



The Sunday Sheet *for* Advent 4 Sunday 21st December 2025

*A very warm welcome as we gather for the **Parish Eucharist**
An induction loop is provided.*

Gluten free wafers are available for those who need them. Please inform one of the
welcomers who will pass the information on to the clergy. Many thanks

Entrance Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourn in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine Advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourn in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*John Mason Neale 1818-1866
Tr. from Latin Advent Antiphons*

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace be with you
and keep you in the love of Christ.

The priest gives an introduction to the Eucharist, followed by

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world:
A light no darkness can put out.

The fourth candle on the Advent Wreath is lit

Eternal God,
as we seek the dawning brightness
and the lengthening of days
we light a candle
to quicken our hearts and warm our frozen lives
so that he who took flesh in the womb of Mary
may find us eager to welcome him
and ready to embrace him, the Light of the world,
for he is Lord forever and ever. **Amen.**

The priest calls the people to penitence.

God the Father, you are with us in our world.
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, Son of God, you are God's sign to us.
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you are God's grace and power for us.
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you and set you free from sin,
and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray:

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our Saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please Sit

Isaiah 7. 10-16

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

For the word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Please Stand

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden, Mary,
most highly favoured lady.” Gloria!

“For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be.
All generations laud and honour thee.
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
“most highly favoured lady.” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.
“To me be as it pleaseth God”, she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.”
“Most highly favoured lady.” Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favoured lady.” Gloria!

Sabine Baring-Gould 1834-1924

Tune: Gabriel's Message

Matthew 1. 18-25

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,

which means, ‘God is with us.’ ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel

of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

The Homily

Please Sit

The Affirmation of Faith

Please Stand

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Intercessions

Please Sit

Appropriate responses may be used, for example

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

Lord, hear us:
Lord, graciously hear us.

The Intercession ends with a suitable collect said by the priest, or the following

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

Please Stand

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of the Lord's peace.

Offertory Hymn

Great is the darkness that covers the earth,
oppression, injustice and pain;
nations are slipping in hopeless despair,
though many have come in your name –
watching while sanity dies,
touched by the madness and lies.

*Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
pour out your Spirit we pray;
come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,
pour out your Spirit on us today.*

May now your Church rise with power and love,
this glorious gospel proclaim;
in every nation salvation will come
to those who believe in your name.
Help us bring light to this world,
that we might speed your return.

Great celebrations on that final day,
when out from the heavens you come;
darkness will vanish, all sorrow will end,
and rulers will bow at your throne;
our great commission complete;
then face to face we shall meet.

The Thanksgiving

We celebrate together the gifts and grace of God.

**We take this bread,
we take this wine
to follow Christ's example
and obey his command.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Come, O come, Emmanuel,
you are the way, the truth and the life;
you are the true vine and living bread.
Come, Christ our Saviour,
come to the world which waits for you;
who are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy
at all times and in all places to give you thanks, holy Father,
all-powerful and everliving God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The prophets prepared us for his coming,
the Blessed Virgin Mary longed for him with love beyond all telling.
At the presence of Jesus, John the Baptist danced in his mother's womb
and proclaimed his advent when at last he came.
Already we rejoice in his birth,
for he has given us the gift of grace,
that he may find us watchful and waiting,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so with the hosts of angels and all the company of heaven
we proclaim the glory of your name
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.
And we lift our hearts before you
as a token of our love.
Holy, holy, holy, holy.**

**Gracious Father, gracious Father,
Blessed is the one who comes to us
in your name.
And we lift our hearts before you
as we give you thanks and praise.
Hosanna in the highest.**

All praise and thanks to you, true and living God,
Creator of all things, Giver of life.
You formed us in your own image;
but we have marred that image and fall short of your glory.
We give you thanks
that you sent your Son to share our life;
you gave him up to death that the world might be saved,
and you raised him from the dead
that we might live in him and he in us.

Sanctify with your Spirit this bread and wine, your gifts to us,
that they may be for us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread,
and when he had given thanks
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
he gave it to them, saying,

Drink from 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come in glory.

As he has commanded us, Father,
we remember Jesus Christ, your Son.
Proclaiming his victorious death,
rejoicing in his resurrection
and waiting for him to come in glory
we bring to you this bread, this cup.

