

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
EVENSONG & BENEDICTION

6pm, Sunday 7th December, 2025

THE ANGELUS

The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary.

And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

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.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it unto me according to thy word. *Hail Mary...*

And the Word was made flesh.

And dwelt among us. *Hail Mary...*

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour forth thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by his ✕ cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

EVENSONG

THE PRECES

O Lord, open thou our lips. **And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; **as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord. **The Lord's Name be praised.**

§ *All sit.*

PSALMODY 11

IN THE Lord put I my trust: how say ye then to my soul, that she should flee as a bird unto the hill? For lo, the ungodly bend their bow, and make ready their arrows within the quiver: that they may privily shoot at them which are true of heart. For the foundations will be cast down: and what hath the righteous done? The Lord is in his holy temple: the Lord's seat is in heaven. His eyes consider the poor: and his eye-lids try the children of men. The Lord alloweth the righteous: but the ungodly, and him that delighteth in wickedness, doth his soul abhor. Upon the ungodly he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, storm and tempest: this shall be their portion to drink. For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness: his countenance will behold the thing that is just. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Kings 18.17-39

When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, 'Is it you, you troubler of Israel?' He answered, 'I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals. Now therefore have all Israel assemble for me at Mount Carmel, with the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.'

So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. Elijah then came near to all the people, and said, 'How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.' The people did not answer him a word. Then Elijah said to the people, 'I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets number four hundred and fifty. Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the Lord; the god who answers by fire is indeed God.' All the people answered, 'Well spoken!' Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, 'Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it.' So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, 'O Baal, answer us!' But there was no voice, and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made. At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, 'Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is

asleep and must be awakened.' Then they cried aloud and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response.

Then Elijah said to all the people, 'Come closer to me'; and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down; Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, 'Israel shall be your name'; with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed. Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, 'Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt-offering and on the wood.' Then he said, 'Do it a second time'; and they did it a second time. Again he said, 'Do it a third time'; and they did it a third time, so that the water ran all round the altar, and filled the trench also with water.

At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, 'O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.' Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt-offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, 'The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God.'

§ *All stand.*

OFFICE HYMN



Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,
Regard thy servants when they call.

*Thou, grieving at the bitter cry
Of all creation doomed to die,
Didst come to save a ruined race
With healing gifts of heavenly grace.*

**Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,
As drew the world to evening-tide,
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,
The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.**

*At thy great name, exalted now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
And things in heaven and earth shall own
That thou art Lord and King alone.*

**To thee, O holy One, we pray,
Our judge in that tremendous day,
Preserve us, while we dwell below,
From every onslaught of the foe.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.**

Tr J.M. Neale, 1818-1866

CANTICLES FAUXBOURDONS

Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625

MAGNIFICAT *St Luke, 1.46-55*

My soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his hand-maiden. For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

§ *All sit.*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *John 1.19-26*

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord”’, as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

§ *All stand.*

NUNC DIMITTIS *St Luke 2.29-32*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation; Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONSES & COLLECTS

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

Let us pray.

§ *All kneel.*

Lord, have mercy upon us. **Christ, have mercy upon us.** Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, **which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us. **And grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the King. **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness. **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people. **And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord. **Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us. **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness;

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. **Amen.**

§ *All sit.*

ANTHEM **THIS IS THE RECORD OF JOHN**

Grayston Ives, b.1948

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.

John 1: 19-23

BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

§ *All sing. Kneel as the bell rings, and Blessed Sacrament is enthroned on the altar.*

**O saving Victim, opening wide
The gate of heaven to man below;
Our foes press hard on every side,
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.**

**All praise and thanks to thee ascend
For evermore, blest One in Three;
O grant us life that shall not end,
In our true native land with thee. Amen.**

St Thomas Aquinas, 1225-1274

VERBUM SUPERNUM

Mode viii

Blessed, praised and hallowed be Jesus Christ upon His Throne of Glory and in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. [Three times]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

§ *Silence is kept.*

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: **Have mercy on us. [Three times]**

§ *All sing.*

**Therefore we, before him bending,
This great Sacrament revere;
Types and shadows have their ending,
For the newer rite is here;
Faith, our outward sense befriending,
Makes the inward vision clear.

Glory let us give, and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
Honour, might, and praise addressing,
While eternal ages run;
Ever too his love confessing,
Who from both with both is One. Amen.**

St Thomas Aquinas, c.1225-1274

PANGE LINGUA

Mode iii

Thou gavest them bread from heaven.

Containing within itself all sweetness.

Let us pray.

O God, who in a wonderful sacrament hast left unto us a memorial of thy Passion: grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may evermore perceive within ourselves the fruits of thy redemption; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

§ *Benediction is given.*

§ *All repeat the Divine Praises:*

Blessed be God. Blessed be his holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus. Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be his most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Ghost, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be Saint Joseph, her spouse most chaste.

Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

Let us adore, for ever, the most holy Sacrament.

O praise the Lord, all ye heathen : praise him, all ye nations.

