

Face Masks

The wearing of face masks is no longer mandated by the government. However, people may feel more comfortable wearing a mask and especially for singing, which we really appreciate being able to do again.

Social Distancing

Social- distancing is no longer required, and we have removed our seating plans in both churches. However, a number of people have indicated that they would still like to have a little space, so please respect others' need for space.

Heating Installation and Interior Works to St Philip and St James' Church

We have completed the first phase of the works. The new heating system has been installed and the accessibility works have been done. We still have more work to do but we have more funds to raise!



(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 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.

**Hymn No. 189 (Dix)**

[Verses 1, 3, 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.

As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

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.

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

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)

*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.*

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your
sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all
goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(Please stand, if you are able)

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

[Verses 1 and 4]

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!

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

The Collect of the First Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God,
 who wonderfully created us in your
 own image
 and yet more wonderfully restored us
 through your Son Jesus Christ:
 grant that, as he came to share our
 humanity,
 so we may share the life of his
 divinity;
 who is alive and reigns with you and
 the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

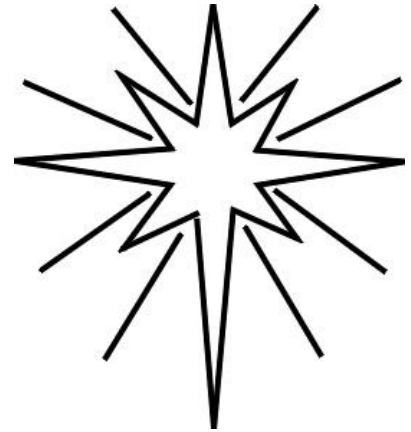
The Collect for the Naming of Christ

Almighty God,
 whose blessed Son was circumcised
 in obedience to the law for our sake
 and given the Name that declares your
 saving love:
 give us grace faithfully to bear his
 Name,
 to worship him in the freedom of the
 Spirit,
 and to proclaim him as the Saviour of
 the world;
 who is alive and reigns with you and
 the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Collect for the Epiphany

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 Ministry of the Word

(Please sit)

The Epistle - Galatians 4: 4-7

The epistle is written in the epistle to the Galatians, chapter 4, beginning at verse 4.

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

(Please stand, if you are able)

The Gradual Hymn - Hymn No. 184
(Puer nobis nascitur (2))

[Verses 1, 4, 5]

Unto us is born a Son,
 King of quires supernal:
 see on earth his life begun,
 of lords the Lord eternal,
 of lords the Lord eternal.

Of his love and mercy mild,
 this the Christmas story;
 O that Mary's gentle child
 might lead us up to glory,
 might lead us up to glory.

We adore him A and O
 cum cantibus in choro;
 let our merry organ go,
 benedicamus Domino,
 benedicamus Domino.



(Please remain standing, if you are able)

The Holy Gospel - Luke 2: 15-21

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Luke, chapter 2, beginning at verse 15.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

21 After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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

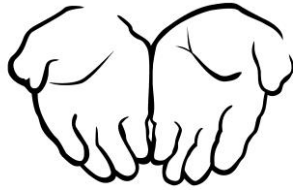


The Sermon

(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

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)

We are continuing to be cautious as COVID-19 has not gone away so we are suggesting that people do not 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.



We resumed taking up collections in December. But we do recognise that many people give online and via Standing Order, so please feel free and comfortable 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. There will be a sum-up machine available at the back of St Philip and St James' Church for you to make a donation at the end of the service, if you would wish to do so.

Offertory Hymn - Hymn No. 81

(Lord of the years)

[Verses 1, 2, 3]

Lord, for the years your love has kept
and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on
our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and
provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks
today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life
which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our
souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and
inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your
people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our
generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth
and care;
for young and old, for this and every
nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear
our prayer.

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.

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. We are continuing to administer Holy Communion using individual cups.

The Communion



The Great Silence

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

The Post-Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,
you have refreshed us with this heavenly sacrament.

As your Son came to live among us, grant us grace to live our lives, united in love and obedience, as those who long to live with him in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 Christmas-tide

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



Hymn No. 81 (Lord of the years)

[Verses 4-5]

Lord, for our world, when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power
remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the
throne;
past put behind us, for the future
take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ
alone.

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.*

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 4th January 2023

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 8th January 2023

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.00 Morning Prayer in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Morning Prayer in St Philip and St
James' Church

18.30 Sausage Service in St Philip and St
James' Church

Wednesday 11th January 2023

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 15th January 2023

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.00 Holy Communion in St Thomas'
Church

11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St
James' Church

Wednesday 18th January 2023

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd January 2023

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.30 United Family Service and Holy
Baptism in St Philip and St James' Church

Wednesday 25th January 2023

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 29th January 2023

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.00 Service of Wholeness and Healing in
St Thomas' Church

11.00 Service of Wholeness and Healing in
St Philip and St James' 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.

Sunday Clubs

We are working towards re-opening the Sunday Clubs. We are looking for people to join the team of leaders so that the responsibility can be shared and is, therefore, not too onerous on any individual. We are particularly looking for male leaders in order to have a gender balance amongst the leaders. Thank you to those who have volunteered so far and who will be undergoing Garda vetting, Safeguarding Trust training. If you would like to find out more about helping, please contact the Rector.



History of the Parishes

Michael Lee is compiling a history of our parishes for our forthcoming celebrations in 2024:

- 2021 - 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Parish of Booterstown
- 2024 - 200th anniversary of the consecration of St Philip and St James' Church
- 2024 – 150th anniversary of the consecration of St Thomas' Church
- 2026 - 200th anniversary of the foundation of Booterstown National School

Mike has interviewed some of the parishioners of both churches, about their memories, stories and experience but he really would like more stories and photographs if you have them. *“Do not think that your story is not interesting enough, all will help make up the wonderful different strands that will enrich the colourful weave of the story of these historic churches.”*

Please email your story/stories, or contact Mike at mikelee2653@gmail.com





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.

MOUNT MERRION
SELECT VESTRY MEETING
MONDAY 23RD JANUARY
2023
19.30 HOURS *VIA ZOOM*

BOOTERSTOWN AND
CARYSFORT
SELECT VESTRY
THURSDAY 26TH JANUARY
2023
19.30 HOURS
IN ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES'
CHURCH

