

THE PARISH OF SAINT PAUL

DEPTFORD



'anglo-catholic, inclusive, committed to prayer & justice.'

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/deptford-st-paul>

The Rector & Parish Priest: Fr Paul Butler

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Welcome to S. Paul's today in church or on Zoom.

Please follow the directions of the Churchwardens & Welcomers.



Please turn off mobile phones.

No form of visual or sound **recording**, or any form of **photography** is permitted during or after the services, without express permission. Thank you for your co-operation.



WCs (& baby changing facilities) downstairs in the crypt.

Do not attend if you have Covid, symptoms, or a cold.

Please let a Welcomer know if you require a **Gluten Free Host**.

'Love one another as I have loved you', says the Lord.



Churchwardens: Ms Lavern Ford & Mr Andrew Taylor
Organist: Mr Ian Bhullar

CHRISTMASS DAY

25th December 2025

THE PARISH MASS

10.30am

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector



Brian Kavanagh

Please join in with the Bold Type.

Mass of St Thomas by David Thorne

¶ **THE INTRODUCTORY RITES**

Stand

Entrance Antiphon

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; Authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Cf. Isaiah 9: 6*

Station at the Crib

The Christmass Candle is lighted.

Merciful and most loving God,
by whose will and generous gift Jesus Christ our Lord
humbled himself to exalt our human race,
took our flesh to restore in us your image,
and was born of the Virgin to raise up the lowly:
grant to us the inheritance of the meek, perfect us in your likeness,
and bring us at the end to rejoice in the vision of your beauty,
and with all your saints to glorify your grace;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Crib is censed.

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ, Amen.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL

Originally titled: 'SONG of the Angels, at the Nativity of our Blessed Saviour'

Words: Nahum Tate. Tune: Cranbrook by Thomas Clark,

Also the tune for "On Ilkka Moor Baht 'at".

1. While Shepherds watched their Flocks by Night,
all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
The angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.
and glory shone around.
and glory shone around.

2. "Fear not," said he, (for mighty Dread
had seized their troubled Mind);
"Glad tidings of great Joy I bring
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all Mankind".
to you and all Mankind".
to you and all Mankind".

3. "To you, in David's Town this Day
is born, of David's Line,
The Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
The Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the Sign":
and this shall be the Sign":
and this shall be the Sign":

4. "The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human View displayed,
All meanly wrapped in Swathing Bands
All meanly wrapped in Swathing Bands
and in a Manger laid".
and in a Manger laid".
and in a Manger laid".

5. Thus spake the Seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining Throng
Of angels praising God, and thus
Of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:
addressed their joyful song:
addressed their joyful song:

6. "All Glory be to God on high,
and to the Earth be Peace;
Good Will, henceforth, from Heaven to Men,
Good Will, henceforth, from Heaven to Men,
begin and never cease."
begin and never cease."
begin and never cease."

Remain standing

The Greeting

✠ 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 Introduction to the Mass

The celebrant welcomes the people and introduces the Mass.

Prayers of Penitence

Sisters and brothers, to prepare ourselves to celebrate
the sacred mysteries, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

The Confiteor

**I confess to almighty God,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done,
and in what I have failed to do;**

(And, striking their breast, they say:)

**through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;**

(Then they continue:)

**therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin,
all the angels and saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord, our God. Amen.**

*The celebrant pronounces **the Absolution***

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
✠ 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.**

The Kyrie Eleison

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

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

**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.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

**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.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

**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.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

The Collect

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
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 for the readings.

First Reading from the Old Testament

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (52: 7-10)

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger
who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces
salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' ⁸ Listen! Your
sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain
sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹ Break forth together
into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his
people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy
arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth
shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 98

**R./ All the ends of the earth have
seen the victory of our God.**

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvellous things.

² With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory. **R. /**

³ The LORD has made known his victory;

his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

⁴ He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. **R. /**

⁵ Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

⁶ Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁷ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the King, the LORD. **R. /**

⁸ Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.

⁹ Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the
LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.

