



A very warm Welcome to St Michael's Church

Today we worship God, in response to his great love for us revealed in Christ. As the wise men brought their gifts, we also bring the gift of ourselves to offer to God.

Sunday 4th January 2025

Opening Sentence

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Hymn : We three Kings

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.

**Almighty God,
our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought and word and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

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

Gloria

The Liturgy of the Word

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. 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

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (60:1-6)

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.



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

Gradual Hymn What child is this?

Second Reading

A reading from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians (3:2-3, 5-6)

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

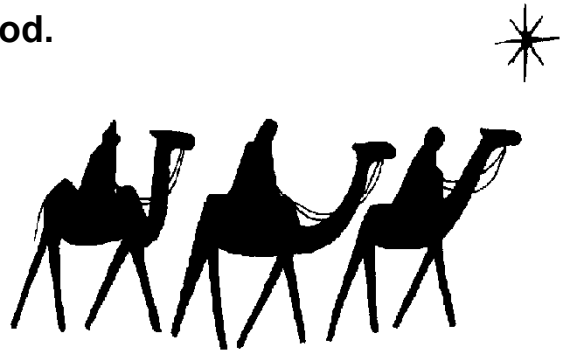
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star as it rose
and have come to do the Lord homage.

Alleluia, alleluia!



Gospel

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (2:1-12)

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'*

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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

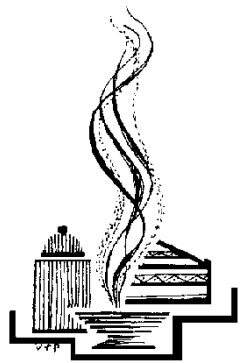
Sermon (Sit)

Creed (Stand)

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.

All: And also with your spirit.

Offertory Hymn: The First Nowell

Offertory Prayers

Prayer over the Gifts

Look with favour, Lord, we pray,
on these gifts of your Church,
in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh,
but he who by them is proclaimed,
sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ.
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.....**

Preface

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.
Today you revealed in Christ your eternal plan of salvation and showed
him as the light of all peoples.
Now that his glory has shone among us you have renewed humanity in
his immortal image.

Now, with angels and archangels, and the whole company of heaven,
we sing the unending hymn of your 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 thine is the Kingdom, the power,
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

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...**

Communion Antiphon

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Communion Hymn: As with gladness men of old

Prayer after Communion

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord,
always and everywhere,
that we may perceive with clear sight
and revere with true affection
the mystery in which you have willed us to participate.
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.

The Blessing & Dismissal

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: **And with your spirit.**

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

God has called you out of darkness,
into his wonderful light.
May you experience his kindness and blessings,
and be strong in faith, in hope, and in love. **Amen.**

Because you are followers of Christ,
who appeared on this day as a light shining in darkness,
may he make you a light to all your sisters and brothers. **Amen.**

The wise men followed the star,
and found Christ who is light from light.
May you too find the Lord
when your pilgrimage is ended. **Amen.**

May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be
among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Final Hymn: O Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness

The Angelus

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 Charlotte B, Denise Clarke, Ann Hammond, Frances, Sarah, Katie Kirkland, Bet, George Brown, Zarina, Abbey-Sue and Marcia, Barry James, Audley Watson, Lurleen, Georgia Cordell, Kathleen, Shirley & Leslie Angus, Christopher John, Jazzmine Grimes, Michelle, Androulla, Fannos jjordani, Ray 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

Pam Bennett, Jean Bjork,

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

5th January	Thierry Laigle
8th January	David Kyaligamba
9th January	Winfred Collins Pr

St Michael's candle: is burning in loving memory of
Thierry Laigle

The Blessed Sacrament candle: is burning in loving memory of
Guy Ng Yu Tin

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