



### **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!*

### **Greeting**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:  
**a light no darkness can quench.**

As God's people we have gathered:  
**let us worship him together.**

*[During this hymn, the congregational candles will be lit.]*

**Hymn No. 496 (Alleluia, dulce carmen)**

For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord,  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom;  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and  
goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

*[Silence while the candles on the Advent Wreath are lit for the last time.]*



*[Please kneel or sit]*

### **Preparation**

God, we are here,  
we have come to this service in  
church or via technology to take some  
time to be with you, to meet as your  
family, joined in spirit and purpose.  
We are joining together because this  
is what we need and where we need to  
be,  
together seeking your wholeness,  
healing and love.

And so here we are, God,  
some of us are angry,  
many of us are afraid,  
but we're here,  
and we tell you in the silence all that  
burdens us and troubles us,  
and we offload to you all sorts of  
things...  
the things that make us feel guilty or  
ashamed or weigh heavily on us...  
the things that grip us in fear and  
cause a knot in our stomachs...  
the things that hurt so much that the  
pain is physical as well as emotional...

*[Short Silence]*

Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison.

**Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison.**

Christe, Christe, eleison.

**Christe, Christe, eleison.**

Kyrie, Kryie, eleison.

**Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison.**

Listen then to Jesus,

feel his touch, know his love,  
know that he is listening intently to  
you, both to what you might say out  
loud and what you say in the silence of  
your heart...

Through Jesus God says to us:

'I hear you, you are forgiven, you are  
loved, you are free.' **Amen.**

### **The Collect of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany**

Creator God,

who in the beginning

commanded the light to shine out of  
darkness:

we pray that the light of the glorious  
gospel of Christ

may dispel the darkness of ignorance  
and unbelief,

shine into the hearts of all your  
people,

and reveal the knowledge of your  
glory

in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **The Presentation of Christ in The Temple - 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

Almighty and everliving God,

clothed in majesty,

whose beloved Son was this day

presented in the temple

in the substance of our mortal nature:

may we be presented to you with pure  
and clean hearts,

by your Song Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### God's Word To Us

#### The Scripture Reading - Matthew 5: 1-12

*The Scripture Reading is from the gospel according to St Matthew, chapter 5, beginning at verse 1.*

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in

the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Here ends the Reading.



*[At the end of the Nunc Dimittis, the candles are extinguished and the lights put on.]*

#### The Nunc Dimittis - The Song of Simeon - from Luke 2: 29-32

1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant  
de|part in | peace:  
ac|cording | to thy | word.

2 For mine eyes have seen | thy  
sal|vation  
which thou hast prepared be|fore the  
| face of · all | people;

3 To be a light to | lighten · the |  
Gentiles

and to be the glory of thy | people |  
Isra|el.

Glory | be · to the | Father,  
and to the Son, | and · to the | Holy |  
Spirit;

as it | was in · the be|ginning,  
is now and ever shall be, | world  
with·out | end. A|men.

The Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.  
*We believe that you are creating,  
 animating all that lives.*

*Universal grace pulsating,  
 you O God, the one who gives.  
 You are meaning, mystery, glory,  
 you are the fire, you the dove;  
 you in Jesus live your story,  
 show the nature of your love.*

*Jesus is divine,  
 engaging with the pain of human  
 strife.*

*Jesus is divine,  
 upstaging our death by risen life.  
 Life - your inexhaustible Spirit,  
 wills to ignite in what we do:  
 willing us to each inherit  
 justice-laden peace with you.*

Hymn No. 514 (Ye banks and braes)

We cannot measure how you heal  
 or answer every sufferer's prayer;  
 yet we believe your grace responds  
 where faith and doubt unite to care.  
 Your hands, though bloodied on the  
 cross,  
 survive to hold and heal and warn,  
 to carry all through death to life  
 and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,  
 the guilt that clings from things long  
 past,  
 the fear of what the future holds,  
 are present as if meant to last.

But present too is love which tends  
 the hurt we never hoped to find,  
 the private agonies inside,  
 the memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need your  
 help,  
 and some have come to make amends,  
 as hands which shaped and saved the  
 world  
 are present in the touch of friends.  
 Lord, let your Spirit meet us here  
 to mend the body, mind and soul,  
 to disentangle peace from pain  
 and make your broken people whole.

*(Please sit or kneel)*

Intercessions

Light of God,  
*shine upon us.*

Invitation

*During the singing of the next hymns, those  
 who wish to receive the laying on of hands  
 should come forward and kneel at the  
 Communion Rails. When hands have been  
 laid and prayer said, you may return to your  
 seat.*

Look, Lord, on your children, who love  
your name and need your care. Let  
your hands be known in the touch of  
friends.

**Hymn No. 513 (Daniel)**

O Christ, the Healer, we have come  
to pray for health, to plead for friends.  
How can we fail to be restored,  
when reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures  
our bodies clamour to be freed;  
yet in our hearts we would confess  
that wholeness is our deepest need.

How strong, O Lord, are our desires,  
how weak our knowledge of ourselves!  
Release in us those healing truths  
unconscious pride resists or shelves.

In conflicts that destroy our health  
we recognise the world's disease;  
our common life declares our ills:  
is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith,  
in your community may find  
the wholeness that, enriching us,  
shall reach and prosper humankind.

**Hymn No. 549 (Repton)**

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.  
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian Sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.  
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love.  
interpreted by love.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.  
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,  
O still small voice of calm.  
O still small voice of calm.

**The Lord's Prayer**

*We have resumed taking up collections. But we 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.*

**Hymn No. 88 Thanks and Praise**  
**Christ Be Our Light**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts, that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

### **The Blessing**

When the going is rough  
***God will wipe away our tears.***

We are God's people and we are held in love.

May God keep you ever in his care and lead your lives with love.

May his warm welcome shine from all our hearts, and may Christ's own

peace prevail through every day, and the Blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you, this day and forever more. ***Amen.***

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

The Rev. Canon Roy Byrne is looking after the parishes and the Blackrock Clinic whilst the Rector is on leave.

The Rev. Canon Roy Byrne  
01-2806596 or 086-3467920

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

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### **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

#### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023**

*10.30 Midweek Holy Communion*

#### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

10.00 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

#### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

*10.30 Midweek Holy Communion*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' 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 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

10.30 *Midweek Holy Communion*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

10.00 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 – Ash****Wednesday**

10.30 *Midweek Holy Communion*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

10.00 Service of the Word in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Service of the Word in St Philip and St James' Church

**MOUNT MERRION****SELECT VESTRY MEETING**

**TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

**19.30 HOURS VIA ZOOM**

**BOOTERSTOWN AND****CARYSFORT****SELECT VESTRY**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

**19.30 HOURS VIA ZOOM**

**Sunday Clubs****Re-opening!**

We are delighted that both of our Sunday Clubs are re-opening in February. They will meet once a month, and as it happens, both Sunday Clubs will meet on the same morning. The dates are:

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Prize-giving – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

at the Blessing of the Animals in St Philip and St James' Church at 10.30.

St Thomas' Sunday Club will meet in the Monk Gibbon Hall at 10.00 and St Philip and St James' Sunday Club will meet in St Philip and St James' Parish Centre at 11.00. The children and leaders will join the rest of the congregation before the end of the service in the respective churches.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to lead our Sunday Clubs...

St Thomas' Sunday Club: Katy Ryan, Claire Flanagan, Catherine Thanaseelan and Adam McMurray;

St Philip and St James' Sunday Club: Joanne Sherry, Stefanie O'Brien-Feeney and Gillian Morrow.

*All children who are aged three and over, and who are toilet-trained are very welcome to join the Sunday Club.*