



The Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Opening Responses for Advent

Sowing and reaping,
coming and going:
God is working in us.

Weeping and sighing,
hoping and praying:
God is working in us.

Travelling and resting,
learning and loving:
God is working in us.

Hymn No. 119 (Halton Holgate) - N.B. Tune!

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

The Preface

Beloved in Christ, we come together
to offer to Almighty God our worship
and praise and thanksgiving, to
confess our sins and to receive God's
forgiveness, to hear his holy word
proclaimed, to bring before him our
needs and the needs of the world, and
to pray that in the power of his Spirit
we may serve him and know the
greatness of his love.

Let us confess our sins to God our
Father.

[Please kneel or sit]

*Heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and
against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through
weakness, through our own
deliberate fault;
by what we have done and by what
we have failed to do.
We are truly sorry and repent of
all our sins.*

***For the sake of your Son Jesus
Christ who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in
newness of life to the glory of your
name. Amen.***

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

[Please stand, if you are able]

O Lord, open our lips
***and our mouth shall proclaim your
praise.***

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
***as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be forever. Amen.***

Praise the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

[Please sit]

The Old Testament Reading - Malachi 3: 1-4

The Old Testament Reading is from the book of the prophet Malachi, chapter 3, beginning at verse 1.

³See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Here ends the Old Testament Reading.

[Please stand, if you are able]

Psalm - Hymn - No. 136 (Winchester New)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every heart from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.
To heal the sick stretch forth thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore.



[Please sit]

The New Testament Reading - Luke **3: 1-6**

The New Testament Reading is from the gospel according to St Luke, chapter 3, beginning at verse 1.

3In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip

ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

Here ends the New Testament Reading.

St Thomas' Church

[Please remain seated]

Sarah Munson, accompanied by her sister, sings *Ave Maria*.

St Philip and St James' Church

[Please stand, if you are able]

Canticle: Hymn No. 141 (TATDOE)

These are the days of Elijah,
 declaring the word of the Lord;
 and these are the days of your
 servant Moses,
 righteousness being restored.
 And though these are days of great
 trial,
 of famine and darkness and sword,
 still we are a voice in the desert
 crying
 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord'.

*Behold he comes
 riding on the clouds,
 shining like the sun
 at the trumpet call;
 lift your voice,
 it's the year of jubilee,
 out of Zion's hill
 salvation comes.*

These are the days of Ezekiel,
 the dry bones becoming as flesh;
 and these are the days of your
 servant David,
 rebuilding a temple of praise.
 These are the days of the harvest,
 the fields are as white in the world,
 and we are the labourers in your
 vineyard
 declaring the word of the Lord.

[Please stand, if you are able]

The Apostles' Creed *[shortened version]*

***I believe in God,
 the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ,
 God's only Son, our Lord.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the
 Lord, the giver of life. Amen.***

The Prayers of the People

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

[Please sit or kneel]

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer**The Versicles and Responses**

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

O Lord, guide and defend our rulers
and grant our government wisdom.

Let your ministers be clothed with
 righteousness
and let your servants shout for joy.

O Lord, save your people
***and bless those whom you have
 chosen.***

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
***and let your glory be over all the
 earth.***

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and renew us by your Holy Spirit.

The Collect of the 2nd Sunday in Advent

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

This Collect may be said after the Collect of the day until Christmas Eve.

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Prayers

[Please stand, if you are able]

Hymn - No. 126 (Merton)

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding,
'Christ is nigh', it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'

Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven:
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

that when next he comes in glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

Honour, glory, might and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

The Sermon

[The Collection will be received during the singing of this hymn.]

Hymn No. 128 (Little Cornard)

Hills of the north, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,

hark to the advent voice;
 valley and lowland, sing.
 Christ comes in righteousness and
 love,
 he brings salvations from above.

Isles of the southern seas,
 sing to the listening earth;
 carry on every breeze
 hope of the world's new birth:
 in Christ shall all be made anew;
 his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the east, arise!
 He is your brightest morn;
 greet him with joyous eyes,
 praise shall his path adorn:
 the God whom you have longed to
 know
 in Christ draws near, and calls you
 now.

Shores of the utmost west,
 lands of the setting sun,
 welcome the heavenly guest
 in whom the dawn has come:
 he brings a never-ending light,
 who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout as you journey home;
 songs be in every mouth!
 Lo, from the north they come,
 from east and west and south:
 in Jesus all shall find their rest,
 in him the longing earth be blessed.

