

The Anglican Parish of
St MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
Christchurch



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
25 December 2023

From the Vicar...

Dear friends,

It is that time again. The time that our waiting and expectation for the great gift of the Christ Child comes to its conclusion as we now receive our Saviour. There will be many gifts given in the coming days, new iPads, new bikes, and many socks! But none of these gifts are really important when it comes to the great gift of the Incarnation. More and more we see the consumerism of Christmas going to new heights. In a way consumerism is the new God, promising happiness through material goods. But we know that this sort of gift-giving doesn't in fact fill our needs. The yearning for love, forgiveness and acceptance that we all seek cannot be remedied by the latest gadget. And so it is to Christ that we look, that vulnerable child who came amongst us and changed everything.

Some may find it strange that there is no direct mention of Christmas in the Christmas Day readings. During the Christmas Eve Mass we recall the story of Jesus' birth. The theme of the Christmas Day Mass is the real identity of this helpless little baby in the manger:

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

This baby is the Word of God. In his inner being he is with God and is God. The Word was made "flesh" (Greek, sarx). Not just a human, but someone totally immersed in our world. This starts with the birth itself. He is far from home, constrained to use an animals' feeding box as his bed. He is visited by marginalised people and outcasts – the shepherds. He will soon be on the run, threatened by violence. As we celebrate Christmas this year, we are only too aware of those who will find it difficult to celebrate. Those caught up in conflict in the Holy Land and Ukraine, to name a few. Those fleeing such conflicts that have no place to lay their head. And the poor, the sick and the suffering. As we receive gifts this Christmas and offer gifts to others, we pray that all would know that great gift, Emmanuel, God with us.

Blessings and peace this Christmas to you and your loved ones.

Fr Jordan



If you would like a copy of the music for the mass setting and hymns please speak to one of the Sides People.

Parish Practices

- Mask wearing is optional. Hand sanitizer is available for you to use, and you are encouraged to use it - especially as you come to Communion.
- In greeting one another nearby at The Peace, please be conscious that some people may not wish to touch other people (even with a handshake).
- You may receive Communion in one kind only (Consecrated Bread). You may come up for a Blessing (hold your hands crossed across your chest, rather than held out to receive the Bread). You may receive in both kinds (Consecrated Bread and Wine, by drinking or intinction).

Online Services

Sunday 10.00 am facebook.com/SMAAChristchurch
Solemn Mass—this is a livestreamed service
(pews in front of the sound desk are not filmed)

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.

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
25 December 2023

Celebrant 8.00 am: Fr Jordan Greatbatch
Celebrant 10.00 am: Fr Jordan Greatbatch **Organ:** Paul Ellis
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,
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:
Hark! the herald angels sing
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 to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth:
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
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!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Come, Desire of nations, come,
Fix in us thy humble home;
Rise, the woman's conquering Seed,
Bruise in us the serpent's head;
Now display thy saving power,
Ruined nature now restore,
Now in mystic union join
Thine to ours, and ours to thine:
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. Amine.
(In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.)

Grace and peace to you from God. **God fill you with truth and joy.**

The people are invited to call to mind their sins in 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, 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.

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: *(sit)* Isaiah 52: 7–10

Sue Shannons

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 sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, 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.**

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, alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

**The Lord bless you
Praise and Glory to God**

Gospel: John 1: 1-14

Deacon Simon Green

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became fully human.

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.

Intercessions: Margaret Maclagan

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord: **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**
May they rest in peace and rise in glory. **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.**

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: Toni Stewart, Sue Shannons

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. **Amen.**

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:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the Highest:
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:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Pray, sisters and brothers,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty One.

**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.**

Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit you sanctified the mother of your Son; make
holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**God's Spirit is with us.
We lift them to the Lord.
It is right to offer 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.

For through him the holy exchange that restores our life has shone forth today in splendour: when our frailty is assumed by your Word not only does human mortality receive unending honour but by this wondrous union we, too, are made eternal.

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:

**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.
Amen.**

Eucharistic Ministers: Margaret Maclagan, Jack Barrie

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.**

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

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.**

For Communion, leave your seat by the side aisle and come down the central aisle. You are encouraged to use the hand sanitizer.

Choir: I sing of a maiden Robin Wells
Ding dong merrily on high arr. Woodward

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!

