

# A very warm Welcome to St Michael's Church



God is forever faithful to his promises. From the time of David right up to the birth of Jesus there is no doubting that God is with his people. That which is hidden for endless ages is revealed in Jesus Christ who is the son of the Virgin Mary.

It is good to welcome you this morning. Worship is a wonderful thing, if we are not careful it can just wash over us without us playing any part in it; or, we can join in with it fully and discover that it moves us at a depth we didn't know we had

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**21<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

## Opening Sentence

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**Hymn:** Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us

## Lighting of Fourth 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.

A candle is burning, a candle of **Love**;  
A candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth;  
For Jesus is bringing God's Love to our earth.

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

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,  
your grace into our hearts,  
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son  
was made known by the message of an Angel,  
may by his Passion and Cross  
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.  
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 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:  
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men  
without trying the patience of my God, too?  
The Lord himself, therefore,  
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child  
and will soon give birth to a son  
whom she will call Immanuel,  
a name which means "God-is-with-us."

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

**Gradual Hymn:** The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

A reading from Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.  
This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to

preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

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

## **Gospel Acclamation**

### **Alleluia, alleluia**

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,  
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

## **Gospel**

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

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew,(1:18-24)

**Glory to you, O Lord**

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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 come, O come Emmanuel

## **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 Holy Spirit, O Lord,  
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,  
just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
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.

His future coming was proclaimed by all the prophets.  
The virgin mother bore him in her womb with love beyond all telling.  
John the Baptist was his herald  
And made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ has filled us with joy  
As we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
So that when he comes he may find us watching in prayer,  
Our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

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**

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**Communion Hymn:** For Mary Mother of our Lord.  
Let all mortal flesh keep silence.  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called

*Concluding rite: Blessing & Dismissal*

**Prayer after Communion**

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,  
we pray, almighty God,  
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,  
so we may press forward all the more eagerly  
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.  
Who lives and reigns 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.....*

Lord, may all Christian people both know and cherish  
The heavenly gifts they have received.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come upon you and remain  
with you for ever. **Amen.**

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

**Final Hymn:** Tell out my soul

**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, Ali Yalcin

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

<b>21st December</b>	Keith Wells
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	Patricia Coppen
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	Miatta Maddy
<b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Kenneth Browne
<b>26<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Cyril Ernest Bell

**St Michael's candle:** is burning in loving memory of  
Marcel Ng YuTin and Liline Ng Yu Tin

**The Blessed Sacrament candle:** is burning in loving memory of  
Osbourne, Darris and Beverley Williams

**The Blessed Virgin Mary:** is burning in loving memory of  
Simon Payen

**The flowers at St Michael's statue** are given in loving memory of  
Osbourne, Darris and Beverley Williams

