



**SOLEMN PONTIFICAL MASS
OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION
on the **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY**
IN ORDINARY TIME**

13th September 2026 at 10.30am

Parish Priest: Fr Henry Everett SSC
Hon. Assistant Priest: Canon Owen Beament MBE

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 the Children's Church, who go out to their own activities in the Hall after the opening 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: Dom Gregory Murray, New People's Mass.

**Celebrant and Preacher: The Rt Revd Luke Irvine-Capel SSC,
Lord Bishop of Richborough**

To be baptized and Confirmed:

From St George's

Gemma Lofthouse

Callum Raven

To be Confirmed:

From St George's

Lisa Gregory

Paige Gregory

Aaron Mullis

Louise Ralph

From The Parish of the Annunciation, Chislehurst

Robert Dearing

James Robson

*Please stand when the bell rings, for the procession of the clergy and servers,
and to sing hymn REH 552:*

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven.
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King!**

**Praise him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same forever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.**

**Father-like he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.**

**Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
Blows the wind and it is gone;
But, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures, unchanging on:
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the high eternal one.**

Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace! *Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)*

The bishop sings:

Bishop In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Bishop Peace be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

Bishop The Lord is gracious and full of compassion: his mercy is over all his works. Trusting in the goodness of God our creator we turn to him 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.**

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

People **Amen.**

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

We all sing the Gloria:

People **Glory to God in the highest, and 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.**

Then the bishop sings the collect:

Bishop Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. 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 Sirach. (*Sirach 27; 30-28; 7*).
Anger and wrath, these are abominations, and the sinful man will hold them fast. The one who seeks vengeance will be paid vengeance from the Lord, and he who keeps a

record will have his own sins recorded. Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray. Does one person harbour anger against another and yet seek for healing from the Lord? Does he have no mercy towards someone like himself and yet pray concerning his own sins? If he himself, being flesh, maintains wrath, who will make atonement for his sins? Remember the end of your life and cease from enmity, remember destruction and death and be true to the commandments. Remember the commandments and do not be angry with your neighbour; remember the covenant of the Most High and overlook error.

This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain seated to sing the Psalm (103)



- 1 Praise the Lord, | O my | soul :
and all that is within me | praise his | holy | Name.
- 2 Praise the Lord, | O my | soul :
and for- | get not | all his | benefits;
- 3 Who forgiveth | all thy | sin :
and | healeth | all ' thine in- | firmities;
- 4 Who saveth thy | life ' from de- | struction :
and crowneth thee with | mercy ' and | loving- | kindness;

- 9 He will not | alway ' be | chiding :
neither | keepeth ' he his | anger ' for | ever.
- 10 He hath not dealt with us | after ' our | sins :
nor rewarded us ac- | cording | to our | wickednesses.
- 11 For look how high the heaven is in comparison | of the | earth :
so great is his mercy also to- | ward_ | them that | fear him.
- 12 Look how wide also the east is | from the | west :
so far hath he | set our | sins_ | from us.

Remain seated for the second reading:

Reader A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. (*Romans 14; 7-9*)

Brothers and Sisters: None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

After a moment of silent reflection, stand for the gospel acclamation:

Choir Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Choir A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord,
that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

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 18; 21-35*)

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

Priest

At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

'Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, "Pay what you owe." So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please sit for the Homily from the bishop of Richborough.

The candidates for baptism stand and come forward to stand before the bishop.

The bishop asks Callum and Gemma:

Bishop Do you wish to be baptized?

Callum & Gemma **I do.**

The remaining candidates stand and come forward, and the bishop asks them:

Bishop Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit?

Candidates **I have.**

The bishop asks all the candidates:

Bishop Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

Candidates **I am.**

The bishop says to the congregation:

Bishop Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

People **With the help of God, we will.**

The bishop says to all the candidates:

Bishop In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:
Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

Candidates **I reject them.**

Bishop Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

Candidates **I renounce them.**

Bishop Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

Candidates **I repent of them.**

Bishop Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

Candidates **I turn to Christ.**

Bishop Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

Candidates **I submit to Christ.**

Bishop Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

Candidates **I come to Christ.**

The bishop makes the sign of the cross on Callum and Gemma, using the Oil of Catechumens.

Bishop Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

People **Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

Bishop May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

People **Amen.**

The procession goes to the font, as the Choir sing the Litany of the Saints.

The congregation turn to face the font.

The bishop stands at the font and says:

Bishop Praise God who made heaven and earth,

People **who keeps his promise for ever.**

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Bishop Lord of the heavens, we bless your name
for all your servants who have been a sign of your grace
through the ages.

You delivered Noah from the waters of destruction;
you divided the waters of the sea, and by the hand of
Moses you led your people from slavery into the
Promised Land.

You made a new covenant in the blood of your Son,
that all who confess his name may, by the Holy Spirit,
enter the covenant of grace,
receive a pledge of the kingdom of heaven,
and share in the divine nature.

