



# St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton

This week's music and notices

## **Sunday 21st December 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**11.15am Choral Eucharist** in the Nave

**6.30pm Nine Lesson and Carols**

in the Nave

### **The week ahead**

*Church will close after Eucharist on Christmas morning and will reopen on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (there will however be a Sung Eucharist on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December).*

### **Tuesday 23rd December**

**10.00am No Pebbles this week**

A free group for pre-school children and their parents/carers

### **Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve**

**4.00pm Christingle** in the Nave

**11.30pm Midnight Mass** in the Nave

### **Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day**

**11.15am Choral Eucharist** in the Nave

### **Sunday 28th December - First Sunday of Christmas**

**11.15am Sung Eucharist** in the Nave

# Sunday 21st December 2025 - 11.15am

## Choral Eucharist

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### Musical Setting

Missa brevis - Palestrina

### Introit Hymn

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel!**  
Redeem thy captive Israel,  
That into exile drear is gone  
Far from the face of God's dear Son.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high!**  
Who madest all in earth and sky,  
Creating man from dust and clay:  
To us reveal salvation's way.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!...*

**3. O come, O come, Adonai,**  
Who in thy glorious majesty  
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,  
Gavest thy folk the ancient law.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!...*

**4. O come, thou Root of Jesse!**  
Draw the quarry from the lion's claw,  
From those dread caverns of the grave,  
From nether hell, thy people save.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!...*

**5. O come, thou Lord of David's Key!**  
The royal door fling wide and free;  
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,  
And bar the way to death's abode.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!...*

**6. O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!**  
Pour on our souls thy healing light;  
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,  
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!...*

**7. O come, Desire of nations!**  
Show thy kingly reign on earth below;  
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,  
Restore the ruin of our fall.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!...*

*Tune: Veni Emmanuel (NEH 11)*  
*Words: Cologne 1710, based on the Ancient Advent Antiphons*  
*Tr. T. A. Lacey (1853-1931) and Editors*

### Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### First Reading

**Romans 1. 1 - 7**

## **Gradual Hymn**

**1. Hail, holy Joseph, hail!  
Husband of Mary, hail!  
Chaste as the lily flower  
In Eden's peaceful vale.**

**3. Hail, holy Joseph, hail!  
Prince of the house of God,  
May his blest graces be  
By thy sweet hands bestowed.**

**5. Hail, holy Joseph, hail!  
God's choice wert thou alone;  
To thee the Word made flesh  
Was subject as a son.**

**2. Hail, holy Joseph, hail!  
Father of Christ esteemed,  
Father be thou to those  
Thy foster Son redeemed.**

**4. Hail, holy Joseph, hail!  
Comrade of angels, hail!  
Cheer thou the hearts that faint,  
And guide the steps that fail.**

**6. Mother of Jesu, bless,  
And bless, ye saints on high,  
All meek and simple souls,  
That to Saint Joseph cry.**

*Tune: St Cecilia (NEH 499)*

*Word: Frederick W. Faber (1814-63)*

## **Gospel**

## **Matthew 1. 18 - end**

## **Offertory Hymn**

**1. O food of men wayfaring,  
The Bread of Angels sharing,  
O Manna from on high!  
We hunger; Lord, supply us,  
Nor thy delights deny us,  
Whose hearts to thee draw nigh.**

**3. O Jesu, by thee bidden,  
We here adore thee, hidden  
'Neath forms of bread and wine.  
Grant when the veil is riven,  
We may behold, in heaven,  
Thy countenance divine.**

**2. O stream of love past telling,  
O purest Fountain, welling  
From out the Saviour's side!  
We faint with thirst; revive us,  
Of thine abundance give us,  
And all we need provide.**

*Tune: In Allen Meinen Thaten (NEH 300)*

*Words: Latin 17th Century*

*Tr. Athelstan Riley (1858-1945)*

## **Post Communion Motet**

*Alma redemptoris mater - Palestrina*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Final Hymn**

