



[Please stand, if you are able]

The Greeting

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

God summons the innocent,
God summons the guilty,
God summons us with love.

God welcomes the poor,
God welcomes the powerful,
God welcomes us with love.

God judges the just,
God judges the faithfully,
God judges us with love.

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.

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.

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 - Two Candle (Frère Jacques)

[Repeat each line]

Two candles,
burning slow.
Advent weeks of waiting,
three 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.



[Please remain standing, if you are able]

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]

[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.

[Please remain seated]

The Epistle - Romans 15: 4-13

*The epistle is from the letter of Paul to the Romans,
chapter 15, beginning at verse 4.*

⁴For whatever was written in former
days was written for our instruction,
so that by steadfastness and by the
encouragement of the scriptures we
might have hope. ⁵May the God of

steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,

and sing praises to your name';

¹⁰and again he says,

'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';

¹¹and again,

'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him';

¹²and again Isaiah says,

'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule

the Gentiles;

in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[Please stand, if you are able]

Hymn No. 129 (Our God reigns)

How lovely on the mountain are the feet of him

who brings good news, good news, announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness:

our God reigns, our God reigns!

Our God reigns! (x 4)

You watchmen, lift your voices joyfully as one,

shout for your king, your king!

see eye to eye the Lord restoring Zion:

our God reigns, our God reigns!

Waste places of Jerusalem, break forth with joy!

We are redeemed, redeemed.

The Lord has saved and comforted his people:

our God reigns, our God reigns!

Ends of the earth, see the salvation of our God!

Jesus is Lord, is Lord!

Before the nations, he has bared his holy arm:

our God reigns, our God reigns!

[Please remain standing, if you are able]

The Holy Gospel - Matthew 3: 1-12

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Matthew, chapter 3, beginning at verse 1.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

³In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²Repent, for the kingdom

of heaven has come near.' ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight." '

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his

wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

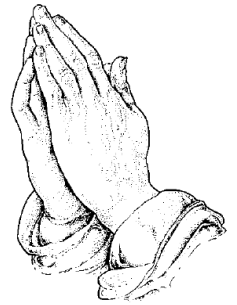
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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

***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.***

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!



[Please stand, if you are able]

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.

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.

Offertory 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 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

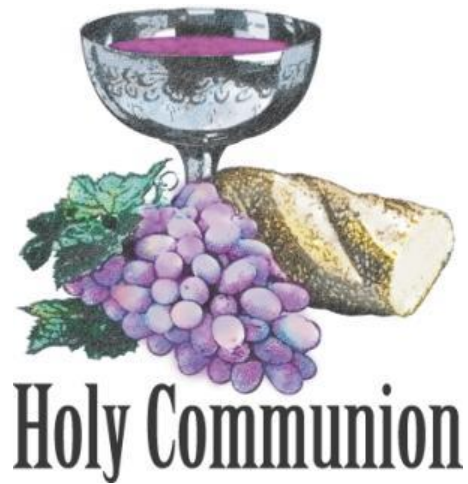
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

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

The Invitation

The Communion

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.



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 walk in the wilderness searching for meaning.

We walk in the city thirsting for justice.

We walk towards Bethlehem seeking a Saviour.

May God baptise us with mercy and fire, with integrity and hope, with holiness and joy.

And may the blessing of God, our Judge, Maker, Saviour and Holy Spirit, come upon us now, and remain with us for ever. ***Amen.***

[Please stand, if you are able]

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

Like Abraham and Sarah laughing.
Like Jacob wrestling for a blessing.
Like Hannah praying in the temple.
Like Noah keeping boats in the
wilderness.
Like Moses challenging injustice.
Like Joseph and Mary listening to
angels.

Keep us keeping on.

*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.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 10th December 2025

***10.30 Midweek Holy Communion Service
in St Thomas' Church***

Wednesday 10th December 2025

St Andrew's College Junior School Carol
Services in St Philip and St James' Church at
17.00 and 20.00

Thursday 11th December 2025

***11.30 Ecumenical Carol Service for Our Lady
of Mercy National School, St Mary's Boys'
National School and Booterstown National
School in the Church of the Assumption on
Boooterstown Avenue.***

Sunday 14th December 2025

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St
James' Church

9.30 Morning Prayer in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Morning Prayer in St Philip and St James' Church

12.30 Recording of the televised service in RTÉ, Donnybrook.

Please note that there will not be any tea/coffee/juice after the 9.30 and 11.00 services due to people having to get to the RTÉ Studio for the recording of the Christmas Day Service.

