

# 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**

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**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.



**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

**THE PARISH MASS**  
**CHORAL**  
**10.30am**

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector

**Mass Setting: Mass for Four Voices (1592-3) by William Byrd (c.1540-1623).**

**Hymns in NEH (green book) Please join in with the Bold Type**

### THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Choir sings the **Introit, Vigilante**, (S. Mark, 13: 35-37),  
as set by **William Byrd**. First published: 1589 in *Cantiones Sacrae* I, no. 16.

Vigilate, nescitis enim quando dominus domus veniat,  
sero, an media nocte, an galli cantu, an mane.  
Vigilate, ergo, ne cum venerit repente, inveniat vos dormientes.  
Quod autem dico vobis, omnibus dico: vigilate.

Keep watch, for you do not know when the lord of the house will come,  
whether late, at dead of night, at cock crow, at dawn.

Keep watch, therefore, lest he come suddenly and find you sleeping.  
What I say to you, I say to all: Keep watch.

Stand

### Entrance Antiphon

O people of Zion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord  
will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart. Cf. *Isaiah 30: 19, 30*.

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

### The Processional Hymn: 12

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry (Tune: Winchester New)*

### 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 Lighting of the Advent Candle

In today's readings we shall hear about the mission  
of S. John the Baptist, who was sent to prepare the way  
for the coming of Jesus, the light of the world.

We, too, are sent to prepare the way.

As we light the second candle on the Advent wreath  
let us pray that we may be worthy of our mission  
to spread the light of Christ in the world  
so that all may acknowledge Jesus as Lord.

*The second candle on the wreath is lit by a member of the congregation.*

### 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 choir sings the Kyrie Eleison*

Kýrie, eléison. Christe, eléison. Kýrie, eléison.

### The Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, 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 (11: 1-10)*

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out  
of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom  
and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge  
and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He  
shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup> but  
with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the  
meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and  
with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the  
belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup> The wolf  
shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and  
the lion and the fating together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow  
and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall  
eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not  
hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the  
knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> On that day the root  
of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him,  
and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalms 72: 1-7, 18-19 is sung by the choir**

*Deus, iudicium*

<sup>1</sup> GIVE the King thy judgements, O God :  
and thy righteousness unto the King's son.  
<sup>2</sup> Then shall he judge thy people according unto right : and defend the poor.  
<sup>3</sup> The mountains also shall bring peace :  
and the little hills righteousness unto the people.  
<sup>4</sup> He shall keep the simple folk by their right :  
defend the children of the poor, and punish the wrong-doer.  
<sup>5</sup> They shall fear thee, as long as the sun and moon endureth :  
from one generation to another.  
<sup>6</sup> He shall come down like the rain into a fleece of wool :  
even as the drops that water the earth.  
<sup>7</sup> In his time shall the righteous flourish :  
yea, and abundance of peace, so long as the moon endureth.  
<sup>18</sup> Blessed be the Lord God, even the God of Israel :  
which only doeth wondrous things;  
<sup>19</sup> And blessed be the Name of his majesty for ever :  
and all the earth shall be filled with his majesty. Amen, Amen.

### Second Reading from the New Testament

*A reading from the letter of S. Paul to the Romans (15: 4-13)*

<sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so  
that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might  
have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to  
live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that  
together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus  
Christ. <sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you,  
for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the  
circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the  
promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify  
God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the  
Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; <sup>10</sup> and again he says, 'Rejoice, O  
Gentiles, with his people'; <sup>11</sup> and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and  
let all the peoples praise him'; <sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall  
come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.'  
<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you  
may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand & turn to face the Gospel*  
**Gospel Acclamation and Reading**

♫ **Alleluia!** Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. *cf. Isaiah 40: 3 & S. Luke 3:6* **Alleluia!** ♫

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

A ✠ reading from the ✠ Holy Gospel according to ✠ **Matthew (3: 1-12)**  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,  
<sup>2</sup> 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'<sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the  
prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing  
of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and  
wild honey.<sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and  
all the region along the Jordan,<sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan,  
confessing their sins.<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for  
baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the  
wrath to come?'<sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance.<sup>9</sup> Do not presume to say to  
yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from  
these stones to raise up children to Abraham.<sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is lying at the  
root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and  
thrown into the fire.<sup>11</sup> I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is  
more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals.  
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.<sup>12</sup> His winnowing-fork is in his  
hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary;  
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Homily**

