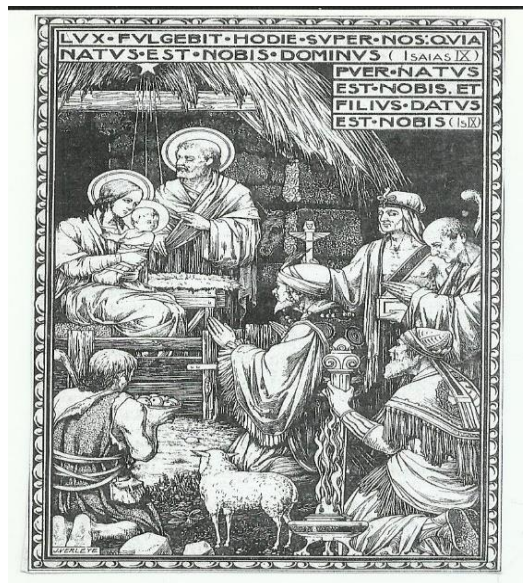


**ST GEORGE  
BICKLEY**

**THE ORDER FOR MIDNIGHT MASS ON  
THE SOLEMNITY  
OF THE NATIVITY  
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

**24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024, 11.30PM**



*Parish Priest*

**Father Henry Everett**

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*Honorary Assistant Priests*

**Fr David Cossar SSC 020 3730 9003**

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**Canon Paul Jenkins 07710 046474**

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

Families with small children are very welcome to make use of the carpeted 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.

A toilet is at the back of church behind the screen. Before Mass, please try to maintain an atmosphere of quiet prayer.

Mass setting: Lourdes.

Please stand when the bell rings, for the procession of the clergy and servers, and to sing hymn 248:

**It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,  
From heaven's all-gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.**

*The procession stops at the crib, and the priest blesses it:*

*Priest* Let us ask God's blessing on this Christmas crib and on ourselves that we who reflect on the birth of Jesus may share the salvation he accomplished.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

*People* **Who has made heaven and earth.**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

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

*Priest* Let us pray;

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of time you have shown your love: when our need for a Saviour was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. Bless ✠ this crib and all who look on it. May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus and raise our thoughts to him, who is Emmanuel, God-with-us, and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*People*     **Amen.**

*The crib is then sprinkled with holy water and honoured with incense.*

**Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing;  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing!**

**For, lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When, with the ever-circling years,  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.**

*Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-76)*

*Then 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 invites the people to recall and confess their sins:*

*Priest* The fullness of time has come: God has sent his only Son into the world that we might live through him. The Lord is at hand, the judge is standing at the doors: in penitence for our sins let us prepare to receive him who is our light and salvation;

*Cantor* Lord Jesus Christ, risen from among the dead, you are with us every day until the end of time: open our eyes to the sign of your presence.

*People* **Kyrie eleison.**

*Cantor* Lord Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father, you are with us every day until the end of time: open our hearts to the joy of your presence.

*People* **Christe eleison.**

*Cantor* Lord Jesus Christ, you send us the Holy Spirit; you are with us every day until the end of time: open our lives to the coming of your Spirit.

*People* **Kyrie eleison.**

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

*People* **Amen.**

*Remain standing to sing the Gloria:*

*Cantor* Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.

*People* **Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*Choir* Glory to God in the highest, and 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.

*People* **Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**  
**Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*Choir* Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father. Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.

*People* **Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**  
**Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo**

*Choir* 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.

*People* **Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**  
**Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo**

*Then the Priest prays the Collect,*

*Priest* O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendour of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

*Now sit to listen to the First Reading. Isaiah 9; 1-7.*

*Reader* A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.  
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace, there will be no end on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

*The Psalm (96) follows the reading. Remain seated to sing,*



O sing unto the Lord a | new\_ | song :  
sing unto the Lord, | all the | whole\_ | earth.  
Sing unto the Lord, and | praise his | Name :  
be telling of his sal- | vation ' from | day to | day.  
Declare his honour | unto ' the | heathen : and his wonders | unto | all\_ |  
people.  
Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be | glad : let the sea make a  
noise, and | all that | therein | is.  
Let the field be joyful, and | all ' that is | in it :  
then shall all the trees of the wood re- | joice be- | fore the | Lord.  
For he cometh, for he cometh to | judge the | earth :  
and with righteousness to judge the world, and the | people | with his |  
truth.

*Remain seated for the Second Reading. Titus 2; 11-14.*

*Reader* A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.  
Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness, and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.  
This is the Word of the Lord.

