

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF
ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
CHRISTCHURCH



**The First Sunday of Christmas
The Feast of the Holy Family
28 December 2025**

No letter from the Vicar this week.

The First Sunday of Christmas

The Feast of the Holy Family

28 December 2025

Celebrant 8.00 am: Fr Peter Beck

Celebrant 10.00 am: Fr Jordan Greatbatch

Organ: Paul Ellis

Cantor: Ros Calvert

Sidespeople: Joy Coulter, Vince Moreton

Mass Setting: A New Peoples' Mass

Dom Gregory Murray

Organ: Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern

Max Reger

Introit Hymn: 32

O Little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, above with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

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.**

The Mass of the day is introduced and the people are invited to call to mind their sins.

God has promised forgiveness to all who truly repent, turn to Christ in faith and are themselves forgiving. In silence we 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.
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, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: *(sit)*

Isaiah 63:7-9

Robert Maclagan

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

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

Responsorial Psalm:

84

R. O Lord God of hosts, blessed are those who dwell in your house.

How lovely is your dwelling-place, Lord God of power and might. My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. **R.**

O Lord God of hosts, blessed are those who dwell in your house. Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. **R.**

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Show favour, O God, to the king our defender, and look upon the face of your anointed prince. **R.**

Second Reading: *(sit)*

Hebrews 2:10-18

Johnann Williams

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

Gospel Acclamation: (*stand*)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

The Lord bless you

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Praise and Glory to God

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

Fr Peter Beck

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

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

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 or bow*)
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: Marla Hughes

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.**

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: Gloria Moyle, Joy Coulter

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.**

In the bleak midwinter
 Frosty wind made moan,
 Earth stood hard as iron,
 Water like a stone:
 Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
 Snow on snow,
 In the bleak midwinter,
 Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him
 Nor earth sustain;
 Heaven and earth shall flee away
 When he comes to reign:
 In the bleak midwinter
 A stable place sufficed
 The Lord God Almighty,
 Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim
 Worship night and day,
 A breastful of milk,
 And a mangerful of hay:
 Enough for him, whom angels
 Fall down before,
 The ox and ass and camel
 Which adore.

Angels and archangels
 May have gathered there,
 Cherubim and Seraphim
 Thronged the air
 But only his mother
 In her maiden bliss
 Worshipped the Beloved
 With a kiss.

What can I give him,
 Poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd
 I would bring a lamb;
 If I were a wise man
 I would do my part;
 Yet what I can I give him
 Give my heart.

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.**

We beg you, Lord, accept the sacrifice which makes our peace with you and, through the prayers of Mary, the virgin Mother of God, and of blessed Joseph, her husband, unite our families in your grace and peace. Grant 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.

**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 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.**

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

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 āiane
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: Carol Fraser, Gail Chiswell

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.

Our God has appeared on earth, and lived among us.

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.

Communion Solo: Child of the secret birth Anthony Caesar

Communion Hymn: 40

What child is this, who, laid to rest	Why lies he in such mean estate,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?	Where ox and ass are feeding?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,	Come, have no fear, Gods son is here,
While shepherds watch are keeping?	His love all loves exceeding:
This, this is Christ the King,	Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
Whom shepherds worship and angels sing:	The cross be borne for me, for you:
Haste, haste to bring him praise	Hail, hail, the Saviour comes,
The Babe, the son of Mary.	The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
All tongues and peoples own him,
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let every heart enthrone him:
Raise, raise your song on high
While Mary sings a lullaby,
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The Babe, the son of Mary.

Let us pray.

Merciful Father, you have refreshed us with this heavenly sacrament. Grant us the grace to follow closely the example of the Holy Family, that, after the trials of this present life, we may be welcomed into their company for ever. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Notices

Blessing:

The Lord be with you. **The Lord bless you.**

May Christ our infant saviour give you the joy of the Bethlehem shepherds, the awe of the worshipping sages and the humility and love of the holy family. May you become as little children 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.

Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
Came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That he all men surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled:
'A prince,' he said, 'in Jewry!'
And all the little boys he killed
At Bethlem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Doth rend the air asunder.

Organ Voluntary:

Epilogue on a gallery carol

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:

(Mon) Isabel Tuck (Thurs) Hugh De la Bere—Priest, Ernest Dennis
(Sat) Sybil Pasea

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.

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 Epiphany of the Lord****4 January 2026**

8:00 am Mass	Celebrant: Fr Jordan Greatbatch	Server: Hugh Munro
10.00 am Mass	Celebrant: Fr Peter Williams	
	Preacher: Fr Jordan Greatbatch	
Servers:	SD: Margaret Maclagan	MC: Michael Graveston
	Th: Jack Barrie	Cr: Thomas Visakan
	Ac: Callum Robertson, Robert Calvert-Griffin	
First Reading:	Brenda Withell	Isaiah 60:1-6
Second Reading:	Kate Churchill	Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel:	Fr Jordan Greatbatch	Matthew 2:1-12
Eucharist Ministers:	Margaret Maclagan, Gloria Moyle	
Sides people:	Jane Ellis, Judith McKaskell	
Intercessions:	Jenny Daniels	
Offertory:	Mary Stevenson, Jane Evans	
Morning Tea:	Vince Moreton, Pat Pilkington	
Sacristan:	Thomas Visakan	
Sacristy:	Jenny Daniels	
Livestream:	Kathleen Campbell	
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
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PASTORAL CARE TEAM COORDINATOR - Gloria Moyle 0274355347

The Anglican Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Christchurch

This Sunday **The First Sunday after Christmas**
The Feast of the Holy Family—28 December 2025

8.00 am **Low Mass**
10.00 am **High Mass**

Monday Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop, Martyr, 1170
No Mass

Tuesday Josephine Butler, Worker among Women, 1905
12.35 pm Mass

Wednesday John Wycliffe, Theologian and Reformer, 1384
12.00 noon Meditation
12.35 pm Mass

Thursday **New Year's Day—The Naming of Jesus**
12.35 pm Mass

Friday Seraphim of Sarov, Mystic, Russia, 1833
12.35 pm Mass

Saturday Gladys Aylward, Missionary, China, 1970

Next Sunday **The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ —4 January 2026**

8.00 am Low Mass
10.00 am High Mass

Online Services

facebook.com/SMAAChristchurch
Solemn Mass

Sunday

10.00 am