

**Face Masks**

*As per government guidelines, please wear a face mask, covering your nose and your mouth, in church. Those who are leading/reading at the service may remove their face covering whilst they are leading/reading but must observe social-distancing whilst doing so. People may also remove their face mask whilst receiving Holy Communion but must replace it immediately afterwards.*

**Contact Tracing**

*As everyone has had to book in for this service, we have contact details for each pod, therefore we do not require you to fill in the Contact Details Forms for this service. Your contact details will only be given to the HSE Contact Tracing Service in the event that they are requested should anyone test positive for COVID-19.*

*If they are not required for Contact Tracing purposes, they will be destroyed after 28 days.*

**Singing**

*We have been instructed that while choirs can sing as long as they are socially distanced from each other and that children's choirs operate in pods, that the members of the congregation are not to sing, shout, chant or raise their voices to each other!*

*Over the past few weeks, there has been some 'musical muttering into*

*masks'! Every pod is socially-distanced.*

**Greeting**

Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this night in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

***And also with you.***

**Christmas Eve Responses**

In David's town,  
of David's line;

***Jesus our Saviour.***

God clothed in flesh,  
bone of our bone;

***Jesus our Saviour.***

Promised of old,  
here in our midst;

***Jesus our Saviour.***



### Lighting of the Christmas Candle

This is Christmas Eve, and we begin our celebrations of Christ's birth. When Jesus was born it was as if God's love overflowed, spilling out into the world, making our ordinary life special and giving us joy, peace and hope. We now light all the candles, including the one in the middle, which stands for Jesus.

*All the candles are lit on the Advent Wreath*

### Hymn No. 177 (Irby)

Once in Royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed;  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

### Collect for Purity

***Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are  
hidden;  
cleanse the thoughts of our  
hearts by the inspiration of your***

***Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy  
name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.***

### The Penitence

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace:

*(Please sit or kneel)*

*Silence*

***Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned in thought and word  
and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly  
repent.  
For the sake of your Son, Jesus  
Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may walk in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.***

### The Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you,

pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



*As we are obliged to shorten the service due to COVID-19, we are omitting the Gloria.*

## The Ministry of the Word

### The Collect

Eternal God,  
who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your  
one true light:  
bring us, who have known the  
revelation of that light on earth, to  
see the radiance of your heavenly  
glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*(Please sit)*

### The Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 52:7-10

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who  
announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,

who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up  
their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.  
<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
<sup>10</sup> The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**



### The Gradual Hymn - No. 182 (Stille Nacht)

Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon Virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
 Son of God, love's pure light  
 radiant beams from thy holy face,  
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
 Jesus, Lord at thy birth,  
 Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

*(Please stand, if you are able)*

### **The Holy Gospel - John 1: 1-18**

*Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to John, chapter 1, beginning at verse 1.*

#### ***Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who

received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

#### The Sermon



*(Please stand, if you are able)*

#### **The Nicene Creed (shortened version)**

***We believe in one God,  
 the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all that is, seen and unseen.  
 We believe in one Lord,  
 Jesus Christ, the only Son of God.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
Amen.***

*(Please kneel or sit)*

### The Intercessions

Through your Son Jesus Christ:  
***be born in us tonight.***

***Merciful Father, accept these  
prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.***

*(Please stand, if you are able)*

*Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we are not  
permitted to share a sign of peace in the  
way that we usually would... maybe a smile  
or a wave would be good!*

### The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is  
given, and his name shall be called the  
Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9: 6*

The peace of the Lord be always with  
you.  
***And also with you.***



*Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we will be  
having a retiring collection; there are  
baskets at the doors of the church in which  
you may place your collection or envelope.  
You may wish to donate to the church online  
or electronically and the treasurers would be  
happy to give you the required details.*

### Offertory Hymn - No. 188 (Winchester Old)

While shepherds watched their flocks  
by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

'All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace!  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to  
earth  
begin, and never cease.'