¹⁰ In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity. **R. /**

Second Reading from the New Testament

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. (1: 1- 12)

¹ Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by
the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son,
whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created
the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint
of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.
When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand
of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels
as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵ For to
which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have
begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'?
⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let
all God's angels worship him.' ⁷ Of the angels he says, 'He makes his
angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' ⁸ But of the Son he says,
'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre
is the sceptre of your kingdom.' ⁹ You have loved righteousness and
hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with
the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' ¹⁰ And, 'In the beginning,
Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your
hands; ¹¹ they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like
clothing; ¹² like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they
will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Stand & turn to face the Gospel

Gospel Acclamation and Reading

♫ **Alleluia!** A hallowed day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations, worship the Lord. ♫ **Alleluia**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

✠ A reading from ✠ Holy Gospel according to ✠ **S. John (1: 1-14)**
Glory to you, O Lord.



¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. ⁴ What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of a man, but of God. ¹⁴ (Kneel) And the Word became flesh and lived among us, (Rise) and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

Stand

Niceno-Constantinopolitan 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,
(Genuflect) was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and was made human. (Rise)**

**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 \times age to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Celebrant

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
The Response to Holy God, is, **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor 1

Father, in this holy day your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God.

Intercessor 2

In this holy day there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty. Holy God.

Intercessor 3

In this holy day Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress. Holy God.

Intercessor 4

In this holy day your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God.

Intercessor 5

In this holy day the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world.
Holy God.

Intercessor 6

In this holy day shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Holy God.

Intercessor 7

In this holy day strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God.

Intercessor 8

In this holy day heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to
heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in
the hope of your coming kingdom.

\times Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.
and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace **and rise in glory.**

Intercessor 9

In this holy day Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God

*The celebrant invites us to offer our personal intentions,
And then leads us in asking for the Prayers of our Lady & the Saints.*

Father, in this holy day angels and shepherds worshipped at
the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer
in fellowship with the Blessed Virgin Mary, as we pray:
**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. Amen.**

S. Joseph, Spouse of the BVM, **Pray for us.** Holy Shepherds
S. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, S. Paul, our Patron
S. Paul the Apostle, our Patron, S. Joseph of Nazareth
S. Elizabeth & S. Zechariah, S. John the Baptist
S. Augustine & S. Monica, S. Benedict & S. Scholastica
S. Francis & S. Clare of Assisi, All you angels and saints

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

Remain standing

¶ THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Altar is prepared

THE OFFERTORY CAROL

*Words: Latin, possibly by John Francis Wade,
& English trans: Frederick Oakeley
Tune: Adeste Fidelis*

1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, [Latin: Venite adoremus]
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord! [Dominum]

2. God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created: **Refrain**

3. See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps: **Refrain**

4. Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? **Refrain**

5. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God in the highest:" **Refrain**

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: **Refrain**

Remain standing

Orate Fratres

Pray my sisters and brothers,
that 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.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day,
when you manifested the reconciliation
that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight
and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

*Here follows the Preface in which the celebrant praises God for his mighty acts,
and all respond:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
 \times Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The celebrant recalls the Last Supper, and this acclamation is used:
Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly:
AMEN.

THE COMMUNION RITE

Remain standing

The Lord's Prayer

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

**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.**

The celebrant adds,

*Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day.
In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all distress
as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom
where you live for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We share the peace by bowing to those immediately around us,
a sign that expresses peace, communion, and love.*



Agnus Dei

*during which the celebrant takes the host and breaks it over the paten,
placing a small piece in the chalice.*

**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

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.**

Communion Antiphon

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. *Psalms 98:3*

Please follow the directions of the sidespeople.

The Body / Blood of Christ.

The communicant replies each time:

Amen.

and then receives.

* At home, make an 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.

(S. Alphonsus Liguori)

*As you imagine yourself receiving the Bread of Heaven, be still and rest in the love
of God. Thank Him for entering beneath the roof of your soul.*

COMMUNION CAROL

Words: Christina Rossetti. Tune: Cranham

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

3. Enough for Him, Whom cherubim, worship night and day,
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, Whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

4. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

5. What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

After receiving Holy Communion read & pray quietly in thanksgiving.

THE JESUS PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

THE TRISAGION (Thrice Holy)

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, Have mercy on us. (x3)

The Work of Christmas Begins By Howard Washington Thurman

When the Song of the Angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among people,
to make music in the heart.



Howard Washington Thurman, (1899 – 1981)

was an American author, philosopher, theologian, mystic, educator, and civil rights leader. As a prominent religious figure, he played a leading role in many social justice movements and organizations of the twentieth century. Thurman's theology of radical nonviolence influenced and shaped a

generation of civil rights activists, and he was a key mentor to leaders within the civil rights movement, including Martin Luther King Jr. Thurman served as dean of Rankin Chapel at Howard University from 1932 to 1944 and as dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University from 1953 to 1965. In 1944, he co-founded, along with Alfred Fisk, the first major interracial, interdenominational church in the United States. Howard Thurman died on April 10, 1981, in San Francisco, California.

