

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HIGH MASS 11am, Sunday 14th December, 2025

§ *All stand when the bell rings.*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near. Philippians 4.4

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

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.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

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.**

MASS SETTING **MISSA BREVIS IN G K140**

W.A. Mozart, 1756-1791

KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie eleison; Christe eleison; Kyrie eleison.

THE COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Isaiah 35.1-10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY *146.4-10*

Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help: and whose hope is in the Lord his God; Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: who keepeth his promise for ever; Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong: who feedeth the hungry. The Lord looseth men out of prison: the Lord giveth sight to the blind. The Lord helpeth them that are fallen: the Lord careth for the righteous. The Lord careth for the strangers, he defendeth the fatherless and widow: as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down. The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore: and throughout all generations.

EPISTLE *James 5.7-10*

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient.

Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 11.2-11*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Stir up thy strength, O Lord: and come and help us. Alleluia. Psalm 80.2b

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

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

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

§ *All sit.*

HOMILY

Fr Alan Rimmer

The Assistant Priest

§ *All stand as the celebrant intones the Creed, then sit.*

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, *and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man*, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And I believe one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

§ *All stand.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. **Amen.**

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.

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

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PEACE

Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Luke 1.78-79*

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

§ *All sit.*

ANTHEM BENEDICTUS

Philip Moore, b.1943

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel: for he hath visited, and redeemed his people. And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us: in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets: which have been since the world began; That we should be saved from our enemies: and from the hands of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers: and to remember his holy covenant; To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham: that he would give us, That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies: might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him: all the days of our life. And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people: for the remission of their sins; Through the tender mercy of our God: whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us; To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death: and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

§ *All stand.*

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.

Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord; that the continual oblation of this our bounden duty and service may evermore avail for the fulfilment of the institution of thine ordinance and for the accomplishment in us of the wondrous work of thy salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 celebrant sings the preface.*

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

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.

§ *All kneel. The Canon of the Mass follows.*

Great is the Mystery of Faith: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

§ *The Canon concludes: Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.*

THE COMMUNION RITE

§ *The celebrant introduces the Lord's Prayer, which is sung by all.*

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

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. [x2]

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

§ *As the choir sings the Agnus, the celebrant shows the consecrated host to the people:*

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 shouldest come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.**

§ *Anyone baptized in the name of the Trinity may receive Holy Communion. Low-gluten hosts are available at the Lady Altar, which also avoids the steps.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us. Isaiah 35.4

§ *All sing the communion hymn.*

**FROM glory to glory advancing, we praise thee, O Lord;
Thy name with the Father and Spirit be ever adored.
From strength unto strength we go forward on Sion's highway,
To appear before God in the city of infinite day.**

**Thanksgiving and glory and worship and blessing and love,
One heart and one song have the saints upon earth and above.
O Lord, evermore to thy servants thy presence be nigh;
Ever fit us by service on earth for thy service on high.**

Liturgy of St James

Tr Charles Humphreys, 1840-1921

SHEEN

Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

§ *All stand.*

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

We give thee thanks, O Lord, for these thy heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of thy Spirit that when our Saviour Christ shall come again we may shine as lights before his face; who liveth and reigneth now and for ever. **Amen.**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

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

May the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again, make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity, and sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent.

And may the blessing of God almighty, the ☩ Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

§ *All sing.*

THOU whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard,
And took their flight;
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray
Let there be light.

Thou who didst come to bring
On thy redeeming wing
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
Let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,
Life-giving, holy Dove,
Speed forth thy flight;
Move on the water's face,
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light.

Blessèd and holy Three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
Boundless as ocean's tide
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the world far and wide
Let there be light.

John Marriot, 1780-1825

MOSCOW
F. Giardini, 1716-1796

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, 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.

And the Word was made flesh.

And dwelt among us.

