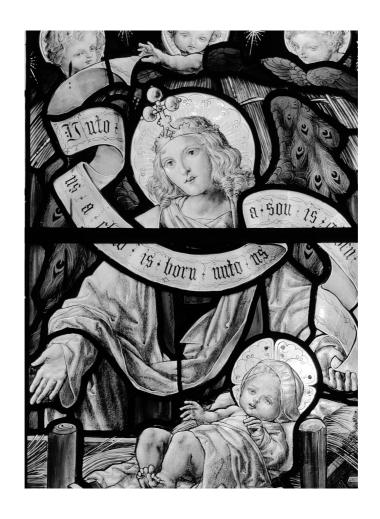
THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHRISTCHURCH



Christmas Day
The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
25 December 2025

From the Vicar...

Dear friends,

As we come to the end of the calendar year, we have begun a new Church year in December and the Season of Advent. Advent has changed a lot in the past decades as Christmas has become a part of popular culture and the commercialised world. It is almost impossible not to be swept up in 'the silly season' as one attends work Christmas parties, lights and decorations spring up, and carols are echoed through the shopping malls.

As Christians it can often seem like we are living in between two worlds. On one hand our Advent Sunday readings focus on John the Baptist and the second coming of Christ, and on the other, we are beginning to sing carols and take part in Nativity plays. Though this may be strange, it is in fact quite normal for Christians, for we are in a sense always living between two worlds.

We are a pilgrim people, always on that journey towards God and the fullness of Christ. But we are also people of this world, it is our home which we are called to care for and be intimately involved with. Being a pilgrim people allows us to integrate ourselves with these two worlds. To participate in the festivities of December but also to focus our attention on the narrative of Advent that leads us to Christmas. For our God is a pilgrim God who calls us to pilgrimage in this world and the next.

As we gather for this great feast of Christmas once again, we become even more aware of this idea of pilgrimage. For God reveals to us his nature as a pilgrim in the fact that he stoops down and becomes one of us, and participates in our pilgrimage on earth towards that greater destination of the life to come. This is Good News. As we celebrate once more God's coming among us at Christmas, I hope and pray that Christ our infant saviour may give you the joy of the Bethlehem shepherds, the awe of the worshipping sages and the humility and love of the holy family.

Merry Christmas to you all,

Fr. Jodan

Father Jordan

Copies of the music for the mass setting and hymns are available from the Sides People.

Christmas Day The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

25 December 2025

Celebrant 8.00 am: Fr Jordan Greatbatch

Celebrant 10.00 am: Fr Robert Jamieson Organ: Paul Ellis

Sidespeople: Carol Fraser, Jane Evans

Mass Setting: A Festive Eucharist Noel Rawsthorne

Organ: Sinfonia from the Christmas Oratorio JS Bach

Introit Hymn: 26

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,

Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!

With the angelic host proclaim, Pleased as man with man to dwell,

Christ is born in Bethlehem:

Hark! the herald angels sing

Clarate the new born King

Clarate the new born King

Glory to the new-born King. Glory to the new-born King.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings; Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,

Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth: Hark! the herald angels sing Glory to the new-born King.

Greeting:

Ki te ingoa o te № Matua, me te Tamaiti, me te Wairua Tapu. Āmine. (In the name of the № Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.)

The Lord be with you. The Lord bless you.

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

"You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world as we in silence call to mind our sins.

Silence

Merciful God,
we have sinned in what we have thought and said,
in the wrong we have done,
and in the good we have not done.
We have sinned in ignorance:
we have sinned in weakness:
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry.
We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.

Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Christe, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.

Through the cross of Christ, ₱ God have mercy on you, pardon you, and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's 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.

Let us pray.

O God, you have made this most holy morning radiant with the splendour of the true light, may we who even now obscurely share the mystery of your light come to enjoy your light in fullness, who is alive with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: (sit) Isaiah 52: 7–10 Jenny Daniels

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices; together they shout for joy, for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth; shout together for joy, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm: 98

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord has done marvellous things. With your own right hand, O Lord, and with your holy arm you have gained for yourself the victory. **R.**

You have made known your victory, you have displayed your saving power to all the nations. You have remembered your faithfulness, and your love for the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen your victory. **R.**

Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth, sing and rejoice with the sound of melody. Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song. **R.**

Second Reading: (sit) Hebrews 1: 1–4 Sue Shannons

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: (stand)

Alleluia, alleluia. I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Saviour is born for us, Christ the Lord. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

The Lord bless you Praise and Glory to God

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20 Fr Jordan Greatbatch In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of Christ. Praise to Christ the Word.