**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*

**The Prayers of Intercession**

*Celebrant*

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand  
with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer,  
let us pray to the Lord: saying, **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor 1*

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord:

*Intercessor 2*

That God may establish among the nations his sceptre of righteousness,  
(*Celebrant: We especially remember the peoples of ...*) let us pray to the Lord:

*Intercessor 3*

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the  
breaking of the bread, let us pray to the Lord:

*Intercessor 4*

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick  
and raise up all who have fallen. (*Celebrant: We pray especially for ...*)  
let us pray to the Lord:

*Intercessor 5*

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live  
in darkness and the shadow of death, let us pray to the Lord:

*Celebrant*

We pray for the recently departed, especially...

(*Celebrant adds the names...*)

and those whose anniversaries fall at this time especially...

(*Celebrant adds the names...*)

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,  
**and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

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

*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. John the Baptist, Ss. Elizabeth & Zechariah

S. Augustine & S. Monica, S. Benedict & S. Scholastica

S. Francis & S. Clare of Assisi, S. Ambrose, Bl. Thomas Merton, Bl. Karl Barth

S. Damasus, S. Lucy, All you angels and saints

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: 55**  
*Hail to the Lord's Anointed! (Tune: Cruger)*

*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**

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings,  
and since we have no merits to plead our cause,  
come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy.  
Through 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.**

*Celebrant sings the Preface in which God is praised for his mighty acts,  
& the choir sings the Sanctus & Benedictus:*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dóminus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt caeli et terra glória tua. Hosánna in excélsis.

✠ *Benedíctus qui venit in nómine Dómini. Hosánna in excélsis.*

*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 said:*

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** is sung by the choir.  
during which the celebrant takes the host and breaks it over the paten,  
placing a small piece in the chalice.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

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

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Baruch 5: 5; 4: 36

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.

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

O Sacrum Convivium, 13<sup>th</sup> Century (attributed to S. Thomas Aquinas)

Choir sings the **Communion Motet, Rorate coeli**, (Isaiah 45: 8; Ps. 85: 1).  
Introit at Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Advent (1605),  
as set by **William Byrd** (c.1539/40–1623)

Rorate caeli desuper, et nubes pluant iustum:  
aperiatur terra, et germinet salvatorem.  
Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam:  
avertisti captivitatem Jacob.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.  
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,  
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Drop down dew, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain justice:  
let the earth be opened, and bear a saviour.  
You have blessed, Lord, your land:  
you have overturned the captivity of Jacob.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

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: 407

Lord, thy word abideth (Tune: Ravenshaw)

**Thomas Merton** OCSO (January 31, 1915 – December 10, 1968), religious name, Fr. Louis, was an American Trappist monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet, social activist and scholar of comparative religion. He was a monk in the Trappist Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani, near Bardstown, Kentucky, living there from 1941 to his death. Merton wrote more than 50 books in a period of 27 years, mostly on spirituality, social justice, and pacifism, as well as scores of essays and reviews. Among Merton's most widely-read works is his bestselling autobiography, 'The Seven Storey Mountain' (1948). Merton became a keen proponent of interfaith understanding, exploring Eastern religions through study and practice. He pioneered dialogue with prominent Asian spiritual figures including the Dalai Lama, Japanese writer D. T. Suzuki, Thai Buddhist monk Buddhadasa, and Vietnamese monk Thich Nhat Hanh.

#### The Quickening of St John the Baptist.

On the Contemplative Vocation

Why do you fly from the drowned shores of Galilee,  
From the sands and the lavender water?  
Why do you leave the ordinary world, Virgin of Nazareth,  
The yellow fishing boats, the farms,  
The winesmelling yards and low cellars  
Or the oilpress, and the women by the well?

Continues overleaf

Why do you fly those markets,  
Those suburban gardens,  
The trumpets of the jealous lilies,  
Leaving them all, lovely among the lemon trees?

You have trusted no town  
With the news behind your eyes.  
You have drowned Gabriel's word in thoughts like seas  
And turned toward the stone mountain  
To the treeless places.  
Virgin of God, why are your clothes like sails?

The day Our Lady, full of Christ,  
Entered the dooryard of her relative  
Did not her steps, light steps,  
lay on the paving leaves like gold?  
Did not her eyes as grey as doves  
Alight like the peace of a new world upon that house, upon  
miraculous Elizabeth?

