



(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 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.

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.

And through all his wondrous
childhood,
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly mother
in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern
day by day, like us, he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

(Please remain standing, if you are able)



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

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.

(Please stand, if you are able)

Gloria - sung as Hymn No. 187
(When the crimson sun had set)

When the crimson sun had set,
 sinking 'neath the frosty plain,
 on a bright and cold midnight
 broke the glad angelic strain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, watching by their flocks,
 upward look with wond'ring gaze,
 in the sky bright hosts espy,
 filling all the heav'nly ways:

Hie they then with quick accord,
 hasting to the manger-throne,
 bending low with hearts aglow,
 God of God the Babe they own:

Joy with us, good Christians all,
 Christ is come to set us free;
 he was born on Christmas morn,
 sing the glad nativity:



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

The Old Testament Reading is from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 52, beginning at verse 7.

⁷ 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.'

⁸ 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.

⁹ Break forth together into singing,
 you ruins of Jerusalem;
 for the Lord has comforted his
 people,

he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ 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 Epistle - Hebrews 1: 1-4

The Epistle is from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews, chapter 1, beginning at verse 1.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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

(Please stand, if you are able)

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,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

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 remain standing, if you are able)

The Holy Gospel - John 1: 1-14

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

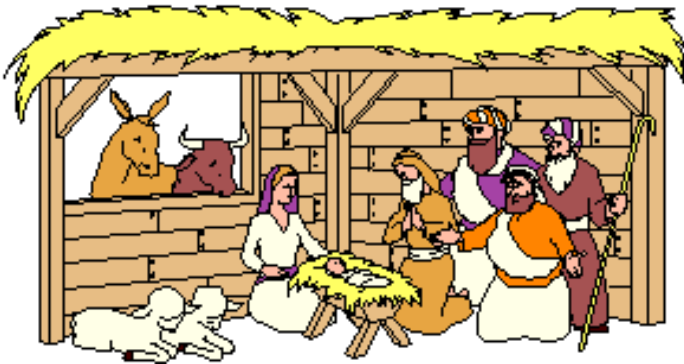
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines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

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

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

name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who 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)

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 to 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. 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.

'Fear not,' said he, (for mighty dread
 had seized their troubled mind),
 'glad tidings of great joy I bring
 To you and all mankind.

'To you, in David's town, this day,
 is born of David's line
 A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
 And this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly babe you there shall
 find
 to human view displayed,
 all meanly wrapped in swaddling
 clothes
 and in a manger laid.'

This spake the seraph; and forthwith
 appeared a shining throng
 of angels, praising God, who thus
 addressed their joyful song:

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

(Please remain standing, if you are able)

**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

The Communion

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.

Please follow the directions of the churchwardens and the stewards.



The Great Silence

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

(Please sit or kneel)

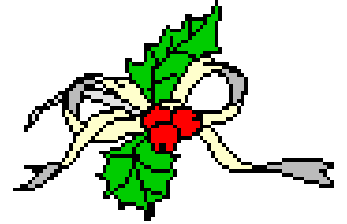
The Post-Communion Prayer

***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.**



(Please stand, if you are able)

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.*

2. God of God,
light of Light;
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb,
very God, begotten, not created:

3. See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with
lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:

6. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God,
in the highest:

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.*



Christmas Day – Thursday 25th December 2025

**8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip
and St James' Church**

**9.30 Holy Communion in St
Thomas' Church**

**11.00 Holy Communion in St
Philip and St James' Church**



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!



Thank you to all who sang and collected for

Dublin SIMON

Well done everyone!

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 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.