

**Welcome, and thank you, to the Ven. Gordon Linney who is looking after the services in our parishes this morning. Thank you, Gordon!**

[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.**

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.

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

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

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

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.**

**Hymn - A Star for our Journey**

**(Tune: Cradle Song Hymn No. 149)**

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.

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!  
 Entranced 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.

### 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 Epiphany**  
 God be merciful to us 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.**

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 Absolution

[Please stand if you are able]

### Gloria in Excelsis: Hymn 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 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 for ever. **Amen.**

[Please sit]

### The First Reading - Isaiah 60: 1-6

*The first reading is from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 60, beginning at verse 1.*

60 Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
 and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.  
<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light,

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### 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:

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

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



[Please stand if you are able]

### 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.

[Please remain standing if you are able]

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

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

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

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."

<sup>7</sup> 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**

*[Please stand if you are able]*

#### **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 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, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

**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 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.**

*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.*

[Please stand if you are able]

### Offertory Hymn No. 201 (Kings of Orient)

We three kings of Orient are;

bearing gifts we traverse afar  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star:

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!*

Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again  
king for ever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign:

*Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising gladly raising,  
worship him, God most High:*

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb:*

*Glorious now, behold him arise,  
King, and God, and Sacrifice!  
Heav'n sings alleluia: allel-  
-luia the earth replies.*

## **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:

**9.30 and 11.00 Services**

(Verses 3 & 4 of Hymn 715)

**Holy, holy, holy,**

**Lord God, the Lord almighty!**

**Hosannas ring in heaven and earth:**

**'You are holy, Lord!'**

**Blessed is he who comes,**

**who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Hosanna in excelsis,**

**in excelsis!**

[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

*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 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...



### Hymn No. 198 (The first Nowell)

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in  
fields as they lay:  
in fields where they lay keeping their  
sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so  
deep:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and  
night:

And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country  
far;

to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it  
went.

This star drew nigh to the north-  
west,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay:

Then entered in those wise men three  
most reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence,  
their gold and myrrh and  
frankincense:

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of  
nought,  
and with his blood mankind hath  
bought:

### 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.***

*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.*



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

### **Pastoral Care of the Parishes, the Blackrock Clinic and the Blackrock Hospice.**

The Rev. Gary Dowd is looking after the parishes, the Blackrock Clinic and the Blackrock Hospice, whilst the Rector is away.

The Rev. Gary Dowd  
01-2801616 or 087-9266558

*Parishioners who are in hospitals or in residential care will be looked after by the chaplains of those establishments.*

### **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

***NB No 10.30 Midweek Holy Communion***

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

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

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025**

***NB No 10.30 Midweek Holy Communion  
due to the Diocesan Clergy Conference***

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

***10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' 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](mailto:irene.reid1052@gmail.com)



**Confirmation Class for  
teenagers**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 19.30**

***St Philip and St James' Church***

## Confirmation and Enquirers Class for adults

is on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 meet at 9.30 in the Monk Gibbon Hall on the following Sundays:

|                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>18<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b> | <b>8<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b> |
| <b>29<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>   | <b>12<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>   |
| <b>17<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>     |                                     |

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

|                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>11<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b> | <b>1<sup>st</sup> February 2026</b> |
| <b>8<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>    | <b>12<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>   |
| <b>10<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>     |                                     |

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



## MOUNT MERRION SELECT VESTRY

**MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026  
19.30 HOURS  
THE COMMITTEE ROOM**

## BOOTERSTOWN AND CARYSFORT SELECT VESTRY

**THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026  
19.30 HOURS  
ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' CHURCH**

## **REGISTER OF VESTRYPERSONS**

The Register of Vestrypersons is, in many ways, 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.