

The Parish of St Paul, Wokingham



**All Together Mass
for Christmas Day**

*Welcome to this holy place on this most joyful of days
as we gather to greet our new-born King, lying in a manger.
Whether you are present in Church
or joining in via the livestream,
it is good to be together after such a challenging few years
to wonder again at the power and reach of God's love.*

*Please remember that the current rules require us to wear masks in Church.
We are also encouraging people to sit in alternate pews so everyone has some
space around them- please do respect the pew signs.*

*Everyone is welcome to receive Communion this morning- please come
forward up the main aisle and then return to your seat down the side aisle.
Gluten free wafers are available if asked for.*

We wish you a very Happy Christmas, now it is finally here!



*{Count!
How many times do you hear angels mentioned?
How many times do you hear shepherds?
And the special Baby?}*

Opening Carol: Once in royal David's city (34)

The Gathering

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

The Lighting of the Christmas Wreath

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

**Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in the world.
Glory to God in the highest. Amen.**

The Prayers of Penitence:

we say sorry for the things we've done wrong

Christ the Light of the World has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts,
to banish the darkness of our world.
In his light, let us examine ourselves
and confess our sins and shortcomings. *{Pause for thought}*

Lord of grace and truth,
we confess all the times we have been selfish, or unkind.
We confess all the times we have done nothing
when other people are sad.
Child in a Manger: **forgive us and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call
to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive us for the times when we know
what you want us to do and still don't do it.
Forgive us when we want to do what we want
and don't think of others.
Child in a Manger: **forgive us and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our laziness and our lack of interest in you.
Forgive us when we forget to talk to you
and when are too busy to listen to you.
Child in a Manger: **forgive us and heal us.**

The Absolution: *God's promise of forgiveness*

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.**

Gloria in Excelsis: *a joyful statement of praise,* *from the Mass of Villerville by Chris Merchant*

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**

The Collect:

which presents the theme for the day

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.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Bible Reading

At the end, the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord: **thanks be to God.**

Gradual Carol: Away in a manger (22)

The Gospel: *which is read from the Crib*

{Who else is going to the crib?

How can you tell that this is a very important bit?

Alleluia, Alleluia. The Word was made flesh
and lived among us: **and we have seen his glory. Alleluia!**
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

{Which story is it today? Do you know the story?

Actually, no prizes for guessing what the Jesus story will be today... }

At the end the Deacon says:

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

The Talk

The Creed: we state what we believe

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

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

The Prayers

Lord of the journey,
walk with us every step of our lives.

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

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.

Offertory Carol: O little town of Bethlehem (32)

*{Can you see what the Rector is doing during
the carol to get things ready?}*

We prepare 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.**

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest:
and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.

The Eucharistic Prayer (1)

{can you say Holy and Amen at the right time every time?}

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.

Holy, Holy, Holy

It is always right to give you thanks,
God our Creator, loving and faithful, holy and strong.
You made us and the whole universe,
and filled your world with life.

*Holy, Holy, **Holy***

And today we thank you especially that you sent
your Son to live among us,
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.
We thank and praise you that in his face
we see the Light of love shining on us
and turning all of our darkness to glorious, perfect light.
With Mary and Joseph and angels and shepherds,
we rejoice that in him heaven touches earth
to love it and to heal it.

When he was older, he suffered on the cross;
he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead.

*Holy, Holy, **Holy***

You send your Spirit
to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.

And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing:

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

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

Father, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this to remember me.

Jesus Christ has died. **Jesus Christ has died.**
Jesus Christ is risen. **Jesus Christ is risen.**
Jesus Christ will come again. **Jesus Christ will come again.**

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.
*Amen, Amen, **Amen.***

Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.
*Amen, Amen, **Amen.***

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray:

Our Father, who 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 Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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 light and life.

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.**

Giving of Communion

**Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.
Christ is in our midst.
He is and he always will be.**

During communion the Choir sing Christmas anthems.

*If you usually receive communion in your own church,
or you've done so in the past, you are most welcome
to receive communion on this holy day.*

*If you would prefer to receive a prayer of blessing
please bring this order of service with you to the front.*

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.*

Those joining in at home 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.

Prayer after Communion

**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

The Dismissal

The Blessing and the Dismissal:

we are sent into the world to live to God's glory

The Lord be with you:

and also with you.

May the eagerness of the shepherds,
the joy of the angels,
the faithfulness of Joseph,
the courage of Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas:
and the blessing...

Final Carol: Hark the herald angels

(with exciting and joyous actions)

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 th'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 the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

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 man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth: *Refrain*

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
Glory, thanks and praise to God.

*{What is the most important thing you've thought about here?
What one thing could you choose to do this afternoon
to help keep today special?}*

Please use the handgel as you leave.

There will also be a collection plate and debit card machine by the door if you would like to make a donation to support the work of the parish. Thank you.

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

*You could also make an online donation via BACS:
PCC ST PAULS Sort Code: 20-11-74 Account No: 80683752.*

