



The Greeting

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

Opening Responses for Advent

God has called us
*to bring the good news to the poor,
to live with integrity,
to heal the broken-hearted,
to bring justice to the hungry,
to hold on to what is good,
to avoid every form of evil.*

The Spirit of God is in us,
we are the people of God.

Hymn No. 132 (Helmsley)

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
alleluia!

God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;

we who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree:
Lord, have mercy,
let us all thine Advent see.

Those dear tokens of his Passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly,
everlasting God, come down.

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

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like it.

You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Lord, have mercy on us, and write these laws in our hearts.

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]

The Penitential Kyries for Advent

Turn to us again, O God our Saviour, and let your anger cease from us.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,

that glory may dwell in our land.

Lord, have mercy.

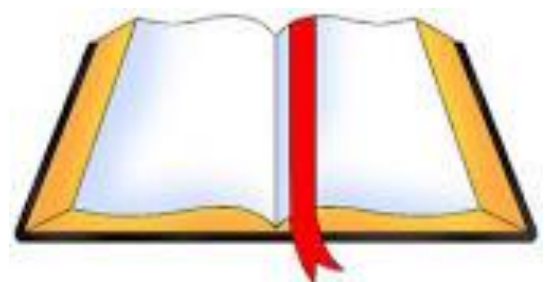
Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

The Gloria is omitted during the season of Advent.

The Collect of the 3rd Sunday in Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ,
 who at your first coming sent your messenger
 to prepare your way before you:
 grant that the ministers and stewards
 of your mysteries
 may likewise so prepare and make
 ready your way
 by turning the hearts of the
 disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
 that at your second coming to judge
 the world
 we may be found an acceptable people
 in your sight;
 for you are alive and reign with the
 Father and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, world without end. **Amen**



The Ministry of the Word

The Epistle - Philippians 4: 4-7

The epistle is written in the epistle of Paul to the Philippians, chapter 4, beginning at verse 4.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

The Gradual Hymn - No. 133 (Personent Hodie)

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new,
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human:

Mary hail! Though afraid,

she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected:

Journey ends! Where afar
Beth'lem shines, like a star,
stable door stand ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome.

(Please stand, if you are able)

The Holy Gospel - Luke 3: 7-18

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St Luke, chapter 3, beginning at verse 7.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?' ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

10 And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' ¹¹In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must

share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' ¹²Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' ¹³He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.' ¹⁷His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

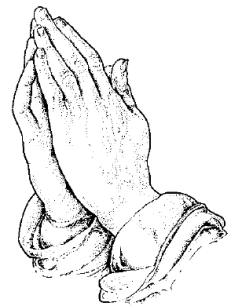
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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)

Intercessions

***Come, O come Emmanuel
come and live in us.***

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

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!

(Please stand, if you are able)

The Introduction to the Peace for Advent

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall
break upon us,

to give light to those who dwell in
darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of
peace. *Luke 1: 78-79*

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 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 - Hymn No. 88
Thanks and Praise - Christ Be Our
Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is
troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Longing for food many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for
others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are
homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering
others,
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts, that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

The Ministry of the Sacrament

The Taking of the Bread and Wine

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

The Great Thanksgiving - Prayer 3

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, Lord of all creation, we praise you for your goodness and your love. When we turned away you did not reject us.

You came to meet us in your Son, welcomed us as your children and prepared a table where we might feast with you.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

He opened wide his arms upon the cross and, with love stronger than death, he made the perfect sacrifice for sin.

Lord Jesus Christ, our redeemer, on the night before you died you came to table with your friends.

Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying, Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

***Lord Jesus we bless you:
you are the bread of life.***

At the end of supper you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, Drink this, all of you; 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.

***Lord Jesus, we bless you:
you are the true vine.***

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ:
***dying, you destroyed our death,
rising, you restored our life;
Lord Jesus, come in glory.***

Holy Spirit, giver of life, come upon us now; may this bread and wine be to us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us, who know our need of grace, one in Christ, our risen Lord.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity: with your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise and lift our voice to join the song of heaven, 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!