Sermon: Fr Jordan Greatbatch

Affirmation of Faith:

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, (all genuflect)
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became fully human. (stand)
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 in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
and 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.

Devotions before the Crib:

The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary: And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with you: blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord: **Be it unto me according to your Word.** Hail Mary... And the Word became flesh: (bow) **And dwelt among us.** Hail Mary... Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts; that, as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his ♣ cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Intercessions: Kate Churchill

Rest

eternal grant unto them, O Lord:

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you. And also with you.

At the Peace all may exchange a non physical greeting with those near them.

E te whanau, we are the body of Christ. **By one spirit we were baptised into one body.** Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: **Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.**

Offertory: Jenny and Peter Daniels

The Preparation of the Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life. Blessed be God for ever.

By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become our spiritual drink. Blessed be God for ever.

Offertory Hymn: 30

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold him Born the King of Angels: Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light, Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; Very God, Begotten, not created: Refrain: O come......

See how the Shepherds, Summoned to his cradle, Leaving their flocks, Draw nigh with lovely fear; We too will thither Bend our joyful footsteps: Refrain: O come..... Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the Highest:
Refrain: O come....

Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee,
With awe and love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?
Refrain: O come.....

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning, Jesu, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing: Refrain: O come..... Pray, sisters and brothers, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty One.

May the Lord receive the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

Lord, on this solemn day accept the offering which has brought us reconciliation and perfect peace and is the full expression of our worship. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Let us give thanks and praise.

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son, who for the love of our fallen race humbled himself, was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.

For in the mystery of the Word made flesh a new light of your glory has shone upon the eyes of our mind, so that, as we recognize in him God made visible, we may be caught up through him in love of things invisible.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing......

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.

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father.

Send your Holy Spirit, that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

On the night before he died, your Son Jesus Christ took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them, and said: Drink this, all of you, for 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, to remember me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Glory to you, Lord Christ: your death we show forth; your resurrection we proclaim; your coming we await. Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

Therefore, loving God, recalling your great goodness to us in Christ, his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ, our great high priest.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.

As Christ teaches us we pray:

Amen.

Kua ākona nei tātou e tō tātou Ariki, ka īnoi tatou:

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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi Kia tapu tōu Ingoa. Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga. Kia meatia tau e pai ai, ki runga ki te whenua, kia rite anō ki tō te rangi. Hōmai ki a mātou āianei he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā. Murua ō mātou hara, Me mātou hoki e muru nei

i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou. Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia; Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino: Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha, me te korōria.

Āke ake ake. Āmine

Eucharistic Ministers: Fr Peter Williams, Carol Fraser

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.

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 your peace.

For us a child is born, to us a Son is given, whose shoulder bears dominion, Great Counsellor his name.

This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Happy are we who are called to his supper.

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

All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Communion, leave your seat by the side aisle and come down the central aisle. To receive the Sacrament please cup your hands and the Priest will place it on your palm. Gluten free wafers are available, please ask.

Choir

Away in a manger A Christmas blessing arr. Willcocks Philip Stopford

Communion Hymn: 387

Jesus, good above all other, Gentle Child of gentle Mother, In a stable born our Brother, Give us grace to persevere. Jesus, for thy people dying, Risen Master, death defying, Lord in heaven, thy grace supplying, Keep us to thy presence near.

Jesus, cradled in a manger, For us facing every danger, Living as a homeless stranger, Make we thee our King most dear. Jesus, who our sorrows bearest, All our thoughts and hopes thou sharest, Thou to men the truth declarest; Help us all thy truth to hear.

Lord, in all our doings guide us; Pride and hate shall ne'er divide us; We'll go on with thee beside us, And with joy we'll persevere!

Let us pray.

Merciful God, grant that the Saviour of the world, who was born this day to bring us new and divine life, may bestow upon us the gift of life everlasting. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. **Amen.**

Notices

Blessing:

The Lord be with you. The Lord bless you.

May the God of infinite goodness, who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy day, drive far from you the darkness of vice and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue. **Amen**. May God, who willed that the great joy of his Son's saving Birth be announced to shepherds by the Angel, fill your minds with the gladness he gives and make you heralds of his Gospel. **Amen**.

