



The Order for Mass on
the FOURTH SUNDAY
of ADVENT

21st December 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.

Older children are invited to join Children's Church.

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: Dean and Fry.

Please stand when the bell rings, for the procession of the clergy and servers, and to sing hymn REH 5:

Hark! A herald voice is calling:

'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;

'Cast away the dreams of darkness,

O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,

Let the earth-bound soul arise;

Christ, her Sun, all sloth 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;

So when next he comes in glory,

And earth's final hour draws near,

May he then as our defender

On the clouds of heaven appear.

**Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
While unending ages run. Amen.**

Edward Caswall (1814-78)

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, and, standing by the Advent Wreath, invites a child to light the fourth candle on the wreath. We all join in singing:

People **The dear Virgin Mary carried God's only Son,
She trusted the Spirit, saying, "Thy will be done".
We light our fourth candle as we sing of her love,
For Jesus, and Joseph, and the Lord God above.**

Priest God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work. Through Jesus 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 To us a child shall be born, a Son shall be given and all the nations will bless themselves in him and call him blessed. The Lord whom we seek will come suddenly to his temple: but who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

Cantor You raise the dead to life in the Spirit, speak to our hearts and bring us to life.

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

Cantor Pardon and peace you bring to the sinner, make us repentant and wash us clean.

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

Cantor You bring your light to those in the darkness, shine on us now, and wake us from sleep.

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

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

People **Amen.**

Then the priest prays the collect:

Priest Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. 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 prophet Isaiah. (*Isaiah 7; 10-14*)

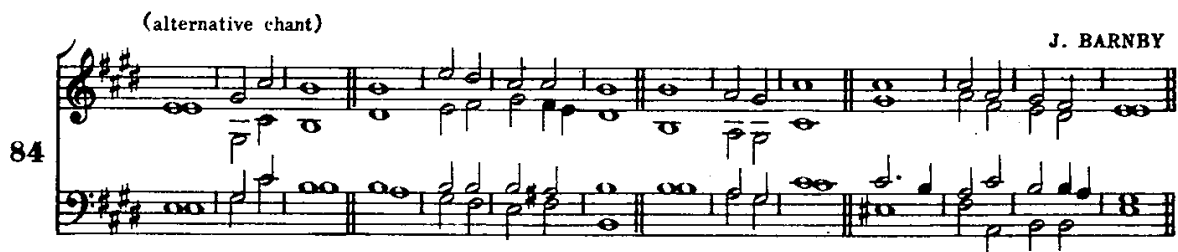
In those days: The Lord spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall
call his name Emmanuel.'

This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 24 follows the reading. Remain seated to sing



- 1 The earth is the Lord's, and all that | therein | is :
 the compass of the world, and | they that | dwell there- | in.
- 2 For he hath founded it up- | on the | seas :
 and pre- | pared ' it up- | on the | floods.
- 3 Who shall ascend into the | hill of ' the | Lord :
 or who shall rise | up ' in his | holy | place?
- 4 Even he that hath clean hands, and a | pure_ | heart :
 and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor | sworn ' to de- | ceive
 his | neighbour.
- 5 He shall receive the blessing | from the | Lord:
 and righteousness from the | God of | his sal- | vation.
- 6 This is the generation of | them that | seek him :
 even of them that | seek thy | face, O | Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye ever- | lasting | doors
 :
 and the King of | glory | shall come | in.
- 8 Who is the | King of | glory :
 it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the | Lord_ | mighty ' in | battle.
- 9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye ever- | lasting | doors
 :
 and the King of | glory | shall come | in.

**10 Who is the | King of | glory :
even the Lord of hosts, | he ' is the | King of | glory.**

Remain seated for the second reading:

Reader A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans. (*Romans 1; 1-7*)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

After a pause for reflection, stand for the gospel acclamation.

Choir Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Choir Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.

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 1; 18-24*)

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

Priest Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel' — which means, God with us. When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

People This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please sit for the Homily from Fr Owen.

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 the appearing of our great Lord and Saviour, let us 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 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 "People, Look East" (Besançon Carol), and bread and
wine are brought to the altar.*

*Stand to sing hymn REH 20, 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.*

**The Lord will come and not be slow,
His footsteps cannot err;
Before him righteousness shall go,
His royal harbinger.**

**Truth from the earth, like to a flower,
Shall bud and blossom then;
And justice from her heavenly bower,
Look down on mortal men.**

**Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,
This wicked earth redress;
For thou art he who shalt by right
The nations all possess.**

**The nations all whom thou hast made
Shall come, and all shall frame
To bow them low before thee, Lord,
And glorify thy name.**

**For great thou art, and wonders great
By thy strong hand are done:
Thou in thy everlasting seat
Remainest God alone.**

John Milton (1608-74)

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 Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 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:

Choir Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power, God of might.

People **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might.**

Choir Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

People **Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Choir Hosanna in the highest.

People **Hosanna in the highest.**

Choir Blessed is he who comes, he who comes in the name of the Lord.

People **Blessed is he who comes, he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Choir Hosanna in the highest.

People **Hosanna in the highest.**

Choir Hosanna in the highest.

People **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.
Choir Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.
People **Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.**
Choir Lord Jesus, come in glory.
People **Lord Jesus, come in glory.**
Choir Lord Jesus, come!
People **Lord Jesus, come!**
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.

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 Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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 26 is sung, all remaining seated or kneeling.

**Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virgin-birth:
Let every age adoring fall,
Such birth befits the God of all.**

Begotten of no human will,

But of the Spirit, thou art still
The Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
The Saviour, now to man displayed.

O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness glow with new-born light,
No more shall night extinguish day,
Where love's bright beams their power display.

O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

Words: St Ambrose 340-97, tr. JM Neale 1818-66

Tune: Puer nobis nascitur, Melody adapted by Michael Praetorius 1571-1621

All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:

Priest Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we
pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation
draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more
eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your
Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns 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 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.**

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

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.

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 11 as clergy and servers depart:

**Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand, thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluya!
God appears, on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah 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!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!**

Words: Charles Wesley 1707-88

The organist plays “Sonata III”, by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47).

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.

Scan this QR code to donate to St George’s.

