

# A very warm Welcome to St Michael's Church Sunday 25<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

'The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light.' This is how St Matthew describes the impact of Jesus' ministry. That light shines on us now as we gather in the Lord's name, and by our living in the light of Christ we become a source of light for others.

## **Opening Sentence**

Sing a new song to the Lord! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Truth and beauty surround him; he lives in holiness and glory.

**Hymn:** I heard the voice of Jesus say,

## **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**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

All powerful and ever living God,  
direct your love that is within us,  
that our efforts in the name of your Son  
may bring mankind to unity and peace.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **First Reading** (Sit)

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (8:23-9:3)

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

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 bar across his shoulders,  
the rod of his oppressor ,  
these you break as on the day of Midian.

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

**Gradual Hymn:** Dear Lord and Father of mankind

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

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.(1:10-13.17)

I do appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

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

## Alleluia

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom and cured all kinds of sickness among the people.

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

## Gospel

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

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (4:12-23)

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!  
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,  
Galilee of the nations!  
The people that lived in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death  
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.

At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

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:** Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with your spirit.**

Let us offer one another a sign of that peace.

**Offertory Hymn:** All my hope on God is founded

### **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

Lord,

receive our gifts.

Let our offerings make us holy  
and bring us salvation.

We ask this through Jesus 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.....**

## Preface

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

Through his cross and resurrection  
he freed us from sin and death  
and called us to the glory that has made us  
a chosen race, a royal priesthood,  
a holy nation, a people set apart.

Everywhere we proclaim your mighty works  
for you have called us out of darkness  
into your own wonderful light.

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 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.  
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**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
the man who follows me will have the light of life.

*We now come forward to receive Communion or a blessing as directed  
by the sidespeople*

**Communion Hymn:** Be still, for the presence of the Lord,

## **Prayer after Communion**

God, all powerful Father,  
may the new life you give us increase our love  
and keep us in the joy of your kingdom.  
Through Jesus 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.**

## **Blessing** (Stand)

The Lord be with you,  
**and with your spirit.**

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

May the Lord who has called you  
let his face shine upon you.  
May you know his peace in your heart.  
And may the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Final Hymn:** Praise my soul, the King of heaven!

## **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, Tracey and the Tuite family ,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,

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

<b>25th January</b>	Sid Parker
<b>27th January</b>	Frank Taylor, Sidney Wood
<b>28th January</b>	Eric Rowland, Joyce Chinhori
<b>31st January</b>	Richard Njoroge, Francis Gardier

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

**The Blessed Sacrament candle:** is burning in loving memory of

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

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