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

*We pause for reflection. Then stand for the Gospel Acclamation,*

*Choir* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
*People* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
*Choir* I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.  
*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 2; 1-14.*

*People* **Glory to you, O Lord.**  
*Priest* In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give

birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

*Please sit for the Homily.*

*Then stand to recite 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*      God sent his Son to live as a man among us. Let us pray in the confidence of our new life in him.

*After each bidding:*

*Reader*      Lord, in your mercy

*People*      **hear our prayer**

*At the prayer for the departed:*

*Reader*      Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,

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

*When the prayers of the saints are asked for:*

**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*      Through Christ, who is the hope of the nations and the joy of all people we make our prayers to God who is most wonderfully with us. Merciful Father,

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

*Please sit, as the Choir sing the anthem: "Watts' Cradle Song", Northumbrian tune, arranged by Martin Shaw (1875-1958) as bread and wine are brought to the altar.*

*Please stand to sing hymn 37, as the collection is taken. If you want to give by card, there is a card reader at the back of church.*

**Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem:  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.***

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel:**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth:**

*C Wesley (1707-88) et al.*

*Then 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 oblation of this day's feast be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we may be found in the likeness of Christ, in whom our nature is unified to you. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

*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:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.  
Full of your glory are heav'n and earth, God of pow'r and might.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.  
Blessed is he who comes to us in the name of the Lord.  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.**

*Please kneel. The Eucharistic Prayer continues, until the Memorial Acclamation:*

*Priest* Great is the mystery of Faith.

*Cantor* You are the world's redeemer: save your people Lord.

*People* **Save your people Lord.**

*Cantor* By dying on the cross, you have set us free: save your people Lord.

*People* **Save your people Lord.**

*Cantor* By rising from the dead, you have set us free: save your people Lord.

*People*      **Save your people Lord.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer concludes, and all sing,*

*Priest*      Through him, with him, in him.

*People*      **Amen.**

*Priest*      in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

*People*      **Amen.**

*Priest*      all glory and honour is yours, almighty Father, for ever  
and ever.

*People*      **Amen.**

*Please stand for the Lord's Prayer,*

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

*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:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us. *(repeated)*  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace, 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 Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

*The people come forward to receive communion. If you have **not** been baptised and confirmed, please come forward for a blessing instead of communion, carrying this Order of Service.*

*During communion hymn 48 is sung, for which all remain seated or kneeling,*

**Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon Virgin Mother and child;  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight:  
Glory streams from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing,"Alleluya,  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born!"**

**Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light:  
Radiant beams thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,**

**Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.** *J Mohr (1792-1848) tr J Freeman Young (1820-85)*

*Then this hymn is sung:*

**O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee to-night.**

**O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the king,  
And peace to men on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.**

**How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;**

**But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.** *Bishop Philips Brooks (1835-93)*

*Please stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:*

*Priest* Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, that we, who are  
gladdened by participation in the feast of our Redeemer's  
Nativity, may, through an honourable way of life become  
worthy of union with him. Who lives and reigns for ever  
and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

*Please sit for the Notices.*

*Then stand for the Blessing & Dismissal,*

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

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

*Deacon* Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

*Priest* May the God of infinite goodness, who by the Incarnation  
of his Son has driven darkness from the world and by that  
glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night, drive far  
from you the darkness of vice and illumine your hearts  
with the light of virtue.

*People* **Amen.**

*Priest* May God, who willed that the great joy of his Son's saving  
Birth be announced to shepherds by the Angel, fill your

minds with the gladness he gives and make you heralds of his Gospel.

*People* **Amen.**

*Priest* And may God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

*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.**

*Priest* Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

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

*The clergy and servers go to the crib for the Angelus. The priest carries the figure of the infant Jesus. As they go we sing the Final Anthem of 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 (1692-1763)*

*The priest places the figure of the infant Jesus in the crib, censes it and sprinkles it with holy water. He then leads 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.**

*Please remain standing to sing hymn 40 during which the clergy and servers depart:*

**O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

**God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:**

**Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
Who would not love thee,  
Loving us so dearly?**

**Sing, choirs of Angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;**

**Glory to God  
In the Highest:**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:**

*Latin 18<sup>th</sup> century, tr F Oakley (1802-80) et al.*

*The organist then plays In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729 – Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).*

**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. A card reader to give by contactless payment is also available at the back of church. Special thanks if you give by standing order, as this helps us to budget.**

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

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*Scan this QR code to donate to St George's.*



***Fr Henry and Fiona, Fr David and Diane, Fr Owen and Fr Paul thank you all for your kind presents and cards, and wish you a very merry Christmas and a peaceful and blessed New Year.***