Accept our sacrifice of thanks and praise.
Restore and revive your people,
renew us and all for whom we pray
with your grace and heavenly blessing,
and at the last receive us with all your saints
into that unending joy promised by your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Silence is kept

Please Sit

Let us pray with confidence to the Father:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Communion

The priest breaks the bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body
for we all share in one bread.**

We sing

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The sacrament is administered with these words:

The body of Christ. **Amen.** The blood of Christ. **Amen.**

All those who are baptised (Christened) are welcome to receive Holy Communion today. Baptised (Christened) children are welcome to receive holy communion at the discretion of their parents.

If you are not receiving you are welcome to come forward for a blessing but please bring this leaflet with you as a signal to the priest.

Hymn at the end of Communion

O Child of promise, come!

O come, Emmanuel!

Come, Prince of Peace, to David's throne;
come, God, with us to dwell.

The Lord's true Servant, come,
in whom is his delight,
on whom his Holy Spirit rests,
the Gentiles' promised light.

O come, Anointed One,
to show blind eyes your face!

Good tidings to the poor announce;
proclaim God's year of grace!

O come, Messiah King,
to reign in endless light,
when heavenly peace at last goes forth
from Sion's holy height.

James Quinn SJ 1919-2010
Tune: Franconia

Silence is kept

The Sending Out

Please Stand

Post Communion Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:
his love is everlasting.

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised Saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will. And the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Final Hymn

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still,
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in:
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Phillips Brooks 1835-1893
Tune: Forest Green

CCL No: 961722

Notices

Refreshments. Please do join us for refreshments after the service if you can.

Praying for Growth. Please pray for the growth and renewal of the Church here in this place. Here is the Leading Your Church into Growth Prayer:

*God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your
Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Community Fridge takes place every Sunday from 4-5pm at the Parish Church.

Sunday Sheet. Please take this sheet home with you for the notices for the week and to pray for what is happening in the life of our Church.

Christmas Services – a warm welcome to all:

Sunday 21st December:

6pm Lessons and Carols at St Mary's
Cefn

Christmas Eve:

4pm Christingle and Crib Service at the
Parish Church

7pm Nine Lessons and Carols at the
Cathedral

11.30pm Midnight Mass at the
Cathedral

Christmas Day:

9.30am The Parish Eucharist

9.30am Cefn Eucharist

11am The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday 28th December:

10.30am Mission Area Eucharist at the
Parish Church

Ways of Giving to the work of the Parish Church. We are very grateful to all those who contribute financially to the life and witness of our Parish. There are various ways to do this:

1. The Collection plate near the entrance to the Church
2. Setting up a Standing Order.
Contact Dave Bradley or Marion Hughes for the bank details
3. Gift Direct. Set up regular giving or make a one off donation.

For Gift Direct you can use the QR code below. Thank you very much.



The Week Ahead

22nd Monday – O King of the Nations!

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Eucharist

5pm Evening Prayer

23rd Tuesday – O Emmanuel!

9am Morning Prayer

5pm Evening Prayer

6pm Holy Eucharist

24th Wednesday – Christmas Eve

9am Morning Prayer

10.30am Holy Eucharist

4pm Christingle & Crib Service *at the
Parish Church*

7pm Nine Lessons & Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass

25th Thursday – Christmas Day

9.30am The Parish Eucharist

9.30am Holy Eucharist *at St Mary's*

11am The Cathedral Eucharist

5pm Evening Prayer

26th Friday – Stephen, Deacon & 1st Martyr

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Offeren (Welsh Eucharist)

5pm Evening Prayer

27th Saturday – John, Apostle & Evangelist

9am Morning Prayer

5pm Evening Prayer

28th Sunday – Christmas 1 (The Holy Family)

10.30am Mission Area Eucharist *at the Parish Church*

3.30pm Evening Prayer

Today's Readings

Isaiah 7. 10-16

A young woman's pregnancy was a sign of God's presence in and to the world, working against the known order and bringing forth the child to be called Emmanuel.

Psalms 80. 1-7

Romans 1. 1-7

Paul: set apart to serve as an apostle of the Gospel, yet called with us by God's grace and the Holy Spirit's power to belong to Jesus Christ as God's people.

Matthew 1. 18-25

The source of the child Emmanuel was in God the Holy Spirit. God provided and angel's message so that Joseph could be sure that the familiar norms were being transformed by the presence and power of God. Joseph named the child Jesus.



Contact:

Parish Church: 01745 535957

Fr Rex: 07393 639813

Parish Church Website:

www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk