

The Anglican Parish of
St MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
Christchurch



Midnight Mass
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
11.30pm
24 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Jordan', written in a cursive, flowing style.

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.

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Midnight Mass
24 December 2025

Celebrant: Fr Jordan Greatbatch

Organ: Paul Ellis

Sidespeople: Vince Moreton, Michael Graveston

Mass Setting: A Festive Eucharist

Noel Rawsthorne

Introit Hymn: 33

Of the Father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic close,
Evermore and evermore.

This is he, who seer and sibyl,
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! He comes, the promised Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.

Let the storm and summer sunshine,
Gliding stream and sounding shore,
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,
Day and night their Lord adore;
Let creation join to laud thee
Through the ages evermore.
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering.
Evermore and evermore.

The Birth of Christ: Luke 2: 1–20

Fr Robert Jamieson

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.

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

The Blessing of the Crib:

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Saviour of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

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.

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.

Choir: Kyrie from Organ Mass

FJ Haydn

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.

Gloria :

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, who has made this most sacred night radiant with the splendour of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please sit for the readings.

First Reading: Isaiah 9: 2–4, 6–7

Richard Thompson

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden you have broken, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

Today a Saviour has been born to us: he is Christ the Lord.

O sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing, and give praise to God's name, tell the glad news of salvation from day to day. **R.**

Proclaim God's glory to the nations, God's marvellous deeds to all the peoples. Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad, let the sea roar and all the creatures in it. **R.**

Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them; then all the trees of the forest will shout with joy before the Lord. For you, O Lord, are coming to judge the earth: with righteousness you will judge the world, and the peoples with your truth. **R.**

Second Reading: Titus 2: 11–14

Rachel Watson

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

Gospel Acclamation: (stand)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Good news and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. **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

Fr Robert Jamieson

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 overtake 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 Robert Jamieson

Affirmation of Faith: *(stand)*

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.

Intercessions: Johann Williams

Rest eternal ✠ grant unto them, O Lord:

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory. **Amen.**

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.

The Peace

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

All may exchange a greeting of peace 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: Dorothy Burrows, Jane Evans

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: 29

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
The nations still at war hear not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, and cease the strife,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

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.

Accept our offerings, Lord God, on this festive night, that through this holy exchange we may become like Christ, in who our nature is united to your Godhead. Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here. **God's 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 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 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:

**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: Rachel Watson, Richard Thompson

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.**

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

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.

Carol: Up good Christen folk and listen Piae Cantiones
1582 arr. Woodward

Communion Hymn: 42

While shepherds watched
their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

‘Fear not’, said he for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

‘To you in David’s town this day
Is born of David’s line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

The heavenly Babe
you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid’.

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

‘All glory be to God on high,
And on the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to all
Begin and never cease.

Let us pray.

Lord our God, we celebrate with joy the birth of our redeemer. Grant that through worthy and holy lives we may be welcomed into his glorious company for ever. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 the glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night, 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 down on you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

The Mass has ended, go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in Peace.

Amen, we go in the name of Christ.

Final 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!

Organ Voluntary: Gloria in excelsis

Max Reger

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 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 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

12.35 Mass returns 30 December 2025

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