THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHRISTCHURCH



The Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday 14 December 2025

From the Vicar...

Dear friends,

As we edge ever closer to the great feast of Christmas the emphasis starts to shift from what might be known as the final things and the themes of judgement and repentance to the beginning of things, namely the incarnation of our Lord. This shift is no more apparent then in the liturgy itself.

On this Third Sunday of the Advent season the first word of the traditional entrance hymn on this Sunday is "Rejoice!" This is a tradition coming down from the old pre-Vatican II Latin Mass when the first word of the Introit or entrance antiphon was Gaudete (rejoice, be glad). And so, this Sunday has come to be known as "Gaudete Sunday".

In the past, Advent had a penitential flavour – there were four fast days during this period – and the celebrant of the liturgy wears vestments with the penitential colour of purple or violet. The atmosphere was deliberately sombre and penitential.

So, in the middle of it all, people needed to be reminded of what they were preparing for – the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus. In the midst of all the penance and fasting, this Sunday was conceived as a window of joy and brightness in anticipation of what was to come. On this day, too, the violet vestments in many churches give way to a less penitential colour, a pinkish red, a toned-down violet usually described as "rose". As a reminder, there is a similar break, "Laetare Sunday", during the Lenten season. Why rejoice?

And why should we be rejoicing? Because we are soon to remember that the Son of God, Jesus the Christ, came to live among us as a human being and be one of us: And the Word [who has the nature of God] became flesh and lived [literally 'pitched his tent'] among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14).

This is reason to rejoice and be glad as our God is not distance but one with us, one of us. As we continue to prepare for Christmas may we too know that joy that this Sunday speaks of amid the hustle and bustle of our modern lives.

God Bless,

Father Jordan

Fr. Johan

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

The Third Sunday of Advent

14 December 2025

Celebrant 8.00 am: Fr Jordan Greatbatch

Celebrant 10.00 am: Fr Robert Jamieson Organ: Paul Ellis

Sidespeople: Kathleen Campbell, Jane Ellis

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland JS Bach Organ:

Mass Setting: St Mary's Mass **Anthony Caesar**

Introit Hymn: Advent Prose 501

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and

let the skies

pour down righteousness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, neither remember iniquity forever: and my servant whom I have chosen: thy holy cities are a wilderness, that ye may know me and believe me: Sion is a wilderness. I. even I. am the Lord.

and beside me there is no Saviour: Jerusalem a desolation:

and there is none that our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee. can deliver out of my hand.

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and

let the skies let the skies

pour down righteousness. pour down righteousness.

We have sinned, Comfort ye,

comfort ye my people, and are as an unclean thing. my salvation shall not tarry: and we all do fade as a leaf: I have blotted out as a thick cloud and our iniquities, like the wind,

have taken us away: thy transgressions:

thou hast hid thy face from us: Fear not, for I will save thee: and hast consumed us. For I am the Lord thy God,

because of our iniquities. the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and

let the skies

pour down righteousness. pour down righteousness.

Greeting:

let the skies

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.

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.**

Let us pray.

Incline your ear, O God, to our pleading, and by the grace of your coming to us enlighten the darkness of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who is alive with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

First Reading: (sit) Isaiah 35:1-10 Margaret Maclagan

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Canticle: Isaiah 12: 2–6

R. Sing for joy, you people of God, for great in your midst is the Holy One.

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation. **R.**

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation, and in that day all of you will say, "Give thanks and call upon the name of the Lord: make known among the nations what the Lord has done, proclaim that the name of the Lord is exalted. **R.**

Sing praises, for the Lord has triumphed gloriously: let this be known in all the earth. Shout and sing for joy, you people of God, for great in your midst is the Holy One." **R.**

Second Reading: (sit) James 5:7-10 Gloria Moyle

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Gospel Acclamation: (stand)

Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

The Lord bless you Praise and Glory to God Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11 Fr Jordan Greatbatch

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

Sermon: Fr Jordan Greatbatch

Affirmation of Faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven, (all genuflect 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.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

Who made heaven and earth

The Lord be with you The Lord bless you

Let us pray.

Let us cleanse our hearts for the coming of our great king that we may be ready to welcome him. He is coming and will not delay. **Amen.**

The Third Advent candle is lit

Let us pray.

Father in heaven the day draws near when the glory of your son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the heart of those who seek him, may the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom which fills the minds of those who find him. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Intercessions: Rachel Watson

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

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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: Joy Coulter, 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.

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: 9

LO! he comes with clouds descending, Once for favoured sinners slain; Thousand thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of his train: Alleluya! God appears, on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him Robed in dreadful majesty; Those who set at nought and sold him, Pierced and nailed him to the tree, Deeply wailing Shall the true Messiah see. Those dear tokens of his passion Still his dazzling body bears, Cause of endless exultation To his ransomed worshippers: With what rapture Gaze we on those glorious scars! Yea, Amen! let all adore thee, High on thine eternal throne; Saviour, take the power and glory: Claim the kingdom for thine own: O come quickly! Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

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

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

Lord, may the continual offering of the eucharistic sacrifice carry out the mystery of our redemption and accomplish your saving work among us. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Let us give thanks 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 he assumed at his first coming the lowliness of human flesh, and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago, and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, that, when he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest, we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise in which now we dare to hope.

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

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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

On the night before he died, your Son Jesus Christ took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them, and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

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

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

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

As Christ teaches us we pray:

Amen.

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

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

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

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

Āke ake ake. Āmine

Eucharistic Ministers: Fr Peter Beck, 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.

Say to the faint of heart: be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save 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 the bread on your palm.

