

## CHRISTMAS DAY

25th December 2023



**HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL  
AND MAY THE NEW YEAR  
BRING YOU JOY, PEACE  
AND LOVE IN THE LORD AND  
FOR YOUR FELLOW MAN.**



*(Missal page 61)*

### THE PARISH MASS

The Introductory  
Rites

*When the bell rings we stand to sing our first  
hymn*

Christians, awake, salute the happy  
morn,  
whereon the Saviour of the world was  
born;  
rise to adore the mystery of love,  
which hosts of angels chanted from  
above;  
with them the joyful tidings first begun  
of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

Then to the watchful shepherds it was  
told,  
who heard th'angelic herald's voice:  
"Behold  
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth  
to you and all the nations upon earth:  
this day hath God fulfilled his promised  
word,  
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the  
Lord."

O may we keep and ponder in our mind  
God's wondrous love in saving lost man-  
kind!  
Trace we the babe, who hath retrieved  
our loss,  
from his poor manger to his bitter cross.

Tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,  
till man's first heavenly state again takes  
place.

Then may we hope, th'angelic hosts among,  
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song;  
he that was born upon this joyful day  
around us all his glory shall display;  
saved by his love, incessant we shall sing  
eternal praise to heav'n's almighty King.

*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 with your spirit.

*The Mass is introduced along with its intention and  
theme and we are invited to confess our sins*

*Priest:* Brothers and sisters, let us  
acknowledge our sins, and so  
prepare ourselves to celebrate the  
sacred mysteries.

*Choir:* Lord Jesus, you are mighty God  
and Prince of Peace: Kyrie eleison.

*People:* Kyrie eleison

*Choir:* You are the Son of God and the  
Son of Mary: Christe eleison.

*People:* Christe eleison

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*Choir:* You are the Word made Flesh, the splendour of the Father:  
Kyrie eleison.

*People:* **Kyrie eleison (eleison)**

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

*People:* **Amen.**

*The Gloria in excelsis now follows*

*People:*

**Glory to God! Our hearts we raise.  
To you our heavenly king!  
WE give you thanks, we worship you  
As we your praises sing.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God,  
You banish this world's sin.  
Have mercy as we hail your birth  
And grant us peace within.**

**O Spirit strong and yet unseen  
By eyes with self so flawed.  
Give us the sight that sets us free  
To make your name adored.**

**'All Glory be to God on high,  
And on the earth be peace;  
Good-will hence forth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.'**

*The Collect or prayer for the day*

Let us pray  
O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit for The First Reading

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah  
*Isaiah 52:7-17*

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm  
*Psalms 97(98):1-6*

Today a Saviour has been born to us,  
He is Christ the Lord, He is Christ the Lord  
**Today a Saviour has been born to us,  
He is Christ the Lord, He is Christ the Lord**

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation.

**Today a Saviour has been born to us,  
He is Christ the Lord, He is Christ the Lord**

The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel.

**Today a Saviour has been born to us,  
He is Christ the Lord, He is Christ the Lord**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,  
ring out your joy.

**Today a Saviour has been born to us,  
He is Christ the Lord, He is Christ the Lord**

Hail Mary, full of grace the Lord is with thee Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus  
**Hail Mary, Mother of God pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.**

Pray for us O Holy Mother of God  
**That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ**

Pour forth we beseech thee O Lord thy grace into our hearts that as we have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his ~~z~~Cross and Passion, we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; through the same, Jesus Christ our Lord  
**Amen**

*We sing our fist hymn*

*We sing the final Hymn*

**O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of Angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the Highest:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

*We sing the Communion Hymn*

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down His  
sweet head,  
the stars in the bright sky looked  
down where He lay, the little Lord  
Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby  
awakes, but little Lord Jesus  
no crying He makes.**

**I love Thee! Lord Jesus! Look down  
from the sky, and stay by my side until  
morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to  
stay close by me for ever, and love  
me, I pray. Bless all the dear children  
in Thy tender care, and fit us for heav-  
en, to live with Thee there**

*We Stand for The Post Communion prayer*

*Priest:* Grant, O merciful God, that,  
just as the Saviour of the  
world, born this day, is the  
author of divine generation for  
us, so he may be the giver  
even of immortality.  
Who lives and reigns for ever  
and ever.

*People:* **Amen**

*Any Notices etc may follow now.*

The Concluding Rites

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **and with your spirit.**

*Priest:* Bow down for God's blessing

*Priest:* May the God of infinite  
goodness, who by the  
Incarnation of his Son has  
driven darkness from the  
world and by that glorious  
Birth has illumined this most  
holy day, drive far from you  
the darkness of vice and  
illumine your hearts with the  
light of virtue.

