



St Mary's Parish Church, Ross-on-Wye

Sung Eucharist

Christmas



Please return this booklet for future use.

Everyone is welcome to worship at St Mary's. If you are new here, or a visitor, and would like to know more, please stay for coffee after the service so that we can get to know you better.

The weekly newsletter or insert gives more detail on the specifics of this service and about what is going on in our churches.

As a Christian community, striving to be faithful followers of Jesus, we are here to love God in our lives and worship, and to love and serve our neighbours.

The content in this booklet covers the whole of the Christmas season from Midnight Mass to Epiphany. The content may be adapted slightly.

- At various points in the service people are invited to stand. However, if you prefer to remain seated, please don't feel embarrassed to do so.
- This service is being live streamed to YouTube and recorded. Unless you are told otherwise, only the area at the front from where the service is led is usually in shot. However if you wish to be assured that you will remain off camera please sit further back in the nave. You will find all streamed services from our website.
- Gluten-free wafers are available, please let one of the welcomers know at the door if you would like to receive one.

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The Gathering

Welcome & Notices

*Before the service, the president offers words of welcome and gives any notices. More about what's going on in and around St Mary's will be found on our website, rossparishes.uk and Facebook page **St Mary's Church Ross-on-Wye**. After that we stand to sing:*

Introit Hymn

Details of all hymns will be found in the newsletter or insert. Please note that we omit starred verses in hymns unless otherwise announced. During the hymn the clergy and choir enter.

The Greeting

Welcome all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span.
Summer in winter, day in night,
heaven in earth and God in man.

Great little one whose all-embracing birth
brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
All And also with you.

Blessing of the Crib

At Midnight, and on Christmas Morning we remain standing to light the Christmas candle and bless the crib.

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father,
on this night [day]
your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary
for us and for our salvation:
bless this crib,
which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,
who is alive and reigns for ever.

All Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

One of these invitations to Confession is used:

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

The sun of righteousness has dawned
with healing in his wings.

Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We sit for the confession

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

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

All Amen

The Gloria

We stand to sing the Gloria, or the choir sings a more elaborate setting, possibly with a different version of the text. The Gloria begins with the words of the angels at the Nativity, the other words were added quite early in the history of the Christian Church, turning it into a hymn praising God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All 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

*This is the special prayer for the day and can be found on the newsletter or insert. We all respond: **Amen***

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Please sit for the first reading which is taken from the Old or New Testament. The reading ends with the response:

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

We stand to sing the hymn (or sit as the choir sings) to introduce the Gospel. Details are on the newsletter or insert. The Gospel procession moves to the top of the nave symbolising the coming of God into our world.

The Gospel

We remain standing to hear the Gospel – a reading from the life of Christ - which more than anything inspires our living.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

cf John 1.14

All Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you, O Christ

After the response the Gospel procession returns, as the organ plays, and we sit for:

The Sermon

The Creed

We stand to join in with the words of the historic Nicene Creed.

All 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.

Prayers of Intercession

We sit or kneel for the prayers. This or another form is used. "In this night" should be omitted or other words substituted for services other than Midnight Mass. Additional prayer intentions can be added as indicated.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, [in this holy night] your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God

All hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] there was no room for your Son in the inn.

Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.

Holy God

All hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand [...and] all who are in pain or distress.
Holy God

All hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to [...and] all who suffer in the sadness of our world.
Holy God

All hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in [...and in] all the world.
Holy God

All hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.
Holy God

All hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Holy God

All hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.

Hold in your hand [...and] all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

All hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God

All hear our prayer.

Father,

[in this holy night] angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.

Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints

through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9.6

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We exchange a sign of peace. If you are joining us online, you might like to use the chat to do this.

The Offertory Hymn

We stand to join in with the Offertory Hymn, details of which will be found on the newsletter. During this hymn a collection is taken. We welcome your offering. If you prefer to give digitally please scan the QR code, visit rossparishes.uk/giving or use the contactless card reader by the north door. If you are a regular member of our community, we encourage you to consider the Parish Giving Scheme. Full details at rossparishes.uk/giving



Preparation of the Table

The gifts of the people are presented at the altar. The table is prepared and the bread and wine placed upon it.

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

All Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer

This long prayer, containing many elements, is the very heart of our Eucharist. In it we all pray that the Real Presence of Christ may be present in form of bread and wine, and that by partaking in this remembrance of Christ we may be spiritually united with God.

We stand for Eucharistic Prayer G with an extended preface.

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and [on this night] was born of the Virgin Mary
by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

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:

*We remain standing to join in with the Sanctus and Benedictus.
Alternately the choir may sing a more elaborate setting with a different
text.*

**All 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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died;

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with St Mary and all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All Blessing and honour and glory and power
Be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

We sit to say the words that Jesus taught us to pray.

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for 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.

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

Agnus Dei

Other words may be sung by the choir alone.

All 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

The president gives words of invitation to communion

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

All Lord, give us this bread always.

Everyone is invited to take communion at St Mary's.

During the communion, carols or other appropriate music is sung by the choir or played by the organist. Please see the newsletter for details.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
[in this night] you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

All To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

The Post Communion Hymn

We stand. Details of which will be found on the newsletter or insert.

The Dismissal

The Blessing

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.

All Amen

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

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All Glory, thanks and praise to God.

Thank you for being with us today. We wish you the joy and peace of Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Please join us again in St Mary's.

Please return this order of service to the welcome desk as you leave so that we can use it again.

