

(Please stand if you are able)

Greeting

Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born 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.



Opening Hymn No. 172 (Adeste fideles)

[Verses 1, 2, 6, 7b]

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:

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

7b. Yea, Lord, we bless thee,
born for our salvation,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

(Please kneel or sit)

The Penitence

In our celebrations and anticipation of Christmas,
we became stressed...
stressed because we were anxious about having everything perfect...
and in the middle of all that,
we forgot about you and what you are really trying to give us and tell us when you came to live on earth as the Baby Jesus.

When we have been so busy, that we have been stressed and irritable, even with those closest to us...

Sorry, Lord.

You became part of a family...
we have sometimes lost patience with our family members;
and reproduced barely-hidden grudges and petty squabbles...

Sorry, Lord.

For striving to be what we could never be...
for worrying about having what is not really that important...
Sorry, Lord.

Absolution

God, we thank you that you come to us, as the people we are;
and not just at Christmas, but every day.
May we celebrate you in our lives each day and not just at Christmas.
Thank you that you keep on understanding us and forgiving us, and help us to get it right more than we get it wrong, in Jesus' name.
Amen.



(Please stand if you are able)

Acclamation

Blessed are you, God of all glory,
through your Son Jesus Christ.
We worship and adore you.

He is the heavenly king, born of Mary.
We worship and adore you.

He is the Word of the Father, crying as a baby.
We worship and adore you.

He is robed in glory, wrapped in infant clothes.
We worship and adore you.

He is Lord of heaven and earth, laid in a manger.
We worship and adore you.

Strong in weakness,
glorious in humility,
to him be all praise and glory.
We join with all the company of heaven,
worshipping you and singing:

Hymn No. 166 (Antioch)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n,
and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills
and plain
repeat the sounding joy.
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders,
and wonders of his love.

(Please remain standing if you are able)

The Collect of the First Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God,
 who wonderfully created us in your
 own image
 and yet more wonderfully restored
 us
 through your Son Jesus Christ:
 grant that, as he came to share in
 our humanity,
 so we may share the life of his
 divinity;
 who is alive and reigns with you and
 the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

(Please sit)

The Ministry of the Word

The Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
 my whole being shall exult in
 my God;
 for he has clothed me with the
 garments of salvation,
 he has covered me with the robe
 of righteousness,
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a
 garland,
 and as a bride adorns herself with
 her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its
 shoots,

and as a garden causes what is
 sown in it to spring up,
 so the Lord GOD will cause
 righteousness and praise
 to spring up before all the nations.
⁶² For Zion's sake I will not keep
 silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not
 rest,
 until her vindication shines out like
 the dawn,
 and her salvation like a burning
 torch.

² The nations shall see your
 vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;
 and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the LORD
 will give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in
 the hand of the LORD,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of
 your God.

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



Hymn No. 160 - (Christmas (Mendelssohn))

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 new-born 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 us to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel:

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 each child of earth,
 born to give us second birth:

(Please sit)

The Second Reading - Luke 2: 15-21

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and

Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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

(Please stand if you are able)

Hymn No. 184 (Puer nobis nascitur (2))

Unto us is born a Son,
 King of quires supernal:
 see on earth his life begun,
 of lords the Lord eternal,
 of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
 comes on earth a stranger;
 ox and ass their owner know,
 becradled in a manger,
 becradled in a manger.

This did Herod sore affray,
 and grievously bewilder;

so he gave the word to say,
and slew the little childer,
and slew the little childer.

Of his love and mercy mild,
this the Christmas story;
O that Mary's gentle child
might lead us up to glory,
might lead us up to glory.

We adore him A and O
cum cantibus in choro;
let our merry organ go,
benedicamus Domino,
benedicamus Domino.

The Sermon



Hymn No. 179 (Humility)

[Verses 1, 2, 5, 6]

1. See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!
hail, redemption's happy dawn!
sing through all Jerusalem:
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'*

2. Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies;
he who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim!

5. Sacred Infant, all divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!

6. Teach O teach us, holy Child,
by thy face so meek and mild,
teach us to resemble thee,
in thy sweet humility.

(Please remain standing if you are able)

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in Christmas.

We believe that the words of the
prophet
that speak of justice to the
oppressed,
and the care for the widow,
are God's Word that sets the world
free.

For love came down at Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

We believe that the light of the
world that crushes all darkness and
exposes all lies
is God's light that shines through
every darkness.

For love came down at Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

We believe that the song of the
angels

that celebrates peace on earth and
to all people on the earth,
is God's peace that the world cannot
find but Jesus can offer.

For love came down at Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

We believe that Mary's poem
Magnificat, where God turns
everything upside down,
where the poor are lifted up and the
powerful are brought down,
is God's poem that changes the
balance of the world.

