

St George
Bickley

The Order for Mass on
the FIRST SUNDAY
in ADVENT

1st December 2024 at 10.30am

Parish Priest
Fr Henry Everett SSC
020 82956411
frhenry@yahoo.co.uk

Honorary Assistant Priests:
Fr David Cossar SSC 020 37309003
Canon Owen Beament MBE 07984668290
Canon Paul Jenkins 07710046474

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, 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 Jeremiah. (*Jeremiah 33; 14-16*).
See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks –
when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House
of Israel and the House of Judah:
‘In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.
In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be called:
The-Lord-our-integrity.’
This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25 follows the reading. Remain seated to sing

(alternative chant) JOHN STAINER

3 Shew me thy | ways, O | Lord :
and | teach me | thy_ | paths.

4 Lead me forth in thy | truth, and | learn me :
for thou art the God of my salvation; in thee hath been my | hope_ | all the '
day | long.

7 Gracious and righteous | is the | Lord :
therefore will he teach | sinners | in the | way.

8 Them that are meek shall he | guide in | judgement :
and such as are gentle, | them ' shall he | learn his | way.

9 All the paths of the Lord are | mercy ' and | truth :
unto such as keep his | cove- ' nant | and his | testimonies.

13 The secret of the Lord is among | them that | fear him :
and | he will | shew them ' his | covenant.

Remain seated for the second reading:

Reader A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Thessalonians. (*1 Thessalonians 3; 12-4; 2*)

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

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 Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

People **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Deacon The Lord be with you,

People **And also with you.**

Deacon A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. *(Luke 21; 25-28, 34-36)*

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

Deacon Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

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 Noble Stem of Jesse", by Michael Praetorius, 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:

Deacon Great is 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.**

Deacon 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.**

Deacon 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 “Variations i-v on ‘Nun Komm’, der Heiden Heiland”, by Anton Heiller (1923-79).

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.

Scan this QR code to donate to St George’s.