Prayer after Communion:

Grant, O merciful God, that, just as the saviour of the world, born this day, is the author of divine generation for us, so he may be the giver even of immortality. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Notices

Blessing:

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 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 almighty God, the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come upon you and remain with you for ever. **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;
let earth receive her king;
let every heart
prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;
let us our song employ;
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
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

EVENSONG AND BENEDICTION

Recommences 4 February 2024

THIS WEEK**NOTICES**

Inasmuch Basket—please continue to support the work of the City Mission.

The Parish Office reopens on the 15 January 2024.

NEXT WEEK**The First Sunday of Christmas**

31 December 2023

8:00 am Mass **Celebrant:** Fr Jordan Greatbatch **Server:** Andrew Moorhouse
10:00 am Mass **Celebrant:** Fr Jordan Greatbatch
 Preacher: Fr Jordan Greatbatch
Servers: **SD:** Jack Barrie **MC:** Michael Graveston
 Th: Thomas Visakan **Cr:** Robert Calvert
 Ac: Liam Moore, Andrew Moorhouse

First Reading: Johann Williams Isaiah 61: 10-11
Second Reading: Brenda Withell Galtaians 4: 4-7
Gospel: Deacon Simon Green Luke 2 15-21
Eucharist Ministers: Jack Barrie, Andrew Moorhouse
Sides people: Jane Ellis, Joy Coulter
Intercessions: Robert Maclagan
Offertory: Joy Coulter, Mary Stevenson
Morning Tea: -
Sacristan: Joshua Wilson Black
Sacristy: Joy Coulter
Livestream: Jane Evans
Flowers: Toni Stewart
Evensong Readers: -
Evensong Servers: -

Please pray for...**The Sick:**

Alastair Scott, Rita Libeau, John Preston, Claire Preston, Lois Peters, Denis Coulter, Betty Mechen, Suzanne Keys, Ghislaine Brewer-Quirke, Lesta Smithson, Peter Easterbrook, Maggie Copp.

Sr Annette, Anne Fenton, Kay Burgess, David & Sandra, Philip Souter, Ongloon Yee, Deb Smith, Andrew Lawson, Anthony & Chrissie Coulter.

Anniversaries: (Mon) Amelia Seymour, Marcia Gray, Jessica Pasea, John Flavell—Priest
(Wed) Marie Ellis (Fri) Isabel Tuck

Pastoral Care Team

Gloria Moyle:—Coordinator 0274355347

Carol Fraser:	021332068	Pat Pilkington:	021356116
Barbara Moreton:	021940890	Simon Green:	0276421987
Vince Moreton:	021611867	Pip Judge:	0220446026

**The Anglican Parish of
St Michael and All Angels,
Christchurch**

Monday **The Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ**
8.00 am Low Mass
10.00 am Solemn Mass

Tuesday **St Stephen**

Wednesday **St John the Evangelist**

Thursday **Holy Innocents**

Friday Thomas of Canterbury

Saturday Josephine Butler

Next Sunday **The First Sunday of Christmas—31 December 2023**
8.00 am Low Mass
10.00 am Solemn Mass

NO DAILY MASSES THIS WEEK
Recommence on the 1 January 2024

Contacts

Vicar:	Fr Jordan Greatbatch	priestsmaa@gmail.com	0272216198
Churchwardens:	Michael Graveston	smaavicarswarden@gmail.com	0273580010
	Jane Evans	jee.evans@xtra.co.nz	0276603634
Parish Administrator:	Taunya Kearns	smaa@xtra.co.nz	03 379 5236
Hon. Associate	Fr Peter Williams	powilliams47@gmail.com	0272303105
Priests :	Fr Geoff Paterson	geoffpat@xtra.co.nz	0272439995
	Fr Peter Beck	peterjbecknz@gmail.com	021654445
Curate:	Deacon Simon Green	simon.ffnz@xtra.co.nz	0276421987
Music Director:	Paul Ellis	paulvellis76@gmail.com	03 337 3370
Head Sacristan:	Simon Green	simon.ffnz@xtra.co.nz	0276421987
Privacy Officer:	Gloria Moyle	grmoyle1@gmail.com	0274355347
Webmaster:	Joshua Wilson Black	black.joshuad@gmail.com	0204224118
Website:	www.stmichaelandallangels.nz		
Facebook:	SMAAChristchurch		
Parish Bank Account:	St Michael's Churchwardens		03-0855-0263594-000