



*St Thomas of Canterbury,
the Parish Church for
Brentwood*

All Age Mass



Holy Cross Day

Sunday 14th September 2025

These prayers are suitable as preparation for Mass

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

From the Book of Common Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, I approach the sacrament of Your only-begotten Son Our Lord Jesus Christ, I come sick to the doctor of life, unclean to the fountain of mercy, blind to the radiance of eternal light, and poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Lord, in your great generosity, heal my sickness, wash away my defilement, enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty, and clothe my nakedness. May I receive the bread of angels, the King of kings and Lord of lords, with humble reverence, with the purity and faith, the repentance and love, and the determined purpose that will help to bring me to salvation. May I receive the sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood, and its reality and power.

Kind God, may I receive the Body of Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, born from the womb of the Virgin Mary, and so be received into His mystical body and numbered among His members. Loving Father, as on my earthly pilgrimage I now receive Your beloved Son under the veil of a sacrament, may I one day see him face to face in glory, who lives and reigns with You for ever. Amen

St Thomas Aquinas

It is our custom to keep a prayerful silence before Mass

At 10.00, we sing the entrance hymn as the sacred ministers enter, and the altar is censed.

**Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**2 Come, let us follow where our Captain trod,
Our King victorious, Christ the Son of God**

**8 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou has promised, draw us unto thee.**

**9 Let every race and every language tell
Of him who saves our souls from death and hell.**

**10 From farthest regions let them homage bring,
And on his Cross adore their Saviour King**

**11 Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
Beneath the shadow of its healing peace**

**12 For thy blest Cross which doth for all atone
Creation's praises rise before thy throne.**

George William Kitchin 1827-1912

Michael Robert Newbolt 1874-1956

The Gathering

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

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

Prayers of Penitence

The priest introduces the prayers of penitence.

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and the Father:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:

Lord, have mercy.:

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.

To him be glory for ever.

To him be glory for ever.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

2. Glory to God, glory to God, Son of the Father...

3. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit...

The Collect

The Celebrant introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray':

Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

SIT

Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers.

The Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

We STAND to greet the gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia, (alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**)

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Alleluia, (alleluia, alleluia.)

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

✠ Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 3:13-18

Jesus said to Nicodemus: ‘No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world

that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.)

We SIT for the sermon.

The Sermon

The Creed/Affirmation of Faith

STAND At 10.00, an affirmation of faith is said,

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.**

Prayers of Intercession – Universal Prayers

We sit or kneel for the prayers of intercession. After each petition, we respond:

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Or

Lord, hear us,
Lord graciously hear us.

The intercessor may conclude the prayer for the faithful departed with;

Rest eternal, grant to them O Lord
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.
Amen.

The prayers may conclude with a collect to which all respond:
Amen.

Or, by us saying together.

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

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Peace

STAND as the Celebrant introduces the Peace:

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus, we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another the sign of peace.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Offertory



A collection is taken at this celebration. If you don't have cash or are not part of our planned giving scheme and would like to support the ministry costs of St Thomas' please scan the QR code to be taken to the online donations page where you can easily donate to support the work of St Thomas' and complete the details allowing the reclamation of Gift Aid on your donation. At 10.00, we

STAND to sing this hymn while the altar is prepared.

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
Where there is injury your pardon, Lord;
And where there's doubt true faith in you.**

Refrain:

***Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love with all my soul.***

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light;
And where there's sadness, ever joy. [Refrain]**

**Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
In giving to all men that we receive;
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

Attributed to St Francis of Assisi, 1181-1226

Adapter Sebastian Temple 1928-1997

The Preparation of the Altar

STAND At 10.00 after all have been censed, the Priest says;

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that this my sacrifice and yours 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.

May this oblation, O Lord, which on the altar of the Cross cancelled the offence of the whole world, cleanse us, we pray, of all our sins. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Preface

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 him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today we celebrate with songs of praise
the cross, the victory-sign of Christ.

Once through the fruit of the forbidden tree we fell,
now through this tree our Saviour cancels all our sin.

An instrument of shameful death
has become for Christ a throne of glory.

The power of the life-giving cross

reveals the judgment that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

And so, with choirs of angels
and with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending hymn of praise:

*We remain **STANDING** as we say the Sanctus and the Benedictus:*

**O holy most holy the God of creation
For ever exalted in pow'r and great might
The earth and the heavens
Are full of Your glory
Hosanna hosanna and praise in the height
How blessed is He who is sent to redeem us
Who puts ev'ry fear and injustice to flight
Who comes in the name of the Lord as our Saviour
Hosanna hosanna and praise in the height**

Michael Forster b1946

*We **KNEEL** after the Sanctus and Benedictus.*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power
of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and
wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you
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 gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you; 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. ✠

After the consecration, the following acclamation is said:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph her spouse, St Thomas of Canterbury and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen

COMMUNION RITE

As our Saviour taught and commanded us, we are bold to 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.

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

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

The Celebrant invites the people to communion.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed 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.

*Please follow the direction of the celebrant and sidespersons to come forward and receive communion. Those who are confirmed are welcome to make their communion at our celebration today. Otherwise, please come forward for a blessing with your hands crossed across your chest. The response after receiving a blessing is **Amen**.*

The choir sing the Agnus Dei:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Anthem

The Choir sing – ‘Take up your cross’ – by *Ronald Corp*

Post Communion

The priest says the post-communion prayer:

Faithful God, whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree and gave us this sacrament to show forth his death until he comes: give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our hope, who reigns as Lord, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Banns and Notices

We sit while any Banns of Marriage are published, and brief notices are given out. We STAND for the;

Blessing and dismissal

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Mass is ended, go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The sacred ministers leave during the final hymn.

**1 On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.**

Refrain:

***So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.***

**2 O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]**

**3 In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me. [Refrain]**

**4 To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share. [Refrain]**

George Bennard 1873-1958

*A warm invitation to stay for refreshments after the 10.00 Sung Mass. Please
make your way to the back of the church, following the directions of the
sidespersons.*

Private Devotions during Communion or after Mass

Soul of Christ, sanctify me
body of Christ, save me
blood of Christ, inebriate me
water from Christ's side, wash me
passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O good Jesus, hear me
within thy wounds hide me.
Suffer me not to be separated from thee.
From the malicious enemy defend me.

In the hour of my death call me and bid me come unto thee that I may
praise thee with thy saints and with thy angels forever and ever. Amen

Hail holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up
our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, O most
gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O
sweet Virgin Mary.

The Salve Regina

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