[Please sit]

Lighting the Second Candle on the Advent Wreath



Two 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 will 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 who were the leaders God sent before Jesus. The second candle is to remind us of the prophets, those who brought God's message to the world in which they lived and who said what they thought about what was really going on in the world, even when they were afraid.

They believed in God during dark days, and looked forward to the coming of Christ.

There are people like that today too,
who are confronting justice and
restoring the dream of a world of
freedom and peace.

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

*Living God,
we thank you for faithful people of
every age.*

*We pray that we, too,
may have faith,
in spite of the darkness of our
times,
and may look for the coming of
Jesus into our world. Amen.*

Hymn - One Candle (Frère Jacques)

[Repeat each line]

Two candles,
burning slow.
Advent weeks of waiting,
two-and-a-bit to go.

Wise men watching
for a star.
Going on a journey,
in the dark.

The Jesse Tree - St Philip and St James' Church

The Jesse Tree shows Jesus' family tree.
Today, we have two weeks of symbols to put
on.

We are putting a dove for creation, an apple
for Adam and Eve, a rainbow and ark for

Noah, stars for Abraham, a ram for Isaac, a
ladder for Jacob, a coloured coat for Joseph, a
burning bush for Moses, a lamb for the
Israelites, the Tables of the Torah for God, a
ram's horn for Joshua, a clay water pitcher for
Gideon and a crown for Samuel, on the tree.



The Blessing for Advent

God have mercy on your people,
baptise us in wisdom
and clothe us in integrity;
wrap us in the beauty of your love.

And may the God of mercy bless us,
Deliverer, Lover and Breath of life.
Amen.

The Dismissal

In our watching,
in our waiting,
God is alive in us,
and we are glad.

In our questioning,
in our hoping,
God is alive in us,
and we are glad.

In our dreaming,
in our dancing,

God is alive in us,
and we are glad.

In our travelling,
in our homecoming,
God is alive in us,
and we are glad.

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.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 11th December 2024

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion Service in St Thomas' Church

Sunday 15th December 2024

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

9.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

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

St Thomas' 150th Anniversary Service

Thank you to everyone who made the special service in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the consecration of St Thomas' Church such a wonderful occasion last Sunday.



Healer Prayer Group

Tuesday 14th January 2025
19.30 hours *via Zoom*

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

on Tuesdays 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

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



Any child (who has been toilet-trained) is very welcome to join the Sunday Club.

St Thomas' Sunday Club will meet at 9.30 in the Monk Gibbon Hall on **15th December 2024.**

St Philip and St James' Sunday Club will meet at 11.00 in St Philip and St James' Parish Centre on **8th December 2024.**

The children and their leaders will join the respective congregations later on in the service.



Ad Hoc Choir Rehearsals

Thursday 12th December 2024 at 8pm – NB change of day and time in **St Philip and St James' Church**
Sunday 15th December 2024 at 6pm culminating with the Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 15th December 2024 at 7pm hours in St Philip and St James' Church.

We would like some more bass and tenor voices please! Men of the parishes, take note!!!

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.



PJ's Christmas Craic-er!

Thank you to all who helped at the Christmas Craic-er yesterday!

Thankfully Storm Darragh had abated by 10.30 and a great time was had by all!

Thank you for all the hard work!

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!





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Help for Santa!

Life can be very cruel and we could make a difference to some children this Christmas. This is why I am asking you if we could help Santa. I am asking if you could buy one or two small toys - they cannot be big toys as those families living in hotels or hostels, or in cars, do not have the room for anything big - and could you bring them to either of our churches at the times below... if you are not able to attend the service, please aim to arrive at the end of the service to drop off the items:

Sunday 8th December 2024 to St Thomas' Church – service at 9.30-10.15 or to St Philip and St James' Church - services at 8.30-9.00, 11.00-11.45.

*We have to deliver the items into the Capuchin Day Centre on **Wednesday 11th December 2024, so we have to have them before then.***

Santa needs long-johns, toiletries, etc too!

New pairs of long-johns (underwear) are hugely appreciated by The Alice Leahy

Trust for their service users. As you can imagine, it is bitterly cold, living on the streets, at this time of the year. We would be delighted to pass on new long-johns, new warm socks, new gloves and new hats. Warm jackets and hoodies in good condition would also be great.

We can give a little love this Christmas, and that is exactly what Christmas is... God coming to earth in human form because he loves us, and to show us through Jesus Christ how to love and to care.

Colouring Section

