



The Order for Mass on
The FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

22nd February 2026 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. Older children should join the Children's Church, who go to their own activities after the first hymn and return in time for Communion.

A toilet is at the back of church, behind the screen. Before Mass, please try to maintain an atmosphere of quiet prayer. After Mass, please join us in the Hall for refreshments.

Mass setting: Dean / Fry/Plainsong.

Please stand when the bell rings, for the procession of the clergy and servers, and to sing hymn 88:

**Forty days and forty nights
Thou wast fasting in the wild,
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted and yet undefiled.**

**Sunbeams scorching all the day,
Chilly dewdrops nightly shed,
Prowling beasts about thy way,
Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.**

**Let us thine endurance share,
And awhile from joys abstain,
With thee watching unto prayer,
Strong with thee to suffer pain.**

**And if Satan, vexing sore,
Flesh or spirit should assail,
Thou, his vanquisher before,
Grant we may not faint nor fail.**

So shall we have peace divine,
Holier gladness ours shall be,
Round us too shall angels shine,
Such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
Ever constant by thy side,
That with thee we may appear

At the eternal Eastertide. *GH Smyttan (1822-70) & Francis Pott (1832-1909)*

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, sends the Children's Church to their activities, and invites us to confess our sins.

Priest Since in Jesus we have a great high priest who is able to sympathise with our weaknesses, let us in penitence for our sins draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and forgiveness.

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.**

We sing the Kyries:

Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie Eleison.**

Christe eleison. **Christe eleison.**

Kyrie eleison. **Kyrie eleison.**

Then the priest prays the collect:

Priest Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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 book of Genesis. (*Genesis 2; 7-9, 3; 1-7*).
The Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, "You shall not eat of any tree in the garden"?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw

that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51 follows the reading. Remain seated to sing:



- 1 Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy | great_ | goodness :
according to the multitude of thy mercies | do a- | way ' mine of- |
fences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly | from my | wickedness :
and | cleanse me | from my | sin.
- 3 For I ac- | knowledge ' my | faults :
and my | sin is | ever ' be- | fore me.
- 4 Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil | in thy | sight :
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and | clear when | thou art
| judged.
- 10 Make me a clean | heart, O | God :
and re- | new a ' right | spirit ' with- | in me.
- 11 Cast me not a- | way ' from thy | presence :
and take not thy | holy | Spirit | from me.
- 12 O give me the comfort of thy | help a- | gain :
and stablish me | with thy | free_ | Spirit.
- 15 Thou shalt open my | lips, O | Lord :
and my | mouth shall | shew thy | praise.

Remain seated for the second reading:

Reader A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans. (*Romans 5; 12-19*)

Brothers and Sisters: Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man; much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

Choir Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

People **Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Choir One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

People **Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Priest The Lord be with you,

People **And also with you.**

Priest A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
(*Matthew 4; 1-11*)

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

Priest At that time: Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." ' Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the Temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone." ' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." ' Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." ' Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please sit for the Homily from Fr Owen.

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 Let us pray to the Father through his Son who came that we might have life.

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 Bless us with your grace, renew our hearts, and satisfy us
with your loving-kindness. Merciful Father,

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

*Please sit, as bread and wine are brought to the altar, and the choir sing: "Thou
knowest, Lord, the Secrets of our Hearts" by Henry Purcell (1659-95).*

*Stand to sing hymn 85, 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.*

Christian, dost thou see them

On the holy ground,

How the hosts of Midian

Prowl and prowl around?

Christian, up and smite them,

Counting gain but loss;

Smite them by the merit

Of the Holy Cross.

Christian, dost thou feel them.

How they work within,

Striving, tempting, luring,

Goading into sin?

Christian, never tremble;

Never be downcast;

Smite them by the virtue

Of the Lenten fast.

Christian, dost thou hear them,

How they ask thee fair?

'Always fast and vigil?

Always watch and prayer?'

Christian, answer boldly,

'While I breathe, I pray:'

Peace shall follow battle,

Night shall end in day.

**'Well I know thy trouble,
O my servant true;
Thou art very weary,
I was weary too;
But that toil shall make thee
Some day all mine own,
And the end of sorrow
Shall be near my throne.'**

John Mason Neale (1818-66).

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 Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time. 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:

Priest 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 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 One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of 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 95 is sung, all remaining seated or kneeling.

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
And purge away my sin;
From earthborn passions set me free,
And make me pure within.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
With care and woe oppressed;
Let me thy loving servant be,
And taste thy promised rest.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
Amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery
Be thou my health and life.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity
Point thou the heavenly way.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
When flows the tempest high:
When on doth rush the enemy
O Saviour, be thou nigh.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
That, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
And share thy joy at last.**

Greek, Synesius of Cyrene (c.370-c413) tr AW Chatfield (1808-96)

All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:

Priest Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth. Through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Please sit for the Notices.

Stand for the Blessing and Dismissal:

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest May bountiful blessing, O Lord, we pray, come down upon your people, that hope may grow in tribulation, virtue be strengthened in temptation, and eternal redemption be assured. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

People **Amen.**

Priest 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:

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 84 as clergy and servers depart.

**Be thou my guardian and my guide,
And hear me when I call;
Let not my slippery footsteps slide,
And hold me lest I fall.**

**The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
Around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
Thou quickener of the dead.**

**And if I tempted am to sin,
And outward things are strong,
Do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
And save my soul from wrong.**

**Still let me ever watch and pray,
And feel that I am frail;
That if the tempter cross my way,
Yet he may not prevail.**

Isaac Williams (1802-65)

The Organist plays "Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier" by J S Bach (1685-1750)

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

WE MAY USE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT ST GEORGE'S ON OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA. IF YOU PREFER THAT IMAGES OF YOU OR YOUR FAMILY WERE NOT SO USED, PLEASE INFORM A CHURCHWARDEN OR SIDESPERSON.

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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