



The Greeting

Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this night in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Christmas Eve Responses

In David's town,
of David's line;

Jesus our Saviour.

God clothed in flesh,
bone of our bone;

Jesus our Saviour.

Promised of old,
here in our midst;

Jesus our Saviour.

Hymn No. 177 (Irby)

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,
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly mother
in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern
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.

(Please remain standing, if you are able)



Lighting of the Christmas Candle

This is Christmas Eve, and we begin our celebrations of Christ's birth. When Jesus was born it was as if God's love overflowed, spilling out into the world, making our ordinary life special and giving us joy, peace and hope. We now light all the candles, including the one in the middle, which stands for Jesus.

All the candles are lit on the Advent Wreath

Collect for Purity

***Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are
hidden;
cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your
Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy
name; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.***

The Penitence

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace:

(Please sit or kneel)

Silence

***Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned in thought and word
and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are truly sorry and we humbly
repent.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus
Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may walk in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.***

The Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Gloria - sung as Hymn No. 187
(When the crimson sun had set)

When the crimson sun had set,
 sinking 'neath the frosty plain,
 on a bright and cold midnight
 broke the glad angelic strain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, watching by their flocks,
 upward look with wond'ring gaze,
 in the sky bright hosts espy,
 filling all the heav'nly ways:

Hie they then with quick accord,
 hasting to the manger-throne,
 bending low with hearts aglow,
 God of God the Babe they own:

Joy with us, good Christians all,
 Christ is come to set us free;
 he was born on Christmas morn,
 sing the glad nativity:



The Ministry of the Word

The Collect

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

(Please sit)

The Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 52:7-10

The Old Testament Reading is from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 52, beginning at verse 7.

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
 are the feet of the messenger who
 announces peace,
 who brings good news,
 who announces salvation,
 who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up
 their voices,
 together they sing for joy;
 for in plain sight they see
 the return of the Lord to Zion.
⁹ Break forth together into singing,
 you ruins of Jerusalem;
 for the Lord has comforted his
 people,
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰ The Lord has bared his holy arm

before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Epistle - Hebrews 1: 1-4

The Epistle is from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews, chapter 1, beginning at verse 1.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

(Please stand, if you are able)

The Gradual Hymn - No. 182 (Stille Nacht)

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 alleluia;
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.

(Please remain standing, if you are able)

The Holy Gospel - John 1: 1-14

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to John, chapter 1, beginning at verse 1.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true

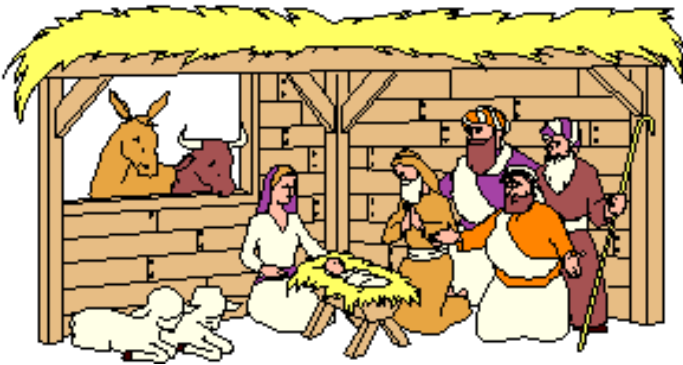
light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



The Sermon

(Please stand, if you are able)

The Nicene Creed (shortened version)

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ, the only Son of God.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
Amen.**

(Please kneel or sit)

The Intercessions

Through your Son Jesus Christ:
be born in us tonight.

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

(Please stand, if you are able)

Please feel free to share the sign of peace in a manner that you and the person you are sharing the peace with are comfortable... it may be that a smile or a wave might be more appropriate than a handshake!

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 also with you.



We recognise that many people give online and via Standing Order, and do not to put any collection in the basket. If you wish to

donate to the church online or electronically, the treasurers would be happy to give you the required details.

Offertory Hymn - No. 188

(Winchester Old)

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 swaddling
clothes
and in a manger laid.'

This 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 to the earth be peace!
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to
earth
begin, and never cease.'

(Please remain standing, if you are able)

The Ministry of the Sacrament

Christ, our passover is sacrificed for
us,
***therefore let us celebrate the
feast.***

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our
God.

