

Face Coverings

As per government guidelines

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/aac74c-guidance-on-safe-use-of-face-coverings/> and guidelines from the church leaders, please wear a face covering in church, unless you have a condition, or are in a specified category which exempts you from wearing a mask.

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.

Contact Tracing

We are obliged to get the contact details of everyone who attends this service. These will only be used in the event of someone attending the service being diagnosed with Covid-19, in which event, they will be passed to the health authorities for Contact Tracing purposes. Please complete the form which is available at the church doors and drop into the box provided.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we are not permitted to sing in church this morning. Charles Pearson, our organist, is going to play the tune of the hymns chosen for this service and I invite you to reflect upon the words which have been included in this service sheet as you listen to the music.

The Greeting

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

High on the mountains,
someone is shouting,

here comes God.

Justice is marching.

Peace is following.

Here comes God.

Help is near;

shout for glory.

here comes God.

Lighting the Second Candle on the Advent Wreath



Two candles are lit on the Advent Wreath.

In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the coming of the light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness - selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression - shall be no more.

The candles on our Advent Wreath will remind us of the story of how, through the years, through different people, and finally in Jesus Christ, God's Kingdom comes on earth.

The first candle is to remind us of the patriarchs (the leaders God sent before Jesus). The second candle is to remind us of the prophets, those

who brought God's message to the world in which they lived and who said what they thought about what was really going on in the world, even when they were afraid.

They believed in God during dark days, and looked forward to the coming of Christ.

There are people like that today too, who are confronting justice and restoring the dream of a world of freedom and peace.

*God, as we wait for your promise,
give light, give hope.*

*Living God,
we thank you for faithful people of
every age.*

*We pray that we, too,
may have faith,
in spite of the darkness of our
times,
and may look for the coming of
Jesus into our world. Amen.*

Hymn - One Candle (Frère Jacques)

[Repeat each line]

Two candles,
burning slow.
Advent weeks of waiting,
two-and-a-bit to go.

Wise men watching
for a star.
Going on a journey,
in the dark.

The Jesse Tree - St Philip and St James' Church

The Jesse Tree shows Jesus' family tree. Today, we are putting a coloured coat for Joseph, a burning bush for Moses, a lamb for the Israelites, the Tables of the Torah for God, a ram's horn for Joshua, a clay water pitcher for Gideon and a crown for Samuel, on the tree.



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Hymn No. 119 (Halton Holgate) - N.B. Tune!

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Collect for Purity*(Please remain standing)*

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

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:
 You shall love the Lord your God with
 all your heart and with all your soul
 and with all your mind.

This is the first and great
 commandment.

And the second is like it.

You shall love your neighbour as
 yourself.

On these two commandments depend
 all the law and the prophets.

Lord, have mercy on us, and write
these laws in our hearts.

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]*The Penitential Kyries for Advent

Turn to us again, O God our Saviour,
 and let your anger cease from us.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
 and grant us your salvation.

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that
 fear you,

that glory may dwell in our land.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

*The Gloria is omitted during the season of
 Advent.*

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**The Collect of the 2nd Sunday in
 Advent**

Father in heaven,

who sent your Son to redeem the
 world

and will send him again to be our
 judge:

give us grace so to imitate him

in the humility and purity of his first

coming
 that when he comes again,
 we may be ready to greet him with
 joyful love and firm faith;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Gospel - Mark 1: 1-8

(Please remain standing)

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The beginning of the good news of
 Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
 'See, I am sending my messenger
 ahead of you, who will prepare your
 way;
³the voice of one crying out in the
 wilderness:
 "Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight" ',
⁴John the baptizer appeared in the
 wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of
 repentance for the forgiveness of
 sins. ⁵And people from the whole
 Judean countryside and all the people
 of Jerusalem were going out to him,
 and were baptized by him in the river
 Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now
 John was clothed with camel's hair,
 with a leather belt around his waist,
 and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He
 proclaimed, 'The one who is more
 powerful than I is coming after me; I
 am not worthy to stoop down and
 untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have

baptized you with water; but he will
 baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn - No. 136 (Winchester New)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
 announces that the Lord is nigh;
 awake and hearken, for he brings
 glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every heart from
 sin;
 make straight the way for God within;
 prepare we in our hearts a home,
 where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
 our refuge and our great reward;
 without thy grace we waste away,
 like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch forth thine
 hand,
 and bid the fallen sinner stand;
 shine forth, and let thy light restore
 earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
 whose advent doth thy people free;
 whom with the Father we adore,
 and Holy Ghost for evermore.

The Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith

(Please stand)

***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,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of
the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of
the Father.
He will come again to judge the
living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***We 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
worshipped and glorified,***

***who has spoken through the
prophets.***

***We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.***

***We acknowledge one baptism for
the forgiveness of sins.***

***We look for the resurrection of the
dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.***



Intercessions *(Please kneel or sit)*

***Come, O come Emmanuel
come and live in us.***

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

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!