Wednesday 17th December 2025

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion Service in St Thomas' Church

THURSDAY 18th DECEMBER 2025

12.00 Booterstown National School Carol Service in St Philip and St James' Church

Thursday 18th December 2025

16.00 Ecumenical Carol Service in Blackrock Clinic Hospital.



Sunday 21st December 2025

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

9.30 A Quiet Christmas in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Christingle Service in St Philip and St James' Church

19.00 Carols by Candlelight in St Thomas' Church *followed by mulled wine and mince pies*



Wednesday 24th December 2025 – Christmas Eve

No 10.30 Service

22.00 The First Holy Communion of Christmas in St Thomas' Church



Thursday 25th December 2025 – Christmas Day

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

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



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

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

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

Monday 8th December 2025
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 not meet again until January 2026.

St Philip and St James' Sunday Club will meet at 11.00 in St Philip and St James' Parish Centre on the following Sundays:
7th December 2025.

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****Pickleball**

Some parishioners have expressed interest in starting a Pickleball Club in St Philip and St James' Parish Hall. If you are interested in playing and in helping to start a club, please contact:

Quentin Teggin at 086-2463577, Mike Hayes at 087-6846511 or Gordon Richards at 083-1558682

Christmas Day
Televised Service

Our two parishes will be doing the televised service on RTÉ on Christmas Day.

It will be recorded in the RTÉ Studio on Sunday 14th December 2025.

It would be good to get more people to be a part of the Ad Hoc Choir and we would like some more bass and tenor voices please! **Men of the parishes, take note!!!**

We will also be singing at the Carols by Candlelight in St Thomas' Church at 19.00 on Sunday 21st December 2025.



Ad Hoc Choir Rehearsals
at 19.30 hours

Thursday 11th December 2025 in
St Philip and St James' Church

Wednesday 17th December 2025
in St Thomas' Church

PJ's Christmas
Craic-er!

Thank you to all who made the Christmas Craic-er such an enjoyable event yesterday!
And thank you to Santa Claus who took time out of his busy schedule to come along and meet the children!





Carol Singing for Dublin SIMON

Thursday 18th December
2025

5pm—7pm

Blackrock Village Shopping
Centre,
(the one with SuperValu)

*We are asking people to sign up to sing
and/or collect for 30 minutes or 1 hour...
or however long they can.*

*Please email Gillian to let her when and
for how long you can be there!*



Help for Santa!

Life can be very cruel and we could
make a difference to some children

this Christmas. This is why I am asking you if we could help Santa. I am asking if you could buy one or two small toys - they cannot be big toys as those families living in hotels or hostels, or in cars, do not have the room for anything big - and could you bring them to either of our churches at the times below... if you are not able to attend the service, please aim to arrive at the end of the service to drop off the items:

Sunday 7th December 2025 to St Thomas' Church – service at 9.30-10.15 or to St Philip and St James' Church - services at 8.30-9.00, 11.00-11.45.

We have to deliver the items into the Capuchin Day Centre on Wednesday 10th December 2025, so we have to have them before then.

Santa needs long-johns, toiletries, etc too!

New pairs of long-johns (underwear) are hugely appreciated by The Alice Leahy Trust for their service users. As you can imagine, it is bitterly cold, living on the streets, at this time of the year. We would be delighted to pass on new long-johns, new warm socks, new gloves and new hats. Warm jackets and hoodies in good condition would also be great.

We can give a little love this Christmas, and that is exactly what Christmas is... God coming to earth in human form because he loves us, and to show us through Jesus Christ how to love and to care.



Decorating St Thomas' Church for Christmas

Friday 12th December 2025

10.30-12.00.

Donations before 11.00 please.



Decorating St Philip and St James' Church for Christmas

Saturday 20th December 2025

10.30-12.00.

Donations before 11.00 please.