



The Order for Mass on  
**the FEAST OF THE  
EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

14<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 10.30am

Parish Priest  
Fr Henry Everett SSC  
020 82956411  
frhenry@yahoo.co.uk

Honorary Assistant Priests:  
Fr David Cossar SSC 020 37309003  
Canon Owen Beament MBE 07984668290

*Welcome to St George's! This booklet contains all the material you will need for today's celebration of Mass. We hope that you will find this service easy to follow, but please do not be afraid to ask if you are unsure what to do at any point. The building is fitted with an induction loop and you will find the best results away from the pillars.*

*Families with small children are very welcome to make use of the carpeted play area at the back of church, where you will find books, crayons and soft toys.*

*There is a further play station in the north aisle. Older children should join Children's Church, who will go out to the Hall after the first hymn, and return in time for Communion.*

*A toilet is at the back of church, behind the screen. After Mass, please join us in the hall for refreshments. Before Mass, please try to maintain an atmosphere of quiet prayer.*

*Mass setting: Congress Mass.*

*Please stand when the bell rings, for the procession of the clergy and servers, and to sing hymn 243:*

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.***

***Come, let us follow where our captain trod,  
Our King victorious, Christ the Son of God.***

***Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.***

***Each new-born soldier of the Crucified  
Bears on his brow the seal of him who died.***

***This is the sign which Satan's legions fear  
And angels veil their faces to revere.***

***Saved by this cross whereon their Lord was slain,  
The kin of Adam their lost home regain.***

***From north and south, from east and west they raise  
In growing unison their song of praise.***

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As thou hast promised, draw us unto thee.

Let every race and every language tell  
Of him who saves our souls from death and hell.

From farthest regions let them homage bring,  
And on his cross adore their Saviour King.

Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease  
Beneath the shadow of its healing peace.

For thy blest cross which doth for all atone  
Creation's praises rise before thy throne.

*GR Kitchin (1827-1912) & MR Newbolt (1874-1956) altd.*

*The priest sings:*

*Priest* In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*People* **Amen.**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The priest introduces the Mass, sends Children's Church to their activities, and invites the people to recall and confess their sins:*

*Priest* God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*Cantor* Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father. Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Cantor* Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division.  
Christ, have mercy.

*People* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Cantor* Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father.  
Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest* May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life,

*People* **Amen.**

*We all sing the Gloria.*

*People* **Glory to God, glory to God in the highest, and peace,  
peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you  
thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take  
away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are  
seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our  
prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are  
the Lord, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with  
the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.  
Amen.**

*Then the priest prays the collect:*

*Priest* O God, who willed that your Only Begotten Son should  
undergo the Cross to save the human race, grant, we  
pray, that we, who have known his mystery on earth, may  
merit the grace of his redemption in heaven. Through our  
Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

*Now sit to listen to the first reading:*

*Reader* A reading from the book of Numbers. (*Numbers 21; 4-9*).  
In those days: The people became impatient on the way.  
And the people spoke against God and against Moses,  
'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the

wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.' Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.' So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

This is the word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 78 follows the reading. Remain seated to sing:*

Vss 1-21 J. STAFFORD SMITH

137

1 Hear my law, | O my | people :  
incline your ears | unto ' the | words of ' my | mouth.

2 I will open my | mouth ' in a | parable :  
I will declare hard | senten- | ces ' of | old;

Vss 22-52 J. GOSS

138

34 When he | slew them, ' they | sought him :  
and turned them early, and | inquired\_ | after | God.

35 And they remembered that | God ' was their | strength :  
and that the | high God ' was | their re- | deemer.

- 36 Nevertheless, they did but flatter him | with their | mouth :  
and dissembled | with him | in their | tongue.
- 37 For their heart was not | whole with | him :  
neither continued they | steadfast | in his | covenant.
- 38 But he was so merciful, that he for- | gave their | misdeeds :  
and de- | stroyed\_ | \_ them | not.
- 39 Yea, many a time turned he his | wrath a- | way :  
and would not suffer his whole dis- | pleasure | to a- | rise.

*Remain seated for the second reading:*

*Reader* A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.  
(Philippians 2; 6-11)

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Stand for the gospel acclamation after a brief pause for reflection.

*Choir* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*People* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Choir* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.

*People* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Priest* The Lord be with you,

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. (*John 3; 13-17*)

*People* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Priest* At that time: Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Please sit for the Homily from Fr Henry.*

*All stand to say the Nicene Creed:*

*People* **I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and  
invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son  
of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from  
God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten,  
not made, consubstantial with the Father, through him  
all things were made. For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was  
incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our  
sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered  
death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in  
accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into**

heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Please remain standing for the Prayers of Intercession.*

*Priest* Let us pray to the Father through his Son, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross that he might bring us into his kingdom.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy, / Lord, hear us.

*People* **Hear our prayer. / Lord, graciously hear us.**

*At the prayer for the departed,*

*Reader* Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.

