

**ST GEORGE
BICKLEY**

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

25TH DECEMBER 2024, 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 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. 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 REH 35:

**God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!***

**From God our heavenly Father
A blessèd angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:**

**The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoicèd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding,
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
The blessèd babe to find:**

**And when they came to Bethlehem
Where our dear Saviour lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;**

**His mother Mary kneeling down,
Unto the Lord did pray:**

**Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth efface: *Traditional.***

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. **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 wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Now sit to listen to the First Reading. *Isaiah 52; 7-10.*

Reader A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.
How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings

good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Sion, 'Your God reigns.' The voice of your watchmen — they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Sion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated to sing the Psalm (98).

(alternative chant) W. H. LONGHURST

- 1 O sing unto the Lord a | new_ | song :
for | he hath ' done | marvel- ' lous_ | things.
- 2 With his own right hand, and with his | holy | arm :
hath he | gotten ' him- | self the | victory.
- 3 The Lord declared | his sal- | vation :
his righteousness hath he openly | shewed ' in the | sight of ' the |
heathen.
- 4 He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the | house of | Israel
:
and all the ends of the world have seen the sal- | vation | of our | God.
- 5† Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, | all ye | lands :
sing, re- | joice, and | give_ | thanks.
- 6 Praise the Lord up- | on the | harp :
sing to the | harp ' with a | psalm of | thanksgiving.
- 7 With trumpets | also ' and | shawms :
O shew yourselves joyful be- | fore the | Lord the | King.

Remain seated for the Second Reading. *Hebrews 1; 1-6.*

Reader A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' 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 A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

People **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Priest The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Priest A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

John 1; 1-18.

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

Priest In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness about him, and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me." '

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only begotten God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

People **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Please sit for the Homily from Fr Henry.

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 for the anthem, "Ding Dong, Merrily on High" arranged by Charles Wood (1866-1926), 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:

Come, Desire of nations, come,

Fix in us thy humble home;

Rise, the woman's conquering Seed,

Bruise in us the serpent's head;

Now display thy saving power,

Ruined nature now restore,

Now in mystic union join

Thine to ours, and ours to thine:

C Wesley (1707-88) et al.

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 Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day when you manifested the reconciliation that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship. Through Christ our Lord. **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 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our
God.

*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 39 is sung, for which all remain seated or kneeling,

**In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone:
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away**

**When he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.**

**Enough for him, whom Cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk,
And a mangerful of hay:
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.**

**Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim
Thronged the air
But only his mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.**

**What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him
Give my heart.**

Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

Remain standing for the Post-Communion Prayer:

Priest Grant, O merciful God, that just as the Saviour of the world, born this day, is the author of divine generation for us, so he may be the giver even of immortality. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please sit for the Notices.

Then stand for the Blessing & Dismissal,

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest 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 day, 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. 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 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. **Amen.**

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:

See how the Shepherds,

Summoned to his cradle,

Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;

We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

**Lo! star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child bring our heart's oblations:**

**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:**

Oakley (1802-80) et al.

Latin 18th century, tr F

*The organist then plays In dulci jubilo, BWV 729 – Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)*

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

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