

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



MIDNIGHT MASS

Wednesday, 24th December, 2025

11pm

THE Twenty-fifth Day of December, when ages beyond number had run their course from the creation of the world, when God in the beginning created heaven and earth, and formed man in his own likeness; when century upon century had passed since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, as a sign of covenant and peace; in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith, came out of Ur of the Chaldees; in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt; around the thousandth year since David was anointed King; in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; in the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the City of Rome; in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus, the whole world being at peace, JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when nine months had passed since his conception, was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah, and was made man:

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
ACCORDING TO THE FLESH.**

§ *All stand when the bell rings. All sing the entrance hymn.*

**O COME, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the King of Angels:**

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

**God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten, not created: *O come...***

**See how the Shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps: *O come...***

**Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *O come...***

**Sing, choirs of Angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the Highest: *O come...***

Latin, 18th century

Tr Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880

First Vicar of All Saints', Margaret Street

ADESTE FIDELES

J.F. Wade, 1711-1786

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us rejoice in the Lord, for our saviour has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

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 BREVIS IN C K220**

W.A. Mozart, 1756-1791

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, Jesu 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

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of thy one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of thy heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, 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 9.2-7*

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

PSALMODY *96.1-3; 11-13*

O sing unto the Lord a new song : sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth. Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name : be telling of his salvation from day to day. Declare his honour unto the heathen : and his wonders unto all people. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad : let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is. Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it : then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord. For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth : and with righteousness to judge the world, and the people with his truth.

EPISTLE *Titus 2.11-14*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL *St Luke 2.1-14*

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

The Lord saith unto me: Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Psalm 2.7

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

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

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

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,

§ 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.

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

§ *All sit.*

What sweeter music can we bring,
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this day,
That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling Winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell, like to a mead new-shorn,
Thus, on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis He is born, whose quick'ning birth
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,
To heaven, and the under-earth.

We see Him come, and know Him ours,
Who, with His sunshine, and His showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome Him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give Him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do Him honour; who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.

Robert Herrick, 1591-1674

Sir John Rutter, b.1935

§ *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, O Lord, we pray thee: that the offerings, which on this day's festival we present unto thee, may be acceptable in thy sight; that by thy bounteous goodness vouchsafed unto us in this holy exchange, we may be found in the likeness of him in whom our substance is united unto thee; 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.

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

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

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory. St John 1.14

§ *All sing the communion hymn.*

WHILE shepherds watched their flocks by night,

All seated on the ground,

The angel of the Lord came down,

And glory shone around.

‘Fear not,’ said he (for mighty dread

Had seized their troubled mind);

‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring

To you and all mankind.

To you in David’s town this day

Is born of David’s line

A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;

And this shall be the sign:

The heavenly Babe you there shall find

To human view displayed,

All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,

And in a manger laid.’

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

‘All glory be to God on high,
And on the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.’

Nahum Tate, 1652-1715

WINCHESTER OLD

First published in Thomas Este's *Psalter*, 1592

§ *All stand.*

God our Father, who in this night hast made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the dawning of the day when Christ the Morning Star shall rise in our hearts; to whom be glory both now and for ever. **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 Sacred Ministers process to the Crib. All sing:*

**HARK! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.***

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*

Come, Desire of nations, come,
Fix in us thy humble home;
Rise, the woman's conquering Seed,
Bruise in us the serpent's head;
Now display thy saving power,
Ruined nature now restore,
Now in mystic union join
Thine to ours, and ours to thine:
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*

§ *The Crib, blessed at the Vigil Mass earlier, is now honoured with incense.*

A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come and worship the Lord.

For a great light has shone on the earth.

Hear the Wisdom of Solomon.

“For while all things were in quiet silence, and that night was in the midst of her swift course, thine almighty Word leapt down from heaven, out of thy royal throne.”

Hear the words of Saint John.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Thanks be to God.

Let us pray.

To thee, O Christ Child, Word of the Father, we offer our lowly prayers and humble thanks; for love of our human race thou most wonderfully chose to be born of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, and to take our nature as nevermore to lay it by; that we might be born again by thy Holy Spirit and restored in the image of God; to whom, one blessed Trinity, be given all honour, might, majesty and power, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

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

§ *The final hymn resumes:*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings,

Risen with healing in his wings;

Mild he lays his glory by,

Born that we no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth,

Born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing

Glory to the newborn King.

Charles Wesley 1707-1788

MENDELSSOHN

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1809-1847

ORGAN VOLUNTARY IN DULCI JUBILO BWV 729

J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

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

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



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