**1. 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.**

**3. 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!**

**2. 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.**

**4. 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!**

*Tune: Helmsley (NEH 9)  
Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## **Organ Voluntary**

## **Nine Lessons and Carols - 6.30pm**

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*Please see separate service sheet*

## **Wednesday 24th December 2025 Christingle - 4.00pm**

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*Please see separate service sheet*

## **Wednesday 24th December 2025 Midnight Mass - 11.30pm**

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*Please see separate service sheet*

# **Wednesday 25th December 2025**

## **Choral Eucharist - 11.15am**

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### **Musical Setting**

Festive Mass - Rawsthorne

#### **Introit Hymn**

**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:  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

**3. See how the Shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with  
lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:  
*O come, let us, etc.***

**5. Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and  
love;  
Who would not love thee,  
Loving us so dearly?  
*O come, let us, etc.***

**7. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
*O come, let us, etc.***

**2. God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's  
womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:  
*O come, let us, etc.***

**4. Lo! star-led chieftans,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
We to the Christ Child  
Bring our heart's oblations:  
*O come, let us, etc.***

**6. Sing, choirs of Angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven  
above;  
'Glory to God  
in the Highest:'  
*O come, let us, etc.***

*Tune: Adeste fideles (NEH 30)*

*Words: Latin 18th century*

*Tr. Frederick Oakekey (1802-1880) and others*

### **Collect**

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.**

### **First Reading**

**Titus 2. 11 - 14**

### **Gradual Hymn**

**1. While shepherds watched their  
flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.**

**2. 'Fear not', said he (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.**

**3. To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
And this shall be the sign:**

**4. The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid.'**

**5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
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  
Begin and never cease.'**

*Tune: Winchester Old (NEH 42)  
Words: Nahum Tate(1652-1715)*

### **Gospel**

**Luke 2. 1- 14**

### **Offertory Hymn**

**1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.**

**2. O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.**

**3. How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his Heaven,  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him,  
Still the dear Christ enters in.**

**4. O holy child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.**

*Tune: Forest Green (NEH 32)  
Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks*

**Post Communion Motet**      Still, still, still - Wilberg

### **Post Communion 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.**

### **Final Hymn**

**1. Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King,  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem:  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new born King.***

**2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail, the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel:  
*Hark...***

**3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth:  
*Hark...***

*Tune: Mendelssohn (NEH 26)  
Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others*

### **Organ Voluntary**



# **Sunday 28th December 2025**

## **Sung Eucharist - 11.15am**

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### **Musical Setting**

Mass of St Thomas - Thorne

### **Introit Hymn**

**1. Unto us a boy is born!  
King of all creation,  
Came he to a world forlorn,  
The Lord of every nation.**

**2. Cradled in a stall was he  
With sleepy cows and asses;  
But the very beasts could see  
That he all men surpasses.**

**3. Herod then with fear was filled:  
'A prince', he said, 'in Jewry!'  
And all the little boys he killed  
At Bethlem in his fury.**

**4. Now may Mary's son, who came  
So long ago to love us,  
Lead us all with hearts aflame  
Unto the joys above us.**

**5. Omega and Alpha he!  
Let the organ thunder,  
While the choir with peals of glee  
Doth rend the air asunder.**

*Tune: Puer Nobis (NEH 39)  
Words: Latin, 15th Century  
Tr. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)*

### **Collect**

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace; 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.**

### **First Reading**

**1 Corinthians 1. 26 - 29**

### **Gradual Hymn**

**1. Lovely flowers of martyrs, hail!  
Smitten by the tyrant foe,  
On life's threshold,—as the gale  
Strews the roses ere they blow.**

**2. First to die for Christ—sweet lambs,  
At the very altar ye,  
With your fatal crowns and palms,  
Sport in your simplicity.**

**3. Yet is Herod's wrath in vain,  
Though a thousand babes he slay;  
Christ, amid a thousand slain,  
Is in safety borne away.**

**4. Honour, virtue, glory, merit,  
Be to thee, O Virgin's Son,  
With the Father and the Spirit,  
While eternal ages run.**

*Tune: Aus Der Tiefe (NEH 67)  
Words: Edward Caswall (1814-78)*

## **Gospel**

## **Matthew 2. 13 - 18**

### **Offertory Hymn**

**1. A great and mighty wonder,  
A full and holy cure!  
The Virgin bears the Infant  
With virgin-honour pure.  
*Repeat the hymn again!*  
*'To God on high be glory,  
And peace on earth to men!'***

**2. The Word becomes incarnate  
And yet remains on high!  
And Cherubim sing anthems  
To shepherds from the sky.  
*Repeat the hymn again!...***

**3. While thus they sing your  
Monarch,  
Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,  
Ye oceans clap your hands.  
*Repeat the hymn again!...***

**4. Since all he comes to ransom,  
By all be he adored,  
The Infant born in Bethl'em,  
The Saviour and the Lord.  
*Repeat the hymn again!...***

**5. And idol forms shall perish,  
And error shall decay,  
And Christ shall wield his sceptre,  
Our Lord and God for ay.  
*Repeat the hymn again!...***

*Tune: Es Ist Ein' Ros' Entsprungen (NEH 21)  
Words: Greek, St Germanus (634-734)  
Tr. J. M. Neale (1818-66)*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, in your humility you have stooped to share our human life with the most defenceless of your children: may we who have received these gifts of your passion rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents to the purity of your sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; for you are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Final Hymn**

**1. God rest you 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:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort  
and joy!*  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!***

**3. And when they came to Bethlehem  
Where our dear Saviour lay,  
They found him in a manger,  
Where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling down,  
Unto the Lord did pray:  
*O tidings...***

**2. From God our heavenly Father  
A blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name:  
*O tidings...***

**4. Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All other doth efface:  
*O tidings...***

*Tune: God Rest You Merry (NEH 25)  
Words: Traditional*

## Notices

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### **Bible Readings for all services**

References for the readings for all our services can be found in this booklet. If you wish to follow the readings, they are available online at [bible.oremus.org](http://bible.oremus.org) (we use NRSV version), or perhaps consider bringing your own Bible. If you are reading this booklet online you are now able to click on the reading heading and this will take you directly to the Bible reading.

### **Visiting Priests at St Peter's**

Our Presidents and Preachers for the next few Sundays will be:

21st December	Choral Eucharist	Rev Preb. Dr Sarah Schofield
	Nine Lesson and Carols	Rev Paul Farthing
24th December	Midnight Mass	Right Rev Dr Tim Wambunya, Bishop of Wolverhampton and Rev Preb. Dr Sarah Schofield
25th December	Choral Eucharist	Rev Paul Farthing
28th December	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Adrian Dorber

### **South Door Access - Now open**

We are pleased to say that the damaged pinnacles have now been removed and the church can be accessed by the south door and disabled ramp.

### **Christmas Opening Hours**

Church will be closed following Choral Eucharist on Christmas morning and will reopen for Sung Eucharist on Sunday 28th. Following this service church will be closed until Monday 5th January.

(Eucharist services will be offered on Sunday 4th January at St Chad & St Marks as well All Saints for anyone wishing to attend.)

### **St Peter's Car Park**

**The council have given agreement for members of the congregation to park for free if attending Christingle, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Eucharist.**

The barrier giving access to the car park should be up to allow parking for St Peter's congregation on Sunday mornings and evenings. A new key pad has been installed to allow entry and exit if the barrier is down. The code is 2642. (this is strictly for use on Sundays only). **Please remember to display your yellow notice to signify that you are attending St Peter's.**

### **Christmas Card Box**

The Christmas Card box is now at the back of church for you to exchange Christmas Greetings with other members of the congregation. With the price of postage a lot of people have given up sending cards but this is a way of doing so without the expense. Please do not leave cards for people who are not likely to attend church during the festive season. They will not be delivered unless by a friend who has checked for them. So please look through all the slots to see if you could deliver to someone you know is not going to be able to collect. The box will be in situ until the New Year but after that any cards left will be recycled.

