

(Please stand if you are able)

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.



Opening Hymn No. 172 (Adeste fideles)

[Verses 1, 2, 6, 7b]

1. O come all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him
born the King of Angels:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

2. God of God,
light of Light;
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb,
very God,
begotten, not created:

6. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God,
in the highest:

7b. Yea, Lord, we bless thee,
born for our salvation,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

(Please kneel or sit)

The Penitence

In our celebrations and anticipation
of Christmas,
we became stressed...
stressed because we were anxious
about having everything perfect...
and in the middle of all that,
we forgot about you and what you
are really trying to give us and tell us
when you came to live on earth as
the Baby Jesus.

When we have been so busy, that we
have been stressed and irritable,
even with those closest to us...

Sorry, Lord.

You became part of a family...
we have sometimes lost patience
with our family members;
and reproduced barely-hidden
grudges and petty squabbles...

Sorry, Lord.

For striving to be what we could
never be...
for worrying about having what is not
really that important...
Sorry, Lord.

Absolution

God, we thank you that you come to
us, as the people we are;
and not just at Christmas, but every
day.
May we celebrate you in our lives
each day and not just at Christmas.
Thank you that you keep on
understanding us and forgiving us,
and help us to get it right more than
we get it wrong, in Jesus' name.
Amen.



(Please stand if you are able)

Acclamation

Blessed are you, God of all glory,
through your Son Jesus Christ.
We worship and adore you.

He is the heavenly king, born of
Mary.
We worship and adore you.

He is the Word of the Father, crying
as a baby.
We worship and adore you.

He is robed in glory, wrapped in
infant clothes.

We worship and adore you.

He is Lord of heaven and earth, laid
in a manger.

We worship and adore you.

Strong in weakness,
glorious in humility,
to him be all praise and glory.
We join with all the company of
heaven,
worshipping you and singing:

Hymn No. 166 (Antioch)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n,
and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills
and plain
repeat the sounding joy.
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and
grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders,
and wonders of his love.

(Please remain standing if you are able)

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 in
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**

(Please sit)

The Ministry of the Word

The Old Testament Reading – 1 **Samuel 2: 18-20, 26**

The Old Testament reading is from the first book of the Samuel, chapter 2, beginning at verse 18.

¹⁸ Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶ Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Hymn No. 160 – (Christmas **(Mendelssohn))**

Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King
peace on earth, and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem:

*Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored!
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of
peace!

Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings:

mild, he lays his glory by,
 born that we no more may die;
 born to raise each child of earth,
 born to give us second birth:

(Please sit)

The Second Reading - Luke 2: 41 - 52

The second reading is from the gospel according to Luke, chapter 2, beginning at verse 41.

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' ⁴⁹ He said to

them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

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

(Please stand if you are able)

Hymn No. 184 (Puer nobis nascitur (2))

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.

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
 comes on earth a stranger;
 ox and ass their owner know,
 becradled in a manger,
 becradled in a manger.

This did Herod sore affray,
 and grievously bewilder;
 so he gave the word to slay,
 and slew the little childer,
 and slew the little childer.

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.

The Sermon



Hymn No. 179 (Humility)

See amid the winter's snow,
 born for us on earth below,
 see the tender Lamb appears,
 promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!
 hail, redemption's happy dawn!
 sing through all Jerusalem:
 'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'*

Lo, within a manger lies
 he who built the starry skies;
 he who, throned in height sublime,
 sits amid the cherubim!

Say, ye holy shepherds, say
 what your joyful news today;
 wherefore have ye left your sheep
 on the lonely mountain steep?

'As we watched at dead of night,
 lo, we saw a wondrous light;
 angels singing "Peace on earth"
 told us of the Saviour's birth':

Sacred Infant, all divine,
 what a tender love was thine,
 thus to come from highest bliss
 down to such a world as this!

Teach O teach us, holy Child,
 by thy face so meek and mild,
 teach us to resemble thee,
 in thy sweet humility.

(Please remain standing if you are able)

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in Christmas.

We believe that the words of the
 prophet
 that speak of justice to the
 oppressed,
 and the care for the widow,
 are God's Word that sets the world
 free.

For love came down at Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

We believe that the light of the
 world that crushes all darkness and
 exposes all lies

is God's light that shines through
 every darkness.

For love came down at Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.
 We believe that the song of the
 angels
 that celebrates peace on earth and
 to all people on the earth,
 is God's peace that the world cannot
 find but Jesus can offer.
 For love came down at Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.
 We believe that Mary's poem
 Magnificat, where God turns
 everything upside down,
 where the poor are lifted up and the
 powerful are brought down,
 is God's poem that changes the
 balance of the world.

For love came down at Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

***We believe the Word becomes
 flesh,***

***the promise is fulfilled,
 the light breaks through,
 the oppressed are set free,
 the lowly are lifted up
 and the baby cries.***

For love came down at Christmas.