And may God, who by the Incarnation of brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God almighty, № Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Mass is ended. Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

Final Hymn: Joy to the world

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;

let earth receive her king; let us our song employ; let every heart while fields and floods, prepare him room, rocks, hills and plains

and heaven and nature sing, repeat the sounding joy, and heaven and nature sing, repeat the sounding joy,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing. repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Organ Voluntary: Toccata Theodore Dubois

Please pray for...

The Sick:

Fr Geoff Paterson, Jo Burnside, Ann Jinman, Terry & Betsy McKay.

Charles Barltrop, Claire & John Preston, Lois Peters, Denis Coulter, Betty Mechen, Suzanne Keys, Ghislaine Brewer-Quirke, Lesta Smithson, Pamela Hindin-Whitewood, John Bertken, Peter Easterbrook, Anne Fenton, David & Sandra, Philip Souter, Deb Smith, Andrew Lawson, Ashley Forman.

Anniversaries: (Sun) Kate Kiver, Madge Astridge

(Mon) William Sinclair, Nic Webb

(Thurs) Amelia Seymour, Marcia Gray, Jessica Pasea, John Flavell—Priest

(Sat) Marie Ellis

NOTICES

THIS WEEK

Meditation Group—Wednesday 12.00 noon in the church. Contact: Therese Aitchison 0212516282.

Inasmuch Basket—please continue to support the work of the City Mission. Needed are groceries for families for the holiday season and, for the Mission Outreach, sunscreen, sunhats and personal hygiene products.

OFFICE LEAVE DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

As the holiday season approaches, we would like to inform you about our office closure and arrangements for support during this period.

The Parish office will close at 1.30 pm **Friday 19 December 2025** and will re-open on **Monday, 12 January 2026.** Please call either the Vicar or Wardens if you need immediate assistance over this period. For non-urgent matters, support will resume when the office reopens on **12 January.**

Fr Robert will be on leave from **27 December 2025**, returning to the office on **Tuesday 13 January 2026**.

Fr Jordan will be on leave from **12 January 2026**, returning to the office on **Tuesday 17 February 2026**.

Health & Safety Regulations: In an emergency, use the closest exit and assemble in the drop-off zone. In an earthquake, drop down and shelter behind or under a pew, covering your head. Follow instructions.

NEXT WEEK The First Sunday of Christmas

The Feast of the Holy Family

8:00 am Mass Celebrant: Fr Peter Beck Server: Jack Barrie

10.00 am Mass **Celebrant:** Fr Jordan Greatbatch

Preacher: Fr Peter Beck

Servers: SD: Carol Fraser MC: Jack Barrie

Th: Robert Calvert-Griffin Cr: Michael Graveston

Ac: Thomas Visakan, Georgia Caughey

First Reading:Robert MaclaganIsaiah 63:7-9Second Reading:Johnann WilliamsHebrews 2:10-18Gospel:Fr Peter BeckMatthew 2:13-23

Eucharist Ministers: Carol Fraser, Gail Chiswell **Sides people:** Joy Coulter, Vince Moreton

Livestream: Hugh Munro

Offertory: Gloria Moyle, Joy Coulter,

Morning Tea: Richard Thompson, Beth Robinson

Intercessions: Marla Hughes
Sacristan: Jenny Daniels
Sacristy: Robert Maclagan
Flowers: Toni Stewart

Evensong Readers: No Evensong until 1 February 2026 **Evensong Server:** No Evensong until 1 February 2026

CONTACTS

Vicar: Fr Jordan Greatbatch vicar@stmichaelandallangels.nz 0272216198

Churchwardens: Richard Thompson vicarswarden@stmichaelandallangels.nz

0274632770

28 December 2025

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PASTORAL CARE TEAM COORDINATOR - Gloria Moyle 0274355347

The Anglican Parish of St Michael and All Angels Christchurch

Thursday Christmas Day

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

8.00 am Low Mass

10.00 am High Mass

Friday St Stephen, The first Christian Martyr

No Mass

Saturday St John the Evangelist

Next Sunday The First Sunday of Christmas

The Feast of the Holy Family – 28 December 2025

8.00 am Low Mass

10.00 am High Mass

Daily Mass

Recommences on 30 December 2024

Online Services

facebook.com/SMAAChristchurch

Sunday 10.00 am Solemn Mass