

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 Ian Bhullar



Helen David Brancato, IHM

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

1st Sunday of Christmass

28th DECEMBER 2025

THE PARISH MASS

SUNG

10.30am

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector

Mass of St Thomas by David Thorne. Hymns in CAHON (orange book)
Please join in with the Bold Type

This feast was established as part of the Christmas season in 1921 following promotion of the cult in the nineteenth century; it was linked to the Octave of Christmas in 1969. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, itself subject to the difficulties and social pressures of its time, is offered as a model for Christian family life today.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Stand

Station at Crib

To you, O Christ, Word of the Father, we offer our lowly prayers and humble thanks; for love of our human race you most wonderfully chose to be born of Mary, and to take our nature as nevermore to lay it by; so that we might be born again by your Spirit and restored in the image of God to whom, one blessed Trinity, be given all honour, might, majesty and power. **Amen.**

Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger.

S. Luke 2: 16

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

The Processional Hymn: 330

It came upon the midnight clear (Tune: Noel DCM)

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.

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 Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
✠ in the glory of God the Father.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

The Collect

God of blessings, in the Holy Family you give us the model of a household drawn together in love. Grant that we may follow their example and be welcomed with joy into your home in heaven. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sit for the readings

First Reading from the Old Testament

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (63: 7-9)

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸ For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour ⁹ in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms: 148

R. / Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.

¹ Alleluia! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights.

² Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host.

³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. **R. /**

⁴ Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

⁵ Let them praise the Name of the LORD;
for he commanded, and they were created.

⁶ He made them stand fast for ever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not pass away. **R. /**

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

⁸ Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will;

⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; **R. /**

¹⁰ Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² Young men and maidens, old and young together. **R. /**

¹³ Let them praise the Name of the LORD, for his Name only is exalted,
his splendour is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ He has raised up strength for his people

and praise for all his loyal servants,

the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia! **R. /**

Second Reading from the New Testament

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (2: 10-18)

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' ¹³ And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' ¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand & turn to face the Gospel

Gospel Acclamation and Reading

♪ **Alleluia!** May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;

let the message of Christ find a home with you. *Colossians 3:15a, 16a* **Alleluia!** ♪

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

✠ A reading from the ✠ Holy Gospel according to ✠ **Matthew (2: 13-end)**

Glorify to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' ¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.' ¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

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

In this time when the goodness and kindness of God our Saviour have appeared, let us, dear brothers and sisters, humbly pour forth to him our prayers, trusting not in our own good works, but in his mercy.

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

Intercessor 1

For the Church of God, that in integrity of faith she may await and may welcome with joy him whom the immaculate Virgin conceived by a word and wondrously brought to birth, let us pray to the Lord.

Intercessor 2

For the progress and peace of the whole world, that what is given in time may become a reward in eternity, let us pray to the Lord.

Intercessor 3

For those oppressed by hunger, sickness or loneliness, injustice and persecution, that through the mystery of the Nativity of Christ they may find relief in both mind and body.

(*Celebrant says: We pray especially for...*) let us pray to the Lord:

Intercessor 4

For the families of our congregation, that, receiving Christ, they may learn also to welcome him in the poor, let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant

For the recently departed, especially....

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

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. Elizabeth and S. Zechariah, S. John the Baptist

Holy Shepherds, S. Stephen, Protomartyr, S. John the Apostle & Evangelist

Holy Innocents, S. Thomas Becket, S. Pope Sylvester I

S. Basil the Great and S. Gregory of Nazianzus

S. Augustine and S. Monica, S. Benedict and S. Scholastica

S. Francis and S. Clare of Assisi, 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: 486

Of the Father's love begotten (Tune: Corde Natus [Divinum Mysterium])

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

We beg you, Lord, accept the sacrifice which makes our peace with you

and, through the prayers of Mary, the virgin Mother of God,

and of blessed Joseph, her husband, unite our families in your grace and peace.

Grant this in the name of Jesus, the 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

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Baruch 3: 38

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, 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: 4

A great and mighty wonder (Tune: Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen)

Pope John XXIII's Christmas Prayer

O sweet Child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our hearts
in this profound mystery of Christmas.
Put into the hearts of men and women this peace
for which they sometimes seek so desperately
and which you alone can give to them.
Help them to know one another better,
and to live as brothers and sisters,
children of the same Father.
Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity.
Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude
for your infinite goodness.
Join them all together in your love.
And give us your heavenly peace. Amen.

A prayer by The Most Revd Hosam Naoum Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you
in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear
which prevails in the Holy Land.
Be with those who need you in these days of suffering;
we pray for people of all faiths:
Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land.
While we pray to you, O Lord,
for an end to violence and the establishment of peace,
we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples.
Guide us into your kingdom where all people
are treated with dignity and honour as your children,
for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

¶ THE CONCLUDING RITE



Stand

Postcommunion Prayer

Merciful Father,
you have refreshed us
with this heavenly sacrament.
Grant us the grace
to follow closely
the example of the Holy Family,
that, after the trials
of this present life,
we may be welcomed into their
company for ever.
We ask this 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 the Father, who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing
Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **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: 36

Angels from the realms of glory (Tune: Iris)

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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1961, p. 31. Image on front page: © **Sister Helen David Brancato, IHM**, painter,
printmaker and illustrator whose work carries themes of justice, peace and homelessness,
is an Associate Professor of Art at Villanova University, Villanova, PA. At the **Concluding Rite:**
"The Flight into Egypt" print portfolio of Catholic Worker illustrations by Fritz Eichenberg.

THE KALENDAR

OCTAVE & 1st WEEK of CHRISTMASS

28th December 2025 – 3rd January 2026

MASS & Other Service Times in church

SUN, 28th MP 9am, **PARISH MASS 10.30am** EP 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
FRI, 2nd, Ss. Basil & Gregory Nazianzus, EP 6pm
SAT, 3rd, Mary, Mother of God, **Mass 10am**, EP 6pm

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

4th JANUARY 2026

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

MORNING PRAYER at 9am

PARISH MASS CHORAL at 10.30am

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector

EVENING PRAYER at 5pm

THE NOTICES

**The Rector would like to thank everyone for their
generous Christmass greetings and gifts.**

**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)