

St George
Bickley

The Order for Mass with Holy Baptism
on the
**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

11th May 2025 at 10.30am

Parish Priest
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Honorary Assistant Priests:
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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.

Older children are invited to join the Children's Church, who go out to their own activities in the Hall after the opening 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: Gregory Murray, New People's Mass.

Please stand when the bell rings, for the procession of the clergy and servers, and to sing hymn REH 490:

**Jerusalem the golden,
With milk and honey blessed,
Beneath thy contemplation
Sink heart and voice oppressed.
I know not, O I know not,
What social joys are there,
What radiancy of glory,
What light beyond compare.**

**They stand, those halls of Sion,
Conjubilant with song,
And bright with many an angel,
And all the martyr throng;
The Prince is ever in them,
The daylight is serene;**

The pastures of the blessed
Are decked in glorious sheen.

There is the throne of David,
And there, from care released,
The song of them that triumph,
The shout of them that feast;
And they who, with their leader,
Have conquered in the fight,
For ever and for ever
Are clad in robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country,
Shall I ever see thy face?
O sweet and blessed country,
Shall I ever win thy grace?
Exult, O dust and ashes!
The Lord shall be thy part:
His only, his for ever,
Thou shalt be, and thou art!

Latin, Bernard of Cluny 12th century, tr JM Neale (1818-66)

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.**

Priest Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The priest introduces the Mass, sends Children's Church to their activities, and invites the people to recall and confess their sins:

Priest The Lord Jesus is our Good Shepherd, calling us by name and leading us in right paths. All we, like sheep, have gone astray from those paths, so now let us turn to him 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.**

People Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

We all sing the Gloria.

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

Then the priest prays the collect:

Priest Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. 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 Acts of the Apostles. (*Acts 13; 14, 43-52*).
In those days: Paul and Barnabas went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. Many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.
The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, 'It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." ' And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their

district. But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain seated to sing the Psalm (100)



- 1 **O be joyful in the Lord, | all ye | lands :
serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his | presence | with a |
song.**
- 2 **Be ye sure that the Lord | he is | God :
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the | sheep of | his_ | pasture.**
- 3 **O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his | courts with
| praise :
be thankful unto him, and | speak good | of his | Name.**
- 4 **For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is | ever- | lasting :
and his truth endureth from gener- | ation ' to | gener- | ation.**

Remain seated for the second reading:

Reader A reading from the book of Revelation. (*Revelation 7; 9, 14-17*).
I, John, looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.
Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have

washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

After a moment of silent reflection, stand for the gospel acclamation:

Choir Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Choir I am the good shepherd, says the Lord.
I know my sheep and my own know me.

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 10; 27-30*).

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

Priest At that time: Jesus said, 'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please sit for the Homily from Fr Henry.

The baptism party come to the front of the church.

Priest Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome Jireh and uphold him in his new life in Christ?

People **With the help of God, we will.**

Priest Melissa and godparents, the Church receives jireh with joy. Today we are trusting God for his growth in faith. Will you pray for him, draw him by your example into the community of faith, and walk with him in the way of Christ?

Mother & Godparents **With the help of God, we will.**

Priest In baptism Jireh begins his journey in faith. You speak for him today. Will you care for him, and help him to take his place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

Mother & Godparents **With the help of God, we will.**

Priest In baptism God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:
Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

Mother & Godparents **I reject them.**

Priest Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

Mother & Godparents **I renounce them.**

Priest Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

Mother & Godparents **I repent of them.**

Priest Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

Mother & Godparents **I turn to Christ.**

Priest Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

Mother & Godparents **I submit to Christ.**

Priest Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

Mother & Godparents **I come to Christ.**

The priest makes the sign of the cross with holy oil on Jireh's forehead, saying
Priest Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

Mother & godparents then trace the sign of the cross on Jireh's forehead.

Priest Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

People **Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

Priest May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

People **Amen.**

The baptism party and ministers move to the font, as music is played.