We believe in Christmas.

[Roddy Hamilton, Spill the Beans]

(Please kneel or sit)

The Prayers

God, Saviour of the world,

who was born as a human child in
 Bethlehem - there is no room for you
 at the inn.

We pray for all who are rejected, all
 for whom there is no home, no
 welcome. We pray for those with
 the power and authority to effect
 policies and decisions that will
 create homes for all.

We pray for those who are outcasts
 in today's world, through poverty,
 hunger and oppression.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God, Lord of the world,
 who fled to Egypt as a refugee, we
 pray for all refugees, all who are
 fleeing their homeland in fear,
 who have left behind people they
 love and everything that is familiar
 to them, and we pray for those who
 have nowhere to flee to.

Help us to do our part in welcoming
 and supporting them within our
 neighbourhoods of Booterstown,
 Mount Merrion and Blackrock.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God, Prince of peace,
 we pray for peace in our world.
 We pray especially at this time for ...
 And we pray for the leaders of the
 nations; and for those with the
 status, position and opportunity to

influence change to bring about an end to conflict, war and oppression. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God, Father of us all, we pray for our churches of St Thomas' and of St Philip and St James and especially as we have celebrated our 150th and 200th anniversaries respectively. We pray for our neighbourhoods and our neighbouring church communities.

Help us to welcome all who come among us, knowing that in showing love and respect to any member of your family, we are showing it to you. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for people who are sick in body or in mind, and especially for those known to us personally. We pray for all on our Healer Prayer List and from our parishes, we pray for... We pray for those in the care of these parishes in the Blackrock Clinic and the Blackrock Hospice. In their need, may they know your healing touch. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of salvation, peace and justice,

you come to us now as you have come to your people in every age. We thank you for all who have reflected the life of Christ. Help us to follow their example, and bring us, with them, to eternal life.
Amen.

Let us sum up our prayers and praises in the words which Christ has taught and say:

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn No. 159 Good Christians All, Rejoice (In dulci jubilo)

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart, and soul, and voice;
give ye heed to what we say;
Jesus Christ is born today,
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the stable now,
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart, and soul, and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this;
he has opened heaven's door,
and all are blessed for evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart, and soul, and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:

Jesus Christ was born to save:
 calls you one, and calls you all,
 to gain his everlasting hall.
 Christ was born to save!
 Christ was born to save!

The Blessing

We stand to face the future:

By the presence of God, we are
 accompanied and strengthened as we
 face the new year.

Let us go forth on the journey
 before us,
 knowing that, where Christ leads,
 life is a journey home.
 Therefore we travel in faith, in hope,
 and in love,
 and may the blessing of God
 Almighty, the Father, the Son and
 the Holy Spirit, fill our hearts and
 homes with light in the year to come,
 and to all eternity. **Amen.**



The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the
 Lord;
in the name of Christ. Amen.

*May the hope, the joy, the
 love and the peace of Jesus
 Christ be with you and all
 your family in this Christmas
 season and throughout
 2025.*



*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 safe, healthy and
 happy New Year.*

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

The Rev. Canon Roy Byrne is looking after the parishes, the Blackrock Clinic and the Blackrock Hospice, whilst the Rector is away.

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.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 1st January 2025

NB No 10.30 Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 5th January 2025

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

Wednesday 8th January 2025

NB No 10.30 Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 12th January 2025

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 15th January 2025

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

Sunday 19th January 2025

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 22nd January 2025

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

Sunday 26th January 2025

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.30 United Service of the Word in St Philip and St James' Church

Special Preacher at the 10.30 – the Rev. Canon Patrick Harvey (Rector of Abbeyleix Union) whose late grandfather, The Very Rev. Thomas Arnold Harvey was Rector of Booterstown, 1916-1933, and who was then elected Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

Wednesday 29th January 2025

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

Thank you to all who
sang and collected
for

Dublin SIMON

Well done everyone!



**Thank you for your
wonderful generosity in
helping Santa!**

The Capuchin Day Centre and The Alice Leahy Trust were thrilled by the toys, food, scarves, hats, gloves, underwear, etc. that you gave this Christmas.

**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.



Healer Prayer Group

Tuesday 14th January 2025
19.30 hours *via Zoom*

**BOOTERSTOWN AND
CARYSFORT**

SELECT VESTRY

THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY 2025

19.30 HOURS

***IN THE PARISH ROOM OF ST PHILIP
AND ST JAMES' PARISH CENTRE***

MOUNT MERRION

SELECT VESTRY MEETING

MONDAY 27TH JANUARY 2025

19.30 HOURS VIA ZOOM



St Philip and St James' Sunday Club will
meet on:

Sunday 5th January 2025

Sunday 9th February 2025

Sunday 9th March 2025

St Thomas' Sunday Club had not finalized their dates at the time of printing. Please check the parishes' website for dates.



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Tuesday afternoon—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