For his merciful kindness is ever more and more towards us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise the Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

§ *The bell rings as the Blessed Sacrament is returned to the tabernacle. All stand.*

Let us adore, for ever, the most holy Sacrament.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY
NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND
Dieterich Buxtehude, 1637-1707

Welcome to All Saints'. Please join us in the Parish Bar after Benediction.

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET | PARISH NOTICES

Tomorrow Immaculate Conception 8th December

To mark this Solemnity there will be a low Mass with hymns and short homily at 6.30pm, followed by refreshments at Fr Alan's. All Welcome.

Carol service volunteers

Offers of help to the parish office for Carol services, please. They take place on the evenings of 10th, 16th & 21st December. Thank you to all those who have helped out so far.

Winter homeless shelter volunteers

Please be in touch with Fr Alan if you are able to assist running the night shelter on 7th/8th January. The main shift is 6-9pm, & 7-9am for breakfast. Ask Fr Alan.

Baptism & Confirmation 2026

All those interested in exploring baptism and/or confirmation next year are invited to Fr Alan's after the High Mass on Gaudete Sunday, 14th December. Please be in touch with him with any questions.

Choir & Music Trust Concert 19th December 7pm

The next event in our fundraising programme will be a Christmas Carol Organ Concert kindly offered by our Associate Director of Music, Jeremiah Stephenson, on Friday 19th December 7pm. Tickets, costing £15, are available via a link in the Parish email.

Visiting Confessors during Advent

There will be a number of opportunities to make your pre-Christmas Confession to visiting clergy in the coming weeks. The Parish Clergy are of course available before or after any Mass, or by appointment.

Fr Paschal Worton Friday 12th Dec 2025: 5-6pm

Bishop Lindsay Urwin Wednesday 17th Dec 2025: 5-6pm

Fr Graeme Rowlands Monday 22nd Dec 2025: 5-6pm

Fr David Houlding Tuesday 23rd Dec 2025: 5-6pm

The clergy can be contacted through the Parish Office:

020 7636 1788; office@asms.uk

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET | **MASS TIMES THIS WEEK**

*Please note the **Mass cancellations** on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.*

Sunday 7th December

ADVENT II

5.15pm; 6pm *Evensong & Benediction*

Monday 8th December

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

12noon; 6.30pm *Low Mass with hymns*

Tuesday 9th December

Advent Feria

12noon; 6.30pm

Wednesday 10th December

Advent Feria

12noon; 6pm *St Peter's College, Oxford Carol Concert*

Thursday 11th December

Advent Feria

12noon; 6pm *Magdalen College, Oxford Carol Service*

Friday 12th December

Advent Feria

12noon; 5pm *Confessions*; 6pm

Saturday 13th December

St Lucy

12noon; 6pm *Confessions*; 6.30pm *Vigil*

Sunday 14th December

ADVENT III GAUDETE SUNDAY

8.30am; 11am *High Mass*; 5.15pm

6pm *Evensong & Benediction*

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

the Friends of All Saints' Margaret Street: 7th *Sandra Wheen, Matthew Whittaker, Tim Widdowfield, David Wilcox, T. Bradford Willis, Ian A. Wilson, Fr Michael Witcombe* 8th *Martin Woods, Fr John Wylam, William Yale, Michael Young* 9th *Mark Allan, Martin Amherst-Lock, Robert Austen, Richard Ayling, James Babington Smith, Ruth Baker* 10th *Stephen Baldwin, Stephen Barber, Nigel Beanland, Jonathan Beck, Dr William Benefield, William Bonnell, Charlotte Black, John Blackburn* 11th *John Bristow, Paul Brough, Michael Brown, David Blunden, Fr Michael Bowie, Dr Graham Burns* 12th *Derek Bussey, Katherine Butler, Maureen Cambrey, David Caplowe, David Cardona, Adrian Carlton-Oatley, Timothy Cassady, Norman and Zulette Catir, Kate Charles, Stuart Chillingworth, Robert Chote, Sandy Christian* 13th *Roger Clark, Catharine Clarke, David & Mavis Cleggett, Graham Colville*

the sick: *Jean Castledine, David Craig, Edward Burns, Asuncion Ginés, Pat Hawkins, Fr Harry Hodgetts, Daniel Oliver, James Rodger, Ingrid Slaughter, Juliet Windham*

those whose anniversaries of death fall at this time: 7th *Morgan Griffiths Pr, John Slater, Frances Lloyd, Zena Monk* 8th *Maude Bull, Christine Bramma, Ines Baxter* 10th *Marian Borton, Hamish Gray, Natalie Dyrnes, Daniel Thomas* 11th *Amelia Jones, Alice Trevor, Annie Jevons, Roscow Shedden Bp, Margaret Butterworth, Guy Pritchard, Ros Tagoe* 12th *James Burling, Chris Fairbairn, Richard Eyre Pr, Ian Stevens* 13th *Mary Packer, David Vickery Pr, John Turner, Lindsey Boynton*

NEXT WEEK ADVENT III

HIGH MASS

Mozart *Missa Brevis in G* | Moore *Benedictus*

11am

EVENSONG & BENEDICTION

Byrd | Guerrero | Lebègue

6pm



*Collection is taken at the card reader at the back of church,
or by using this QR code. Thank you for your support.*