*People* **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*When the prayers of the saints are asked,*

**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.**

*In conclusion to the prayers:*

*Priest* Father, grant to us, who have been signed with the cross in baptism, that we may witness to the love of Christ crucified both with our lips and in our lives, and be found faithful to the end. Merciful Father,

*People* **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**



*Please sit, as the Choir sing “Crux Fidelis”, by John IV, king of Portugal (1604-56), and bread and wine are brought to the altar.*

*Stand to sing hymn 199, as the altar is prepared and the collection is taken. If you want to give by card, there is a card reader at the back of church.*

**Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King!  
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,  
Hear us as we sing:  
*Yours the glory and the crown,  
The high renown, the eternal Name.***

**Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!  
Power and majesty concealing  
By your humble birth:**

**Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,  
Victim crucified!  
Death is through the cross defeated,  
Sinners justified:**

**Priestly King, enthroned for ever  
High in heaven above!  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
Stifle hymns of love:**

**So, our hearts and voices raising  
Through the ages long,  
Ceaselessly upon you gazing,  
This shall be our song:**

*Michael John Saward (1932-2015) © Mrs ER Hudson/Jubilate Hymns.*

*The Priest says*

**Priest**      Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may  
be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

*People*      **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

*Priest*      May this oblation, O Lord, which on the altar of the Cross cancelled the offence of the whole world, cleanse us, we pray, of all our sins. Through Christ our Lord.

*People*      **Amen.**

*The Priest sings the opening of the Eucharistic Prayer:*

*Priest*      The Lord be with you.

*People*      **And also with you.**

*Priest*      Lift up your hearts.

*People*      **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Priest*      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The Priest prays the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer, and then all sing the Sanctus and Benedictus:*

*People*      **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

*Please kneel. The Eucharistic Prayer continues, until the Words of Institution. Then all make the Memorial Acclamation:*

*Priest*      The mystery of faith.

*People*      **Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.**

*The Priest concludes the Eucharistic Prayer, and all sing:*

*People*      **Amen! Amen! Amen!**

*Please stand for the Lord's Prayer.*

*Priest*      At the Saviour's command, and formed by divine teaching, we dare to sing,

*People*      **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.**

*Priest*      Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our day, that by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

*People*      **For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever.**

*Priest*      Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

*People*      **Amen.**

*Priest*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*      **And also with you.**

*Priest*      Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Now sing the Agnus Dei*

*People*      **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have  
mercy on us. (repeated)  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant  
us peace.**

*Then kneel.*

*Priest* Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

*People* **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

*Priest* When I am lifted up from the earth,  
I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

*The people come forward to receive Communion. If you have not been baptized and confirmed, please come forward for a blessing instead of Communion, carrying this order of service.*

*During Communion hymn 112 is sung, all remaining seated or kneeling.*

**Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow,  
Where the blood of Christ was shed,  
Perfect man on thee was tortured,  
Perfect God on thee has bled!**

**Here the King of all the ages,  
Throned in light ere worlds could be,  
Robed in mortal flesh is dying,  
Crucified by sin for me.**

**O mysterious condescending!  
O abandonment sublime!  
Very God himself is bearing  
All the sufferings of time!**

**Evermore for human failure  
By his Passion we can plead;  
God has borne all mortal anguish,  
Surely he will know our need.**

**From the “Holy, holy, holy,  
We adore thee, O Most High!”  
Down to earth’s blaspheming voices,  
And the shout of “Crucify!”**

**Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow,  
Where the blood of Christ was shed,  
Perfect man on thee was tortured,  
Perfect God on thee has bled!**     *William John Sparrow-Simpson (1859-1952)*

*All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:*

*Priest*     Having been nourished by your holy banquet, we beseech  
you, Lord Jesus Christ, to bring those you have redeemed  
by the wood of your life-giving Cross to the glory of the  
resurrection. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

*People*     **Amen.**

*Please sit for the notices.*

*Then stand for the blessing and dismissal*

*Priest*     The Lord be with you.

*People*     **And also with you.**

*Priest*     Christ crucified draw you to himself, that you may find in  
him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and  
the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God  
almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon  
you and remain with you, always.

*People*     **Amen.**

*Priest*     Go, and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

*The clergy and servers go to the shrine of Our Lady for the Angelus.*

*Priest*     The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,

*People*     **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

**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.**

*Priest* Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

*People* **Be it unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary...**

*Priest* And the word was made flesh,

*People* **And dwelt among us. Hail Mary...**

*Priest* Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

*People* **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

*Priest* Let us pray. We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, so that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ through the message of an angel, so, by his cross and passion, we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

*Remain standing to sing hymn 130 as clergy and servers depart:*

**When I survey the wondrous cross,  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**His dying crimson like a robe,  
Spreads o'er his body on the tree;  
Then I am dead to all the globe,  
And all the globe is dead to me.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

*The organist plays "Litanies" by Jehan Alain (1911-40).*

*After this Mass, Michael Turner's ashes will be interred in the churchyard.  
Please feel free to join Janet and her family.*

Scripture readings are taken from the English Standard Version, Catholic Edition.

**Collection: we take a collection during the second hymn, towards the cost of providing services and the upkeep of this church. If you are a UK taxpayer please place your offering in one of the envelopes in the pews (completed with your name and address) and place it in the collection plate when it is circulated during the hymn. Pens are in the pews. A card reader to give by contactless payment is available at the back of church. Special thanks if you give by standing order, as this helps us to budget.**

WE MAY USE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT ST GEORGE'S ON OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA.  
IF YOU PREFER THAT IMAGES OF YOU OR YOUR FAMILY WERE NOT SO USED, PLEASE  
INFORM A CHURCHWARDEN OR SIDESPERSON

*Please scan the QR code to donate to St George's.*

