



St Mary the Virgin & All Saints Potters Bar

14th December 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent

*A warm welcome to St Mary's
especially if this is your first time here.*

Refreshments are served in the hall after the Parish Eucharist.

TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00am **HOLY COMMUNION**

10.00am **PARISH EUCHARIST**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35 vv 1-10 *The prophet describes the great joy of those who return from exile to their own land – and this is also a picture of the happiness of those who shall be redeemed by Christ.*

New Testament Reading: James 5 vv 7-10 *We are bidden to be patient and to put our faith in God.*

Gospel: Matthew 11 vv 2-11 *John the Baptist sends disciples to question Jesus.*

Hymns: 12, 494, 9, 276, 18

5.00pm **EVENSONG** **Hymns:** 15, 6, 408

The Week Ahead

Monday Dame Alice Owen's School rehearsing in church all day for Carol Service at **6.30pm**

Tuesday 9.30am Morning Prayer
10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 9.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Ladbrooke School rehearsal
3.30pm Carol singing at Greenhill care home – singers welcome!
5.00pm Evening Prayer
6.00pm Ladbrooke School Christmas celebration

Thursday 9.30am Holy Communion (*in choir vestry*)
Chancellor's School rehearsing in church all day for Carol Service at **7.00pm**
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Friday 9.30am Morning Prayer (*in choir vestry*)
9.30am – 11.30am Church cleaning session
12.30pm Funeral of Anthony Dwyer
5.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

Next Sunday is the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am **PARISH EUCHARIST**

5.00pm **NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Eucharist readings next Sunday are: Isaiah 7 vv 10-16;
Romans 1 vv 1-7 and Matthew 1 vv 18-25.

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CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

Sunday 21st December at 5.00pm – Carol Service
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Eve at 4.00pm – Christingle & Crib Service

Christmas Eve at 11.30pm – Midnight Mass

Christmas Day at 10.00am – Family Eucharist
followed by festive drinks and mince pies

Parish Notices

Many thanks to those who have offered to act as stewards at this week's school events. One more volunteer for each event would be useful – please sign the list if you can help.

Please let Fr Stefan know if you can join him on **Wednesday** at 3.30pm to help with singing carols to the residents of Greenhill care home in Wagon Road.

Church cleaning will take place **this Friday** from 9.30am to 11.30am. All help gratefully received.

Could you help to assemble and decorate the **Christmas tree** in church next Saturday? If so, please let Richard know

If you could help to **serve refreshments** after the Carol Service and/or **provide some mince pies**, please let Richard or Jenny Pearce know.

If you are interested in doing a **reading at the Carol Service**, please let Richard know.

Also please let Richard know if you could **serve festive drinks after the Christmas Day Eucharist**.

Would you like to give St Mary's a Christmas present?

There is a list on the noticeboard at the back of church with ideas, e.g. contributions to the purchase of candles, communion wine, photocopying paper etc.. All gifts, however small, will be gratefully received.

There is now a noticeboard available for you to pin up a **Christmas card** to all your friends at St Mary's.

For your prayers

The sick Anna Downes, Valerie Taylor, Elizabeth Liney, Joan Golden, Carlos Perez, Linda, Daren Elis, Maureen Alderman, Alison Stevens, Bob Keefe, Gill Efstathiou, Keith Andrews, Lisa Collins

We also pray for Keith Downes, Jayne Hutton, Janet Daniels, Francoise Groves-de-Milleret, Susan North, Julia, Tessa, Nicola Stiff, Ricky Mella, Betty Lockton, David Evans, Richard Barnes, Dave Gough, Pauline Phillips, Keith Probert

The recently departed

Anthony Dwyer, David Burrows, Marion North, David Reid

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week

Mary Embleton, Jack Zerfahs, Mollie Brown, Lilian Selby, Vera Betts, John Eke

Those preparing for Holy Matrimony

Adam Page & Marguerite McMahon

Our parish We remember those who live in Morven Close, Mount Grace Road and Mountway

Please send any items for this sheet to **Richard Osborn**

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Our livestreamed services are available at:

www.facebook.com/stmaryspb

COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your
messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of
your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready
your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient
to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the
world
we may be found an acceptable people
in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the
Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

PSALM OR CANTICLE

Either **Psalm 146:4-10**

R *The Lord shall reign for ever.*

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
Who made heaven and earth,
the sea and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;
Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong
and bread to those who hunger. **R**

The Lord looses those that are bound;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous; **R**

The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan and widow;
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.
The Lord shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Alleluia. **R**

Or **Luke 1:46b-55 (Magnificat)**

R *My soul doth magnify the Lord.*

My soul doth magnify the Lord
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me
and holy is his Name. **R**

And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm
he hath scattered the proud in the
imagination of their hearts. **R**

He hath put down the mighty from their seat
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things
and the rich he hath sent empty away. **R**

He remembering his mercy hath holpen
his servant Israel
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever. **R**



SECOND READING James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

POST COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.



The Lord shall reign for ev - er.