

ST MARK AND ALL SAINTS, READING

PARISH MASS

SUNDAY 11TH JANUARY 2026

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

THE GATHERING

*All the words are in this service sheet. Please join in with the words printed in **bold type**.*

At the start of the service a bell is rung and the procession enters as we stand to sing the opening hymn.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy
To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth,
And love, joy, hope, like flowers,
Spring in his path to birth:
Before him on the mountains
Shall peace the herald go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore him,
His praise all people sing;
To him shall prayer unceasing

**And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.**

**O'er every foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All-blessing and all-blest;
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever;
That name to us is love.**

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 priest welcomes us and introduces the theme of the service.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.
Let us confess our sins.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

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.

Knowing that we are forgiven for our sins we sing this song of praise to God.

**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 . . .**

**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. . .**

**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. . .**

The priest invites us to pray silently and then prays the collect:

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever
Amen

Please sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42.1-9

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him
and he will bring justice to the nations.
He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.
A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;
he will not falter or be discouraged

till he establishes justice on earth.
In his law the islands will put their hope.”
This is what God the LORD says –
he who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it,
who gives breath to its people,
and life to those who walk on it:
“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,
to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.
“I am the LORD; that is my name!
I will not give my glory to another
or my praise to idols.
See, the former things have taken place,
and new things I declare;
before they spring into being
I announce them to you.”

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN PSALM 29

Our gradual Hymn is a congregational setting of today's psalm.

As we stand and sing the Gospel Book is carried into the midst of the congregation, reflecting God's coming among us in Christ. Please turn to face it.

**Proclaim the Lord, you heavenly host;
proclaim the Lord of glorious might;
proclaim the Lord, his glorious name;
bow down before his holy light.**

**The Lord calls out upon the waters,
the call of God in holy splendour;
the Lord upon eternal waters,
the call of God, the great contender;
the call of God in flame of fire,
the God of ever-circling spheres,
with fearsome thunder to inspire,
the ancient Father of the Years.**

**The call of God destroys the groves,
and smashes trees in Lebanon;
he makes them skip around in droves,
in Lebanon and Sirion.**

The call of God, as deserts writhe;
he sets the Kadesh wastes ablaze,
he strips the oak trees like a scythe,
as in his temple all give praise.

*'God of glory, God of splendour,
God of might and God of thunder,
God of power, our defender,
God of awe and wonder;
call of God in empty spaces,
call of hope to those forsaken,
call of God in broken places;
call to reawaken.'*

Proclaim the Lord, you heavenly host;
proclaim the Lord of glorious might;
proclaim the Lord, his glorious name;
bow down before his holy light.
The Lord is King in age and aeon,
enthroned above the old abyss,
the Lord of might for praise and paeon;
the Lord will bless us all with peace.

THE GOSPEL
Matthew 3.13-17

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The Lord be with you

And also with you

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?"

Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

THE SERMON

A brief period of silence may follow for us to reflect on the address and the readings today, then the priest invites us to stand to declare our faith.

THE 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,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary and was made man.
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 world to come.
Amen.**

Sit or kneel to pray

THE INTERCESSIONS

During the prayers these or other responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

And at the end of the prayers we say

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

THE PEACE

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

We greet those around us in the peace of Christ, shaking hands and saying "Peace be with you"

OFFERTORY HYMN

*As we sing a collection will be taken for
the work of the church, Our church is a
charity which relies on your generous gift.
Please support our Mission and Ministry
and keep our beautiful buildings open
by placing your gift in the plate or scan
to donate.*

Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar;
Branch of royal David's stem,
In thy birth at Bethlehem;
Anthems be to thee addressed:
God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, priest and King supreme,
And at Cana wedding-guest,
In thy Godhead manifest,
Manifest in power divine,

Changing water into wine;
Anthems be to thee addressed:
God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole,
Palsied limbs and fainting soul,
Manifest in valiant fight,
Quelling all the devil's might,
Manifest in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill;
Anthems be to thee addressed:
God in man made manifest.

Sun and moon shall darkened be,
Stars shall fall, the heavens shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine,
All will see his glorious sign.
All will then the trumpet hear,
All will see the judge appear;
Thou by all wilt be confessed:
God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
Mirrored in thy holy word;
May we imitate thee now,
And be pure, as pure art thou;
That we like to thee may be
At thy great Epiphany,
And may praise thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

When the altar is prepared and the offerings received the president leads the offertory prayers.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread
to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

Generous God, as we gather around your table called and welcomed by Christ we present this
money, symbol of all the gifts you give to us.

**use it, use us, in the service of your world
to the glory of your name. 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.

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:
for at this time we celebrate your glory
made present in our midst.

In the coming of the magi
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,
the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**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.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was
betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper

he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father,
calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of [N and] all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen

We kneel or sit as silence is kept before the Lord's Prayer.

**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.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

The priest breaks the consecrated bread, saying

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The priest invites the people to receive Communion, and says

**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 your peace.**

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always

COMMUNION HYMN

***Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.***

When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you. You will never sink beneath the waves.

**When the fire is burning all around you,
You will never be consumed by the flames.**

**When the fear of loneliness is looming,
Then remember I am at your side.**

**When you dwell in the exile of the stranger,
Remember you are precious in my eyes.**

**You are mine, O my child, I am your Father,
And I love you with a perfect love.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Once communion has been shared we stand when the priest invites us to pray.

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens
and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

NOTICES

*We sit to listen to any notices about parish events.
Banns of Marriage may be announced.
If your Birthday falls this week please tell us we would love to celebrate with you.*

THE DISMISSAL

Stand

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Christ the Son of God
perfect in you the image of his glory
and gladden your hearts
with the good news of his kingdom;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

THE BLESSING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ..

CLOSING HYMN

**The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.**

**The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
The captives are freed, the sinners find place,
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share;
And hope is awakened in place of despair.**

**The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross;
Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.**

**God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;
And all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.**