

St Thomas of Canterbury, the Parish Church for Brentwood

The Order of Mass

The First Sunday of Advent

Sunday 30th November 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

Please stand when the bell rings, At 8am the sacred minister gathers before the image of Our Lady for the Angelus.

The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,

And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it unto me according to thy Word.

Hail Mary, etc...

And the Word was made flesh,

And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by his Φ Cross and Passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

At 10am, the Advent Prose is sung by the choir and we join in with singing the antiphon

Antiphon:

[Cantor] Drop down, ye heavens, from above, [All] and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity forever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee. [Antiphon]

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away: thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. [Antiphon]

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. [Antiphon]

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee:
For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer. [Antiphon]

Advent Wreath

During the entrance hymn, as the procession reaches the dais, the hymn is paused as we light the first candle on the Advent Wreath. After the candle has

been lit the hymn continues as the sacred ministers' reverence and cense the altar.

God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to make his home among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, light of the world, born in David's city of Bethlehem, born like him to be a king: be born in our hearts at Christmas, be King of our lives today. Amen.

Hark! A herald voice is calling:
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earth-bound soul arise; Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heaven; Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes in glory, And earth's final hour draws near, May he then as our defender On the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit, To the Father and the Son, With the co-eternal Spirit, While unending ages run. Amen.

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.

The priest welcomes us and introduces the service.

Prayers of Penitence

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, \mathbb{A} pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

| Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy | Kyrie eleison Kyrie eleison |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | |
| • | |
| Christ, have mercy | Christe eleison |
| , | |
| • | |
| Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy | Kyrie eleison Kyrie eleison |

The Collect

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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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

Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

At 8am the psalm is said as below, while at 10am the choir sing the verses We join in with the appropriate response.



I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

R I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.' Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R**

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself. To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord. For there are the thrones of judgement, the thrones of the house of David. $\bf R$

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers. \mathbf{R}

For my family and companions' sake, I pray for your prosperity. Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good.' \mathbf{R}



I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

Romans 13:11-14

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Romans.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Gospel Reading

Please stand for the acclamation and the Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia, (alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.)

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia, (alleluia, alleluia.)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

➡ Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 24:36-44

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.)

The Sermon

A sermon will be preached.

The Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

We bow as we proclaim the Mystery of the Incarnation.

WAS INCARNATE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE VIRGIN MARY AND WAS MADE MAN.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession – Universal Prayers

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 Peace

The Celebrant introduces the Peace:

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of 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 on the back of the chair in front of you 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 am we sing this hymn while the altar is prepared.

THE advent of our God
With eager prayers we greet,
And singing haste upon the road
His glorious gift to meet.

The everlasting Son Scorns not the Virgin's womb; That we from bondage may be won He bears a bondsman's doom.

Daughter of Sion, rise
To meet thy lowly King;
Let not thy stubborn heart despise
The peace he comes to bring.

On clouds of dazzling light, As judge he comes again, His scattered people to unite, With him in heaven to reign.

Let evil flee away, Ere that great hour shall dawn, Let this old Adam day by day The new Man all put on.

Praise to the incarnate Son, Who comes to set us free, With Father and with Spirit One, To all eternity. Amen.

Charles Coffin (1676-1749)

The Preparation of the Altar

At 08.00 as the celebrant takes the bread and the wine, we pray;

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink. **Blessed be God for ever.**

At 10.00 we stand to be censed, at 08.00 we stand as 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.

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. 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 everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory

for ever praising you and saying:

We remain STANDING as we say/sing the Sanctus and the Benedictus:

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.

We KNEEL after the Sanctus and Benedictus. Y

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. \blacksquare

After the consecration, the following acclamation is said/sung:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

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

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 say:

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.

We 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 you hands crossed across your chest. The response after receiving a blessing is **Amen.**

Anthem

Advent Message – Martin How

Communion Hymn

We sit or kneel to sing the following hymn.

City of God, how broad and far Outspread thy walls sublime! The true thy chartered freemen are Of every age and clime.

One holy Church, one army strong, One steadfast, high intent; One working band, one harvest-song, One King omnipotent.

How purely hath thy speech come down From man's primaeval youth! How grandly hath thine empire grown Of freedom, love and truth!

How gleam thy watch-fires through the night With never-fainting ray!
How rise thy towers, serene and bright,
To meet the dawning day!

In vain the surge's angry shock, In vain the drifting sands: Unharmed upon the eternal Rock The eternal City stands.

Samuel Johnson (1822-82)

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and I unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. **Amen.**

Post Communion

We stand as the priest leads the post-communion prayers:

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; 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. At 10.00 the Clubhouse may present their work. We stand for the final blessing and dismissal.

Blessing and dismissal

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for life eternal.

Amen.

May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, Φ 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 Angelus

At 10am the sacred ministers gather before the image of Our Lady for the Angelus.

The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,

And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it unto me according to thy Word.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

And the Word was made flesh,

And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by his $\ \ \ \ \$ Cross and Passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

The sacred ministers leave during the following hymn.

LO! he comes with clouds descending, Once for favoured sinners slain; Thousand thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of his train: Alleluya! God appears, on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him Robed in dreadful majesty; Those who set at nought and sold him, Pierced and nailed him to the tree, Deeply wailing Shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion Still his dazzling body bears, Cause of endless exultation To his ransomed worshippers: With what rapture Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!
Charles Wesley (1707-88)

The service concludes with the organ voluntary.

Refreshments are served in the hall after the 10.00 Sung Mass.

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



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, BRENTWOOD

SERVICES & EVENTS

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2025

Sat 22nd Nov

Christmas Bazaar 11am - 4pm

Advent Sunday: 30th Nov

8am - Mass 10am - Sung Mass 6pm - Advent Procession & Carols

Wed 3rd Dec

6:30pm - Civic Carol Service

Sat 6th Dec

7pm - A Very Merry Christmas Concert

Sunday 7th Dec

8am - Mass 10am - Sung Mass 6pm - Blue Christmas Evensong

Friday 12th Dec

5:00pm - Carols & Chilli

Sunday 14th Dec

8am - Mass 10am - All Age Sung Mass 6pm - Celebratory Sung Mass for Fr Ossie

Sunday 21st Dec

8am - Mass 10am - Sung Mass 6pm - Nine Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve: Tues 24th Dec

4pm - Christingle for young children 6pm - Christingle for older children 11:30pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day: Wed 25th Dec

8am - Mass 10am - Sung Mass

Sunday 28th Dec

8am - Mass 10am - Mass (no choir)



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