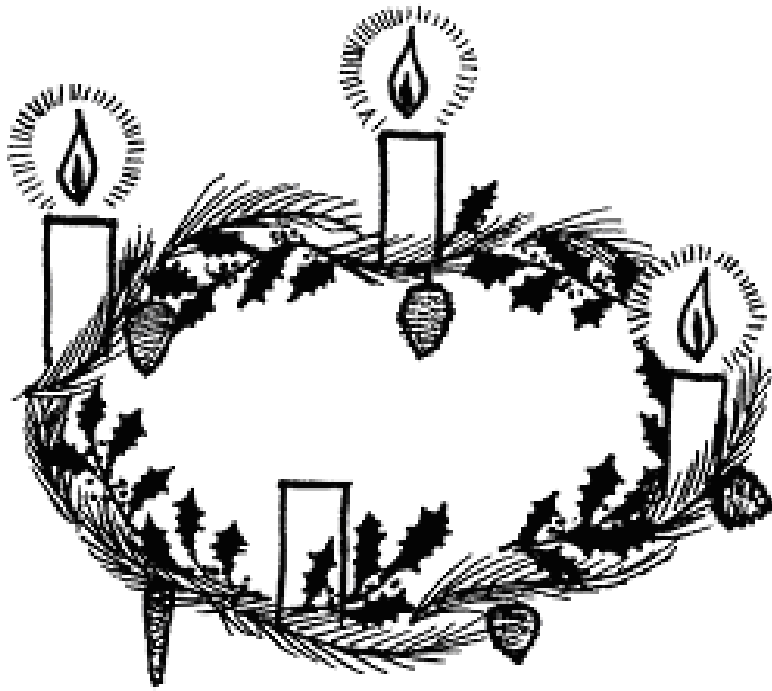


A very warm Welcome to St Michael's Church



Happiness is our birthright as Christians. We give thanks to God for his Spirit who lives in us and makes us aware of our wonderful mission in spreading the good news of man's redemption. The Spirit brings us deep peace because the God who called us will not fail us.

We light the third candle of the Advent wreath in thanksgiving for the life and witness of John the Baptist the forerunner of Christ.

Third Sunday of Advent

14th December 2025

10.30am

Opening Sentence

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

Hymn: Rejoice the Lord is King

Lighting of third 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.

A candle is burning, a candle of **Joy**;
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow
As Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

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

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always

with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
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 35:1-6,10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

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

Gradual Hymn: Give thanks with a grateful heart

2nd Reading

A reading from James 5:7-10

Be patient, friends, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the

autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew,(11:2-11)

Glory to you, O Lord

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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: O Jesus I have promised

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

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray,
be offered to you unceasingly,
to complete what was begun in sacred mystery
and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.
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

Say to the anxious: be strong and fear not, our God will come to save
us.

Communion Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness

Make me a channel of your peace

Concluding rite: Blessing & Dismissal

Prayer after Communion

God of mercy,
may this Eucharist bring us your divine help,
free us from our sin,
and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour.
who is Lord for ever and ever. **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.....

You believe that the Son of God once came to us;
you look for him to come again.
May his coming bring you the light of his holiness
and free you with his blessing. **Amen.**

May God make you steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope, and untiring in love
all the days of your life. **Amen.**

You rejoice that our Redeemer came to live with us as man. When he
comes again in glory,
may he reward you with endless life. **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: Christ triumphant

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
jiordani, 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

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

17th December	John Pottrill
18th December	Pam Booth

St Michael's candle: is burning in loving memory of
Darris Williams

The Blessed Sacrament candle: is burning in loving memory of
Marcel Ng YuTin

The Blessed Virgin Mary: is burning in loving memory of
Beverley Williams

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