### **Do you think you'd enjoy Flower Arranging ?**

St Peter's have a few volunteers who create and /or maintain floral displays on a weekly basis. We are looking for people to join us.

We work as a team but often there are not enough of us to attend each week.

No experience is necessary and we welcome enthusiasm and new ideas. Please call into Church or phone the church office on 01902 422642.

### **Junior Church**

Junior Church will take place on the following dates.

4th January and 18th January

### **Lunchtime Live!**

These free Friday lunchtime recitals take place at 1.15pm on the following dates;

16th January          Sebastien Sgouraditis          Voice

### **Church Website**

Our church website is now back up and running. Details can be found at

**<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Peter-Wolverhampton>**

### **Pastoral support at St Peter's**

There is a small team of volunteers to offer support to members of our church community in time of need. The volunteers are;

Kath Harrow  
Akosua Ankrah

Di Polowyj

Michael Oginni

### **Photography/Filming**

Could we please ask that no photography or filming takes place during our services for safeguarding reasons.

### **Good Shepherd Food Donations**

There is a box at the back of church for donations to the Good Shepherd Ministry. If you have any tins or dried goods please consider donating them. Men's toiletries are also on their shopping list, copies of which are available next to the box.

### **Friends of the Music**

If you would like to help us continue our work in producing the choral musicians of the future, please consider either giving us a one-off donation or becoming a Friend. One-off donations can be made directly to our account via the details below, and if you wish to become a member of the Friends of the Music, please complete the form in the leaflets at the back of church and return it to the Parish Office.

Account Name: Friends of St Peter's Church Music

Sort Code: 30-99-83 Account Number: 02010234

# Giving

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## General & Gift Aid Donations

Those who are UK taxpayers and who wish to make a donation are asked to use one of the small white envelopes which can be found by the doors and in the pews.

Please ensure that you fill in your details in ink on the front. This will enable HMRC to add 25% to your gift. If you would like to commit yourself to regular giving through our envelope scheme, please ask one of the stewards or churchwardens

### Contactless Payments

A contactless machine for donations is at the back of church. It is possible to gift aid your donation by following the onscreen instructions (you only need do this once).

St Peter's welcomes donations via our 'Give a Little' page, by using the following link **St Peter's - Give a Little** or by scanning the QR code



## Standing Orders

Perhaps the simplest way to give regularly is by Standing Order.

Please tell us so that we can do what's necessary to claim Gift Aid.

Please email us for our bank details.

## Giving by Post

You are most welcome to send regular and one-off donations by posting a cheque (please see address below) but please do not send cash.

## Contact Us

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**Parish Office, St Peter's House, 4 Exchange Street, WV1 1TS**

**email: [wolvescentralparish@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wolvescentralparish@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Phone: 01902 422642**

<b>University Chaplain</b>	Rev Preb. Dr Sarah Schofield	322904
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Deborah Castle	341660
	Alan Bickley	741617
<b>Deputy Churchwarden</b>	Di Polowyj	764513 / 07904605529
<b>Chief Steward</b>	Sue Butler	07899 723050
<b>Director of Music</b>	Louis Stockton	422642
<b>Head of Pastoral Care</b>	Di Polowyj	764513 / 07904605529
<b>Safeguarding &amp; Child Protection</b>	Di Polowyj	422642 / 07904605529
<b>Assistant Safeguarding Officer</b>	Ellie Frith	07905 769030
<b>Bell Ringers</b>	Richard Robson	790853
<b>St Peter's House</b>	Coffee Shop	546866
<b>Gift Shop</b>	Tony Perry	343109