

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Save us, O Lord our God!  
And gather us from the nations,  
to give thanks to your holy name,  
and make it our glory to praise you.*

**COLLECT**

Grant us, Lord our God,  
that we may honour you with all our mind,  
and love everyone in truth of heart.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

*Amen.*

**FIRST READING** Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah.

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land,  
who do his just commands;  
seek righteousness; seek humility;  
perhaps you may be hidden  
on the day of the anger of the LORD.  
I will leave in your midst  
a people humble and lowly.  
They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD,  
those who are left in Israel;  
they shall do no injustice and speak no lies,  
nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue.  
For they shall graze and lie down,  
and none shall make them afraid.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm 146(145):6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10

R. Matthew 5:3

**R: *Blessed are the poor in spirit;  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

Or *Alleluia.*

1. It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever,  
who does justice to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the LORD who sets prisoners free. **R.**
2. The LORD who opens the eyes of the blind,  
the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the LORD who loves the just,  
the LORD who protects the stranger. **R.**
3. The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The LORD will reign for ever,  
your God, O Sion, from age to age. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Consider your calling, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the

world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL** Matthew 5:12a

**R: *Alleluia, Alleluia.***

Rejoice and be glad,  
for your reward is great in heaven.

**R: *Alleluia.***

**GOSPEL** Matthew 5:1-12a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

O Lord, we bring to your altar  
these offerings of our service:  
be pleased to receive them, we pray,  
and transform them  
into the Sacrament of our redemption.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Let your face shine on your servant.  
Save me in your merciful love.  
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.*

Or

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.  
Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourished by these redeeming gifts,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that through this help to eternal salvation  
true faith may ever increase.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*



## The Parish of St Anselm, Hayes

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The gospel today

contains the sayings of Jesus that are known as the Beatitudes. In these famous verses, Jesus explains the qualities of behaviour and attitude that

bring blessings on both those who show those qualities and those who receive and benefit from them. But when we live out these ways of being we also become beneficiaries. For example, Jesus tells us that if we show mercy to others, we will in turn receive mercy when we are in need of it. There's a saying that "what goes around, comes around". The Beatitudes are all examples of just that. But there's a sting in the tail, as there so often is in Jesus's teaching. Not everyone appreciates the values of righteousness and honesty because they fear that their own lives and behaviour will be found wanting by comparison. And so those of us who try to live out our faith in practice, and who call out wrongdoing and dishonesty, are sometimes likely to find ourselves being unpopular, or being unfairly accused. We will always run the risk of finding that some people will "utter all kinds of evil against [us] falsely on [Jesus's] account." But no-one ever said that being a disciple would be easy!

### Entrance Hymn

443 Blest are the pure in heart

### Offertory Hymn

467 Glorious things of thee are spoken

### Recessional

533 O God, our help in ages past

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THIS WEEK (Year A[2]; Psalm week 4)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Feast of The Presentation of the Lord. Offices said privately. Mass 1900.

3<sup>rd</sup>: *Tuesday of 4<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time. No services in church. Offices said privately. Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association 1700*

4<sup>th</sup>: *Wednesday of 4<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time. No services in church. Offices said privately.*

5<sup>th</sup>: *St Agatha, Virgin and Martyr. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000; Evening Office said privately.*

6<sup>th</sup>: *SS Paul Miki and Companions. No services in church.*



7<sup>th</sup>: *Saturday of 4<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time. No Services in church*

### NEXT SUNDAY

8<sup>th</sup> February: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Mass 1000.

### PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS

Kathyan Fenton; Desiree Loderick; Mr & Mrs DeGale, and Wioletta Dębska. (If you have a name for the list, please give the details to Fr Josiah or Fr Stephen.)

### ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

3<sup>rd</sup>: Madge Geake

5<sup>th</sup>: Eleanor Eades, Nellie Bennett, Maria Jones

7<sup>th</sup>: Elizabeth Ann Shackles, Jane Elizabeth Barnard, Lily Daniels, John Faithfull

**YOUNG CHILDREN IN CHURCH:** Don't worry if they make a noise or move about! Young visitors to the sanctuary are always welcome, so no drama if they go for a walk! We'll have a look at the children's work at the end of mass...

**FINANCIAL POSITION:** During December 2025, our income was £1,216.77, and our outgoings were £2,169.03. This was a much more difficult month for the church's bank balance, but there are some extenuating circumstances.

Bank opening times over Christmas and New Year were more restricted and not all the collection cash could be banked before the end of the month. We also have some large bills at this time of year. And the current winter weather will inevitably result in higher bills for heating. So, do please consider if you can increase your contributions to the church or make a one-off donation. Flash the QR code to get started!



### STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

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PLEASE JOIN US IN THE HALL AFTER MASS FOR TEA, COFFEE, AND FELLOWSHIP!

*Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.*