



The Order for Mass  
on the  
**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

28<sup>th</sup> 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.*

*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 49:*

**The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,*  
*Born is the King of Israel.***

**They lookèd up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east, beyond them far:  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night:**

**And by the light of that same star,  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went:**

**This star drew nigh to the north-west;  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay:**

Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
And with his blood mankind hath bought: *Traditional*

*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 invites the people to recall and confess their sins:*

*Priest* God our Father is generous and full of compassion: he always welcomes his children who come back to him. Let us return to the Lord our God, and say to him:

*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,

*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 priest prays the collect:*

**Priest**      O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. 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 3; 2-6, 12-14*).  
The Lord honoured the father above the children, and he confirmed the judgement of the mother over her sons.  
Whoever honours his father atones for sins, and whoever glorifies his mother is like one who lays up treasure.  
Whoever honours his father will be gladdened by his own children, and when he prays he will be heard.  
Whoever glorifies his father will have long life, and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother. O son,

help your father in his old age and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if he is lacking in understanding, show indulgence; in all your strength do not despise him. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and against your sins it will be credited to you.  
This is the word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please remain seated to sing the Psalm (128)*



- 1    Blessed are all they that | fear the | Lord :  
and | walk\_ | in his | ways.
- 2    For thou shalt eat the labours | of thine | hands :  
O well is thee, and | happy | shalt thou | be.
- 3    Thy wife shall be as the | fruitful | vine :  
up- | on the | walls of ' thine | house.
- 4    Thy children round a- | bout thy | table :  
shall | be ' as the | olive | branches.
- 5†   Lo, thus shall the | man be | blessed :  
that | fear\_- | eth the | Lord.
- 6    The Lord from out of Sion shall | so\_ | bless thee :  
that thou shalt see Jerusalem in prosperity | all thy | life\_ | long.
- 7    Yea, that thou shalt see thy | children's | children :  
and | peace up- | on\_ | Israel.

† = second half of chant

*Remain seated for the second reading:*

*Reader* A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

*(Colossians 3; 12- 21)*

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

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* May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;  
let the message of Christ find a home with 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 2; 13-15, 19-23)*

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

*Priest*      When the Magi had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.' But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, 'Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead.' And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

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* In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ our brother, let us pray to God, the Father of us all.

*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* Father, your Son, our brother, brings us back to you. Hear our prayers for the whole human family. 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 while bread and wine are brought to the altar.*

*Stand to sing hymn 28, 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.*

**Of the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
Evermore and evermore.**

**By his word was all created;  
He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
Universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
All that breathes beneath the sun,  
Evermore and evermore.**

**He assumed this mortal body,  
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
That the race from dust created  
Might not perish utterly,  
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
In the depths of hell to lie,  
Evermore and evermore.**

**O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
Evermore and evermore.**

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring,  
Every tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering,  
Evermore and evermore. *Prudentius (348-413) tr RF Davies (1866-1937)*

*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* We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. 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 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 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*      Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among 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 62 is sung, all remaining seated or kneeling.*

**O little one sweet, O little one mild,  
Thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled;  
Thou cam'st from heaven to dwell on earth,  
At one with us through humble birth,  
O little one sweet, O little one mild.**

O little one sweet, O little one mild,  
With joy thou hast the whole world filled;  
Thou camest here from heaven's domain,  
To bring us comfort in our pain,  
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

O little one sweet, O little one mild,  
In thee Love's beauties are all distilled;  
Then light in us thy love's bright flame,  
That we may give thee back the same,  
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

O little one sweet, O little one mild,  
Help us to do as thou hast willed.  
Lo, all we have belongs to thee!  
Ah, keep us in our fealty!  
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

*German, Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654), tr Percy Dearmer (1867-1936) & eds of REH.*

*All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:*

*Priest*      Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament,  
most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example  
of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world,  
we may share their company for ever. Through Christ our  
Lord.

*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 almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and  
the Holy Spirit.

*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 44 as clergy and servers depart:*

**On this day earth shall ring  
With the song children sing  
To the Lord, Christ our King,  
Born on earth to save us;  
Him the Father gave us.  
*Ideo-o-o, ideo-o-o,  
Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!***

**His the doom, ours the mirth;  
When he came down to earth,  
Bethlehem saw his birth;  
Ox and ass beside him,  
From the cold would hide him.**

**God's bright star, o'er his head,  
Wise men three to him led;  
Kneel they low by his bed,  
Lay their gifts before him,  
Praise him and adore him.**

**On this day angels sing;  
With their song earth shall ring,  
Praising Christ, heaven's King,  
Born on earth to save us;  
Peace and love he gave us.**

*Jane Marian Joseph (1894-1929) based on "Personent Hodie" in Piaae Cantiones, 1582,*

*The organist plays Menuet Gothique – Léon Boëllmann (1862-97)*

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.

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

