

St George
Bickley

The Order for Mass on
the THIRD SUNDAY
of ADVENT

15th December 2024 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 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: Wood in the Phrygian Mode.

Please stand when the bell rings, for the procession of the clergy and servers, and to sing hymn REH 9:

**Joy to the world; the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her king:
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heave, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns;
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground:
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,**

Far as, far as the curse is found.

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

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 third candle on the wreath. We all join in singing:

People **Great John the Baptizer prepared Jesus' way,
"Repent and believe!" he would constantly say.
The candle we light is the colour of rose,
As we come close to Christmas our happiness grows.**

Priest God our Father, your servant John prepared the people for the coming of the Lord and baptized them in the Jordan as a sign of their repentance. Help us, who have been baptized into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts. 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 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near. The Lord will go forth in majesty to visit his people and bring them peace and eternal life. We are to look up and raise our heads, for our redemption is drawing near: let us turn to the Lord in penitence for our sins.

People **I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

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

People **Amen.**

Choir Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison.

Then the priest prays the collect:

Priest O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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 Zephaniah. (*Zephaniah 3; 14-18*)
Sing aloud, O daughter of Sion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgements against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

‘Fear not, O Sion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.’

This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm (146) follows the reading. Remain seated to sing



- 1 Praise the Lord, O my soul; while I live will I | praise the | Lord :
yea, as long as I have any being, I will sing | praises | unto ' my | God.
- 6 Who helpeth them to right that | suffer | wrong :
who | feed- | eth the | hungry.
- 7 The Lord looseth men | out of | prison :
the Lord giveth | sight- | to the | blind.
- 8 The Lord helpeth | them ' that are | fallen :
the Lord | careth | for the | righteous.
- 9 The Lord careth for the strangers, he defendeth the | fatherless ' and |
widow :
as for the way of the ungodly, he | turneth ' it | upside | down.
- 10 The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be | King for ' ever- | more :
and through- | out all | gene- | rations.

Remain seated for the second reading:

Reader A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.
(*Philippians 4; 4-7*)

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ 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 The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

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; 10-18*)

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

Deacon At that time: The crowds asked John, 'What, then, shall we do?' And he answered them, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.' Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, 'Teacher, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Collect no more than you are authorized to do.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. 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 in hope the appearing of our great Lord and Saviour, let us joyfully 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 Rejoicing, 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 "Rejoice in the Lord Alway", by John Redford, and bread and wine are brought to the altar.

Stand to sing hymn REH 6, 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.

**Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.**

**He comes the prisoners to release
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
Enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With thy beloved name.**

Philip Doddridge (1702-51)

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 May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. 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 the Choir sing the Sanctus and Benedictus:

Choir Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. 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.

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!**

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.

The Choir sing the Agnus Dei

Choir O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us. *(repeated)*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: grant us thy 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 Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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 19 is sung, all remaining seated or kneeling.

**The advent of our God
With eager prayers we greet,
And singing haste upon the road
His glorious gift to meet.**

**The everlasting Son
Scorns not the Virgin's womb;
That we from bondage may be won
He bears a bondsman's doom.**

**Daughter of Sion, rise
To meet thy lowly King;
Let not thy stubborn heart despise
The peace he comes to bring.**

**On clouds of dazzling light,
As judge he comes again,
His scattered people to unite,
With him in heaven to reign.**

**Let evil flee away,
Ere that great hour shall dawn,
Let this old Adam day by day
The new Man all put on.**

**Praise to the incarnate Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father and with Spirit One,
To all eternity. Amen.** *C Coffin (1676-1749) tr H Putman (1861-1935)*

All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:

Priest We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. 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 the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent and enrich you with his blessing.

People **Amen.**

Priest As you run the race of this present life, may he make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity.

People **Amen.**

Priest So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh, you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life when he comes again in majesty.

People **Amen.**

Priest And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

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 11 as clergy and servers depart:

**Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;**

**Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluya!
God appears, on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing
Shall the true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!**

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

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

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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