

(STAND)

THE CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

For the dismissal, the Priest faces the people and with his hands extended over the people, blesses them using this form apportioned for the Beginning of the Year:

May God, who has called you out of darkness into his wonderful light, pour out in kindness his blessing upon you and make your heart firm in faith, hope and charity.

Amen.

And since in all confidence you follow Christ, who today appeared in the world as a light shining in darkness, may God make you, too, a light for your brothers and sisters.

Amen.

And so when your pilgrimage is ended, may you come to him whom the Magi sought as they followed the star and whom they found with great joy, the Light from Light, who is Christ the Lord.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Recessional: 'In thee is gladness BWV 615' - J S Bach

Please remain seated until the Recessional Music has ceased. This is integral to the liturgy of the Organ Mass and therefore applause is not appropriate. Once concluded, leave the Parish Church of St Mary & St Giles via the Parish Hall; and at All Saints via the West (Tower) door. The Priest will be outside in the churchyard.

Masses this week:

Today: **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**
7:00pm **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**
Intention: For the health and safety of all in our parish

Next Sunday: **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**
9:30am **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**
11:15am **FAMILY MASS at All Saints**

Reflection after Mass:

Lord Jesus, the Magi offered you gold, frankincense and myrrh. Let me offer you my heart, the golden silence of contemplation, the pure gold of sincerity, the incense of prayer and praise. And, like the women in the Gospels, let me pour ointment on your head and feet to show you that I really believe you are Christ, the anointed one, my personal Saviour and the Saviour of the world. Amen.



Omnia Christus est nobis!

To us Christ is all!



**St Mary & St Giles with All Saints,
Parish of Stony Stratford with Calverton**

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

6th January AD 2021



Welcome to the Parish Church where, after the example of the early church, we celebrate the Eucharist: the "apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42)

Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. St. Leo brings out this point admirably in a sermon, read at Matins, in which he shows in the adoration of the Magi the beginnings of Christian faith, the time when the great mass of the heathen sets off to follow the star which summons it to seek its Saviour.

That is the meaning, too, of the wonderful prophecy from Isaiah which the liturgy appoints to be read in the first nocturn at Matins and at the Epistle of the Mass. This same thought of universal redemption the Church returns to as she sings, in the antiphon to the Magnificat at 2nd Vespers, applying the words to herself, of the union with Christ typified by the wedding feast at Cana, by the baptism of her children foreshadowed by that of Christ in the waters of the Jordan. Formerly the Epiphany was an additional day for solemn baptisms.

INFORMATION



Safeguarding: Our Parish Churches have adopted and follow the Diocese of Oxford's recommended policies for the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Details of these policies and of our Safeguarding Officers are available on the noticeboards inside each Parish Church. Should you have any safeguarding concerns then please see one of them.

Restrictions During the Current Pandemic:

Unfortunately, we are required to observe the following restrictions:

