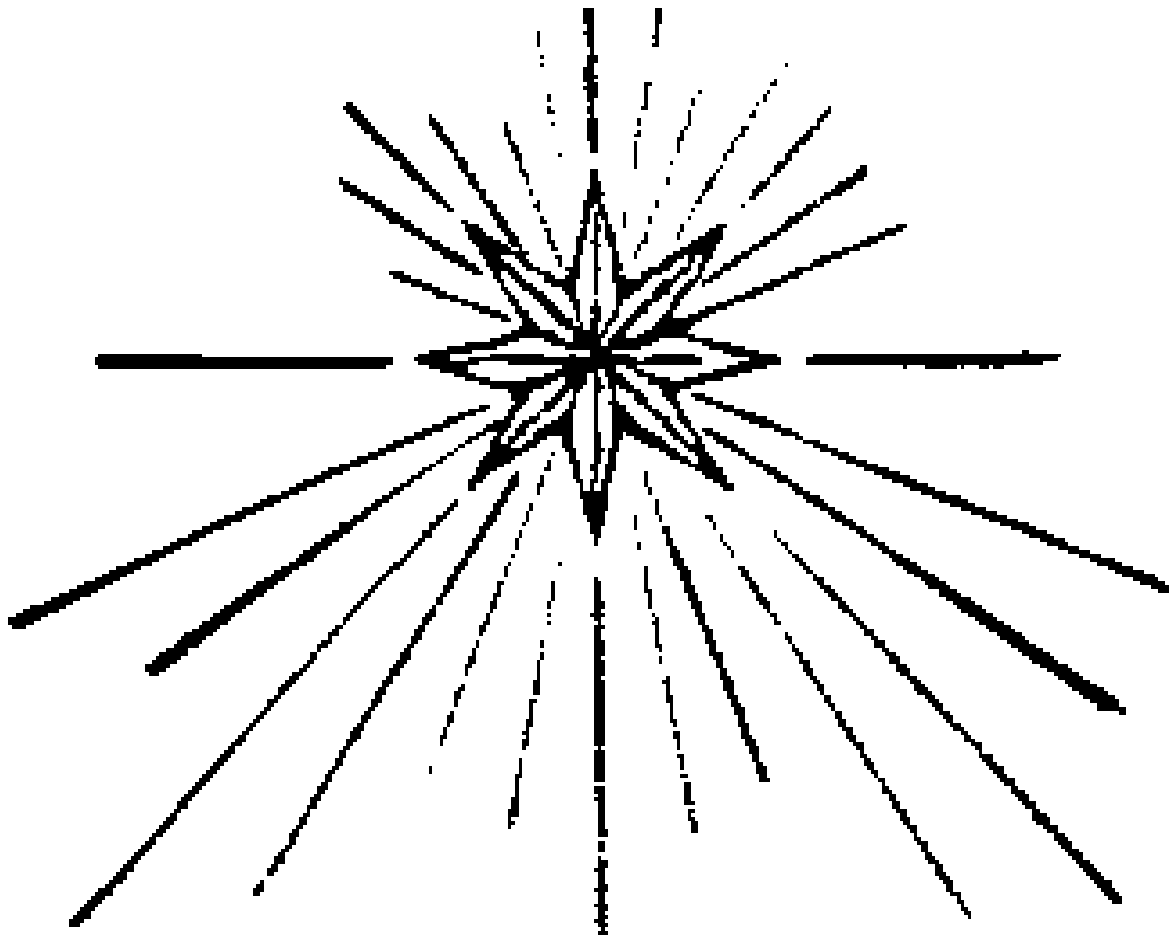


A very warm Welcome to
St Michael's Church

Midnight Mass



Opening Sentence

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world.
Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

Hymn : Once in Royal David's City

Greeting and Entrance

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.**

Gloria: Good Christian men rejoice

The Liturgy of the Word

O God, who have made this most sacred night
radiant with the splendour of the true light,
grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on
earth,
may also delight in his gladness in heaven.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

First Reading

A reading from the prophet 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 barb across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.
For all the footgear 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.

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

Gradual Hymn: Silent Night

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to 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.

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

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

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

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to 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.'

This is the Gospel of Our Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

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: This holy night the angels sang,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

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

Offertory Hymn: O Little town of Bethlehem

Offertory Prayers

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made; it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands; it will become for us our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. You called us into being and have now gathered us together. Renew us by your Holy Spirit that we may live to your glory and come to share the life of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

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

**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 Church.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Prayer over the Gifts

May the oblation of this day's feast
be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray,
that through this most holy exchange
we may be found in the likeness of Christ,
in whom our nature is united to you.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **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 Preface

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

In the wonder of the incarnation
your eternal Word has brought to the eyes of faith
a new and radiant vision of your glory.
In Him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in love of the God we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels in heaven
we proclaim your glory
and join in their 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: This is 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...**

Communion Antiphon

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

We now come forward to receive Communion or a blessing

Communion Hymn: While Shepherd's watched

Prayer after Communion

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,
that we, who are gladdened by participation
in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity,
may through an honourable way of life become worthy of union with him.
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.**

The Blessing & Dismissal

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on
every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God
Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Final Hymn: O come all ye faithful

Fr Ian Writes... Welcome to St Michael's Church Wood Green as we
celebrate the joyful feast of the Nativity of the Lord Jesus. Throughout
the holy season of Advent we have been preparing our hearts and minds
to receive the greatest gift that God offers to all our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ. Our celebrations will continue throughout the coming
week and you will be most welcome to come along.

If this is your first visit to a Church, welcome; if you are a faithful member
of this or any other Christian Church, it's good to have you with us; if you
have returned after being away from the Church for some while, then a
warm welcome home we are pleased to see you.

As we now look towards the beginning of a New Year may the peace
and joy of Christmas overflow into your life and may the grace of our
Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you and those you love now and for ever.

Work of Christmas Begins

When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and princes are home
When the shepherds are back with the flocks,
Then the work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal those broken in spirit,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the oppressed,
 To re-build the nations,
 To bring peace among all peoples,
 To make a little music with the heart.....
 And to radiate the Light of Christ,
 Every day, in every way,
 In all that we do and in all that we say.
Then the work of Christmas begins.
(Howard Thurman)

Merry 
Christmas