The priest blesses the water of baptism:

Priest Praise God who made heaven and earth,

People **who keeps his promise for ever.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Priest Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us. We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land. We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph. Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the household of faith and

raise them with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever
People **Amen.**

The priest addresses the whole congregation:

Priest Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Priest Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Priest Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The priest then pours water on Jireh, saying:

Priest Jireh-Imani Rae, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Jireh is clothed in a white garment, and the priest says:

Priest You have been clothed with Christ. As many as are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

The priest anoints him on the crown of the head with holy Chrism and says:

Priest May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of his saints in glory.

People **Amen.**

Please remain standing for the Prayers of Intercession.

Priest Heavenly Father, through the Resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, you bring life and light to his flock; hear us as we pray in his name.
Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

At the prayer for the departed,

Priest Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.

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

In conclusion to the prayers:

Priest Shepherd and Guardian of your people, hear us as we pray in the power of your Spirit. Merciful Father,

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

Please sit, as the ministers return to the sanctuary and as the Choir sing the anthem "If Ye Love Me" by Thomas Tallis (c1505-1585), while bread and wine are brought to the altar.

*Stand to sing hymn REH 254, 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.*

Christ is the King, O friends rejoice!
Brothers and sisters, with one voice
Tell all the world he is your choice: Alleluya!

O magnify the Lord and raise
Anthems of joy and holy praise
For Christ's brave saints of ancient days:

They with a faith for ever new
Followed the King, and round him drew
Thousands of faithful souls and true.

O Christian women, Christian men,
All the world over, seek again
The Way disciples followed then:

Christ through all ages is the same;
Place the same hope in his great name,
With the same faith his word proclaim:

Let Love's unconquerable might
Your scattered companies unite
In service to the Lord of light:

So shall God's will on earth be done,
New lamps be lit, new tasks begun,
And the whole Church at last be one. *GKA Bell (1883-1958) altd.*

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 Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may always find delight in
these paschal mysteries, so that the renewal constantly at
work within us may be the cause of our unending joy.
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:

People **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven
and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes 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:

Priest 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 pray,

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.**

Priest 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 Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

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 460 is sung, all remaining seated or kneeling.

**Faithful Shepherd, feed me
In the pastures green;
Faithful Shepherd, lead me
Where thy steps are seen.**

**Hold me fast, and guide me
In the narrow way;
So, with thee beside me,
I shall never stray.**

**Daily bring me nearer
To the heavenly shore;
May my faith grow clearer,
May I love thee more.**

**Hallow every pleasure,
Every gift and pain;
Be thyself my treasure,
Though none else I gain.**

**Day by day prepare me
As thou seest best,**

**Then let angels bear me
To thy promised rest.**

Thomas Benson Pollock (1836-96)

All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:

Priest Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

Please sit for the notices.

Jireh comes forward to receive a lighted candle:

Priest God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

People **Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.**

Then stand for the blessing and dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, always.

People **Amen.**

Priest Go, in the light and peace of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The clergy and servers go to the shrine of Our Lady for the Easter anthem to Our Lady, the Regina Caeli:

People **Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven, alleluia!
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia!
As he promised hath arisen, alleluia!
Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia!**

Priest Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!

People **For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!**

Priest Let us pray. O God, who by the resurrection of thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, didst vouchsafe to bring joy to the whole world; grant that, through the prayers of his mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life: through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Remain standing to sing hymn REH 151 as clergy and servers depart:

**Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won:
Lo! our Sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo! he sets in blood no more.**

**Vain the stone, the watch, the seal,
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
Death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.**

**Lives again our glorious King;
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
Where thy victory, O grave?**

**Soar we now where Christ has led?
Following our exalted head,
Made like him, like him we rise,
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies!**

**Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
Thee we greet triumphant now;
Hail, the Resurrection thou!**

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

The organist plays "Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne in C", by Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707).

Please join us in the Hall for refreshments after this Mass.

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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