- ◆ **FACE MASKS: MUST BE WORN** by all attending worship as required by Law, apart from the Priest and any Lay Ministers assisting him. **N.B. IF YOU CANNOT WEAR A MASK FOR MEDICAL REASONS YOU MUST WEAR A FACE SHIELD.**
- ◆ Only 3 or 4 **Church Bells** are permitted to be rung, because ringing chambers are not large enough for distancing requirements when a full team is present. The Tower Captain and Assistant must keep a record of who is present to ring on what dates and ensure that distancing is maintained on the staircase. Bell ringing practice is not permitted.
- ◆ **Entry and exit** to our Parish Churches - entry via the West (Tower) Door and exit via the Parish Hall at St Mary & St Giles - entry via the South Porch and exit via the West (Tower) Door at All Saints
- ◆ There cannot be an **social gathering** in either of our Parish Churches before or after Mass - social intercourse may take place in the churchyards before or after Mass.
- ◆ 'Shared' **Mass cards** are not permitted. Please do not take a copy for someone else - either retain it for your devotions at home, or place it in the bin provided at the exit points in both churches.
- ◆ Until further notice all **communal singing**, singing rehearsals and concerts are prohibited in all places of worship. It is now possible to have a small choir and Organ Music played.
- ◆ **Collections:** Cash donations and envelopes must be placed either in the large plinth donations box at St Mary & St Giles, or in the bowl by the south porch door at All Saints. We are not allowed to pass a collection plate/bag to one another.
- ◆ **'The Peace'** may not be shared physically. We may however join our own hands and bow to each other at The Peace.
- ◆ **When going forward to receive Holy Communion** - at St Mary & St Giles please approach centre of the altar rail in single file via the main aisle, observing a two metre distance, and return to your place via the side aisle. At All Saints: again single file two metres apart but keeping to the south porch side of the main aisle on approaching the altar rail and returning to your place on the vestry side. N.B. in both churches Holy Communion must be received whilst standing and please extend your arms as far as you are able. Textile kneelers and cushions have had to be removed.
- ◆ **'Receiving Holy Communion'** is in one kind, i.e. The Host. This must be received in the palms of our hands - not on the tongue.
- ◆ **Please maintain a two metre distance** from each other on approaching the altar rails and on leaving our churches after Mass.
- ◆ **Lavatory Facilities.** Strict hand-hygiene must be observed and hand-dryers only used. In the lavatory at each church there is a spray sanitiser and single use sanitising wipes for each user to wipe the seat, flush-handle, water taps, sink and door handle. Used wipes should be placed in the waste baskets provided.

All of these restrictions, whilst not what we would wish for, do not detract from the fact that we are able to receive the Lord in his Blessed Sacrament.

Please take this Service Sheet home with you and use as part of your devotions during the week.

Reflection before Mass:

Just as the Magi came from their very different culture and background to worship the infant king, so too we have come today from our different homes, backgrounds, jobs, schools, all coming together with the single purpose of worshipping the same infant king whom the Magi travelled to worship so many years ago. May the light of Christ shine upon us through our worship of him and give light to those who as yet have not knelt before him in wonder, adoration and love.

(STAND)

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Organ Introit:

Prelude 'As with Gladness Men of old' - William Harris

As the Sacristy Bell is rung we STAND, and the Cantor sings the **Introit Antiphon:**

you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The Agnus Dei

(KNEEL)

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.

The priest shows the consecrated Host to the people, saying:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.

✕ Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The Communion Antiphon is sung by the Cantor after the Priest has received Holy Communion:

R/. We have seen His star in the Orient, and we are come with offerings to worship the Lord.

He will endure like the sun and the moon :
and unto the endless ages.

As the rain falleth on pasture we greet him :
as showers upon the dry land.

In His days the virtuous flourish :
profound peace till the moon die.

He will pity the lowly and the poor :
and save the lives of the poor.

Organ Voluntary during the Distribution of Holy Communion: 'Blessed Jesu, we are here' - J S Bach

It is customary to kneel throughout the distribution of Holy Communion except when going forward to receive the Blessed Sacrament and upon returning to your place.

Prayer after Communion

(STAND)

Let us pray.

And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while, unless the silence has just been observed. Then the priest, with hands extended, says the Prayer after Communion; at the end of which the people acclaim: Amen.

All then pray:

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.



THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*The Gifts of Bread and Wine are placed upon the altar. The Cantor sings the **Offertory Antiphon**:*

The kings of Tharsis and the islands shall give presents.: the kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring Him gifts: and they shall adore him - all the kings of the earth - all the nations shall serve him.

*Then priest says the Offertory Prayers to which the people respond: **Blessed be God for ever.***

(STAND) Pray brethren 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 holy Church.

*The priest says the Prayer over the Gifts to which all respond: **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 him thanks and praise.

