



(Please stand, if you are able)

The Greeting

Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day 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 Responses

A child is born;
a child to save us.

We share the news with great joy.

A child is born;
a child to challenge us.

We share the news with great joy.

A child is born;
a child for the world.

We share the news with great joy.



Hymn No. 152 (Celebrations)

*Come and join the celebration,
it's a very special day;
come and share the jubilation,
there's a new-born King today.*

See the shepherds hurry down to Bethlehem,
gaze in wonder at the Son of God who lies before them:

Wise men journey, led to worship by a star,
kneel in homage, bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so

'God is with us!' - round the world the message bring;
he is with us - 'Welcome!' all the bells on earth are pealing:



The Jesse Tree - St Philip and St James' Church

The Jesse Tree shows Jesus' family tree. Each Sunday in Advent, we have put different symbols on the Jesse Tree for Jesus' ancestors. Today, we have put two symbols on the tree: a manger for the Baby Jesus, and a Chi-Ro symbol to show that he is the Christ; the one whom God promised he would send.



Lighting of the Christmas Candle

Today is Christmas Day, and we celebrate 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

One White Candle (Frère Jacques)

*One white candle
burning bright.
Welcome, baby Jesus
It's Christmas Day!*

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, and so, now as we gather to celebrate the birth of Christ, we bring to mind those times, when we have **not** tried to do, say or think what Christ would want.

(Please sit or kneel)

For the times we have been more worried about what we are getting than what we are giving:

Sorry, Lord.

For the times when we have given the idea that Christ is for a small select group, instead of for everyone:

Sorry, Lord.

For the times when we have used this tiny baby as an excuse for being judgemental, and cruel, and unloving:

Sorry, Lord.

The Absolution

Generous God,
you keep on giving to us and forgiving us.

May the pleasure in giving to other people, and in receiving from them,

this Christmas, help us to understand
you, to be more forgiving, and to
become more like you,
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

(Please stand, if you are able)

The Gloria - No. 155 (Branle de l'Official)

Ding dong! merrily on high
in heav'n the bells are ringing:
ding dong! Verily the sky
is riv'n with angels singing:

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
and io, io, io,
by priest and people sungen:

Pray you dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
may you beautifully rime
your evetime song, ye singers:

The Collect for The Nativity of our Lord - Christmas Day

Almighty God,
you have given us your only begotten
Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a
pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born
again
and made your children by adoption
and grace,

may daily be renewed by your Holy
Spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Ministry of the Word

(Please sit)

The Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 9: 2-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep
darkness—

on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing
plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of
Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping
warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his
kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for
evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do
this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand, if you are able)

Hymn - Alleluia!

There's a baby born today,
in a manger where he's laid;
he's the Son of God, sing alleluia!

Tell the news to everyone:
God has sent his only Son,
to be the Prince of Peace, sing Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Please sit)

The Epistle - Titus 2: 11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us
to renounce impiety and worldly
passions, and in the present age to live
lives that are self-controlled, upright,
and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the
blessed hope and the manifestation of
the glory of our great God and
Saviour, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who

gave himself for us that he might
redeem us from all iniquity and purify
for himself a people of his own who
are zealous for good deeds.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



The Gradual Hymn - No. 149

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 in 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 forever, and love me, I
pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy
tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee
there.



(Please remain standing, if you are able)

The Gospel - Luke 2: 1-7

*Hear the gospel according to Luke, chapter two,
beginning at verse 1.*

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

²In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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)

Intercessions

***On this Christmas Day we want to say:
be born in us today!***

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

(Please stand, if you are able)

*Please feel free to share the sign of peace in
a manner that you and the person you are
sharing the peace with are comfortable... it
may be that a smile or a wave might be
more appropriate than a handshake!*

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.



We recognise that many people give online and via Standing Order, and do not put any collection in the basket. If you wish to donate to the church online or electronically, the treasurers would be happy to give you the required details.

