



Today's Mass

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Setting:

Missa Tertia *Bardos*

Psalm:

27, vv. 1, 4-10

Gospel Verse:

Jesus proclaimed the good news of the poor: and cured every sickness among the people.

Anthem:

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life *Harker*

Hymns:

426	Firmly I believe and truly
318	O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray
591	The kingdom of God is justice and joy

Voluntary

I. Tempo Moderato (Sonate 4) *Rheinberger*

Parish Notices

Come and Sing Evensong – this afternoon!

All are welcome to join us for Choral Evensong at 4pm today, followed by a meal together at One Bread Café for a suggested donation of £5. Choral singers are welcome to join from 2.30pm for a rehearsal before singing during the service. Our guest conductor will be Peter Dutton from Brighton College. Please speak to Dave Stevens for more information.

Same sex relationships and the Church of England

The five year Living in Love and Faith project has helped the discussion about same sex relationships and the Church. In February the General Synod will be discussing the offering of the Bishops and the way ahead. Last Monday +Nick attended a meeting in

Parliament about Fr Charlie Bell's recent book 'Queer Holiness: the gift of LGBTQI people to the church'. The meeting coincided with a number of MP's asking how the Church of England can be the established Church and not deal with people equally and according to law? Fr Charlie Bell suggested we write to our Bishop, MP and General Synod members to:

- Support same sex marriages being conducted in the church of England
- Say that Issues in Human Sexuality (1991) no longer provides an appropriate framework for the discernment of those seeking ordination or the discipline of clergy in same sex relationships
- Encourage the provision of liturgies for experimental use where churches are already providing services of thanksgiving and dedication after a Civil Marriage.

Covid – a reminder

Covid is still with us and we want to care as best we can for one another. If you are unwell, please do not come to church. Hand sanitiser is available in church. Some people may wish to wear masks to help protect themselves and others. During communion, if you want to receive the wine, please drink from the chalice in the usual way and do not instinct (dip) your wafer in the chalice as this is less hygienic. At the Peace, please be respectful of those who wish to maintain social distancing and be alert to the concerns of others.

For our Prayers

For those who are sick: Sylvia; Mary Ridd; Fleur Boxell; Robert Pendlebury; David James; June Elves; Trish Abela; Simon Hicks; Sue TB; Monica Miller; and Francesca. For those who have recently died, and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time: Kirstie-Anne Atkins, Colin Morris, Alice Stembridge nee Lindsay.

Next Sunday's Readings: Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Malachi 3, vv. 1-5
Psalm 24, vv. 7-10
Hebrews 2, vv. 14-end
Luke 2, vv. 22-40

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Today's Readings

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 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, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Isaiah 9, vv. 1-4

Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear: the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid? One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I will require: even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to visit his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle: yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone. And now shall he lift up mine head: above mine enemies round about me. Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness: I will sing, and speak praises unto the Lord. Harken unto my voice, O Lord, when I cry unto thee: have mercy upon me, and hear me. My heart hath talked of thee, Seek ye my face: Thy face, Lord, will I seek. O hide not thou thy face from me: nor cast thy servant away in displeasure.

Psalms 27, vv. 1, 4-10

The First Letter to the Corinthians

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1, vv. 10-18

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Matthew 4, vv. 12-23

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