

St George
Bickley

The Order for Mass on
the SECOND SUNDAY
of ADVENT

8th 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 15:

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come then and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be every Christian breast,
And furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without thy grace our souls must fade,
And wither like a flower decayed.**

**Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,
And make us rise, to fall no more;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.**

Charles Coffin (1676-1749)

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, invites a child to light the second candle on the wreath. We all join in singing:

People **We sing of the prophets who listened to God,
As we follow their steps in the way they once trod.
The last of the prophets was a fierce man named John,
Whose call to repentance still goes on and on.**

Priest God our Father, you spoke to the prophets of old of a Saviour who would bring peace, and in the fulness of time sent John as the last of the prophets to point the way to him. May we listen to your call and be ready to meet your Christ among us. 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 The Lord is coming; his salvation will not tarry: he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. As we come to celebrate the mystery of Christ let us acknowledge that we have chosen darkness rather than light.

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 Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. 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 Baruch. (*Baruch 5; 1-9*)

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the crown of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For your name will for ever be called by God:

‘Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness’.

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look towards the east and see your children gathered from west and east, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went forth from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.
This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126 follows the reading. Remain seated to sing



- 1 When the Lord turned again the cap- | tivity ' of | Sion :
then were we | like ' unto | them that | dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth | filled with | laughter :
and our | tongue_ | with_ | joy.
- 3 Then said they a- | mong the | heathen :
The | Lord hath ' done | great things | for them.
- 4 Yea, the Lord hath done great things | for us ' al- | ready :
where- | of_ | we re- | joice.
- 5 Turn our cap- | tivity, ' O | Lord :
as the | rivers | in the | south.
- 6 They that | sow in | tears :
shall | reap_ | _ in | joy.

7† He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth | forth good | seed
:
shall doubtless come again with joy, and | bring his | sheaves_ | with
him.

† = 2nd half of chant

Remain seated for the second reading:

Reader A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

(Philippians 1; 3-6, 8-11)

Brothers and sisters: I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

After a pause for reflection, stand for the gospel acclamation.

Choir Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Choir Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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 3; 1-6*)

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

Deacon In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

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 As we await the appearing of our great Lord and Saviour, let us hasten the coming of his kingdom, praying for the Church and for the world.

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 God's mercy and compassion may descend upon us all to save and defend us. Merciful Father,

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

Please sit, as the Choir sing "People Look East", a Besançon carol, and bread and wine are brought to the altar.

*Stand to sing hymn REH 20, 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.*

**The Lord will come and not be slow,
His footsteps cannot err;
Before him righteousness shall go,
His royal harbinger.**

**Truth from the earth, like to a flower,
Shall bud and blossom then;
And justice from her heavenly bower,
Look down on mortal men.**

**Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,
This wicked earth redress;
For thou art he who shalt by right
The nations all possess.**

**The nations all whom thou hast made
Shall come, and all shall frame
To bow them low before thee, Lord,
And glorify thy name.**

**For great thou art, and wonders great
By thy strong hand are done:
Thou in thy everlasting seat
Remainest God alone.**

John Milton (1608-74)

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 Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. 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 Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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 2 is sung, all remaining seated or kneeling.

**O heavenly Word of God on high,
Whose love has brought salvation nigh,
And from the Father's heart didst come
To save a race by sin undone.**

Our minds enlighten from above,
And kindle with the fire of love,
That as we hear thy gospel read,
All sinful thoughts may flee in dread.

So when thou comest at the last,
And earth's long history is past,
May we be set at thy right hand,
And with thine own in glory stand.

Grant thou thy gifts of below,
In heaven an endless joy bestow,
Who art our sole and sovereign Lord,
The saving judge, and saints' reward.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. *Editors of NEH 1986, based on 10th century Latin.*

All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:

Priest Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we
humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking
in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the
things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven.
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. **Amen.**

Remain standing to sing hymn REH 22 as clergy and servers depart:

**Wake, O wake! with tidings thrilling
The watchmen all the air are filling,
Arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! no more delaying,
'The hour has come!' we hear them saying.
Where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes in sight,
Raise high your torches bright!
Alleluya!
The wedding song
Swells loud and strong:
Go forth and join the festal throng.**

**Sion hears the watchmen shouting,
Her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,
She stands and waits with eager eyes;
See her Friend from heaven descending,
Adorned with truth and grace unending!
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
Now come, thou precious Crown,
Lord Jesu, God's own Son!
Hosanna!
Let us prepare
To follow there,
Where in thy supper we may share.**

**Every soul in thee rejoices;
From men and from angelic voices
Be glory given to thee alone!
Now the gates of pearl receive us,
Thy presence never more shall leave us,
We stand with Angels round thy throne.
Earth cannot give below**

**The bliss thou dost bestow.
Alleluya!
Grant us to raise,
To length of days,
The triumph-chorus of thy praise.**

The organist plays “Variations vi-viii 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.

