

The Parish Church of St Giles
with St Mary's, Pontefract

Peace



Fourth Sunday of Advent
24th December 2023

10.15 a.m.

We welcome you to this celebration of Parish Mass
for the Fourth Sunday Of Advent

The setting for today's Mass is Missa de angelis

People of all denominations who are in good standing with their own church are welcome to come and receive communion. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come to the altar carrying this order of service.

Please let clergy or a churchwarden know at the beginning of the service if you need a gluten-free host.

5 minutes before the service begins, a bell will ring to signal that a period of quiet reflection is kept during which you may wish to use this prayer.

**Heavenly Father,
you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.**

**Lord Jesus,
you are the light of the world:
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.**

**Holy Spirit,
you give us light in our hearts:
renew us in faith and love.**

Amen

A bell is rung to begin our worship.

Parish Giving

It costs us at least £2,000 per week to carry out our ministry, mission and basic maintenance of this lovely building. One off cash donations can be made in the box in reception just by the entrance door into church. Contactless payments can be made using our free-standing contactless giving machine located in church. It is also possible to donate using our QR code which links to a safe and secure 'Give a little' payment portal which is compliant with GDPR, PCI & PCI-DSS.

1. Open your phone camera 2. Scan the QR code 3. Click the link displayed 4. Donate



The Gathering

Hymn (161)

***For Mary, Mother of our Lord
God's holy name be praised,
who first the Son of God adored
as on her Child she gazed.***

***The angel Gabriel brought the word
she should Christ's mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
made answer willingly.***

***The heavenly call she thus obeyed,
and so God's will was done;
the second Eve love's answer made
which our redemption won.***

***She gave her body as God's shrine,
her heart to piercing pain,
and knew the cost of love divine
when Jesus Christ was slain.***

***Dear Mary, from your lowliness
and home in Galilee,
there comes a joy and holiness
to every family.***

***Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
above all women blest;
blest in your Son, whom your embrace
in birth and death confessed.***



JR Peacey (1896-1971)

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

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you

Words of welcome or introduction may be said

Invitation to confession

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Prayer of Penitence

Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek:
give us humble and contrite hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb:
be planted also in our hearts and lives.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you overshadowed Mary, that she might become the God-bearer:
fill us with your heavenly gifts.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The president says

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
✠forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison.

Christe Eleison.

Kyrie Eleison.

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

The Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Let us pray

Silence is kept

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading Romans 16.25-27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Alleluia

Gospel Reading

Luke 1.26-38

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

A Prayer for the Benefice

Faithful God,

**During this vacancy, fill us with vision and joy
and keep us faithful in prayer, word and worship.**

Guard and grow our church as we serve you together.

**Help us to share responsibility, grow in faith,
love one another, care for those in need,
reach out to others, and welcome newcomers and visitors.**

**Sustain those in interim leadership,
and bless our next Vicar as he prepares to join us.**

**Ever-living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
may we see your kingdom come here in Pontefract,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.

After each prayer: Lord, in your mercy
 hear our prayer.

We pray for those for whom prayers have been requested:

Joe; Beryl; Marion; Richard; Brenda; Victoria; Janis Gallagher; Mary Sambrooks;
Linda Sambrooks; Bill Bradley; Brian Ward; Cath Godridge; Rhys Williams;
Angela Hyomes; Owen Murray; David Murray; Andrew Leach; Janet Hickling;
Jenny Attwood (Priest)

We pray for those who have recently died:

Pat Steele

Those whose year's mind falls at this time

George Robert Hyomes; Gordon David Bellamy; David Atkins.

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

Advent Preparation

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

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

Blessed be God for ever.

The Fourth Candle of the advent wreath is lit, and then we say together:

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;
blessed is Mary your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children,
who long for your coming.
Amen.**



The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Altar

Offertory Hymn (188)

***Ye who own the faith of Jesus
sing the wonders that were done,
when the love of God the Father
o'er our sin the victory won,
when He made the Virgin Mary
Mother of His only Son.***

Hail Mary, full of grace.

***Blessèd were the chosen people
out of whom the Lord did come,
blessèd was the land of promise
fashioned for His earthly home;
but more blessèd far the Mother
she who bare Him in her womb.***

Hail Mary, full of grace.

***Wherefore let all faithful people
tell the honour of her name,
let the Church in her foreshadowed
part in her thanksgiving claim;
what Christ's Mother sang in gladness
let Christ's people sing the same.***

Hail Mary, full of grace.

***Let us weave our supplications,
she with us and we with her,
for the advancement of the faithful,
for each faithful worshipper,
for the doubting, for the sinful,
for each heedless wanderer.***

Hail Mary, full of grace.

***Praise, O Mary, praise the Father,
praise thy Saviour and thy Son,
praise the everlasting Spirit,
Who hath made thee ark and throne;
o'er all creatures high exalted,
lowly praise the Three in One,
Hail Mary, full of grace.***

Vincent S S Coles (1845-1929)

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.
Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts

Pray, my brothers and sisters
that this 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.**



The Eucharistic Prayer

Let us pray

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

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.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your glory,
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

Sanctus & Benedictus

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.*

*Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Osanna in excelsis.*

*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.*

Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.

On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

This is my body, given for you all.
do this in remembrance of me.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:

This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.

Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.**

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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.

Agnus Dei

*Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei.
Dona nobis pacem.*

*Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God,
grant us peace.*

Giving of Communion

This is 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.**

The president and people receive communion.

Organ Voluntary

Hymn (4)

**Gabriel's message does away
Satan's curse and Satan's sway,
out of darkness brings our Day:
So, behold,
all the gates of heaven unfold.**

**He that comes despised shall reign;
He that cannot die, be slain;
death by death its death shall gain:
So, behold ...**

**Weakness shall the strong confound;
by the hands, in grave clothes wound,
Adam's chains shall be unbound.
So, behold ...**

**By the sword that was his own,
by that sword, and that alone,
shall Goliath be o'erthrown:
So, behold ...**

**Art by art shall be assailed;
to the cross shall Life be nailed;
from the grave shall hope be hailed:
So, behold**

Piae cantiones, 1582;
trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Choir Anthem

Ave Maria - Jacob Arcadelt (1505-1569)

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Let us pray

**Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Notices are given.

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

People of God: prepare!

God, above all, maker of all,
is one with us in Christ.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God, the mighty God,
bends down in love to earth.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God with us, God beside us,
comes soon to the world he has made.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

We are God's children,
we seek the coming Christ.
Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

May God himself, the God of peace,
make you perfect and holy,
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
and the blessing ...

Amen

Hymn (185)

**Sing we of the blessèd Mother
who received the angel's word,
and obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord.
Sing we of the joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed
Who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting Bread.**

**Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through,
when beneath the cross of Jesus
she His weight of suffering knew,
looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning high on Calvary's tree,
saw the price of man's redemption
paid to set the sinner free.**

**Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
and in prayer with Christ's apostles,
waited on His promised word.
From on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
heavenly Breath of God's own being,
manifest through wind and flame.**

**Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
and the Lord of all creation
brought her to His heavenly home.
Virgin Mother, Mary blessèd,
raised on high and crowned with grace,
may your Son, the world's Redeemer,
grant us all to see His face.**

George B Timms, 1910-97 © Oxford University Press

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ..

The Clergy and people depart.

Organ Voluntary



Today's service sheet is sponsored in memory of

Hugh Fletcher Cutting



Remembering our wedding day fifty years ago.

Forever in my heart, always loved

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