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.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

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

We beseech thee, O Lord, to 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, may we be brought unto the glory of his Resurrection, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY
WACHET AUF, RUFT UNS DIE STIMME BWV 645

J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

Welcome to All Saints'. Please join us for refreshments after the Mass.

Thank you very much to Simon Rainey KC for providing us with champagne for Gaudete Sunday.

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET | PARISH NOTICES

Flowers

The flowers are given by Caroline Sibbald in memory of her brother, **Fr David Paton**, whose anniversary of death falls today.

If you would like to make a donation for flowers or the courtyard garden, please contact Shawn directly or via the office.

Baptism & Confirmation 2026

All those interested in exploring baptism and/or confirmation next year are invited to Fr Alan's after today's High Mass.

Carol service volunteers

Offers of help to the parish office for Carol services, please. They take place on the evenings of 16th & 21st December.

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.

Choir & Music Trust Concert 19th December

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. The programme will include Dupré's *Variations sur un vieux Noël*; plus improvisation on a series of well-loved Christmas carols.

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.

Bishop Lindsay Urwin Wednesday 17th December: 5-6pm

Fr Graeme Rowlands Monday 22nd December: 5-6pm

Fr David Houlding Tuesday 23rd December: 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 Tuesday and Thursday evening.*

Sunday 14th December

ADVENT III

5.15pm; 6pm Evensong & Benediction

Monday 15th December

Advent Feria

12noon; 6.30pm

Tuesday 16th December

Advent Feria

12noon; 6.30pm Keble College, Oxford Carol Service

Wednesday 17th December

O Sapientia

12noon; 5pm Confessions; 6.30pm

Thursday 18th December

O Adonai

12noon; 6pm Freud's Communications Carol Service

Friday 19th December

O Radix Jesse

12noon; 5pm Confessions; 6pm

Saturday 20th December

O Clavis David

12noon; 5pm Confessions; 6.30pm Vigil

Sunday 21st December

ADVENT IV

8.30am; 11am High Mass; 5.15pm

6pm Nine Lessons & Carols

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

the Friends of All Saints' Margaret Street: 14th Karolyn Cooper, William Cooper Bailey,

Peter Coulson, Steven Cox, Dr Yvonne Craig, Julie Cridland 15th – Dr Ryan Danker, Kirill

Dashkovskiy, Keith Day, Christopher Davies, Peter Dennis, 16th - Linda Edwards, Pamela Edwards,

Jane Elliston, Dr Terrence Ellsworth, Richard Everton and Fr Philip Bevan, Carolyn Farrar, Dr

Martin Faulkner 17th - Adrian Felaar, Elizabeth Ferguson, Dr Daniel Fielden, Janice Fielden, Julia

Fielden, Nigel Fisher, Mark Fleming 18th - Stuart Fletcher, Christopher Forman, Matthew Foster,

Antony Fox, Dr Ralph Donald Fram, Dr Jason Frost, Derrick French, Derek and Cecilia Gatherer, Dr

Charlotte Gauthier, Dr Rebecca Gibbs and Samuel Wildy, Margaret Goddard, Paul Golding, John

Goldsmith 19th - Genevieve Gomi, Ginger and Del Hall, Monica Joan Hall 20th - Paul Hannah,

Jillian Hargreaves, Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Patrick Hartley, Fr Jeremy Haselock

the sick: Jean Castledine, David Craig, Edward Burns, Asuncion Ginés, Pat Hawkins, Fr Harry

Hodgetts, Daniel Oliver, Verena Reisinger, James Rodger, Ingrid Slaughter, Juliet Windham

the recently departed: Peter Roberts, Pr

those whose anniversaries of death fall at this time: 14th - William Lloyd Pr, Robert Kirk,

David Paton Pr 15th - James Forsyth, Doris King, Leonard Beeken 18th - Edwin Forsyth, Joan Gower,

Philip Prain, Richard Vick 19th - Ena Knight 20th - Lily King, Jack Monk, Elaine Bullock

TONIGHT
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.*