## **The Ministry of the Sacrament**

Christ, our passover is sacrificed for  
us,  
***therefore let us celebrate the  
feast.***

The Lord is here.  
***His Spirit is with us.***

Lift up your hearts.  
***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise:

you have given Jesus Christ your only Son to be born of the Virgin Mary, and through him you have given us power to become the children of God:

and so with all your people, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

***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 feel free to sit, kneel or stand)*

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image;

male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us;

he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world:

he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again:

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread;

and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded:

***we remember his passion and death,  
we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,  
and we look for the coming of his kingdom.***

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may

be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him:

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, *all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### The Lord's Prayer

*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.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power  
and the glory for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

### Breaking of the Bread

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
*We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.*

*Due to COVID-19 restrictions and in the interests of having as little movement of the congregation as possible, please remain in your seat to receive Holy Communion.*

### **The Communion**



### **The Great Silence**

*You are invited to take some time to reflect, having received Holy Communion.*

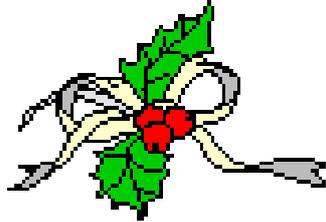
### The Post-Communion Prayer

*God for whom we wait,  
you feed us with the bread of  
eternal life:  
keep us ever watchful, that we may  
be ready to stand before the Son of  
Man,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### The Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace:  
and the Blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



**Hymn No. 172 (Adeste fideles)**

1. 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.*

7a. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:

**The Dismissal**

Holy and righteous:  
***all our days.***

Our sins forgiven:  
***our darkness light.***

Working for justice:  
***praying for peace.***

Holy and righteous:  
***all our lives.***

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
***In the name of Christ. Amen.***

---

***In the interests of trying to keep all who come to our churches safe, please take away this service sheet and any other items that you may have brought with you or used in church this morning. Thank you.***

***Stay well and stay safe.***

---

***May the hope, the joy, the love and the peace of Jesus Christ be with you and all your family this Christmas-time and always.***





**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December**  
**2021 – Christmas Day**  
**8.30 Holy Communion - St**  
**Thomas' Church**

**10.30 Family Holy Communion**  
**– St Philip and St James'**  
**Church (live-streamed) (fully**  
**booked out)**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021**  
**– St Stephen's Day**  
**8.30 Holy Communion - St**  
**Thomas' Church**  
**10.30 Holy Communion - St**  
**Philip and St James' Church**  
**(live-streamed)**



**THANK YOU TO THOSE**  
**WHO DECORATED OUR**  
**CHURCHES SO**  
**BEAUTIFULLY FOR**  
**CHRISTMAS.**  
**THEY LOOK AMAZING!**



**Thank you for your**  
**extraordinary generosity**

*The Capuchin Day Centre  
 and The Alice Leahy Trust  
 were blown away by the toys,  
 food, scarves, hats, gloves,  
 underwear, etc. that you gave  
 this Christmas.*





## **Confirmation Class**

**The next Confirmation Classes will be on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in St Philip and St James' Church**  
**18.00-18.30 hours**  
**and**  
**18.30-19.15 hours**

---

## **REGISTER OF VESTRYPERSONS**

The Register of Vestrypersons is the electoral roll of the Parish, and is updated at the January Select Vestry meetings of our respective parishes.

If you are not on the Register, you are not entitled to vote on parish matters and are not able to hold any office in the parish, or serve on the Select Vestry. Please contact the Churchwardens to be placed on the Register of Vestrypersons.

It is very simple to do, the churchwardens have forms available, and all you have to do is

fill in the short, simple form and give it to a churchwarden.

## **BOOTERSTOWN AND CARYSFORT**

**SELECT VESTRY**  
**THURSDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022**  
**20.00 HOURS *VIA ZOOM***

## **MOUNT MERRION**

**SELECT VESTRY**  
**MONDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2022**  
**20.00 HOURS *VIA ZOOM***

