its increase.

*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 REH 1 is sung, all remaining seated or kneeling.*

**Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people's everlasting light,  
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,  
Regard thy servants when they call.**

**Thou, grieving at the bitter cry  
Of all creation doomed to die,  
Didst come to save a ruined race  
With healing gifts of heavenly grace.**

**Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,  
As drew the world to evening-tide,  
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,  
The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.**

**At thy great name, exalted now,  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow,  
And things in heaven and earth shall own  
That thou art Lord and King alone.**

**To thee, O Holy One, we pray,  
Our judge in that tremendous day,  
Preserve us, while we dwell below,  
From every onslaught of the foe.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
Whose advent sets thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore,**

**And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.**

*Latin, John Mason Neale (1818-66) & Editors of the New English Hymnal 1986.*

*All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:*

**Priest** May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. 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. As they go we sing the Advent anthem to Our Lady:*

**Mother of Christ, hear thou thy people's cry,  
Star of the deep, and portal of the sky;  
Mother of him, who thee from nothing made,  
Sinking, we strive and call to thee for aid:  
O by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee,  
Thou Virgin first and last, pray mercy.**

*(J Byrom)*

**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 REH 8 as clergy and servers depart:*

**Hills of the North, rejoice,  
River and mountain-spring,  
Hark to the advent voice  
Valley and lowland, sing:  
Christ comes in righteousness and love,  
He brings salvation from above.**

**Isles of the southern seas,  
Sing to the listening earth,  
Carry on every breeze  
Hope of a new world's birth:  
In Christ shall all be made anew,  
His word is sure, his promise true.**

**Lands of the East, arise,  
He is your brightest morn,**

**Greet him with joyous eyes,  
Praise shall his path adorn:  
The God whom you have longed to know  
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.**

**Shores of the utmost West,  
Lands of the setting sun,  
Welcome the heavenly guest  
In whom the dawn has come:  
He brings a never-ending light  
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night.**

**Shout, as you journey on,  
Songs be in every mouth,  
Lo, from the North they come,  
From East and West and South:  
In Jesus all shall find their rest,  
In him the sons of earth be blest.**

*© 1975 Editors of English Praise altd. Based on Charles Ernest Oakley (1832-65)*

*The organist plays “Wachet Auf! ruft uns die Stimme”, BWV 645 by JS Bach (1685-1750).*

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

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