



THE BENEFICE of PONTEFRACT

ST GILES'

with ST MARY'S



The Feast of Epiphany
7th January 2024 - 10.15 a.m.

We welcome you to this celebration of Parish Mass
for the Feast of Epiphany

Today's setting for mass is Lourdes and A Kilcreggan Mass
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.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
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 (47)

**As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious God, may we
evermore be led to Thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,
to that lowly manger-bed,
there to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek Thy mercy-seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure, and free from sin's alloy;
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee our heavenly King.**

**Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds Thy glory hide.**

**In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down:
there for ever may we sing
Alleluyas to our King.**



William Chatterton Dix

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

Amen.

The Greeting

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

**From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Lord of glory be with you.

The Lord bless you.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said

The Gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh are offered at the Crib

At the offering of gold

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As gold in the furnace is tried
and purified seven times in the fire,
so purify our hearts and minds
that we may be a royal priesthood
acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

At the offering of incense

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As our prayer rises up before you as incense,
so may we be presented before you
with penitent hearts and uplifted hands
to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

Blessed be God for ever.



At the offering of myrrh

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As you give medicine to heal our sickness
and the leaves of the tree of life
for the healing of the nations,
so anoint us with your healing power
that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Invitation to confession

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.

cf Titus 2.11-14

Prayers of Penitence

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The president says

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,
and be † cleansed from all your sins through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis (Lourdes)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

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.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

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

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

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.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

The Collect for the Feast of the Epiphany

Grateful for the glory revealed to us through God made flesh, let us pray.

Silence is kept

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

First Reading Ephesians 3.1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Alleluia

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2.1-12

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.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



The Apostles' 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

Let us worship the Saviour with joy
and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.

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

Today we pray for Emmie Evelyn Moss and her family on the occasion of her celebration of the sacrament of baptism.

We pray for those for whom prayers have been requested:

Joe; Beryl; Marion; Richard; Brenda; Victoria; Joe & Mark; 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); Margaret Kidger; Christine Campbell.

We pray for those who have recently died:

Those whose year's mind falls at this time

Olga Kirkwood; Daniel R. Beddis; Dolly Faulkner; Desmond Stuart Frankland.

At the end:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
since as members of one body you are called to peace.

cf Colossians 3.15

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 (52)

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore Him, the Lord is His name!**

**Low at His feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on His heart He will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter His courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on His shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
He will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore Him, the Lord is His name!**

John Samuel Bewley Monsell

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise
of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation.

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

Please be seated.

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.

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:

Sanctus & Benedictus

*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.*

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.*

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

*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.*

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Our Lady, Giles and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God, 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 the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Agnus Dei

*Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, redeemer of the world,
give us your peace.*

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion.

Christ is the true bread
which has come down from heaven.

Lord, give us this bread always.

The clergy and people receive communion.

Organ Voluntary

Hymn (51)

**Hail, Thou source of every blessing,
sovereign Father of mankind!**

**Gentiles now, Thy grace possessing,
in Thy courts admission find.**

**Once far off, but now invited,
we approach Thy sacred throne;
in Thy covenant united,
reconciled, redeemed, made one.**

**Now revealed to eastern sages,
see the Star of mercy shine,
mystery hid in former ages,
mystery great of love divine.**

**Hail, Thou universal Saviour!
Gentiles now their offerings bring,
in Thy temple seek Thy favour,
Jesu Christ, our Lord and King.**

Basil Wood

Choir Anthem

In the bleak mid-winter (Harold Darke 1888-1976)

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Let us pray.

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men
have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Notices are given.

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from light,
lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

Amen.

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness,
give us a place with the saints in light in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

Amen.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts and fill our lives with his joy and peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Hymn (49)

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on His cradle the dew-drops are shining,
low lies His head with the beasts of the stall:
angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.**

**Say, shall we yield Him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom and offerings divine;
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?**

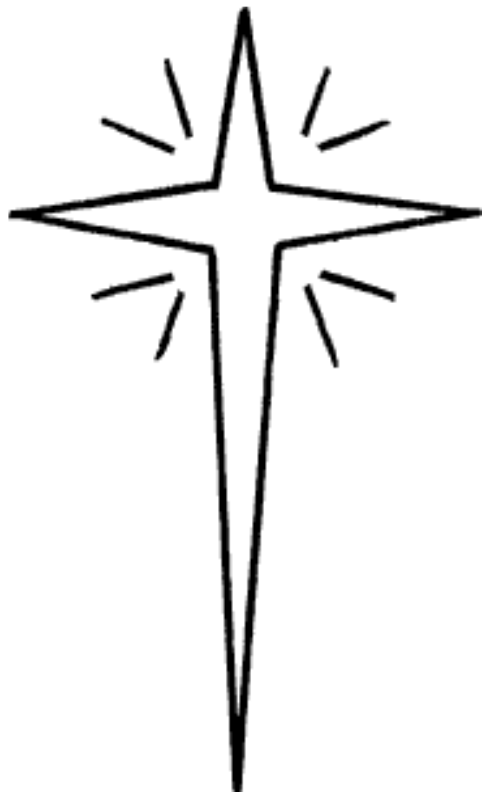
**Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would His favour secure;
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

Reginald Heber

We have seen his glory,
the glory revealed to all the nations.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.
In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia.

The clergy and people depart.



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