

The Parish of St Paul, Wokingham

The 9.30am Eucharist

for the Christmas Season



*Christmas Day is not the end of Christmas but its start,
the moment we begin to rejoice that God is born as one of us.*

*Christmas then carries on through the feast of the Epiphany
(when we remember the arrival of the Wise Men in Bethlehem,
the showing of Jesus to all people) right up to Candlemas,
when our thoughts begin to turn to Easter.*

*These weeks are a time of ongoing joy and celebration.
The crib and decorations stay in church for the whole of the season
because all of it is Christmas, all of it cause for joy.*

Before the service we gather as one, conscious that we are united with people all over the world in this moment and in our shared purpose, which is our shared longing to come face to face with the living God who calls us to follow him.

The Gathering

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

The Lord be with you: **and also with you.**

I bring you good news of great joy:
a Saviour has been born to us. Alleluia!
For unto us a child is born,
for unto us a Son is given. Alleluia!

Hear the words of St Luke:
When the angels had gone from them into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,
“Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing
that has happened,
which the Lord has made known to us.”
So they hastened, and found Mary and Joseph,
and the baby lying in a manger.
He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia!
We worship and adore him. Alleluia!

Words of welcome and introduction follow.

The Prayers of Penitence

*A time of silence is kept as we recall our sin
and our need of God.*

**God our Father, long-suffering,
full of grace and truth,
you create us from nothing and give us life.
You do not turn your face from us, nor cast us aside.
We confess that we have sinned
against you and our neighbour.
We have wounded your love
and marred your image in us.
Restore us for the sake of your Son,
and bring us to heavenly joy,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself, and cleanse you from all your sins
that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peruvian Gloria

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.
To him be glory forever. **To him be glory forever.**
Alleluia, amen. **Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus.
To him be glory forever. **To him be glory forever.**
Alleluia, amen. **Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.
To him be glory forever. **To him be glory forever.**
Alleluia, amen. **Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.**

The Collect

The Lord be with you:
and also with you.
A moment of silent prayer follows.
At the end of the Collect Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Reading

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

The Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.
And at the end...
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.**

**Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Prayers

Rejoicing at the presence of God with us this Christmastide,
let us call to mind the needs and longings of Creation,
and let us open our hearts anew
to the gentle, unquenchable light of Christ.

At the end of each section, a response is used:

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

(or) Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The Lord be with you: **and also with you.**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Christ Child be always with you: **and also with you.**

*During the peace we hold out Christ's peace to one another
with a smile, a wave or the use of Sign Language.
If you're joining in from home (or even in Church)
do please put your message in the comment box on YouTube.*

The Preparation of the Altar

Blessed be God by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer this, our sacrifice of praise:
blessed be God for ever.

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable
to God the Almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,
for the praise and glory of his Name,
for our good and the good of all his Church.**

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit, may we share in your riches. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer (B)

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 thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our human race
humbled himself, was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.
In this wonderful mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life,
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to life and light.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world, grant us peace.

The Invitation

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven. Alleluia!
Lord, give us this bread always. Alleluia!

Christ is in our midst.
He is and always will be.

*The president says "The Body of Christ, broken for you" at the altar.
Please come forward as you are guided, keeping 2m away from others.
The wafer will be placed in your hand in silence and then you are
invited to return to your seat by going along the side aisle.*

*If you are joining in at home
you might find this a helpful prayer to use:*

Thanks be to you, Lord, Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer,
friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Son of Mary, Son of God,
we have joined with the angels in worship,
and rejoiced at the news of your birth.
Help us, with the shepherds,
to proclaim the Christmas message
in everything we do and think and say:
for you are the meeting place of heaven and earth,
our deepest hope
and our true fulfilment. Amen.

The Notices & Banns of Marriage

The Dismissal

*[which all happens from the altar or legilium
and not from the West End of Church]*

The Blessing

May the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas:
and the blessing...

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

After the service you are welcome to listen to the music

and then to leave via the South Door.

*There will be a collection plate and debit card machine
as you leave if you would like to make a donation
to support the work of the parish.*

*You can text a donation to St Paul's to 70450, texting STPAULS5
or STPAULS10 or STPAULS20 to donate that amount of money.*

Do please use the handgel as you leave as well. It's free...

*Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder
at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise,
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.*

*O God, who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to
the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face:
through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

