



The Order for Mass on
the THIRD SUNDAY
of ADVENT

14th December 2025 at 10.30am

Parish Priest
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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 are two further play stations in the side aisles. 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: Wood in the Phrygian Mode.

Please stand when the bell rings, for the procession of the clergy and servers, and to sing hymn REH 14:

**O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
That into exile drear is gone
Far from the face of God's dear Son.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high!
Who madest all in earth and sky,
Creating man from dust and clay:
To us reveal salvation's way.**

**O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the ancient law.**

**O come, thou Root of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From those dread caverns of the grave,**

From nether hell, thy people save.

O come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.

O come, Desire of nations! show
Thy kingly reign on earth below;
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
Restore the ruin of our fall.

*Words: Cologne 1710, based on the Great O Antiphons, Latin before 8th century;
translated by TA Lacey (1853-1931) and the Editors of the New English Hymnal, 1986.*

The priest sings:

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

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

*The priest introduces the Mass, and, standing by the Advent Wreath, invites a
child to light the third candle on the wreath. We all join in singing:*

People **Great John the Baptizer prepared Jesus' way,
"Repent and believe!" he would constantly say.
The candle we light is the colour of rose,
As we come close to Christmas our happiness grows.**

Priest God our Father, your servant John prepared the people
for the coming of the Lord and baptized them in the

Jordan as a sign of their repentance. Help us, who have been baptized into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts. Through the same Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

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

Priest Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near. The Lord will go forth in majesty to visit his people and bring them peace and eternal life. We are to look up and raise our heads, for our redemption is drawing near: let us turn to the Lord in penitence for our sins.

People **I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

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

Choir Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison.

Then the priest prays the collect:

Priest O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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. **Amen.**

Now sit to listen to the first reading:

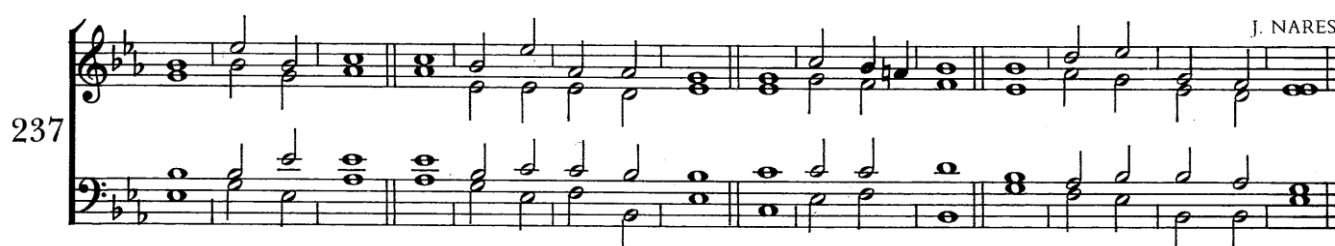
Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah. (*Isaiah 35; 1-6, 10*)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm (146) follows the reading. Remain seated to sing



- 1 Praise the Lord, O my soul; while I live will I | praise the | Lord :
yea, as long as I have any being, I will sing | praises | unto ' my | God.
- 6 Who helpeth them to right that | suffer | wrong :
who | feed- | eth the | hungry.
- 7 The Lord looseth men | out of | prison :
the Lord giveth | sight- | to the | blind.

- 8 The Lord helpeth | them ' that are | fallen :
the Lord | careth | for the | righteous.
- 9 The Lord careth for the strangers, he defendeth the | fatherless ' and |
widow :
as for the way of the ungodly, he | turneth ' it | upside | down.
- 10 The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be | King for ' ever- | more :
and through- | out all | gene- | rations.

Remain seated for the second reading:

Reader A reading from the letter of St James. (*James 5; 7-10*)
Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Stand for the gospel acclamation.

Choir Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Choir The spirit of the Lord is upon me.
He has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.

People **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Priest The Lord be with you,

People **And also with you.**

Priest A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
(*Matthew 11; 2-11*)

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

Priest At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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.

The Priest introduces and concludes the prayers.

Priest As we await in hope the appearing of our great Lord and Saviour, let us joyfully hasten the coming of his kingdom, praying for the Church and for the world.

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 Rejoicing, we commend ourselves and one another and all for whom we pray to Christ our God: that God's mercy

and compassion may descend upon us all to save and defend us. Merciful Father,
People **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Please sit, as the Choir sing “Angelus ad Virginem”, (14th Century, arranged by Malcolm Archer) and bread and wine are brought to the altar.

Stand to sing hymn REH 22, 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.

**Wake, O wake! with tidings thrilling
The watchmen all the air are filling,
Arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! no more delaying,
'The hour has come!' we hear them saying.
Where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes in sight,
Raise high your torches bright!
Alleluya!
The wedding song
Swells loud and strong:
Go forth and join the festal throng.**

**Sion hears the watchmen shouting,
Her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,
She stands and waits with eager eyes;
See her Friend from heaven descending,
Adorned with truth and grace unending!
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
Now come, thou precious Crown,
Lord Jesu, God's own Son!
Hosanna!
Let us prepare**

To follow there,
Where in thy supper we may share.

Every soul in thee rejoices;
From men and from angelic voices
Be glory given to thee alone!
Now the gates of pearl receive us,
Thy presence never more shall leave us,
We stand with Angels round thy throne.
Earth cannot give below
The bliss thou dost bestow.
Alleluya!

Grant us to raise,
To length of days,
The triumph-chorus of thy praise.

Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

tr FC Burkitt (1864-1935)

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 the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be
offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun
in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your
saving work. Through Christ our Lord. **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 the Choir sing the Sanctus and Benedictus:

Choir Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
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!**

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.

The Choir sing the Agnus Dei

Choir O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
have mercy upon us. *(repeated)*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
grant us thy 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 Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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 REH 19 is sung, all remaining seated or kneeling.

The advent of our God

With eager prayers we greet,

And singing haste upon the road
His glorious gift to meet.

The everlasting Son
Scorns not the Virgin's womb;
That we from bondage may be won
He bears a bondsman's doom.

Daughter of Sion, rise
To meet thy lowly King;
Let not thy stubborn heart despise
The peace he comes to bring.

On clouds of dazzling light,
As judge he comes again,
His scattered people to unite,
With him in heaven to reign.

Let evil flee away,
Ere that great hour shall dawn,
Let this old Adam day by day
The new Man all put on.

Praise to the incarnate Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father and with Spirit One,
To all eternity. Amen. *C Coffin (1676-1749) tr H Putman (1861-1935)*

All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:

Priest We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance
may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the
coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord. **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 May the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent and enrich you with his blessing. **Amen.**

Priest As you run the race of this present life, may he make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity. **Amen.**

Priest So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh, you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life when he comes again in majesty. **Amen.**

Priest And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Priest Go forth, the Mass is ended.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The clergy and servers go to the shrine of Our Lady for the Angelus. As they go we sing the Advent anthem to Our Lady:

**Mother of Christ, hear thou thy people's cry,
Star of the deep, and portal of the sky;
Mother of him, who thee from nothing made,
Sinking, we strive and call to thee for aid:
O by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee,
Thou Virgin first and last, pray mercy.**

(J Byrom)

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. **Amen.**

Remain standing to sing hymn REH 9 as clergy and servers depart:

**Joy to the world; the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her king:
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heave, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns;
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground:
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**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, wonders of his love.** *Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

The organist plays “Variations vi-viii on Nun komm’, der Heiden Heiland”, by Anton Heiller (1923-79).

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.

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