



**The Order for Mass
on the
SOLEMNITY OF THE
EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

4th January 2026 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 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: Gregory Murray, New People's Mass.

Please stand when the bell rings, for the procession of the clergy and servers, and to sing hymn 67:

**As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,
To that lowly manger-bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.**

**Holy Jesu, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.**

**In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down:
There for ever may we sing
Alleluyas to our King.**

W Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

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

Priest In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God;
 and the Word became flesh that he might save the world.
 Rejoicing in the light of Christ made manifest in our world,
 let us acknowledge all that in us prefers darkness to light.
People **Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.**
 We are not worthy to be called your children.
 We turn to you again.
 Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself
 as those who once were dead
 but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Priest May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **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 priest prays the collect:

Priest O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Now sit to listen to the first reading:

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah. (*Isaiah 60; 1-6*).
Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all round, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain seated to sing the Psalm (72)

131

T. NORRIS

1 Give the King thy | judgements, 'O | God :
and thy righteousness | unto ' the | King's_ | son.

2* Then shall he judge
thy people ac- |
cording |
unto | right :
and de- | fend the | poor.

Vs 2

Then shall he judge thy people according unto right: and defend the poor.

7 In his time shall the | righteous | flourish :
yea, and abundance of peace, so | long ' as the | moon en- | dureth.

8 His dominion shall be also from the one | sea ' to the | other :
and from the flood | unto ' the | world's_ | end.

10 The kings of Tharsis and of the | isles ' shall give | presents :
the kings of Arabia and | Saba | shall bring | gifts.

- 11 All kings shall | fall down ' be- | fore him :
all | nations ' shall | do him | service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the | poor ' when he | crieth :
the needy also, and | him that | hath no | helper.
- 13 He shall be favourable to the | simple ' and | needy :
and shall pre- | serve the | souls ' of the | poor.

Remain seated for the second reading:

Reader A reading from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians. (*Ephesians 3; 2-3, 5-6*)

Brothers and sisters: I assume that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy Apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 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 We saw his star as it rose and have come to worship the Lord.

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 2; 1-12*)

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

Priest Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of

the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." ' Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.' After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please sit for the Blessing of the Chalk:

Priest The Church has preserved an ancient custom of blessing chalk on this Feast of the Epiphany, so that you may ask for the prayers of the Wise Men by marking the doorways of your homes with this chalk. So let us pray:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People **Who made heaven and earth.**

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lord God, among the gifts of creation you have given chalk to be of benefit to us all. We call on your holy name to bless these pieces of chalk. May those who take them and write with them on the doors of their homes the names of your holy wise men, Kaspar, Melchior and Balthasar, be aided by their intercession and have a share in their merits; may their bodies be healthy and their souls saved. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The blessed chalk will be available at the end of Mass. Please remain seated 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 in the glorious light of Christ who leads his people in all their worship and adoration.

Reader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

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 May our offerings of prayer be acceptable to the King of glory, revealed to all who seek him diligently in faith.
Merciful Father,

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

Please sit, as the Choir sing the anthem “Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning” by Malcolm Archer, while bread and wine are brought to the altar.

Stand to sing hymn 68, 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.

Bethlehem, of noblest cities

None can once with thee compare;

Thou alone the Lord from heaven

Didst for us incarnate bear.

**Fairer than the sun at morning
Was the star that told his birth;
To the lands their God announcing,
Seen in fleshly form on earth.**

**By its lambent beauty guided
See the eastern kings appear;
See them bend, their gifts to offer,
Gifts of incense, gold and myrrh.**

**Solemn things of mystic meaning:
Incense doth the God disclose,
Gold a royal child proclaimeth,
Myrrh a future tomb foreshows.**

**Holy Jesu, in thy brightness
To the Gentile world displayed,
With the Father and the Spirit
Endless praise to thee be paid. Amen.**

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 Look with favour, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of your Church, in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **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 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:

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 pray,

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 We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore 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 38 is sung, all remaining seated or kneeling.

**How brightly shines the Morning Star!
The nations see and hail afar
The Light in Judah shining.
Thou David's son of Jacob's race,**

**The Bridegroom, and the King of grace,
For thee our hearts are pining!
Lowly, holy,
Great and glorious, thou victorious
Prince of graces,
Filling all the heavenly places!**

**Though circled by the hosts on high,
He deigns to cast a pitying eye
Upon his helpless creatures;
The whole creation's Head and Lord,
By highest seraphim adored,
Assumed our very nature.
Jesu, grant us,
Through thy merit, to inherit
Thy salvation;
Hear, O hear our supplication.**

**Rejoice, ye heav'ns; thou earth, reply;
With praise, ye sinners, fill the sky,
For this his incarnation.
Incarnate God, put forth thy power,
Ride on, ride on, great Conqueror,
Till all know thy salvation.
Amen, Amen!
Alleluya, Alleluya!
Praise be given
Evermore by earth and heaven.**

German, Philip Nicolai (1556-1608) tr William Mercer (1811-73)

All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:

**Priest Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and
everywhere, that we may perceive with clear sight and**

revere with true affection the mystery in which you have willed us to participate. 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 Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

Priest May God, who has called you out of darkness into his wonderful light, pour out in kindness his blessing upon you and make your hearts firm in faith, hope and charity.

People **Amen.**

Priest And since in all confidence you follow Christ, who today appeared in the world as a light shining in darkness, may God make you, too, a light for your brothers and sisters.

People **Amen.**

Priest And so, when your pilgrimage is ended, may you come to him whom the Magi sought as they followed the star and whom they found with great joy, the Light from Light, who is Christ the Lord.

People **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 forever.

People **Amen.**

Priest Go in peace, to proclaim the Word made flesh.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The clergy and servers go to the crib for the Angelus. As they go, we sing the anthem of 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 (1692-1763)*

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 68 as clergy and servers depart:

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name.**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldest reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name! *J S B Monsell (1811-1875)***

The organist plays “Processional” by William Mathias.

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

To donate to St George's, scan the QR code.

