

THE COMMUNION RITE

Eating and drinking together of the Lord's Body and Blood in a Paschal meal is the culmination of the Eucharist. The themes underlying these rites are mutual love and reconciliation. These are the condition and the fruit of worthy communion and the unity of the many in the One.

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Songs during the distribution of Holy Communion

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
round yon Virgin Mother and child;
holy infant, so tender and mild;
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour, is born,
Christ, the Saviour, is born.

Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

A way in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stand by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Song of Thanksgiving (after Communion)

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and donkeys are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spears shall pierce him through,
the cross he bore for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary.

Prayer after Communion

The Concluding Rites

The brief Concluding Rite sends the people forth to put into effect in their daily lives the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection and the unity in Christ which they have celebrated. Our mission is to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.


Blessing and Dismissal

Hark, the herald angels sing,
glory to the new born King;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
joyful all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark, the herald angels sing,
glory to the new born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven born Prince of peace!
Hail the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings
risen with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

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**A very happy
Christmas to you
and your family
and friends.**

**God bless, keep safe,
and enjoy this holy season!**



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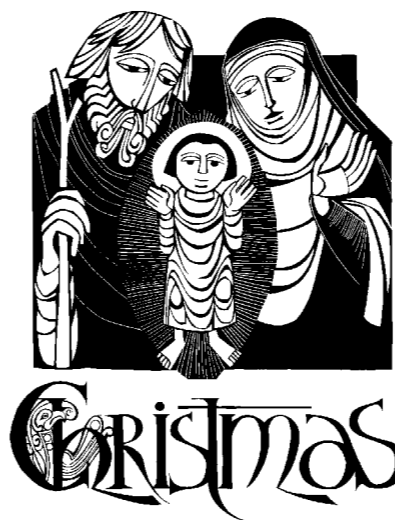
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Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216



CHRISTMAS calls a community back to its origins by remembering Jesus' own beginnings as a human child, a prophet of God's reign, a judgment on the world and its projects.

What the parish celebrates during this season is not primarily a birthday, but the beginning of a decisive new phase in the tempestuous history of God's hunger for human companions.

The social concerns of the season are thus rooted in Jesus' proclamation of God's reign: the renunciation of patterns that oppress others (holding, climbing, commanding) and the formation of a new human community that voluntarily embraces those renunciations.

It is an adult Christ that the community encounters during the Advent and Christmas cycles of Sundays and feasts: a Risen Lord who invites sinful people to become Church.

Christmas does not ask us to pretend we are back in Bethlehem, kneeling before a crib; it asks us to recognize that the wood of the crib became the wood of the cross.

Nathan Mitchell

A reading from John Chrysostom

COME, then, let us observe the feast.
Come, and we shall commemorate the solemn festival.
It is a strange manner of celebrating a festival;
but truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the nativity.
For this day the ancient slavery is ended,
the devil confounded, the demons take to flight,
the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked,
the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us,
error driven out, truth has been brought back,
the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side,
a heavenly way of life has been implanted on the earth,
angels communicate with men without fear,
and men now hold speech with angels.
Why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven;
on every side all things commingle.
He has come on earth, while being whole in heaven;
and while complete in heaven, he is without diminution on earth.
Though he was God, he became man; not denying himself to be God.
Though being the impassable Word,
he became flesh; that he might dwell amongst us.
He became flesh. He did not become God. He was God.
He became flesh, so that he whom heaven did not contain,
a manger would this day receive.
He was placed in a manger, so that he, by whom all things are nourished,
may receive an infant's food from his virgin mother.
So, the father of all ages, as an infant at the breast,
nestles in the virginal arms, that the magi may more easily see him.

PARISH MASSES DURING THE COMING WEEK

Su	26	9am	HOLY FAMILY	For the parish
		11am		Bridget Quinlisk RIP (Gill)
M	27	10am	St John	Catherine White RIP (Leese)
T	28	10am	Holy Innocents	Bernard Martin - ordination (Clinton)
W	29	10am	St Thomas Becket	Chris and Rob Drozd (health)
Th	30			
F	31	11.15pm	New Year's Mass	Theresa O'Donnill RIP (Egan)
Sa	1	12noon	Mary Mother of God	Private intention
Sa	1	6pm	2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	For the parish
		9am		Michael & Ann Lynam RIP (McGrath)
Su	2	11am		Mary Whelan RIP (Ward)

Please pray for parishioners who are sick including Christina Drozd, Jean Lawlor, Stephen Burke, Brenda Davies, Elizabeth Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson. Please pray for Mary Woods, Eileen Lynch, Anne Byrne, Sean Finnegan, Frank Bates, John Cassera, Audrey Waterson, Mary Smith, Eugene Harder, Gwen Lavelle and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

The Introductory Rites

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!*

God of God, light of light,
Lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb:
Very God, begotten not created.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God in the highest!'

Penitential Act

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

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.

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

By hearing the word proclaimed in worship, the faithful again enter into the unending dialogue between God and the people of the covenant shared in Christ, a dialogue sealed as we share the Eucharistic food and drink. The proclamation of the word is essential to the Mass

A brief time of quiet after the readings allows those present to take the word of God to heart and begin to prepare a prayerful response to what we have heard.

Isaiah 9:1-7

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the foot-gear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

Psalm 95(96):1-3,11-13

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth.

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

Titus 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. *Alleluia!*

Luke 2:1-14

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their

flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all kneel.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does, because at its heart is the real presence of the

*Our next monthly collection for the **Bethany Food Bank** will be on 8 and 9 Jan (not the usual first Sunday of the month). In the meantime donations can be made to local foodbanks through local supermarkets.*

crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing and making available his saving work among us.

The Offertory

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 the 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.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer, the centre and summit of the entire celebration, is a memorial proclamation of praise and thanksgiving for God's work of salvation, a proclamation in which the Body and Blood of Christ are made present by the power of the Holy Spirit and the people are joined to Christ in offering his Sacrifice to the Father

The Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

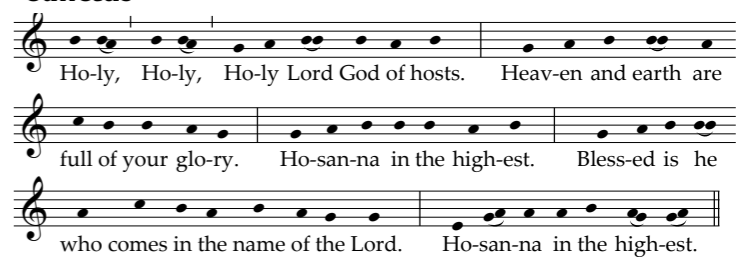
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

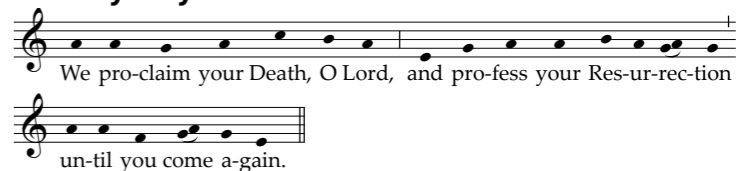
It is right and just.

Sanctus



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are
full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The mystery of faith.



We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Res-ur-rec-tion
un-til you come a-gain.