*People:* **Amen.**

*Priest:* May God, who willed that the  
great joy of his Son's saving  
Birth be announced to  
shepherds by the Angel, fill  
your minds with the  
Gladness he gives and make  
you heralds of his Gospel.

*People:* **Amen.**

*Priest:* And may God, who by the  
Incarnation brought together  
the earthly and heavenly  
realm, fill you with the gift of  
his peace and favour and  
make you sharers with the  
Church in heaven.

*People:* **Amen.**

*Priest:* And may the blessing of al  
mighty God, the Father, and  
the Son, †and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and  
Remain with you for ever.

*People:* **Amen.**

*Priest:* Go forth the Mass is ended  
*People:* **Thanks be to God**

*The Angelus*

The Angel of the Lord brought tidings  
to Mary

**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.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord  
**Be it unto me according to thy word**

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.**

And the Word was made flesh.  
**and dwelt among us.**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord.  
**Today a Saviour has been born to us,  
He is Christ the Lord, He is Christ the  
Lord**

*Second Reading*

*A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews  
Hebrews 1:1-6*

At various times in the past and in  
various different ways, God spoke to our  
ancestors through the prophets; but in  
our own time, the last days, he has  
spoken to us through his Son, the Son  
that he has appointed to inherit  
everything and through whom he made  
everything there is. He is the radiant light  
of God's glory and the perfect copy of his  
nature, sustaining the universe by his  
powerful command; and now that he has  
destroyed the defilement of sin, he has  
gone to take his place in heaven at the  
right hand of divine Majesty. So he is  
now as far above the angels as the title  
which he has  
inherited is higher than their own name.  
God has never said to any angel: You  
are my Son, today I have become your  
father; or: I will be a father to him and he  
a son to me. Again, when he brings the  
First-Born into the world, he says: Let all  
the angels of God worship him.  
The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

*We stand for the Gospel Acclamation*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.  
Come, you nations, worship the Lord,  
for today a great light has shone down  
upon the earth.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*Priest:* The Lord be with you

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

✠ A reading from the Holy Gospel  
according to Luke  
*John 1:1-5,9-14*

**Glory to you, O Lord**

In the beginning was the Word: and the  
Word was with God and the Word was  
God. He was with God in the beginning.  
Through him all things came to be,  
not one thing had its being but through  
him. All that came to be had life in him  
and that life was the light of men, a light  
that shines in the dark, a light that dark-  
ness could not overpower. The Word was  
the true light that enlightens all men;  
and he was coming into the world.  
He was in the world that had its being  
through him, and the world did not know  
him. He came to his own domain  
and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who did accept him he gave  
power to become children of God,  
to all who believe in the name of him  
who was born not out of human stock  
or urge of the flesh or will of man but of  
God himself. The Word was made flesh,  
he lived among us, and we saw his glory,  
the glory that is his as the only Son of the  
Father, full of grace and truth.  
The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The Homily now follows*

*We sit*

*We stand for*

The Profession of Faith (Creed)

**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,**

*At the words that follow, up to and including and  
became man, all bow.*

**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.

*The Bidding Prayers now follow*

*Response*

*Priest:* Lord hear us

*People:* Lord, graciously hear us.

*Priest:* ~~✠~~Rest eternal grant unto them  
O Lord

*People:* and let light perpetual shine  
upon them

*Priest:* May they rest in peace

*People:* Amen

*People:* 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.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

*We sing the Offertory Hymn*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

*If the prayers of blessing are said aloud the people respond each time*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*We stand*

Pray, my Brothers and Sisters that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father  
**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.**

*The prayer over the Offerings*

Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day, when you manifested the reconciliation that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship. Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer*

*Priest:* The Lord be with you

*People:* **And with your spirit**

*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 and just**

*The Preface follows, at the end of the preface:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,  
Heaven and earth are full of your  
glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes, who comes  
in the name of the Lord Hosanna in  
the highest.**

*We Kneel*

*After the words of Consecration the priest says:*

*Priest:* The mystery of faith.

*People:* **Save us Saviour of the world  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free**

*At the conclusion of the prayer:*

Through him, and with him, and in him  
O God, almighty Father, in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is  
yours, for ever and ever.

*People:* **AMEN.**

*The Lord's Prayer, We stand*

*Priest:* At the Saviour's command  
and formed by divine  
teaching, we dare to say:

*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 days, 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 with you always.

*People:* **And with your spirit.**

*Priest:* let us offer each other sing of peace

*The Breaking of the Bread*

*People:* **Lamb of God, you take away  
the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away  
the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away  
the sins of the world,  
grant us peace**

*We 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.**

*The Communion Sentence*

*Priest:* All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

*We come forward to receive Holy Communion*