***It is right to give him thanks and
praise.***

Father, almighty and everliving God,
at all times and in all places it is right
to give you thanks and praise:
you have given Jesus Christ your only
Son to be born of the Virgin Mary,
and through him you have given us
power to become the children of God:
and so with all your people,
with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious
name, for ever praising you and
saying:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your
glory.***

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

(Please feel free to sit, kneel or stand)

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image; male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us; he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again:

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded:

we remember his passion and death, we celebrate his resurrection and ascension, and we look for the coming of his kingdom.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him:

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ***all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

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.*

Breaking of the Bread

*Jesus' disciples recognised him in the
breaking of the bread:
may we recognise him in our midst
and in each other.*

The Invitation

The Communion

*It is the custom of the Church of Ireland to
welcome to receive Holy Communion, all
those who usually receive Holy Communion
in their own tradition.*

*Please follow the directions of the
churchwardens and the stewards.*



The Great Silence

*You are invited to take some time to reflect,
having received Holy Communion.*

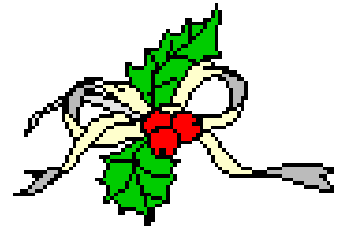
(Please sit or kneel)

The Post-Communion Prayer

*God for whom we wait,
you feed us with the bread of
eternal life:
keep us ever watchful, that we may
be ready to stand before the Son
of Man,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Blessing

*Christ, who by his incarnation
gathered into one all things earthly
and heavenly, fill you with his joy and
peace:
and the Blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy
Spirit,
be with you and remain with you
always. Amen.*



(Please stand, if you are able)

Hymn No. 172 (Adeste fideles)

*1. 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.*

2. God of God,
light of Light;
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb,
very God, begotten, not created:

3. See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with
lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:

6. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God,
in the highest:

7a. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:

The Dismissal

Holy and righteous:
all our days.

Our sins forgiven:
our darkness light.

Working for justice:
praying for peace.

Holy and righteous:
all our lives.

Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

*In the interests of trying to keep all who
come to our churches safe, please take
away this service sheet and any other items
that you may have brought with you or used
in church this morning. Thank you.*

Stay well and stay safe.



*May the hope, the joy, the love
and the peace of Jesus Christ be
with you and all your family this
Christmas-time and always.*

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



Christmas Day – Wednesday **25th December 2024**

**8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and
St James' Church**

**9.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas'
Church**

**11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip
and St James' Church**



Sunday 29th December 2024

NB Times and Venues

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

10.30 Service of the Word in St Thomas' Church

Wednesday 1st January 2025

NB No 10.30 Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 5th January 2025

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

9.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

Wednesday 8th January 2025

NB No 10.30 Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 12th January 2025

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

9.30 Morning Prayer in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Morning Prayer in St Philip and St James' Church

Wednesday 15th January 2025

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

Sunday 19th January 2025

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

9.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

18.30 Sausage Service in St Philip and St James' Church

Wednesday 22nd January 2025

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

Sunday 26th January 2025

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.30 United Service of the Word in St Philip and St James' Church

Special Preacher at the 10.30 – the Rev. Canon Patrick Harvey (Rector of Abbeyleix Union) whose late grandfather, The Very Rev. Thomas Arnold Harvey was Rector of Booterstown, 1916-1933, and who was then elected Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

Wednesday 29th January 2025

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

Thank You

to those who made Christingles, and to those who decorated our churches so beautifully for Christmas!

And thank you to those who helped make the Christmas Craic-er a most enjoyable morning, and to those who prepared the mulled wine (non-alcoholic) and mince pies for the Carols by Candlelight! It is lovely to gather together and to enjoy each other's company!



Thank you to all who sang and collected for

Dublin SIMON

Well done everyone!



Thank you for your wonderful generosity in helping Santa!

The Capuchin Day Centre and The Alice Leahy Trust were thrilled by the toys, food, scarves, hats, gloves, underwear, etc. that you gave this Christmas.

REGISTER OF VESTRYPERSONS

The Register of Vestrypersons is the electoral roll of the Parish and is updated at the January Select Vestry meetings of our respective parishes.

If you are not on the Register, you are not entitled to vote on parish matters and are not able to hold any office in the parish or serve on the Select Vestry. Please contact the Churchwardens to be placed on the Register of Vestrypersons.

It is very simple to do, the churchwardens have forms available, and all you have to do is fill in the short, simple form and give it to a churchwarden.



Healer Prayer Group

Tuesday 14th January 2025
19.30 hours *via Zoom*

BOOTERSTOWN AND CARYSFORT

SELECT VESTRY

THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY 2025

19.30 HOURS

IN THE PARISH ROOM OF ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' PARISH CENTRE

MOUNT MERRION

SELECT VESTRY MEETING

MONDAY 27TH JANUARY 2025

19.30 HOURS

VIA ZOOM



Our Sunday Clubs have had very enjoyable gatherings over the past few months. The dates of the meetings for January – May 2025 will be on the website in the near future and all children who are toilet-trained are welcome!



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Tuesday afternoon—3.30pm—4.10pm

In the Canon Osborne Barr Room of St Philip and St James' Parish Centre

Contact Irene on 087-2755423

irene.reid1052@gmail.com