

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

tel: 0208 6927449 email: stpaulsdeptford@btinternet.com

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 William Parkinson

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
21st DECEMBER 2025

THE PARISH MASS
SUNG
10.30am

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector

Mass of St Thomas by David Thorne

Hymns in NEH (green book)

Please join in with the Bold Type



we come to church to meet Christ. The experience of worship is enhanced by being in church early. This provides a time of transition to free our minds from the distractions of the world and, as Psalm 46 says, "Be still, and know that I am God." We pray that God will reveal himself to you in a new way today.

¶ PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

The first movement of worship is to leave our homes and come to church. This is an act of faith because

¶ THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Stand

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour. Cf. Isaiah 45: 8

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

The Processional Hymn: 188

Ye who own the faith of Jesus (Tune: Daily, Daily)

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.

The Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever.

Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

Blessed be God for ever.

The 4th candle is lit by a member of the congregation, which is then censed.

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.

The Collect

O 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.**

¶ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sit for the readings

First Reading from the Old Testament

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (7: 10-16)

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' ¹² But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.' ¹³ Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 80: 1-7, 16-18

R. / Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved. (v3, 7, 18)

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth,
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us. **R. /**

⁴ O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶ You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn. **R. /**

¹⁶ Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
and son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁷ And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your Name. **R. /**

Second Reading from the New Testament

A reading from the Letter of S. Paul to the Romans (1: 1-7)

¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand & turn to face the Gospel

Gospel Acclamation and Reading

♪ **Alleluia!** The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel. *Cf. S. Matthew 1: 23* **Alleluia!** ♪

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

✠ A reading from the ✠ Holy Gospel according to ✠ **Matthew (1: 18 -25)**
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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 age to come. Amen.

Remain standing

Prayers of Intercession

Celebrant

As we await with longing the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, dear brothers and sisters, let us with renewed devotion beseech his mercy, that, as he came into the world to bring the good news to the poor and heal the contrite heart, so in our own time, also, he may bring salvation to all in need.

Let us pray to the Lord, saying, **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor 1

That Christ may visit his holy Church and keep watch over her always, let us pray to the Lord.

Intercessor 2

That Christ may fill Archbishop Stephen, Pope Leo, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Christopher our Bishop, Alastair his assistant, all Bishops, Priests & Deacons, Religious, Ordinands, and all your Holy People, with spiritual gifts and graces, let us pray to the Lord.

Intercessor 3

That under the protection of Christ our times may be peaceful, let us pray to the Lord.

Intercessor 4

That Christ may guide the minds of those who govern us to promote the common good according to his will, let us pray to the Lord.

Intercessor 5

That Christ may banish disease, drive out hunger, and ward off every affliction, (*Celebrant: We pray especially for...*) let us pray to the Lord.

Intercessor 6

That Christ in his mercy may free all who suffer persecution, let us pray to the Lord.

Intercessor 7

That as witnesses to Christ's love before all we may abide in the truth, let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

We remember the recently departed ... and those whose anniversaries fall at this time, ... Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.

and let light perpetual shine upon them.

✠ May they rest in peace **and rise in glory.**

Intercessor 8

That Christ may find us watching when he comes, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the BVM we pray: **Hail Mary...**

S. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, Pray for us.

S. Paul the Apostle, our Patron

S. Joseph of Nazareth

S. Elizabeth and S. Zechariah

S. John the Baptist

S. Augustine and S. Monica

S. Benedict and S. Scholastica

S. Francis and S. Clare of Assisi

All you angels and saints

Almighty ever-living God, who bring salvation to all and desire that no one should perish, hear the prayers of your people and grant that the course of our world may be directed by your peaceful rule and your Church rejoice in tranquillity and devotion.

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 Hymn: 296

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour (Tune: St. Helen)

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

Lord, may the power of the Spirit which came upon Mary and made her womb fruitful sanctify the gifts we have placed on this altar. Grant this through Jesus 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.