Offertory Hymn No. 158

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born upon this day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we had gone astray:

O tidings of comfort and joy!
Comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father
a blessèd angel came,
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same;
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name:

The shepherds at those tidings
rejoicèd much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding
in tempest, storm, and wind;

and went to Bethlehem straightway
this blessèd babe to find:

But when to Bethlehem they came,
whereat this infant lay,
they found him in a manger,
where oxen feed on hay;
his mother Mary, kneeling down,
unto her Lord did pray:

Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace.
This holy tide of Christmas
all others doth efface:

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

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

It is the custom of the Church of Ireland to welcome to receive Holy Communion, all those who usually receive Holy Communion in their own tradition. If you wish to receive a blessing instead, please indicate this to the priest. Please feel free and welcome to do whichever is appropriate for you.

Please follow the directions of the churchwardens and the stewards.

The Communion



The Great Silence

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

The Post-Communion Prayer

*God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our
hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.
Amen*

The Blessing

May the song of the angels,
the joy and excitement of the
shepherds,
the wonder and perseverance of the
wisemen,
and the peace of the Christ-child
fill our hearts and home
this Christmas time and always;
and the Blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with
you this day and for ever more.
Amen.



Hymn No. 160 (Mendelssohn)

Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King
peace on earth, and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem:

*Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored!
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings:
mild, he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die;
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth:

The Dismissal

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.*



Sunday 28th December 2025 – NB Times

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

10.30 United Service of the Word in St Thomas' Church

Wednesday 31st December 2025

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion Service in St Thomas' Church

Sunday 4th January 2026

NB No. 8.30 Holy Communion

9.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

Wednesday 7th January 2026

NB No 10.30 Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 11th January 2026

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

9.30 Morning Prayer in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Morning Prayer in St Philip and St James' Church

Wednesday 14th January 2026

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

Sunday 18th January 2026

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

9.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

18.30 Sausage Service in St Philip and St James' Church

Wednesday 21st January 2025**NB No 10.30 Midweek Holy Communion due to the Diocesan Clergy Conference****Sunday 25th January 2026**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.30 United Service of the Word in St Philip and St James' Church

Wednesday 28th January 2026**10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church**

Thank You

to those who made Christingles, and to those who decorated our churches so beautifully for Christmas!

And thank you to those who helped make the Christmas

Craic-er a most enjoyable morning, and to those who prepared the mulled wine (non-alcoholic) and mince pies for the Carols by Candlelight! It is lovely to gather together and to enjoy each other's company!

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

on Tuesdays 3.30pm—4.10pm

in the Canon Osborne Barr Room of St

Philip and St James' Parish Centre

Contact Irene on 087-2755423

irene.reid1052@gmail.com

Thank you to all who sang and collected for
Dublin SIMON
Well done everyone!

**Thank you for your wonderful generosity in helping Santa!**

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

**Confirmation Class for teenagers**

Next class is on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 19.30

St Philip and St James' Church

Confirmation and Enquirers Class for adults

is on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 20.30
hours in St Philip and St James' Church

Helpers Wanted with the Tea/Coffee/Juice

*in St Thomas' Church
and in St Philip and St James'
Church on a Sunday morning.*

*Please chat to Patricia Bedlow in St
Thomas' Church or June Burgess in
St Philip and St James' Church.*



Healer Prayer Group

**Tuesday 10th February 2026
19.30 hours via Zoom**



Any child (who has been toilet-trained) is
very welcome to join the Sunday Club.

St Thomas' Sunday Club will confirm the
dates for the next two terms of Sunday Club
shortly.

St Philip and St James' Sunday Club will
meet at 11.00 in St Philip and St James'
Parish Centre on the following Sundays:

11th January 2026

1st February 2026

8th March 2026

12th April 2026

10th May 2026

*The children and their leaders will join the
respective congregations later on in the
service.*



MOUNT MERRION

SELECT VESTRY

MONDAY 26th JANUARY 2026

19.30 HOURS

THE COMMITTEE ROOM

BOOTERSTOWN AND

CARYSFORT

SELECT VESTRY

THURSDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2026

19.30 HOURS

ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' CHURCH

REGISTER OF VESTRYPERSONS

The Register of Vestrypersons is the
electoral roll of the Parish and will be
updated at the meetings of the respective
Select Vestry on the dates given above.
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.