

All Saints Margaret Street

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve 24th December, 2022, 11.00pm

The Mass is sung today to the Missa Brevis in C "Spatzenmesse" by W.A. Mozart (1756-91)

The choir sings **THE INTROIT:**

Dominus dixit ad me

THE INTRODUCTION & GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Almighty God, **our heavenly Father, we have sinned against thee and against our neighbour, in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are heartily sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve thee in newness of life to the glory of thy name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON *is sung by the choir:*

Kyrie eleison	Lord, have mercy
Christe eleison	Christ, have mercy
Kyrie eleison	Lord, have mercy

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *is sung by the choir:*

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O

Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of thy one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of thy heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 9.2-5, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness

from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96 *is sung by the choir*

1. O sing unto the Lord a new song : sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.
2. Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name : be telling of his salvation from day to day.
3. Declare his honour unto the heathen : and his wonders unto all people.
4. For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised : he is more to be feared than all gods.
5. As for all the gods of the heathen, they are but idols : but it is the Lord that made the heavens.
6. Glory and worship are before him : power and honour are in his sanctuary.
7. Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people : ascribe unto the Lord worship and power.
8. Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name : bring presents, and come into his courts.
9. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness : let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
10. Tell it out among the heathen that the Lord is King : and that it is he who hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved; and how that he shall judge the people righteously.
11. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad : let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.
12. Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it : then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord.
13. For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth : and with righteousness to judge the world, and the people with his truth.

THE SECOND READING: Titus 2.11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-

controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Saviour is born for us, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2.1-14

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city

of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Vicar, Fr. Peter Anthony

THE CREED *is sung by the choir*

The text may be found on p562 of the hymnal

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The response is:

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

The prayer concludes: Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE PEACE

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to all on whom his favour rests.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirit.

THE OFFERTORY

Please note that a collection is raised at the end of the service, rather than at this point.

The choir sings **THE MOTET:** Michael Head (1900-76), The little road to Bethlehem

As I walked down the road at set of sun,
The lambs were coming homeward one by one,
I heard a sheepbell softly calling them
Along the little road to Bethlehem.

Beside an open door, as I drew nigh,
I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby.
She sang about the lambs at close of day
And rocked her tiny King among the hay

Across the air the silver sheepbell rang,
"The lambs are coming home," sweet Mary sang,
"Your star of gold, your star of gold is shining
in the sky,
So sleep, my little King, go lullaby."

As I walked down the road at set of sun,
The lambs were coming homeward one by one,
I heard a sheepbell softly calling them
Along the little road to Bethlehem.

(Margaret Rose, 1888-1958)

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at thy hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

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 united to you, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.
It is meet and right so to do.

The preface continues.

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS *are sung by the 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.

The canon continues.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again**

The canon concludes:

O Father Almighty, world without end.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

AGNUS DEI is sung by the choir

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.

The choir sings **THE COMMUNION CHANT:**
Verbum caro factum est

Please use either of the two Communion stations. Gluten-free hosts are available at the Lady Altar station. Those with mobility issues are advised to use the Lady Altar station.

All sing **THE COMMUNION HYMN:**
29 It came upon the midnight clear

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our Father, who in this night hast made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the dawning of the day when Christ the Morning Star shall rise in our hearts; to whom be glory both now and for ever.
Amen.

THE BLESSING

To which all respond: Amen.

All sing **THE FINAL HYMN:**
30 O come, all ye faithful (v.1, 2 and 5)

THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of thy Son hast revealed unto us the holiness of creation; bless and hallow we beseech thee this likeness of his most sacred birth, that we who gaze upon it may regard this mystery, whereby humanity shareth in thy true nature; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

THE FINAL HYMN continues
30 O come, all ye faithful (v.6 and 7)

VOLUNTARY: Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937), Final from Symphonie no. 6

A retiring collection is raised. Please make donations in the collection plate or tap your debit or credit card on the machine.