✠ **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

Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom
in the words our Saviour 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 with 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

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son
and shall name him Immanuel, (which means, God is with us). *Isaiah 7: 14*

Please follow the directions of the sidespeople.

The Body / Blood of Christ.

The communicant replies

Amen.

and then receives.

*** At home, make an Act of Spiritual Communion ***

*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.*

○ Sacred Feast! Wherein Christ is received,
his Passion is remembered, our souls are filled with grace
and the pledge of eternal glory is received.

○ Sacrum Convivium, 13th century (attributed to S. Thomas Aquinas)

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

The Communion Hymn: 10

Long ago, prophets knew (Tune: Personent Hodie)

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION OF HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL VI 'MARIALIS CULTUS.'

For the right ordering and development of devotion
to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

February 2, 1974.

§ 37: Mary of Nazareth, while completely devoted to the will of God, was far from being a timidly submissive woman or one whose piety was repellent to others; on the contrary, she was a woman who did not hesitate to proclaim that God vindicates the humble and the oppressed, and removes the powerful people of this world from their privileged positions (cf. S. Luke 1:51-53). Mary, "stands out among the poor and humble of the Lord," a woman of strength, who experienced poverty and suffering, flight and exile (cf. S. Matthew 2:13-23). These are situations that cannot escape the attention of those who wish to support, with the Gospel spirit, the liberating energies of humankind and of society. And Mary will appear not as a Mother exclusively concerned with her own divine Son, but rather as a woman whose action helped to strengthen the apostolic community's faith in Christ (cf. S. John 2:1-12), and whose maternal role was extended and became universal on Calvary. These are but examples, but examples which show clearly that the figure of the Blessed Virgin does not disillusion any of the profound expectations of the men and women of our time but offers them the perfect model of the disciple of the Lord: the disciple who builds up the earthly and temporal city while being a diligent pilgrim towards the heavenly and eternal city; the disciple who works for that justice which sets free the oppressed and for that charity which assists the needy; but above all, the disciple who is the active witness of that love which builds up Christ in people's hearts."

Two Prayers of Fr Conrad Noel (1869-1942, Vicar of Thaxted 1910-42)

○ GOD, who in the fellowship of your Holy Meal
has given us a foretaste of your Commonwealth,
grant us so to hunger and thirst after justice
that we may rejoice in its fullness on earth as in heaven:
through Jesus Christ your Son Our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end. Amen.

LORD JESUS, our Leader,
we give ourselves to you,
for the cause of your glorious kingdom;
for joy or for sorrow,
for success or for failure,
for life or for death,
now and for evermore. Amen.

¶ THE CONCLUDING RITE

Stand

Postcommunion 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.**



¶ **NOTICES
& ANY BANNs OF MARRIAGE.**

Stand

The Solemn Blessing

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

May God the Father,
who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son,
give you grace to prepare for life eternal. **Amen.**

May God the Son,
who comes to us as redeemer and judge,
reveal to you the path from darkness to light. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit,
by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,
help you bear the fruits of holiness. **Amen**

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

The Dismissal



The Recessional Hymn: 9

Lo! He comes with clouds descending (Tune: Helmsley)

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. **Amen.**

✠✠✠✠✠

Organ Voluntary

✠✠✠✠✠

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

✠✠✠✠✠

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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THE KALENDAR

4th Sunday and Week of Advent

& Christmass Octave

20th December 2025 - 1st January 2026

MASS & Other Service Times in church

SUN, 21st,

MP 9am, **PARISH MASS 10.30am**

CAROL SERVICE with S. Paul's Singers 6PM

MON, 22nd, O Rex Gentium,

No Public Liturgies

TUES, 23rd, O Emmanuel,

EP 5.30pm, **Mass 6.00pm**

WEDS, 24th, CHRISTMASS EVE

Mass during the Night, Midnight Mass a little earlier, 9.00pm

THURS, 25th, CHRISTMASS DAY,

Parish 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

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

THE NOTICES

**First Holy Communion at Parish Mass
Sunday, 15th February 2026.**

Please 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 Tithe,
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)