Anthem: A tender shoot Otto Goldschmidt

Communion Hymn: 57

The people that long in darkness pined Have seen a glorious light; The people dwell in day, who dwelt

In death's surrounding night.

To hail thy rise, thou better Sun, The gathering nations come, Joyous as when the reapers bear The harvest-treasures home. To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is given; Him shall the tribes of earth obey, Him all the hosts of heaven.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace, For evermore adored; The Wonderful, the Counsellor,

The great and mighty Lord.

His power increasing still shall spread; His reign no end shall know: Justice shall guard his throne above, And peace abound below.

Let us pray.

We implore your mercy, O Lord, that the power of these divine mysteries may free us from sin and prepare us for the approaching feast of Christmas. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. **Amen.**

Notices

Blessing:

The Lord be with you. The Lord bless you.

Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path, and may the blessing of God almighty, \maltese Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

Final Hymn: 466

Thou whose almighty word Chaos and darkness heard, And took their flight; Hear us, we humbly pray, And where the gospel day Sheds not its glorious ray

Let there be light.

Thou who didst come to bring
On thy redeeming wing
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
Let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love, Life-giving, holy Dove, Speed forth thy flight; Move on the water's face, Bearing the lamp of grace, And in earth's darkest place Let there be light.

Blessèd and holy Three, Glorious Trinity, Wisdom, Love, Might, Boundless as ocean's tide Rolling in fullest pride, Through the world far and wide

Let there be light.

Organ Voluntary: Gottes Sohn ist kommen JS Bach

7.00 pm Evensong and Benediction

Please pray for...

The Sick:

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

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

Anniversaries: (Sun) Rita Libeau (Tues) Robert Sisson-Stretch

(Thurs) James Batchelor

(Sat) Elsie Oakley

NOTICES

THIS WEEK

Music Performance Group - This Sunday 1.00pm, Church. Contact: Eric Apperley 03 325 5848

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

Bible Study— Thursday 11.00 am, Parish Lounge.

Pray the Rosary—Thursday 12.00 noon.

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

This Sunday—Music Performance Group – 1:00 pm.

This is a FREE activity on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Join us as either a musician (instrumentalist or singer) to gain performance experience and feedback, or as an audience member to enjoy the music and support the performers.

This group includes both professional and amateur performers singing or playing various musical instruments. You will experience a diversity of musical genres (jazz, folk, classical music etc.) created in an informal and relaxed but supportive setting.

Christmas refreshments to follow in the Vestry Lounge.

All welcome. Contact: Eric Apperley (03) 325 5848

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**.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS' CAROLS RECITAL—2.30pm 20 December 2025

Enchanting Productions Christmas Carols Choir will be performing Carols and songs at St Michael and All Angels Church. Entry: free, any donations will go to the church.

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 21 December 2025 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Mass Celebrant: Fr Jordan Greatbatch Server: Hugh Munro

10.00 am Mass Celebrant: Fr Robert Jamieson

Preacher: Fr Jordan Greatbatch

SD: Carol Fraser MC: Thomas Visakan Servers:

Th: Sung Bae Cr: Georgia Caughey

Ac: Jack Barrie, Eyob Habte

First Reading: Barbara Moreton Isaiah 7:10-14 **Second Reading:** Marla Hughes Roman 1:1-7 Fr Jordan Greatbatch Matthew 1:18-25 Gospel:

Eucharist Ministers: Carol Fraser, Gloria Movle Sides people: Tim Cranston, Vince Moreton

Intercessions: Joshua Wilson Black

Offertory: Adrienne Curtis, Dorothy Burrows

Morning Tea: Gail and Tim Chiswell

Sacristan: **Evob Habte**

Sacristv:

Michael Graveston Livestream: Flowers: Toni Stewart

Nine Lessons and Carols Readers: Senior SMAA School Pupil, Joshua Wilson Black,

Therese Aitchison, Sue Shannons, Jane Ellis, Thomas Visakan, Johnann Williams, Fr Peter Williams, Fr Jordan Greatbatch

Server: Robert Calvert-Griffin

CONTACTS

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Churchwardens: Richard Thompson vicarswarden@stmichaelandallangels.nz

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Fr Peter Beck peteribecknz@gmail.com 021654445

Music Director: Paul Ellis paulvellis76@gmail.com 03 337 3370 Privacy Officer: Gloria Movle grmoyle1@gmail.com 0274355347 Joshua Wilson Black social@stmichaelandallangels.nz 0204224118 Webmaster: Safe Ministry: Jane Evans iee.evans@xtra.co.nz 0276603634

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Facebook: **SMAAChristchurch**

Parish Bank Acct: St Michaels Churchwardens A/c no - 03-0855-0263594-000

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PASTORAL CARE TEAM COORDINATOR—Gloria Moyle 0274355347

The Anglican Parish of St Michael and All Angels Christchurch

This Sunday Third Sunday of Advent—14 December 2025

8.00 am Low Mass 10.00 am High Mass

7.00 pm Evensong and Benediction

Monday No Mass

Tuesday Marianne Williams, Missionary, 1879

12.35 pm Mass

Wednesday *O Sapientia*

12.00 noon Meditation Group

12.35 pm Mass

Thursday Feria

11.00 am Bible Study 12.00 noon Rosary Group

12.35 pm Mass

6.00 pm Study Group

Friday Feria 12.35 pm Mass

Saturday Feria

Next Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent—21 December 2025

8.00 am Low Mass 10.00 am High Mass

7.00 pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Online Services

facebook.com/SMAAChristchurch

Sunday 10.00 am Solemn Mass