



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

# All Age Mass



# Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 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.*

**We plough the fields, and scatter  
The good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered  
By God's almighty hand;  
He sends the snow in winter,  
The warmth to swell the grain,  
The breezes and the sunshine,  
And soft refreshing rain:**

**Refrain:**        *All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above,  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,  
For all his love.*

**He only is the Maker  
Of all things near and far,  
He paints the wayside flower,  
He lights the evening star.  
The winds and waves obey him,  
By him the birds are fed;  
Much more to us, his children,  
He gives our daily bread: [Refrain]**

**We thank thee then, O Father,  
For all things bright and good;  
The seed-time and the harvest,  
Our life, our health, our food.  
No gifts have we to offer  
For all thy love imparts,  
But what which thou desirest,  
Our humble, thankful hearts: [Refrain]**

*Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815*

## 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.*

God has blessed us, but still God's children go hungry.  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

God has blessed us, but still the poor cry out for justice.  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

God has blessed us, but still we see inequality and oppression in the earth.  
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

*Chorus*

***Gloria gloria in excelsis deo (x2)***

Lord God heavenly King  
Peace, you bring to us  
We worship You

We give You thanks  
We sing our song of praise  
Jesus, Saviour of all  
Lord God Lamb of God  
You take away our sins  
Oh Lord, have mercy on us all  
At the Father's right hand  
Lord, receive our prayer  
For You alone are the Holy One  
And You alone are God  
Glory Father and Son  
Glory holy Spirit  
To You, we raise our hands up high  
We glorify Your name

### **The Collect**

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

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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.**

### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*SIT*

*Deuteronomy 26: 1-11*

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take

some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Philippians 4:4-9*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all

understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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.**)

Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are ripe for harvesting.  
Gather the fruit for eternal life.

**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 6:25-35*

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.’ Then they said to him, ‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’ Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’ So they said to him, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and

believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’ Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

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.*

**For the fruit of his creation,  
Thanks be to God.**

**For his gifts to every nation,  
Thanks be to God.**

**For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping,  
Thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labour,  
God's will is done.**

**In the help we give our neighbour,  
God's will is done.**

**In our worldwide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of his Spirit,  
Thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit,  
Thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us,  
Thanks be to God.**

*Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000*

## **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.**

Lord, make holy the gifts we offer with gratitude from the produce of the earth. As you have made our land bear a rich harvest, make our hearts fruitful with your life and love. We ask this 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  
to give you thanks and praise,

Almighty God and Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
Through him you have created us in your own image,  
and made us stewards of your good creation.  
Through him you teach us to exult in the birds of the air,  
the lilies of the field, the precious and life-giving crops of the earth.  
Through him you free us from the slavery of sin,  
giving him to die upon the cross  
and to rise again for our salvation.  
Through him, you begin your work of new creation,  
as we look for a new heaven and a new earth  
in which your righteousness dwells.  
Therefore, we join with angels and archangels,  
and give voice to every creature under heaven,  
for ever praising you and *saying*:

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

**Holy, most holy, all holy the Lord,  
in power and wisdom for ever adored.  
The earth and the heavens are full of your love;  
our joyful hosannas re-echo above.**

**Blessèd, most blessèd, all blessèd is he  
whose life makes us whole, and whose death sets us free:  
who comes in the name of the Father of light,  
let endless hosannas resound in the height.**

*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 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.**

*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**.*

## **Anthem**

All things bright and beautiful - *John Rutter*

## **Post Communion**

*The priest says the post-communion prayer:*

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

May God, our creator, who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the air, bestow on you his care and increase the harvest of your righteousness; 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.*

**All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing  
Alleluya, alleluya!**

**Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam:**

**Refrain:**

**O praise him, O praise him  
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya!**

**Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,  
O praise him! Alleluya!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening, find a voice: [Refrain]**

**Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
Make music for thy Lord to hear,  
Alleluya, Alleluya!  
Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
That givest man both warmth and light: [Refrain]**

**Dear mother earth, who day by day  
Unfoldest blessings on our way,  
O praise him, Alleluya!  
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,  
Let them his glory also show: [Refrain]**



**Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him! Alleluya!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, three in One:  
Refrain:  
O praise him, O praise him  
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya!**

*St Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226*

*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

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

*From the Book of Common Prayer*

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men; [\*particularly to those who desire now to offer up their praises and thanksgivings for thy late mercies vouchsafed unto them.] We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

*\*This to be said when any that have been prayed for desire to return praise.*

*From the Book of Common Prayer*

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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The poster features a decorative border with autumnal motifs including pumpkins, gourds, and various flowers in shades of orange, yellow, and brown. The central text is enclosed in a white rectangular frame with a thin gold border. The background of the entire poster is a light cream color.

12TH OCTOBER

# HARVEST Thanksgiving

Start after 10.00am Mass

CHILDRENS CRAFT ACTIVITIES

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PLEASE BRING A DISH FOR  
POTLUCK COMMUNAL LUNCH  
FREE ENTRY. DONATIONS  
MOST WELCOME

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHURCH  
ST THOMAS ROAD  
BRENTWOOD