Her salutation  
Sings in the stone valley like a Charterhouse bell:  
And the unborn saint John  
Wakes in his mother's body,  
Bounds with the echoes of discovery.

Sing in your cell, small anchorite!  
How did you see her in the eyeless dark?  
What secret syllable  
Woke your young faith to the mad truth  
That an unborn baby could be washed in the Spirit of God?  
Oh burning joy!  
What seas of life were planted by that voice!  
With what new sense  
Did your wise heart receive her Sacrament,  
And know her cloistered Christ?

You need no eloquence, wild bairn,  
Exulting in your hermitage.  
Your ecstasy is your apostolate,  
For whom to kick is *contemplata tradere*.  
Your joy is the vocation of Mother Church's hidden children –  
Those who by vow lie buried in the cloister or the hermitage:  
The speechless Trappist, or the grey, granite Carthusian,  
The quiet Carmelite, the barefoot Clare,  
Planted in the night of contemplation,  
Sealed in the dark and waiting to be born.

Night is our diocese and silence is our ministry  
Poverty our charity and helplessness our tongue-tied  
sermon.

Beyond the scope of sight or sound we dwell upon the air  
Seeking the world's gain in an unthinkable experience.  
We are exiles in the far end of solitude, living as listeners  
With hearts attending to the skies we cannot understand:  
Waiting upon the first far drums of Christ the Conqueror,  
Planted like sentinels upon the world's frontier.

But in the days, rare days, when our Theotokos  
Flying the prosperous world  
Appears upon our mountain with her clothes like sails,  
Then, like the wise, wild baby,  
The unborn John who could not see a thing  
We wake and know the Virgin Presence  
Receive her Christ into our night  
With stabs of an intelligence as white as lightning.

Cooled in the flame of God's dark fire  
Washed in His gladness like a vesture of new flame  
We burn like eagles in His invincible awareness  
And bound and bounce with happiness,  
Leap in the womb, our cloud, our faith, our element,  
Our contemplation, our anticipated heaven  
Till Mother Church sings like an Evangelist.

Written by Merton in 1949

## THE CONCLUDING RITE

Stand

### Postcommunion Prayer

Grant, O Lord our God, Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity  
of his first coming that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





## NOTICES & ANY BANNES 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 the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again, sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent and enrich you with his blessing. **Amen.**

As you run the race of this present life, may he make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in love. **Amen.**

So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh, you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life when he comes again in majesty. **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: 170

Lo, in the wilderness a voice (Tune: Luther's Hymn, Nun Freut Euch)

### 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 dwell 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

### 2nd Sunday and Week of Advent

7th to 13th December 2025

### MASS & Other Service Times in church

**SUN, 7th,** MP 9am, **PARISH MASS 10.30am**, EP 5pm  
**MON, 8th,** Immaculate Conception of the BVM, No Public Liturgies  
**TUES, 9th,** Feria, EP 5.30pm, **Mass 6.00pm**  
**WEDS, 10th,** Ember Day, Our Lady of Loretto, EP 5.30pm, **Mass 6.00pm**  
**THURS, 11th,** S. Damasus, EP 5.30pm, **Mass 6.00pm**  
**FRI, 12th,** Ember Day, Our Lady of Guadalupe, EP 6pm  
**SAT, 13th,** S. Lucy, Ember Day, **Mass 10.00am**, EP 6pm

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

### 14th DECEMBER 2025 – 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 'Gaudete'

MORNING PRAYER at 9.00am

**PARISH MASS CHORAL at 10.30am**

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector

EVENING PRAYER at 5pm

## THE NOTICES

**Preparation class, 5th of 6, for First Holy Communion**  
continue after Parish Mass today, **23rd November.**  
(Baptised children from 7+. Parent/carer must also attend the classes)  
First Holy Communion at Parish Mass 15th February 2026.

Please also 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.

### CHRISTMASS @ S. PAUL'S 2025

**4th SUNDAY of ADVENT: 21st DECEMBER**  
**CAROL SERVICE at 6pm with S. Paul's Singers**

**WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER**  
**MASS during the NIGHT at 9.00pm**  
(**'Midnight Mass', a little earlier**)

**THURSDAY 25th DECEMBER - CHRISTMASS DAY**  
**PARISH MASS at 10.30am**

**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](mailto:stpaulsdeptford@btinternet.com)  
sent every Friday via MailChimp (GDPR compliant)