

Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - whether you are here in person, or viewing via the Broadcast Page of our website, or listening via the Media/Audio page. www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast

This week:

Morning Prayer: is said in the main church at 9 a.m, Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday

The church is open for private prayer: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30, Monday - Saturday

Midweek Mass: celebrated in the main church at 10 a.m. on Wednesday

"Zoom" service: 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Send Rev Jill or Deacon Michael an email and they will send you the necessary "link".

Hymn of the week - We Three Kings



Its lilting rhythm and interesting key changes has ensured We Three Kings' place as a distinctive and popular carol. It was composed in 1857 by American clergyman and hymnodist, John Henry Hopkins. Its original use was for an elaborate Nativity drama Hopkins was staging, with male singers taking the part of the three gift-bearing kings. Nowadays of course the verses tend to be sung by all - well, in normal times anyway...

It's intended as an Epiphany carol. But with its great tune and message of hope, this popular carol – which was originally published as 'Three Kings of Orient' – is still one of the most frequently performed throughout the entire Christmas season, including before Christmas Day.

The carol tells the story of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection – and the melody alternates between regal, "minor key" verses, in which the Three Wise Men announce what gifts they're presenting to the son of God, and a major chorus joyfully proclaiming the beauty of the star guiding their way to the manger.

Oh, and it does, of course, lend itself to some great parody versions! 😊



This week's urgently needed items:

- Tinned potatoes,
- Sweet treats
- Long-life fruit juice.
- Long-life custard.

Also welcomed:

- Toiletries, loo rolls
- Tinned veg, fish, meat, rice pud, fruit.

They currently have plenty of pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, baked beans

Thank you

People for whom our prayers are asked:

Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Jackie F, Ian M, Brenda R, Jane G, Cynthia H, Jo, Amber, Shirley, Andrew N, Liisa & Junior, and Libby V.

Please pray also for...

...the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Brian Webb, Peter Turnbull, Jean Broscheit, Pat, Sara, and Tracey P,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time, especially Vivienne Harvey, Arnold Kingsnorth, Bob Byrom, Reg & Rita Burge, and Peter Crighton,

...and all who mourn.



Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany

Welcome

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

All Amen.

Priest The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Prayer of 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.

All 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 says the 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.

All Amen.

Then Gloria in Excelsis is said

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

Priest Let us pray

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has
risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your
dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come
to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be
carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea
shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall
come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and
Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of
the LORD.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

Ephesians 3.1-12

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.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

We three Kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.
O star of wonder...

Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, all are raising,
Worship Him, God most high.
O star of wonder...

Myrrh is mine: Its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder...

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice.
'Alleluia, alleluia!'
Earth to heaven replies.
O star of wonder...

John Henry Hopkins (1822-1900)

Gospel Reading

Dcn Alleluia alleluia.

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

All Alleluia.

Dcn The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 2.1-12

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.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

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

The Magi came from the east to worship your Son:
Father, grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of adoration ...
Lord of glory,
All hear our prayer.

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:
Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds
[at the beginning of this year] ...
Lord of glory,
All hear our prayer.

The kingdoms of this world have become
the kingdom of our God and of his Christ:
Father, grant an abundance of peace to
your world ...

Lord of glory,

All hear our prayer.

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the
shadow of death:

Father, look in mercy on all who are poor
and powerless,
and all who suffer ...

Lord of glory,

All hear our prayer.

Your Son shared the life of his home and
family at Nazareth:

Father, protect in your love our
neighbours, our families and this
community of which we are a part ...

Lord of glory,

All hear our prayer.

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship
with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,
the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph
and all the faithful departed...

In your unfailing love for us and for all
people, hear and answer our prayers
through your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

The Peace is introduced

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of
peace there shall be no end. *cf Isaiah 9.6,7*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We may exchange a sign of Peace

Preparation of the Table

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a
light for the righteous;

accept the offering of your Church
and grant that Christ may shine in us
to the praise and glory of your name.

All Amen.

The president takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 declare our joyful hymn of praise:

**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.**

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:

**All 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 Saint John
the Evangelist, Saint Peter, Mary the
Mother of God, 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.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God, let us pray
with confidence as our Saviour has taught
us:

**All 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 priest 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 is said:

Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Grant us peace

Giving of Communion

The priest says the invitation to communion.

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

All Lord, give us this bread always.

Communion is received

Prayer after Communion

The priest prays the Post Communion:

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.

All Amen.

All 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.

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you

All 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.

All Amen.

We have seen his glory,
the glory revealed to all the nations.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

**Concluding voluntary: Nun danket alle
Got (Karg-Elert)**

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. *1 John 1:5-7*



An epiphany enables you to sense creation not as something completed, but as constantly becoming, evolving, ascending. This transports you from a place where there is nothing new to a place where there is nothing old, where everything renews itself, where heaven and earth rejoice as at the moment of creation.

Abraham Isaac Kook

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13



Above: Hastings beach, Christmas morning 2020

Right: Hastings pier last week, with its "Hope" message boards



The whole life of Christ was a continual Passion; others die martyrs but Christ was born a martyr. He found a Golgotha even in Bethlehem, where he was born; for to his tenderness then the straws were almost as sharp as the thorns after, and the manger as uneasy at first as his cross at last. His birth and his death

were but one continual act, and his Christmas day and his Good Friday are but the evening and morning of one and the same day. And as even his birth is his death, so every action and passage that manifests Christ to us is his birth, for Epiphany is manifestation.

John Donne (1572-1631)



On Tuesday (5th Jan) we remember St Simeon Stylites

Simeon Stylites (390 – 459) must be a candidate to be patron saint of all REALLY eccentric people...

Simeon was the son of a shepherd on the Syrian border of Cilicia. He joined a monastery near Antioch, where he practised mortifications and penances that nearly killed him. When the abbot dismissed him in disgust as crazy, Simeon moved on to Telanissos (nowadays Dair Sem'an) and spent his first Lent there in a total fast. He was found unconscious on Easter Day. After three years in that monastery he felt life was too easy, and so moved himself to the top of the nearby mountain, where he chained himself to a rock. He began to be talked about, and more and more people came to see him.

Simeon did not want their company, and so planned his escape: to the top of a pillar. For the next four years he lived on top of a pillar that was nine feet high. More people came by, and so Simeon in desperation added to his pillar, until it grew to be 18 feet high. Still people came to see him, and so three years later, Simeon built himself a real skyscraper – a pillar 33 feet high, from the top of which he enjoyed 10 years of comparative solitude.

Still people came to see him – both Christians and pagans, and so Simeon decided to somehow build a pillar that was 60 feet high and six feet wide. Here he found peace and quiet, and so here he lived for the last 20 years of his life. People still came to see him, and tried to catch the 'sacred' lice that fell off his body. Even Emperors came to hear him preach.

A scholar has written of Simeon: "His preaching was practical, kindly, and gave witness to the need for penance and prayer; his way of life provided a spectacle at once challenging, repulsive and awesome."

Simeon finally died and was buried at Antioch. Perhaps he would have enjoyed the chance to take the plinth at Trafalgar Square!

Fiona M would like to draw our attention to a remarkable inclusive version of **Handel's Messiah** that was created last year - a Canadian production done in partnership with Against the Grain Theatre and the Toronto Symphony. There is great diversity reflected in the performers, including many indigenous performers, sometimes singing Handel's songs translated into their own native language. Going to <https://bit.ly/3fvAizZ> takes you to the Against the Grain Theatre site, with trailers for the performance and details for streaming it.

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