INCARNATION

THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US.

In Christian theology, the incarnation is the belief that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, also known as God the Son or the Logos (Koine Greek for "word"), "was made flesh" by being conceived in the womb of a woman, the Virgin Mary, also known as the Theotokos (Greek for "God-bearer"). The doctrine of the incarnation, then, entails that Jesus is fully God and fully human.

In the incarnation, as traditionally defined by those Churches that adhere to the Council of Chalcedon, the divine nature of the Son was united but not mixed with human nature in one divine person, Jesus, who was both "truly God and truly man". This is central to the traditional faith held by most Christians. Alternative views on the subject (see Ebionites and the Gospel of the Hebrews) have been proposed throughout the centuries, but all were rejected by Nicene Christianity.

The incarnation is commemorated and celebrated each year at Christmas, and also reference can be made to the Feast of the Annunciation; "different aspects of the mystery of the incarnation" are celebrated at Christmas and the Annunciation.

The noun **incarnation** derives from the ecclesiastical Latin verb *incarno*, itself derived from the prefix *in-* and *'caro'*, "flesh", meaning "to make into flesh" or, in the passive, "to be made flesh". The verb *incarno* does not occur in the Latin Bible but the term is drawn from the Gospel of John 1:14 "et Verbum caro factum est" (Vulgate), King James Version: "and the Word was made flesh".

'The incarnation is the irruption of God into human history: an incarnation into littleness and service in the midst of overbearing power exercised by the mighty of this world; an irruption that smells of the stable.

The Son of God was born into a little people, a nation of little importance by comparison with the powers of the time. He took flesh among the poor in a marginal area—namely, Galilee; he lived with the poor and emerged from among them to inaugurate a kingdom of love and justice. That is why many have trouble recognizing him.'

Fr Gustavo Gutiérrez, OP (1928–2024)

'the father of liberation theology',

*from his book, **The God of Life** (1991), Orbis Press*

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Stand

Postcommunion Prayer

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The Solemn Blessing

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us bow our heads and pray for God's Blessing.

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation
of the world, shed that love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May Christ,
who by his incarnation
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal



At the Crib

The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord brought glad tidings to Mary;
And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

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. Amen.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it unto me according to thy Word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made flesh.

And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us O holy Mother of God.

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

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 unto the glory of his Resurrection;
through the same Christ our Lord.

RECESSIONAL CAROL

*Words: Anon. This carol is one of the oldest extant carols,
dated to the 16th century or earlier. Tune: Traditional*

1. God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour
was born on Christmas Day;
To save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray.

Refrain

**O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

2. In Bethlehem, in Israel,
this blessèd Babe was born,
And laid within a manger
upon this blessèd morn;
The which His mother Mary
did nothing take in scorn. **Refrain**

3. From God our heavenly Father
a blessèd angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born,
the Son of God by name. **Refrain**

4. "Fear not, then," said the angel,
"Let nothing you afright
This day is born a Saviour
of a pure Virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him
from Satan's power and might." **Refrain**

5. The shepherds at those tidings
rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest,
storm and wind,
And went to Beth'lem straightaway
this blessed Babe to find. **Refrain**

6. But when to Bethlehem they came
where our dear Saviour lay,
They found Him in a manger
where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling
unto the Lord did pray. **Refrain**

7. Now to the Lord sing praises
all you within this place,
And with true love and solidarity
each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
all others doth deface'. **Refrain**

8. God bless the ruler of this house,
and send him long to reign,
And many a merry Christmas
may live to see again;
Among your friends and kindred
that live both far and near—

That God send you a happy new year,
happy new year,
And God send you a happy new year.

*The carol's use of 'deface' is Middle English, now archaic, to be understood
not as spoil or vandalise but as efface (outshine, eclipse).

✠✠✠✠✠

Organ Voluntary

✠✠✠✠✠

∞ PLEASE MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE CRYPT FOR
REFRESHMENTS & TAKE THIS SHEET AWAY WITH YOU. ∞

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**The Rector and Churchwardens,
on behalf of everyone at S. Paul's, Deptford,
wish you a very blessed and joyful Christmass!**

THE COLLECTION OF MONEY

is taken for the Mission & Ministry of the Church.