For love came down at Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

***We believe the Word become
flesh,***

***the promise is fulfilled,
the light breaks through,
the oppressed are set free,
the lowly are lifted up
and the baby cries.***

For love came down at Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

[Roddy Hamilton, Spill the Beans]

(Please kneel or sit)

The Prayers

God, Saviour of the world,
who was born as a human child in
Bethlehem - there is no room for you
at the inn.

We pray for all who are rejected, all
for whom there is no home, no
welcome. We pray for those with
the power and authority to effect
policies and decisions that will
create homes for all.

We pray for those who are outcasts
in today's world, through poverty,
hunger and oppression.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God, Lord of the world,
who fled to Egypt as a refugee, we
pray for all refugees, all who are
fleeing their homeland in fear,
who have left behind people they
love and everything that is familiar
to them, and we pray for those who
have nowhere to flee to.

Help us to do our part in welcoming
and supporting them within our
neighbourhoods of Booterstown,
Mount Merrion and Blackrock.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God, Prince of peace,
we pray for peace in our world.
We pray especially at this time for ...
And we pray for the leaders of the
nations; and for those with the
status, position and opportunity to
influence change to bring about an
end to conflict, war and oppression.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God, Father of us all, we pray for this church of St Philip and St James and our sister church of St Thomas, and especially as we embark upon our celebratory years of our 200th and 150th anniversaries respectively.

We pray for our neighbourhoods and our neighbouring church communities.

Help us to welcome all who come among us, knowing that in showing love and respect to any member of your family, we are showing it to you. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people who are sick in body or in mind, and especially for those known to us personally.

We pray for all on our Healer Prayer List and from our parishes, we pray for...

We pray for those in the care of these parishes in the Blackrock Clinic and the Blackrock Hospice.

In their need, may they know your healing touch.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of salvation, peace and justice, you come to us now as you have come to your people in every age.

We thank you for all who have reflected the life of Christ.

Help us to follow their example, and bring us, with them, to eternal life. **Amen.**

Let us sum up our prayers and praises in the words which Christ has taught and say:

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.***

Hymn No. 81 (Lord of the years)

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,

speaks to our hearts and sets our
souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and
inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your
people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our
generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth
and care;
for young and old, for this and every
nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear
our prayer.

Lord, for our world, when we disown
and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless
in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed
without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that
Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power
remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the
throne;
past put behind us, for the future
take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ
alone.

**A Prayer of Commitment for the
New Year**
Father,

***accept the gifts of our skills,
our abilities and our weaknesses,
and the offering of our hearts,
at we look to the beginning of a
New Year tomorrow,
that we may be guided and
strengthened by your Spirit,
and give ourselves in love and
service to you and to one another;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.***

The Blessing

We stand to face the future:

By the presence of God, we are
accompanied and strengthened as we
face the new year.

Let us go forth on the journey
before us,
knowing that, where Christ leads,
life is a journey home.
Therefore we travel in faith, in hope,
and in love,
and may the blessing of God
Almighty, the Father, the Son and
the Holy Spirit, fill our hearts and
homes with light in the year to come,
and to all eternity. **Amen.**



The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord;

in the name of Christ. Amen.

*May the hope, the joy, the love
and the peace of Jesus Christ be
with you and all your family in
this Christmas season and
throughout 2024.*



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.

Wednesday 3rd January 2024

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 7th January 2024

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 10th January 2024

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 14th January 2024

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

18.30 Sausage Service in St Philip and St James' Church

Wednesday 17th January 2024

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 21st January 2024

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 24th January 2024

No 10.30 Midweek Holy Communion as the Rector is at the Diocesan Clergy Conference

Sunday 28th January 2024

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

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

Wednesday 31st January 2024

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion

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 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

We raised over €1,600!

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.

BOOTERSTOWN AND CARYSFORT

SELECT VESTRY
THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY 2024
19.30 HOURS
IN THE PARISH ROOM (BACK ROOM) OF ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' PARISH CENTRE

MOUNT MERRION
SELECT VESTRY MEETING
MONDAY 29TH JANUARY 2024
19.30 HOURS VIA ZOOM



Confirmation Class for teenagers

Wednesday 10th January 2024
at 18.30

St Philip and St James' Church

Please note that Confirmation preparation for adults will take place separately – please contact the Rector.



Sunday Clubs

Our Sunday Clubs have had very enjoyable gatherings over the past few months. The dates of the meetings for January – May 2024 will be on the website in the near future and all children who are toilet-trained are welcome!

Sponsor a Chair ***for*** ***St Philip and St James' Church***

There are still chairs available for donation or sponsorship. The cost of a chair is €275 (including the brass plaque and engraving). If you would like more information about donating or sponsoring a chair, please contact the Honorary Treasurer, Quentin Tegg at qteggin@gmail.com or the Rector.



COLOURING SECTION

