St Mary the Virgin & All Saints Potters Bar

8th November 2026

The Third Sunday before Advent (Remembrance Sunday)

A warm welcome to St Mary's especially if this is your first time here. Refreshments are served at the back of the church after the Family Eucharist

TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00am **SAID EUCHARIST**

9.30am **FAMILY EUCHARIST**

Old Testament Reading: Amos 5 vv 18-24 *Worship without righteousness is hateful in God's sight.*

New Testament Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4 vv 13-18 *St Paul speaks of the Resurrection and Second Coming of Christ.*

Gospel: Matthew 25 vv 1-13 *Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish maidens.*

Hymns: 354, 391, 417, 361
Anthem: How beautiful upon the mountains - Stainer

10.50am **Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial**

5.00pm **EVENSONG** **Hymns**: 353, 499, 331

This week's flowers have been arranged by Trisha Salmon and donated by Josephine Frimpong

The Week Ahead

Tuesday ***St Leo the Great, bishop & teacher of the faith***
9.30am Morning Prayer
10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors
10.30am St Mary's Friendship Group meets at the Oakmere Tea Rooms – all welcome
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday ***St Martin, bishop***
9.30am Said Eucharist
10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors
10.00am – 12 noon Carers' coffee morning in hall
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 9.30am Said Eucharist (BCP)
10.15am – 12 noon Church cleaning
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Friday ***Charles Simeon, priest & evangelical divine***
9.30am Morning Prayer
5.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

Saturday Hertfordshire Philharmonia rehearsing from 10.30am for their concert at **3.00pm**

Next Sunday is the **Second Sunday before Advent** which we shall keep as **Commitment Sunday**
8.00am Said Eucharist
10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**
The Eucharist readings will be: Zephaniah 1 vv 7, 12-18; 1 Thessalonians 5 vv 1-11 and Matthew 25 vv 14-30.

Fr Stefan Chrysostomou, *Vicar* Tel: 01707 859028
Email: vicar@stmaryspb.org.uk

If you wish to avoid the camera when services are livestreamed, it is best to sit in the side aisles



Parish Notices

Many thanks to those who provided and organised the refreshments at last Sunday's tea following the All Souls' Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance.

Church cleaning will take place **this Thursday** from 10.15am to 12 noon. If you can spare an hour to help, the cleaning team will be very grateful.

Hertfordshire Philharmonia return to St Mary's **next Saturday** with a concert of music suitable for Remembrance Day. Please note earlier time of **3.00pm**.

Our **Quiz Night** is on **Saturday 21st November** at 7pm in the church hall. A sign-up sheet for tickets (£10) is on the noticeboard. No food will be provided, so please bring your own nibbles/snacks. Drinks will be available to purchase, or you can bring your own. It would be a great help if payment could be made before the event either in cash (to Liz Nethercott) or by bank transfer. If you have already paid using the card machine, please let Liz know as it is not possible to identify payments made via that method.

Advent Sunday is **Sunday 29th November**. We shall mark this with the Advent Procession at **5.00pm** - an atmospheric service of music & readings when we shall be joined by members of other churches. We would like to offer tea, coffee and biscuits after this service. Please let Richard know if you could help with this.

The funeral of Margaret Terry will be in church on **Monday 30th November** at 11.00am.

Gift Aid To comply with HMRC regulations, we need everyone to complete a new Gift Aid declaration form. Forms are available at the back of church and can be returned to Liz Nethercott or put in the donations box.

For your prayers

The sick Elizabeth Liney, Anna Downes, Elizabeth Wiseman, Valerie Taylor, Francoise Groves-de-Milleret, Judy Makin, Sally, Maureen Alderman, Richard Peart, Alison Stevens, Pauline Phillips

We also pray for Keith Downes, Jayne Hutton, Susan North, Joan & Ron Golden, Sasha Burt, Nicola Stiff, Richard Barnes, Ricky Mella, David Evans, Tessa, Dave Gough, Prussia Blake

The recently departed Margaret Terry, Joyce Bowry

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week
Dorothy Forbes, Ian Traue, Brian Jarvis, Peter Smith, Geoffrey Masters, George Niblett, Joan Charlton

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

Please send any items for this sheet to **Richard Osborn**
Email: rmosborn@hotmail.com
Tel: 07803 756088 / 020 8363 8197

Website: www.stmaryspb.org.uk

Sunday 8 November 2026 Third Sunday before Advent

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either **Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16**

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

Or **Amos 5:18-24**

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

PSALM Psalm 70

R *Come to me quickly, O God.*

O God, make speed to save me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
Let those who seek my life
be put to shame and confusion;
let them be turned back and disgraced
who wish me evil.
Let those who mock and deride me
turn back because of their shame. **R**

But let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say always, "Great is the Lord!"
As for me, I am poor and needy;
come to me quickly, O God.
You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-end

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

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

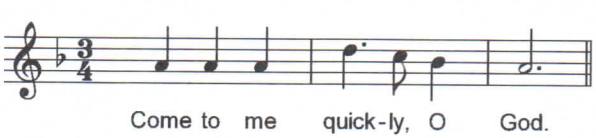
GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

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

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples: "The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

POST COMMUNION

God of peace,
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom
and restored the broken to wholeness of life:
look with compassion on the anguish of the world,
and by your healing power
make whole both people and nations;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



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