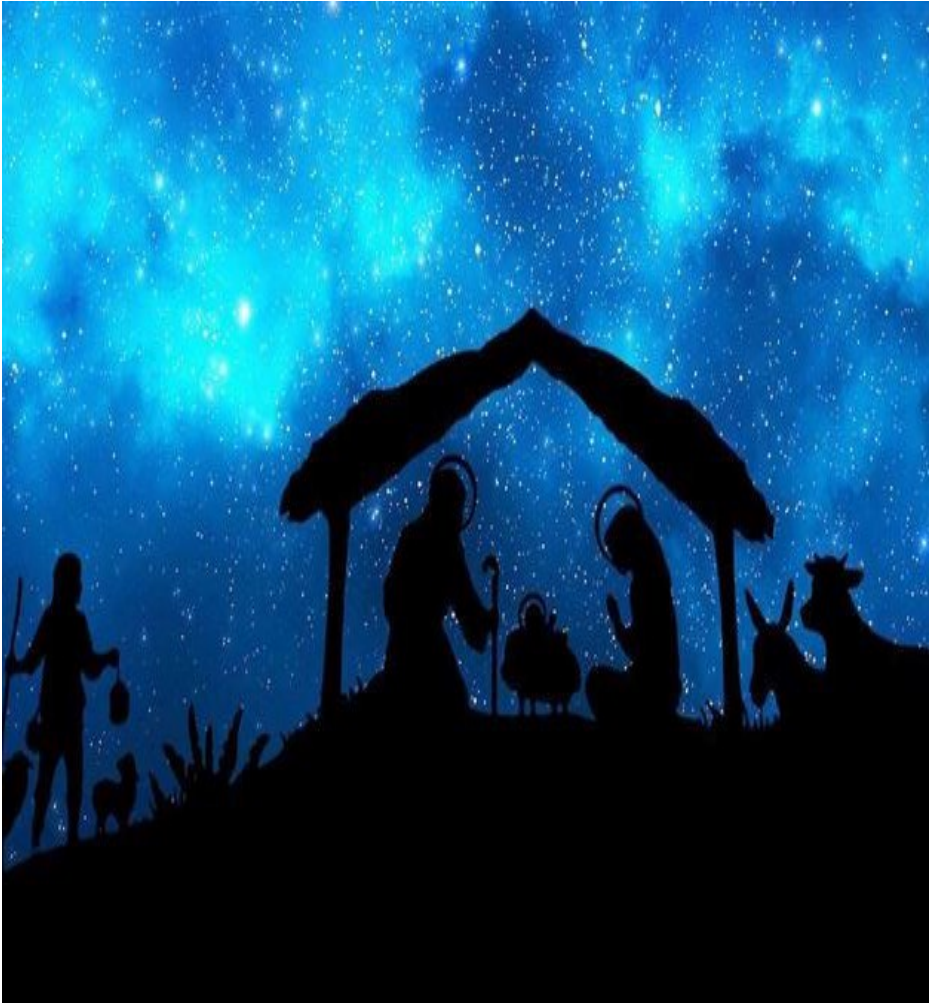


The Anglican Parish of
St MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
Christchurch



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Midnight Mass
11.30pm
24 December 2024

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

facebook.com/SMAAChristchurch
Sunday 10.00 am 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
Midnight Mass
24 December 2024

Celebrant: Fr Jordan Greatbatch
Mass Setting: A Festive Eucharist

Organ: Paul Ellis
Noel Rawsthorne

(At the ringing of the bell please stand and turn to the West door)

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.)
The Lord be with you. **The Lord bless you.**
Let us proceed in peace. **In the name of ✠ Christ. Amen**

Processional 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.

At the Crib:

The Birth of Christ Luke 2: 1–20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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 Judæa, 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 first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that 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. But 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, 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 our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation; bless this crib which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith, and receive the fullness of life he came to bring. We ask this through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Recollection :

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.

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.

Collect:

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

Jane Evans

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.

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. His authority shall grow continually, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

Responsorial Psalm:

96

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

1. 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.**
2. 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.**
3. 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

Michael Graveston

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

The Lord bless you

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

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 (*genuflect or bow*) 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: (*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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became fully human (*all genuflect or bow*). 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: Barbara Moreton

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: Brenda Withell, Dorothy Burrows

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.

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.

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!

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.

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.

Priest:

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.

May the oblation of this day's feast be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we may be found in the likeness of Christ, in whom our nature is united to you. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **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.**

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise through Jesus 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 recognise 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.

Hear the prayers of the family you have gathered here before you. In mercy and love unite all your children, wherever they may be. Welcome into your kingdom our departed brothers and sisters, and all who have left this world in your friendship. We hope to enjoy for ever the vision of your glory through Christ our Lord, from whom all good things come.

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, 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.**

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.**

Anthem: All this time

William Walton

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.

Prayer after Communion:

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, that we, who are gladdened by participation in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity, may through an honourable way of life become worthy of union with him. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing:

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.**

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**

Monday **The Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ—25 December 2023**
8.00 am Low Mass
10.00 am Solemn Mass

NO WEEKDAY MASSES DURING THIS WEEK
Recommencing 1 January 2024

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

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