Please see the **Financial Information** section in the **Notices** on the
back page of this Mass Sheet for further information about giving to S. Paul's.
Contactless payment and Yellow envelopes are provided for the gifts of
visitors. Please fill in the front of the envelope or enter the details on
the machine so that we can claim Gift Aid on your offering.

Regular members of S. Paul's should be giving by Direct Debit,
or be part of the parish envelope scheme.

Please see the Churchwardens or Hon. Treasurer for further details.

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for the Catholic Worker Newspaper, Volume LXXXIX, No 7, (2021).

At the Gospel: 'Nativity' by Fritz Eichenberg, for the 'Catholic Worker' (1952).

At the Peace: 'The Peaceable Kingdom' by Fritz Eichenberg, for the 'Catholic Worker'
(1960).

THE KALENDAR CHRISTMASS OCTAVE MASS & Other Service Times in church

THURS, 25th, CHRISTMASS DAY, Mass 10.30am, EP 6pm
FRI, 26th, S. Stephen, Protomartyr, Mass 10am, EP 6pm
SAT, 27th, S. John the Evangelist, Mass 10am, EP 6pm

28th DECEMBER 2025 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY 1st SUNDAY of CHRISTMASS

MORNING PRAYER at 9am

PARISH MASS SUNG at 10.30am

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector

EVENING PRAYER, Holy Innocents, at 5pm

MON, 29th, S. Thomas Becket, No Public Liturgies
TUES, 30th, 6th Day in Christmass Octave, Mass 10.00am, EP 6pm
WEDS, 31st, S. Sylvester, Mass 10.00am, EP 6pm
THURS, 1st JANUARY 2026, NEW YEAR'S DAY,
NAMING & CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS, Mass 10.00am, EP 6pm
FRI, 2nd, Ss. Basil & Gregory Nazianzus, EP 6pm

DAILY OFFICE: MP = Morning Prayer, EP = Evening Prayer

THE NOTICES

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION at PARISH MASS
Sunday, 15th February 2026.

Please also let Fr Paul know if you are interested in
HOLY BAPTISM &/or in **HOLY CONFIRMATION**

Ω S. PAUL'S OMEGA STUDY GROUP Ω
Meets some Thursdays, 8.30 - 10pm on Zoom.

Next date to be agreed. All welcome.

Info & login details on Parish website & the Rector's Weekly Email.
Open to ideas as to what we might read and discuss in 2026.

Church Cleaning on Saturday after Mass until 12.30pm.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

'The Lord loves a cheerful giver.'

The Church, based upon biblical teaching, asks every Christian to give a Tithes, 10% of their time,
talents & money to God's work, and recommends that members contribute 5% of their income to
their church. **E.g. If you earn:** £5000 a year or, £96 a week = Give £5 a week to S. Paul's.
£10000 a year, £192 a week = £10 a week. £20000 a year, £385 a week = £20 a week.
£25000 a year, £480 a week = £25 a week. £30000 a year, £577 a week = £30 a week.
Over the year our costs run to almost £1,000 a week. We receive no external subsidies,
and all monies must be raised from the parishioners, through lettings, or voluntary
donations. **Thank you** for all financial contributions which help to pay for: - the: Utility bills of
the church, (gas, electricity, water) - Costs of maintaining the worship, (e.g. candles, wine, wafers,
incense) - Maintenance, cleaning, & repair of our Grade I Listed church, (substantial costs) - Office
costs (e.g. postage, printing, paper) - Monthly Diocesan Parish Share to the Diocese, (80p out of
every £1 we give to the Diocese goes towards clergy stipends).

**We ask everyone, who can, to please give via Direct Debit, Standing Order,
or, via the Weekly Envelope Scheme.**

GIVING VIA DIRECT DEBIT: Please see the **PARISH GIVING SCHEME**
information leaflet and Direct Debit Form, on the Parish Website.

ONLINE GIVING: Our **Give A Little** page is available on our website,
via the **Donate** button, or here: <https://bit.ly/spd-giving>

✠ FURTHER INFORMATION & UPDATES ✠

On the **Parish Website, Church Noticeboard** (churchyard
forecourt) & **Subscribe to the Rector's Weekly Email** directly
from the link on the website or by sending an email to:

stpaulsdeptford@btinternet.com

sent every Friday via MailChimp (GDPR compliant)