

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET

THE HOLY FAMILY



SOLEMN MASS

Sunday, 28th December, 2025
11am

§ *All stand when the bell rings.*

**THE great God of heaven is come down to earth,
His mother a Virgin, and sinless his birth;
The Father eternal his Father alone:
He sleeps in the manger; he reigns on the throne:
*Then let us adore him, and praise his great love:
To save us poor sinners he came from above.***

**A Babe on the breast of a Maiden he lies,
Yet sits with the Father on high in the skies;
Before him their faces the seraphim hide,
While Joseph stands waiting, unscared, by his side: *Then...***

**Lo! here is Emmanuel, here is the Child,
The Son that was promised to Mary so mild;
Whose power and dominion shall ever increase,
The Prince that shall rule o'er a kingdom of peace: *Then...***

**The Wonderful Counsellor, boundless in might,
The Father's own image, the beam of his light;
Behold him now wearing the likeness of man,
Weak, helpless, and speechless, in measure a span: *Then...***

**O wonder of wonders, which none can unfold:
The Ancient of days is an hour or two old;
The Maker of all things is made of the earth,
Man is worshipped by angels, and God comes to birth: *Then...***

Harry Ramsden Bramley, 1833-1917

A VIRGIN UNSPOTTED

English Traditional Carol

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger. St Luke 2.16

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 O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM**

Tomás Luis de Victoria, 1548-1611

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 Lord Jesus Christ, who by thy wondrous holiness didst adorn a human home, and by thy subjection to Mary and Joseph didst consecrate the order of earthly families: grant that we, being enlightened by the example of their life with thee in thy Holy Family, and assisted by their prayers, may at last be joined with them in thine eternal fellowship; who livest and reignest with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

§ *All sit.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Ecclesiasticus 3.2-7; 12-17*

For the Lord honours a father above his children, and he confirms a mother's right over her children. Those who honour their father atone for sins, and those who respect their mother are like those who lay up treasure. Those who honour their father will have joy in their own children, and when they pray they will be heard. Those who respect their father will have long life, and those who honour their mother obey the Lord; they will serve their parents as their masters. My child, help your father in his old age, and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if his mind fails, be patient with him; because you have all your faculties do not despise him. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and will be credited to you against your sins; in the day of your distress it will be remembered in your favour; like frost in fair weather, your sins will melt away. Whoever forsakes a father is like a blasphemer, and whoever angers a mother is cursed by the Lord. My child, perform your tasks with humility; then you will be loved by those whom God accepts.

PSALMODY 128

BLESSED are all they that fear the Lord: and walk in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labours of thine hands: O well is thee, and happy shalt thou be. Thy wife shall be as the fruitful vine: upon the walls of thine house. Thy children like the olive-branches: round about thy table. Lo, thus shall the man be blessed: that feareth the Lord. The Lord from out of Sion shall so bless thee: that thou shalt see Jerusalem in prosperity all thy life long. Yea, that thou shalt see thy children's children: and peace upon Israel.

EPISTLE *Colossians 3.12-21*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is your acceptable duty in the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL *St Matthew 2.13-15; 19-23*

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

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for it becometh well the just to be thankful.

Psalm 33.1

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 after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

§ *All stand.*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

§ *All sit.*

HOMILY *Fr Alan Rimmer*

§ *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.

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

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9.6*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit.

§ *All sit.*

ANTHEM THE BLESSED SON OF GOD

Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

The blessed Son of God only
In a crib full poor did lie;
With our poor flesh and our poor blood
Was clothed that everlasting good.
Kyri'eleison.

The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear,
Was a guest and a stranger here;
Us for to bring from misery,
That we might live eternally.
Kyri'eleison.

All this did he for us freely,
For to declare his great mercy;
All Christendom be merry therefore,
And give him thanks for evermore.
Kyri'eleison.

Miles Coverdale, 1488-1569

after Martin Luther, 1483-1546

§ *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 offer unto thee, O Lord, this sacrifice of propitiation: humbly beseeching thee, to accept therewith the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and blessed Joseph, for the establishment of our families in thy grace and favour; 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.

§ *All reply.*

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

Our God has appeared on earth, and lived among us. Baruch 3.38

§ *All sing the communion hymn.*

**AWAY in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.**

Anonymous
Philadelphia 1883

CRADLE SONG

W.J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921

§ *All stand.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, who by the refreshment of these heavenly Sacraments dost inwardly restore our souls: grant us to follow the example of the Holy Family; that by the assistance of thy Mother, the glorious Virgin Mary, and likewise of blessed Joseph, we may be found worthy at the hour of death to be received by thee into eternal dwelling-places; who livest and reignest, world without end.
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 DISMISSAL

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

§ *All sing:*

UNTO us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
Came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation, the Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That he all men surpasses, that all men he surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled:
'A prince,' he said, 'in Jewry!'
And all the little boys he killed
At Bethlem in his fury, at Bethlem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us, unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Doth rend the air asunder, both rend the air asunder.

Latin, 15th century

Tr Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936

PUER NOBIS

Melody from *Piae Cantiones* 1582

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 **LES ENFANTS DE DIEU**

from *La Nativité du Seigneur*

Olivier Messiaen, 1908-1992

The music at this morning's High Mass is kindly sponsored by Ingrid Slaughter, in loving memory of her father, Arthur Slaughter. Jesu mercy, Mary pray.

***Please note there is no 5.15pm Mass,
nor Evensong & Benediction, this evening.***

**The clergy can be contacted through the Parish Office:
020 7636 1788 | office@asms.uk**

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, 29th December

St Thomas Becket

12noon Low Mass

Tuesday, 30th December

Tuesday in the Octave of Christmas

12noon Low Mass

Wednesday, 31st December

Wednesday in the Octave of Christmas

12noon Low Mass

Thursday, 1st January

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

12noon Low Mass

Friday, 2nd January

Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

12noon Low Mass

Saturday, 3rd January

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

12noon Low Mass; 6pm Confessions; 6.30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, 4th January

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

8.30am Low Mass; 11am High Mass

5.15pm Low Mass; 6pm Epiphany Carol Service



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