Fill these waters, we pray,
with the power of that same Spirit,
that all who enter them may be reborn
and rise from the grave to new life in Christ.

As the apostles and prophets, the confessors and martyrs,
faithfully served you in their generation,
may we be built into an eternal dwelling for you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The bishop addresses the congregation:

Bishop Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Bishop Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Bishop Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Bishop Callum and Gemma, is this your faith?

Candidates **This is my faith.**

The bishop baptizes Callum and Gemma:

Bishop N, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

The bishop sprinkles all the candidates for confirmation with water from the font.

Then he prays:

Bishop Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized into your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

People **Amen.**

The bishop sprinkles the congregation with baptismal water as the procession returns to the sanctuary and the choir sing "Vidi Aquam".

When all have returned to their places, the bishop intones the Veni Creator, and all join in:

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart:

Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love;
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight:

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of thy grace:
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of Both, to be but One;
That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song,
Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

John Cosin (1594-1672) based on Veni, Creator Spiritus.

The candidates stand in their places.

The congregation sit.

The bishop stands and says:

Bishop Our help is in the name of the Lord

People **who has made heaven and earth.**

Bishop Blessed be the name of the Lord

People **now and for ever. Amen.**

Bishop Almighty and ever-living God,
you have given these your servants new birth
in baptism by water and the Spirit,
and have forgiven them all their sins.
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.

People **Amen.**

Each candidate is led forward in turn by their sponsor, who presents the candidate to the bishop:

Bishop N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

The bishop lays his hand on the candidate's head, saying:

Bishop Confirm, O Lord, your servant N with your Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The bishop anoints each candidate with the oil of Chrism, saying:

Bishop N, be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Peace be with you.

Candidate And also with you.

When all the candidates have been confirmed, the bishop invites the congregation to pray for the newly-confirmed:

People **Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly
grace, that they may continue yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more
until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.**

The congregation greet the newly baptized and confirmed.

Please sit, as the Choir sing the anthem "O, thou, the Central Orb" by Charles Wood (1866-1926), while bread and wine are brought to the altar.

Stand to sing hymn 181, 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.

**Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till it become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Italian, Bianco da Siena (d.1434) tr RF Littledale (1833-90)

The bishop says the Prayer over the Offerings:

Bishop 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.**

Bishop Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your
kindness accept these, your servants' offerings, that what
each has offered to the honour of your name may serve
the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The bishop sings the opening of the Eucharistic Prayer:

Bishop The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Bishop Lift up your hearts.

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

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The bishop 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 in the highest. Blessed is he who comes 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:

Bishop The mystery of faith.

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

The bishop concludes the Eucharistic Prayer, and all sing:

People **Amen!**

Please stand for the Lord's Prayer.

Bishop 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.**

Bishop 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.**

Bishop 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.**

Bishop The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Bishop 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.

Bishop 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.**

Bishop The chalice of blessing that we bless is a communion in the Blood of Christ; and the bread that we break is a sharing in the Body of the Lord.

The newly-Confirmed come to the altar-rail first for Communion.

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 hymns 571 and 385 are sung, all remaining seated or kneeling.

**Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my will, and make it thine:
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart: it is thine own;
It shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure-store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.**

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-79).

Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am (thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down),
Now to be thine, yea thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove,
Here for a season then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)

All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:

Bishop May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. Through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Please sit for the notices.

Then stand for the Blessing & Dismissal. The newly-confirmed stand before the bishop and are each given a candle, lit from the Paschal Candle.

Bishop God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

People **Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.**

Bishop The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

The bishop, with hands extended, says:

Bishop May God the Father almighty bless you, whom he has made his adopted sons and daughters, reborn from water and the Holy Spirit, and may he keep you worthy of his fatherly love.

People **Amen.**

Bishop May his only-begotten Son, who promised that the Spirit of truth would abide in his Church, bless you and confirm you by his power in the confession of the true faith.

People **Amen.**

Bishop May the Holy Spirit, who kindles the fire of charity in the hearts of disciples, bless you and lead you blameless and gathered in one into the joy of the Kingdom of God.

People **Amen.**

Bishop May almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Bishop Go in the light and peace of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

Bishop 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.

Bishop Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

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

Bishop And the word was made flesh,

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

Bishop Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

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

Bishop 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 481 as clergy and servers depart:

He who would valiant be
'Gainst all disaster,
Let him in constancy
Follow the Master.
There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.

Whoso beset him round
With dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound;
His strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might,
Though he with giants fight:
He will make good his right
To be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, thou dost defend
Us with thy Spirit,
We know we at the end
Shall life inherit.
Then, fancies flee away!
I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labour night and day
To be a pilgrim.

John Bunyan (1628-88) adapted by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

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

Photographs of the newly-confirmed are taken in front of the altar.

Do come and join us for drinks and cake in the Hall.

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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