

**Face Masks**

*As per government guidelines, please wear a face covering 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.*

**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. 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'! The 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.**

**Hymn - A Star for our Journey**  
**(Tune: Cradle Song Hymn No. 149)**

*[Verses 1 and 2]*

We come to this moment, we have travelled so far,  
like long ago wise men who were led by a star.

The roads we have taken are the days of the year,  
and some have been joyous and some full of fear.

We come to this moment, we come as we are,  
with all that has happened we bear the year's scar.

But here there is welcome, no more need we roam:

in the birth of the Christ child our hearts have come home.

**Epiphany-tide Reflections**

We have journeyed through Advent.  
We have rejoiced with the shepherds.  
We have welcomed the birth of Christ.

We now travel with the wisemen,  
looking for the signs of God to bring

us to God; to help us to see him anew  
and to grow in him.

Gladly, O God, we come together,  
here in this place, to seek your deeper  
presence in the silence.

*Silence*

We bring before you our wounds and  
our weariness from life's journey.

We bring our joys and our fun from  
life's journey.

We bring the people that we have  
shared that journey with; the  
richness they have brought to life's  
journey.

***Together we look with hopeful  
expectation to find the star which  
signals your arrival.***

Thankfully, we come forward to kneel  
and to receive the glory of your  
presence.

***With our little gifts we are humbled  
before you.***

And we find among the straw, in the  
misty breath of the animals,  
***that you have come more humanly  
than we could imagine.***

### 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 Epiphany**

God be merciful to you and bless us,  
and make his face shine on us.

Lord, have mercy.

***Lord, have mercy.***

May your ways be known on earth,  
your saving power to all nations.

Christ, have mercy.

***Christ, have mercy.***

You, Lord, have made known your  
salvation,  
and reveal your justice in the sight of  
the nations.

Lord, have mercy.

***Lord, have mercy.***

**Gloria in Excelsis:****Hymn No. 155 (Branle de l'Official)***[Verses 1 and 2]*

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:

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### **The Collect of the Second Sunday of Christmas**

Almighty God,  
 in the birth of your Son  
 you have poured on us the new light of  
 your incarnate Word,  
 and shown us the fullness of your  
 love:  
 Help us to walk in this light and dwell  
 in his love  
 that we may know the fullness of his  
 joy:  
 who is alive and reigns with you and  
 the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Collect for the Epiphany - 6<sup>th</sup> January**

O God, who by the leading of a star  
 manifested your only Son to the  
 peoples of the earth:  
 mercifully grant that we, who know  
 you now by faith,  
 may at last behold your glory face to  
 face;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



### **The Gradual Hymn - The Three Kings (Personent hodie)**

In the dark of the night  
 we have seen a strange sight  
 of a new star's bright light  
 calling us to follow,  
 leave our sleepy hollow.  
 Moving out each day  
 on the unknown way...  
 from the old to the new,  
 asking, looking, seeking.

O the nights are so cold  
 and our camels are old,  
 yet we go, brave and bold,  
 facing many dangers  
 through the lands of strangers.  
 Moving out each day

on the unknown way  
from the old to the new,  
asking, looking, seeking.

We have travelled so far  
guided by our new star  
to this byre door ajar.  
Nothing could be stranger;  
baby in a manger!  
Knowing from this day  
our new living way...  
from the old to the new  
Love, in straw, lies sleeping.

### **The Holy Gospel - Matthew 2: 1-12**

*(Please remain standing)*

*Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Matthew, chapter 2, beginning at verse 1.*

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

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "And you, Bethlehem, in the land

of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

<sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

An Affirmation of Faith for the  
Beginning of a New Year

***We believe in a God  
who cradles the universe,  
and wills it to renew itself,  
and wills us to care for it.***

***We believe in a God who lives  
amongst us and within in us;  
who meets our brokenness in the  
breaking of the bread;  
who knows the challenges of living,  
the pain of troubles and strife,  
the joy of loving and being loved.***

***We believe in a God who gazes with  
love and compassion on all that  
breathes and moves,  
who travels with us;  
who gives us hope that we may  
bring it to all who need it. Amen.***

*(Please kneel or sit)*

Intercessions

Lord God:  
***we offer you ourselves.***

***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 Introduction to the Peace  
for Epiphany**

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end. *cf Isaiah 9: 6,7*

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. 189 (Dix)**

*[Verses 1 and 5]*

As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

In the heavenly country bright  
 need they no created light;  
 thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
 thou its sun, which goes not down:  
 there for ever may we sing  
 alleluias to our King.

## 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:  
 for Jesus Christ our Lord

who in human likeness revealed your  
 glory,  
 to bring us out of darkness  
 into the splendour of his light:  
 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

*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

*Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the  
nations seek:  
may we who with the wise men  
have been drawn by your light,  
discern the glory of your presence  
in your incarnate Son;  
who suffered, died and was buried,  
and who is alive and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. Amen.*

### A Prayer of Commitment for the New Year

*Father,  
accept the gifts of our skills,  
our abilities and our weaknesses,  
and the offering of our hearts,  
at the beginning of this New Year  
that we may be guided and  
strengthened by your Spirit,  
and give ourselves in love and  
service to you and to one another;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

### **The Blessing for Epiphany**

Christ the Son be manifest to you,  
that your lives may be a light to the  
world: and the Blessing . . .

### The Dismissal

Rulers and nations,

weak and powerful:  
*all are welcome to meet with God.*

Sons and daughters,  
rich and needy:  
*all are welcome to meet with God.*

Strong and mighty,  
weak and gentle:  
*all are welcome to meet with God.*

Go in peace to love and serve the  
Lord.

*In the name of Christ. Amen.*



### Hymn - A Star for our Journey (Tune: Cradle Song Hymn No. 149)

[Verses 3 and 4]

This moment's eternal, it's endlessly  
new,  
God's presence amongst us is  
endlessly true.

How awesome the silence in which can  
be heard



the hope and the peace of the  
incarnate Word.

This moment's to treasure, it's  
wonder, it's praise!

Enthralled by such gifting, we can only  
gaze.

How small is this life-light, how bright  
and how clear,

a star for our journey as year  
succeeds year.

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*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.*

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*Wishing you all  
a safe, healthy and  
happy New Year.*

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**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**St Thomas' Church at 10.30**

*Midweek Holy Communion Service*



*Bring your own mug for a cuppa  
afterwards!*

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**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**8.30 Holy Communion - St  
Thomas' Church**

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

**18.30 Sausage(less!)  
Service - St Philip and St  
James' Church**

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

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**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.***

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**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**

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**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***

# COLOURING PAGE