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Jesus' disciples recognised him in the breaking of the bread:

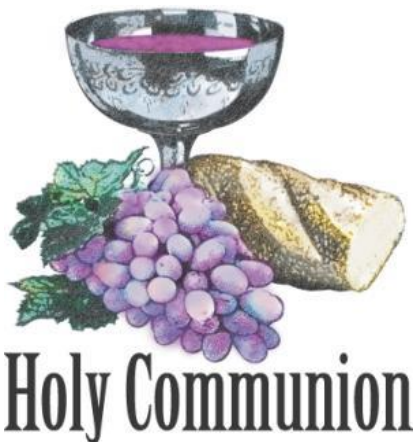
*may we recognise him in our midst
and in each other.*



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. If you wish to receive a blessing instead, please indicate this to the priest. Please feel free and welcome to do whichever is appropriate for you.



The Great Silence

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

The Post Communion Prayer

Father,

we give you thanks for these heavenly gifts.

Kindle us with the fire of your Spirit

*that when Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face:
who is alive and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Lighting the Third Candle on the Advent Wreath



Three candles are lit on the Advent Wreath.

In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the coming of the light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness - selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression - shall be no more.

The candles on our Advent Wreath remind us of the story of how, through the years, through different people, and finally in Jesus Christ, God's Kingdom comes on earth.

The first candle is to remind us of the patriarchs (the leaders God sent before Jesus). The second candle is to remind us of the prophets, and now the third candle for John the Baptist, who called people to change their way

of living to prepare for the coming of Christ. We light the third candle for all God's messengers, preparing the way for change, signs pointing to a new age to come.

God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out. God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. *[John 1: 5-7]*

***Disturbing God,
we thank you for the witness of
John the Baptist.
Help us to be open to the changing
power of your love,
and to be true witnesses to the
power of Jesus in our lives. Amen.***

Hymn - Three Candles (Frère Jacques) *[Repeat each line]*

Three candles,
burning slow.
Advent weeks of waiting,
one-and-a-bit to go.

Shepherds listening,
in the night.
Will they hear the angels
sing tonight?

The Blessing for Advent

God wrap us in integrity,
clothe us in love and grace,
and adorn us with beauty and joy.

And may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Protector, Perfecter and Spirit of
Joy,
surround us all our nights and days.
Amen.

Hymn No. 124 (St. Magnus)

Hark the glad sound! The Saviour
comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release,
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
the wounded soul to cure;
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your belovèd name.

The Dismissal

Be happy and holy,
be brave and love justice,
be compassionate and walk wisely,

be good and avoid evil.
Rejoice in God.

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.*

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

**TODAY AND TONIGHT! - Sunday 15th
 December 2024**

**NB – No 11.00 service in St Philip and St
 James' Church... The televised service from
 both parishes will be on RTÉ at 11.15.**

**19.00 Carols by Candlelight in
 St Philip and St James' Church**
followed by mulled wine and mince pies



Wednesday 18th December 2024

**10.30 Midweek Holy Communion Service
 in St Thomas' Church**

Sunday 22nd December 2024

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

**9.30 A Quiet Christmas in St Thomas'
 Church**

**11.00 Christingle Service in St Philip and St
 James' Church**



**Tuesday 24th December 2024 -
 Christmas Eve**

**22.00 The First Holy Communion
 of Christmas in St Thomas' Church**



Wednesday 25th December 2024 – Christmas Day

**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

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St
James' Church

10.30 United Service of the Word in St
Thomas' Church

***No Midweek Service on Wednesday 1st
January 2025***

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

Thank You

*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 are preparing the
mulled wine (non-alcoholic) and
mince pies for this evening! It is
lovely to gather together and to
enjoy each other's company!*

Carol Singing

for

Dublin SIMON

Thursday 19th December 2024

5pm—7pm

Blackrock Village Shopping Centre,
(the one with SuperValu)

*We are asking people to sign up to sing
and/or collect for 30 minutes or 1 hour... or
however long they can.*

*Please email Gillian to let her when and for
how long you can be there!*



**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!



*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



**Helpers Wanted with the
Tea/Coffee/Juice
in St Thomas' Church
and in St Philip and St
James' Church on a
Sunday morning.**

***Please chat to Patricia Bedlow in St
Thomas' Church or June Burgess in St
Philip and St James' Church.***