

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



HIGH MASS

& Blessing of the Crib

Wednesday, 24th December, 2025
6.30pm

§ *All stand when the bell rings. The choir sings the first verses. Join in with the bold text.*

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall:
With the poor and mean and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

**And through all his wondrous childhood
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew:
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above:
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high,
When like stars his children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.**

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

IRBY

H.J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory. Exodus 16.6-7

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 SANCTI GABRIELIS**

Michael Haydn, 1737-1806

KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie eleison; Christe eleison; Kyrie eleison.

§ *All sit when the celebrant has intoned the Gloria.*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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, Jesus 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.

§ *All stand.*

THE COLLECT

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ: grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come again to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

§ *All sit.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Isaiah 62.1-5*

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY *89.3-4, 15-16, 26, 28*

I have made a covenant with my chosen I have sworn unto David my servant.

Thy seed will I stablish for ever, and set up thy throne from one generation to another.

Righteousness and equity are the habitation of thy seat; mercy and truth shall go before thy face. Blessed is the people, O Lord, that can rejoice in thee; they shall walk in the light of thy countenance. I will set his dominion also in the sea, and his right hand in the floods. And I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.

SECOND READING *Acts 13.16-17; 22-25*

So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak: 'You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.

When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, "I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes." Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised; before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his work, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL *St Matthew 1.18-25*

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

On the morrow the iniquity of the earth shall be blotted out: and the Saviour of the world shall reign over us.

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.

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 Julian Browning

Honorary Assistant Priest

§ *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,

§ *All genuflect.*

and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man,

§ *All stand.*

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.

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

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

St Luke, 2.14

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit.

§ *All sit.*

*O LITTLE town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

H. Walford Davies, 1869-1941

§ *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, Almighty God: that like as we do anticipate the glorious Nativity of thy Son, so we may obtain with gladness his reward of everlasting life; who liveth and reigneth, world without end. **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 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

The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.
Isaiah 40.5

§ *All sing the communion hymn.*

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluya!"
Christ the Saviour is born! Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
"Alleluya" to our King:
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born!

J. Mohr, 1792-1848

Tr J. Freeman Young, 1820-1885

STILLE NACHT
Franz Grüber, 1787-1863

§ *All stand.*

O Lord, we beseech thee: that like as thine Only Begotten Son hath in this heavenly mystery given himself to be our Food and Drink; so as at this time we may be inwardly renewed by the remembrance of his birth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

May God, who at the Incarnation brought together the realms of earth and heaven, fill you with the gift of his peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

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.**

§ *The Bambino is taken from the Altar & placed in the Crib. All sing:*

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father
A blessèd angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The son of God by name: *O tidings...*

And when they came to Bethlehem
Where our dear Saviour lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling down,
Unto the Lord did pray: *O tidings...*

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 resumes.*

**Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other new embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth efface:
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!***

Traditional

London Carol Melody
Harmonised by John Stainer, 1840-1901

ORGAN VOLUNTARY **CARILLON-SORTIE**

Henri Mulet, 1878-1967

Happy Christmas, and welcome to All Saints', especially if you are visiting.



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

Thursday, 25th December

CHRISTMAS MORNING

8.30am Low Mass; 11am High Mass

Haydn | Sweelinck | Widor

Friday, 26th December

St Stephen, Protomartyr

12noon Low Mass

Saturday, 27th September

St John the Evangelist

12noon Low Mass; 6.30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, 28th December

THE HOLY FAMILY

8.30am Low Mass; 11am Solemn Mass

Victoria | Vaughan Williams | Messiaen

Sunday, 4th January 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

11am High Mass; 6pm Epiphany Carol Service

Lassus | Leighton | Meador | Bull | Summerson