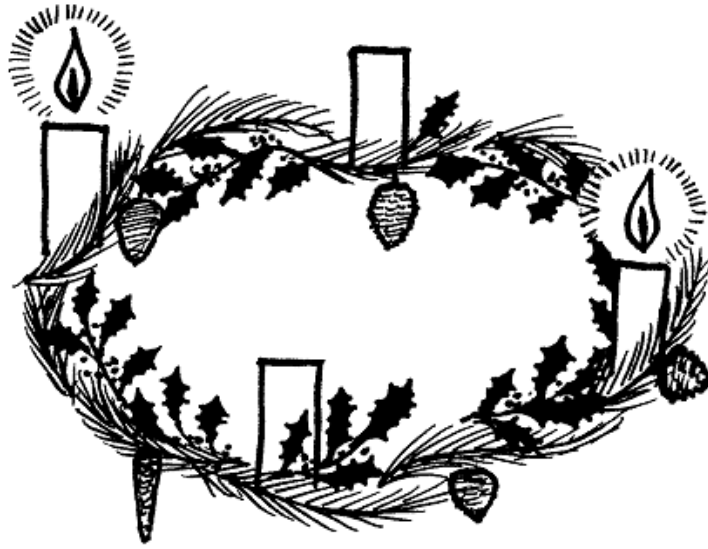


A very warm Welcome to St Michael's Church



In today's liturgy we hear the lonely but insistent voice of John the Baptist urging us to 'prepare a way for the Lord'. The Lord comes to us in the Eucharist. Let us pause to prepare ourselves to receive him. As we continue our journey into Advent, let us create a space in our minds and hearts so that the Lord can come to us in this Eucharist.

Second Sunday of Advent

Prepare a way for the Lord.

7th December 2025

10.30am

Opening Sentence

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

Hymn: On Jordan's bank the Baptist cries

Lighting of second Candle

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;
A candle of **Hope** in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heav'n's starry sky
Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.

A candle is burning, a candle of **Peace**;
A candle to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;
A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you **And with your spirit**

Call to Confession

My brothers and sisters,
to prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries,
let us first call to mind our sin.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to
everlasting life. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading (Sit)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion feed together,
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Gradual Hymn: Hark a thrilling voice is calling

2nd Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: *For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

The Lord be with you, **And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew,(3:1-12)

Glory to you, O Lord.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

*Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.*

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way

to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

This is the Gospel of Christ. **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Sermon (Sit)

Creed

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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He 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 (Sit)

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Peace

Priest: Christ is our peace he has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross; we meet in his name and share his peace!

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: Lo He comes with clouds descending

Offertory Prayers

Priest: Let us pray my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

People: **May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands,
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Prayer over the Gifts

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings,
and, since we have no merits to plead our cause,
come, we pray, to our rescue
with the protection of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you,
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..... *The Eucharist prayer continues*

The Preface

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

When he humbled himself to come among us as a man,
he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago
and opened for us the way to salvation.

Now we watch for the day,
hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours
when Christ our Lord will come again in his glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels in heaven
we proclaim your glory
and join in our unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and God of might,
heaven and earth, heaven and earth are full of your glory
your power and might
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest heaven.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest heaven.**

**Blessed, blessed is he who comes
Blessed, blessed is he who comes
Blessed is he, blessed is he,
who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest heaven.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest heaven.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
Who in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying.
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying.

Drink this, all of you;
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 in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of all,
rejoicing at his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate the memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.
Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Holy Mary mother of God, St Michael and
all the saints,

may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen**

The Communion

Our Father

Let us pray with confidence to the Father
in the words our Saviour gave us:

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

The priest continues

**For the Kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever**

Breaking of the Bread:

Priest: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**People: Though we are many we are one body, because we all
share in the one bread.**

Preparation for Communion:

All: **With this bread...**

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the
sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of
the Lamb.

People: **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my
roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

All: **With this wine...**

We now come forward to receive Communion or a blessing as directed by the side's people

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Communion Hymn: Hail to the Lord's anointed

Concluding rite: Blessing & Dismissal

Prayer after Communion

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth
and hold firm to the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Notices – Please sit

Blessing & Dismissal

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.....

Lord, have mercy on your people.
Grant us in this life the good things
That lead to the everlasting life you prepare for us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May Almighty God bless you,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Mass is ended, Go in the peace of Christ **Thanks be to God!**

Final Hymn: O for a thousand tongues to sing

The Angelus-

Notices

We pray for all who are ill, that God may grant them health and peace:

Sr Pat, Androulla, Ceva Clements, Perry Wells, Olive, Fanny Metu
Denise Clarke, Ann Hammond, Frances, Sarah, Katie Kirkland, Bet,
George Brown, Zarina, Abbey-Sue and Marcia, Barry James, Audley
Watson, Lurleen, Georgia Cordell, Kathleen, Jean Bjork, Shirley & Leslie
Angus, Christopher John, Jazzmine Grimes, Michelle, Androulla, Fannos
jjordani, Ray and Pam Bennett , Emmanuel Kuye, Amy Harris, Jerry
Moran, Daniel Sintin, Sally Sintin, Amie Samura, Marcus Cullen, Jennifer
Douglas, Joshua Rattray, Victorine Clarke, Thomas Hewitt, Geri
Thompson, Mary Thompson, Sarah Reggerie, Ian Lennon, Kathleen
Wale, Serena Forni, Derek Ogden, Lawrence Barrett, Dominic Swift,
Peter Clements, Jereline Simoms, Ayo Dumbuya, Dorren Norine, Shola
Adebowale ,Una and Pat Murphy , Andrea Negri, Shane Claridge,
James Ighodaro, Theresa Naish, Anastasia, Allen, Jean Bromley,
Josephine Baker, Saman Joseph, Myrtle, Joe Donkor, Dorothy,
Brandon, Ronald, Edna Noel, Evelyn Baker, Gabriel, Anna and Louis,
Jean, Dot, Rosemary Stone, Susan Joy, Mai Lee, Freddie Jones, Ester
Thompson, Heather and Sarah, Luke and John Burke, Nabawanda
Matlida, Donald, Lorraine, Pat Stephenson, Alice Mitchell, Sue Mallett,
Janet Syson, Anthony, Austin, Owen, Rose Gallagher, Ryan Ayoki

for those who have died recently

Jane Sanders, Neville Blake, Mick Laming

And for all whose anniversary of death falls at this time:

7th December Adina Oliver

St Michael's candle: is burning in loving memory of
Mr and Mrs Robert Ng Yu Tin

The Blessed Sacrament candle: is burning in loving memory of

The Blessed Virgin Mary: is burning in loving memory of
Rosemary Canjee

The flowers at St Michael's statue are given in loving memory of