(Please stand)

The Introduction to the Peace for Advent

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall
break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in
darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of
peace. *Luke 1: 78-79*

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

Offertory Hymn - No. 126 **(Merton)**

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding,
'Christ is nigh', it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'

Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven:
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

that when next he comes in glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

Honour, glory, might and blessing
to the Father and the Son,

with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

THE MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Taking of the Bread and Wine

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

The Great Thanksgiving - Prayer 1

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:
salvation is your gift through the
coming of your Son our Saviour Jesus
Christ,
and by him you will make all things new
when he returns in glory to judge the
world:
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 stand, sit or kneel)

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

Breaking of the Bread

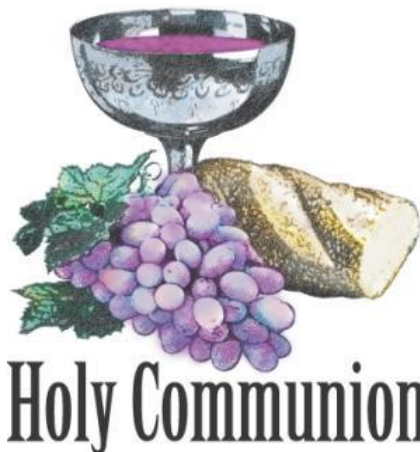
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

The Invitation

The Communion

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 Great Silence

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

The Post Communion Prayer

*Lord,
here you have nourished us with the*

food of life.

Through our sharing in this holy sacrament

teach us to judge wisely earthly things

and to yearn for things heavenly.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing for Advent

We travel in time:

may God walk with us to eternity.

We travel in hope;

may God sing with us through the darkness.

We travel in wonder;

may God dance with us in holy joy.

So may the blessing of the God of glory,

Traveller, Storyteller, Dancer,

be in us today and every day. **Amen.**

Hymn No. 134 (Make way)

Make way, make way, for Christ the King

in splendour arrives.

Fling wide the gates and welcome him into your lives.

Make way, make way

for the King of kings;

make way, make way,

and let his kingdom in.

He comes the broken hearts to heal,

the prisoners to free.
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall
dance,
the blind shall see.

And those who mourn with heavy
hearts,
who weep and sigh;
with laughter, joy and royal crown
he'll beautify.

We call you now to worship him
as Lord of all,
to have no gods before him -
their thrones must fall!

The Dismissal

Through years and millennia;
through days and moments,
we are travelling home.

Trusting in promises,
covered in mercy,
we are travelling home.

Growing in holiness,
heading for glory,
we are travelling home.



Advent Reflections by Zoom

Tuesdays in Advent

20.00 hours

Tuesday 8th December 2020

Tuesday 15th December 2020

Tuesday 22nd December 2020

This is a series on Christ in the time of strife through the memories of Mary. In these narratives, we will be looking at the Gospel stories of the Nativity in a different order.

The Zoom details are the same for each Tuesday.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86910597531?pwd=TTRsWnE1YnJITHlvSEpwQU14OURuQT09>

Meeting ID: 869 1059 7531

Passcode: 471837

You can also join by phone:

Dial by your location

(01) 653 3897

Meeting ID: 869 1059 7531

Passcode: 471837

Plans for Christmas 2020

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-religious-services/](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-religious-services)

The above is the link to the information that is available so far regarding religious services during Advent and Christmas 2020. There will be further information and clarification provided in the coming days.

Prior to the latest information from the government, both Select Vestries discussed the possible options for services. As further information comes to light, we will discuss matters and clarify them further.

The services next Sunday are:

Sunday 13th December 2020

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.30 Morning Prayer in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

Sunday 20th December 2020

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.30 Morning Prayer in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

*16.30 Outdoor Carol Service in the grounds of St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed) ... **Subject to confirmation from HSPC and HSE that this is permissible.***

Thursday 24th December 2020 **– Christmas Eve**

21.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

23.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

Friday 25th December 2020 – **Christmas Day**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

Sunday 27th December 2020

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.30 Service of the Word in St Philip and St James' Church (live-streamed)

DECORATING THE CHURCHES FOR CHRISTMAS

Both churches would be thrilled to receive donations of poinsettias, flowers, holly (preferably with berries!), etc. Help with decorating would also be very welcome in both churches. See details below:

St Thomas' Church

Items may be dropped off at the church on **Saturday 12th December 2020**, 10.30-11.30 or on **Sunday 13th December 2020**, 9.15-10.00.

Help with decorating would also be most welcome - please contact Sheila Chamberlain 086-3320072.

St Philip and St James' Church

Poinsettias, holly and other greenery, etc. may be dropped off at the church on **Saturday 12th December 2020, 10.30-12.00**, and help with decorating at that time would be appreciated.

Flowers may be dropped off at the church on **Friday 18th December 2020 14.30-15.30**. *Again, help would be most welcome - please contact Viola Brady 086-1780653 or Denise Richards 086-2065166*