

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HIGH MASS *11 am, Sunday 21st December, 2025*

§ *All stand when the bell rings. Join in with the emboldened antiphon of the Advent Prose.*

ADVENT PROSE

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

*Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity forever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee. **Drop down...***

*We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away: thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. **Drop down...***

*Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. **Drop down...***

*Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry: I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee: For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer. **Drop down...***

cf. Isaiah, 45.8

RORATE CAELI

Mode i

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.

§ *The celebrant introduces the Mass.*

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 AVE REGINA**

Tomás Luis de Victoria, 1548-1611

KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie eleison; Christe eleison; Kyrie eleison.

THE COLLECT

O God our redeemer, who didst prepare the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of thy Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he shall come again to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

§ *All sit.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Isaiah 7.10-16*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY 80.1-8; 18-19

HEAR, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep: shew thyself also, thou that sittest upon the cherubims. Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses: stir up thy strength, and come, and help us. Turn us again, O God: shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole. O Lord God of hosts: how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth? Thou feedest them with the bread of tears: and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink. Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours: and our enemies laugh us to scorn. Turn us again, thou God of hosts: shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole. Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it. And so will not we go back from thee: O let us live, and we shall call upon thy Name. Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts: shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

EPISTLE Romans 1.1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 1.18-25

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Come, O Lord, and tarry not: forgive the misdeeds of thy people. Habakkuk 3.3

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.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

§ *All sit.*

HOMILY

Fr Peter Anthony

The Vicar

§ *All stand to sing the Creed.*

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 AVE MARIA

Robert Parsons, c.1535-1572

Ave Maria, gratia plena: Dominus tecum. Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui. Amen.

Hail mary, full of grace: the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed be the fruit of thy womb. Amen.

§ *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.**

We beseech thee O Lord, mercifully to look upon these our oblations: that they may be profitable unto us for our increase in all godliness, for the attainment of everlasting salvation; who hast here vouchsafed unto us to be partakers of thy bounty: grant, we beseech thee; 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:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim thy Death, O Lord, until thou 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 shouldst 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

Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.
Isaiah 7.14

§ *All sing the communion hymn.*

**HER Virgin eyes saw God incarnate born,
When she to Bethl'em came that happy morn;
How high her raptures then began to swell,
None but her own omniscient Son can tell.**

**As Eve when she her fontal sin reviewed,
Wept for herself and all she should include,
Blest Mary with man's Saviour in embrace
Joyed for herself and for all human race.**

**All saints are by her son's dear influence blest,
She kept the very Fountain at her breast;
The Son adored and nursed by the sweet Maid
A thousandfold of love for love repaid.**

**Heaven with transcendent joys her entrance graced,
Next to his throne her Son his Mother placed;
And here below, now she's of heaven possest,
All generations are to call her blest.**

Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

FARLEY CASTLE
Henry Lawes, 1596-1662

§ *All stand.*

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, who didst choose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised Saviour: fill us thy servants with thy grace, that in all things we may embrace thy holy will and with her rejoice in thy salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.*

THE advent of our God
With eager prayers we greet,
And singing haste upon the road
His glorious gift to meet.

The everlasting Son
Scorns not the Virgin's womb;
That we from bondage may be won
He bears a bondsman's doom.

Daughter of Sion, rise
To meet thy lowly King;
Let not thy stubborn heart despise
The peace he comes to bring.

On clouds of dazzling light,
As judge he comes again,
His scattered people to unite,
With him in heaven to reign.

Let evil flee away,
Ere that great hour shall dawn,
Let this old Adam day by day
The new Man all put on.

Praise to the incarnate Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father and with Spirit One,
To all eternity. Amen.

Charles Coffin, 1676-1749

Tr H. Putnam, 1861-1935

ST THOMAS

From A. Williams' *New Universal Psalmist*, 1770

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, 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 LA VIERGE ET L'ENFANT

From *La Nativité du Seigneur*
Olivier Messiaen, 1908-1992

Welcome to All Saints', especially if you are visiting.

Please join us for refreshments after Mass. The Parish Bar will be open from 12.30.

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET | PARISH NOTICES

Nine Lessons and Carols tonight

Do join us for our Parish Carol service tonight at 6pm. Thank you to all those who have helped facilitate our external carol services over the past few weeks.

Mass times over Christmas

Please take note of the altered Mass times over the Christmas period.

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.

Visiting Confessors before Christmas

There are two more opportunities to make your pre-Christmas Confession to visiting clergy. The Parish Clergy are of course available before or after any Mass, or by appointment.

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

Fr David Houlding Tuesday 23rd December: 5-6pm

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

the Friends of All Saints' Margaret Street: 21st - Eoghan Healy, Rebecca Hirst, Fr David Hobden & Catherine Hobden, James & Gwendoline Holdcroft, Fr Graham Holcombe, Edwin Holmes, Rosy Holt, Bishop David Hope 22nd - Richard Hoskinson, Marissa Howard-McNatt, Fr David Hutt, Alfred Imhoff, David James, Andrew Jervis, Powell Johann, Stephen Jury, Malcolm Kemp 23rd - Alan Kimbrough, Brenda Koupis, Stanislav Kudryashov, Christopher Laws, Margaret Leggett 24th - Cornelius Logue, Frau Dr Christiane Loidl-Rainey, Nigel Lynn, Henry Macey, Fr Michael Maine, Bishop Michael Marshall, David Mason, Robert Mason, Graham Mather 25th - Judith Mather, Fr Stephen McClatchie, John McWhinney, Peter Medine, Colin Menzies, Amanda Miller 26th - Thomas Moller, Michael Mortensen, Barry Moore, Deacon Christopher Morash, Grace Morgan, Heather Morgan, Dr John Morrell, Fr Stephen Morris, Inger Mosbery, Lachlan Moyle, Carol Mundell 27th - Christopher Naylor, Brian Newman, Barry Newsome, Letitia Nicholl, Elaine Norman, Richard North, Fr Paul Ockford

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: 21st - Charles Hillier, Adam Reddington, Harry Nuttall 22nd - Elizabeth Ross, Anthony Greek, Richard Routledge, Helen Turner 23rd - Harold Pobjoy Pr, Anne Scott 24th - Cynthia Tucker, Miriam Smith, Augustus Thompson, Paul De Fortis Pr, Doreen Forde 26th - Hugh Warren Pr, Lennox Berkeley 27th - Desmond Berk, Kenneth Bond

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

Sunday 21st December

ADVENT IV

8.30am; 11am High Mass; 5.15pm
6pm *Nine Lessons & Carols*

Monday 22nd December

O Rex Gentium

12noon; 5pm *Confessions*; 6.30pm

Tuesday 23rd December

O Emmanuel

12noon; 5pm *Confessions*; 6.30pm

Wednesday 24th December

O Virgo Virginum

12noon

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

6.30pm High Mass; 11pm Midnight Mass

Thursday 25th December

8.30am Mass of the Dawn

11am High Mass of Christmas Day

Friday 26th December

St Stephen, Protomartyr

12noon

Saturday 27th December

St John the Evangelist

12noon; 6.30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 28th December

THE HOLY FAMILY

8.30am; 11am Solemn Mass

The clergy can be contacted through the Parish Office:

020 7636 1788; office@asms.uk

TONIGHT
NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

Baker | Byrd | Martin | Messiaen | Moore | Poulenc
& favourite Christmas Carols
6pm



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