The priest sings a Eucharistic Preface appropriate to the celebration, after which all join in the acclamation: (KNEEL)

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
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 priest continues the Eucharistic Prayer of thanksgiving, recalling the command of Jesus Christ, 'Do this in memory of me.'

Priest: The mystery of faith:

**All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues with the priest interceding for the Church, the world, all those present at this celebration, and the Faithful Departed. At the Doxology at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer all join in the Great Amen.

Priest:for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

The priest introduces the Lord's Prayer. (STAND)

**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.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave

Behold He appeareth: the Ruler, our Lord God; and the kingdom is in His hand and the power and eternal rule.

1. O God, give Thy judgement unto the King, and Thy justice to the Son of the King.
2. The Kings of Tharsis and the Isles shall offer gifts: the monarchs of Arabia and Saba shall bring presents.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world with out end. Amen.

In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The priest greets the people

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

and also with you.

Penitential Rite

(STAND)

The priest invites the people to call to mind their sins and repent of them.

**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.**

The priest pronounces the general 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 Kyries:

Kyrie, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

Christe, eleison.

Christe, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

The Gloria in excelsis is said:

**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. Amen**

The Collect

Let us pray.

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (SIT)

The First Reading

Isaiah 60: 1-6

(Old Testament Page 627 in the Bibles) a prophet foreshadows the joyful redemption of all men in terms of the return of Israel from the 'night' of exile.

The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 72)

R/. All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. ®

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. ®

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. ®

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. ®

The Second Reading

Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

(New Testament Page 162 in the Bibles) St Paul speaks of God's plan of salvation as a 'mystery' whose meaning is that pagans as well as Jews are saved 'in Christ Jesus'.

After the second reading the images of the Magi are placed in situ in the manger scene.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship the Lord.

Alleluia!

The Gospel

Matthew 2: 1-12

(New Testament Page 1 in the Bibles) recounts the story of the Magi which is meant to show how the gentiles or pagans were the first to offer homage to the new-born Messiah and Saviour of the world.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

As the Gospel is announced the people respond:

✠ ✠ ✠ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel Reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

The Nicene Creed

STAND

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 men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

all bow during the next three lines

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He 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.

The Prayer of the Faithful

(STAND)

Celebrant: My brothers and sisters, today the Wise Men knelt before our Saviour. Let us also kneel to worship him with great joy, and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

Intercessor: Father, the wise men came from the east to worship your Son: grant to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration.

V/. Lord, in your mercy

R/. **Hear our prayer.**

Father, you are the King of Kings and Lord of Lords: grant an abundance of peace to your world.

Father, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of Nazareth: protect in your mercy our neighbours and our families, together with the whole community of which we are part.

Father, though you were rich, for our sake you became poor: show your love for the poor and powerless, and strengthen... Malcolm, Shirley, Jane, Cecilia, Christel, Joan Carrigan, Margaret DeSousa, Richard Desousa, Ronnie DeSousa, Rene Hazlewood, Fr Joseph, Liliith, Lorna, Sr Janet, James, Peter, Rosie, Fr Francis Rodriguez-Veglio, Susie, Dee, Stacey, Isa, Wendy, Janet, David, Adam Viard, Eric, Davida Wiseman...and all those who suffer.

Father, the wise men presented to your Son gold, incense, and myrrh: accept the gifts we bring, and the offering of our hearts at the beginning of this new year.

Father, you are the King of Heaven, the hope of all who trust in you: give to... and for those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time...**3rd** Mary Battams, Yvonne Kingsford; **4th** Hilda Stock, Leonard Savage, Fanny Wace, Rose Barnes; **5th** Katherine Payne, Michael Hawkins; **6th** William Larman; **7th** Bill Bainbridge, Harold Emms, Margaret Barker; **8th** Bertie Stock, George Card; **9th** John Grimsley... *and all* the faithful departed, the wonders of your salvation.

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Celebrant: Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Magi, the Shepherds, the Angels, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, we commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love. Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**