



Welcome to St Margaret's Church Ifield
Loved as you are

Sunday 21st December 2025
ADVENT 4



Everyone is welcome at St Margaret's.

THE GATHERING

*As we gather before the service, we speak to God.
During the service, we let God speak to us.
After the service, we speak to each other.*

We stand and sing at the entrance of the clergy

Processional Hymn

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

***Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.**

Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

**Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.**

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

**Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.**

**Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.**

**Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.**

BERNADETTE FARRELL (b. 1957)

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THE GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be
with you.

and also with you.

WORDS OF WELCOME

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CROWN

*The Advent Crown is a symbol of the light of Christ coming into the world
and into the darkness of our lives.*

THE PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him.

The priest introduces the prayer ending with
Let us confess our sins.

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore to us the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The priest offers absolution at the end please respond
Amen.

THE KYRIE

The prayers of penitence are read please respond

Lord have mercy**Lord have mercy**
Christ have mercy.....**Christ have mercy**
Lord have mercy**Lord have mercy**

THE COLLECT

The priest introduces a period of silent prayer with the words, 'Let us pray.'
*The Collect is said, and all respond, **Amen.***

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit for the readings

First Reading

Isaiah 35:10-16

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Please stand

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-end

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please remain standing until the preacher has introduced the Sermon

THE SERMON

We stand

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God

**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,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Prayers for the Church, the world, and for all human need. After each petition the following response is used:

Maranatha

Come, Lord come

and at the end of the prayers:

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

We stand to share the peace.

The Peace

The priest introduces the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.
All may exchange a sign of peace.

Please remain standing to sing the offertory hymn.

**Of the Father's heart begotten
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that Fountain,
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.**

By his word was all created;
he commanded and 'twas done;
earth and sky and boundless ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body,
frail and feeble, doomed to die,
that the race from dust created
might not perish utterly,
which the dreadful Law had sentenced
in the depths of hell to lie,
evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,
when the Maid the curse retrieved,
brought to birth mankind's salvation,
by the Holy Ghost conceived,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
in her loving arms received,
evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sybil
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealèd
in the page of prophecy;
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
evermore and evermore.

**Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.**

*Corde natus ex parentis AURELIUS CLEMENS PRUDENTIUS (348–c.413) translated by ROBY FURLEY DAVIS (1866–1937)
Music DIVINUM MYSTERIUM Melody from Pia Cantiones, 1582 harmonised by Compilers of New English Hymnal 1986*

The Presentation of the Gifts

During the Offertory hymn the bread and wine and the collection are brought to the altar and the altar is prepared.

At the end of the Blessing of the Gifts please respond

Blessed be God forever

We sit or stand

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The priest praises God for his mighty acts and at the end we say,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest**

The priest continues with the prayer which recalls the Last Supper, after the elevation the priest says, 'Great is the mystery of Faith'

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again

The prayer continues and concludes with the doxology where we respond,
Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
But only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The priest invites everyone to come to Communion or for a blessing

Please sit and wait to be directed for Communion.

During the distribution of Communion music will be played

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Priest prays the post-communion prayer followed by

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

THE DISMISSAL

Please stand

The priest gives the blessing

Amen.

We go into the world to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love,
and to reflect God's glory.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn

**Lord, we wait for the day of your appearing;
Lord, we wait for your coming in the clouds.**

**With a shout the trumpet will sound,
And the dead will be raised to life,
And we shall meet Him in the air.**

**In that day death is swallowed up in victory;
In that day sin and death will be no more.**

**Now in part – we see shadows of His glory;
Then in full – we shall see Him face to face.**

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Notices

**Service next Sunday:
Christmas 1**

**Family Service (9.30)
Parish Communion (11am)
and on Facebook and the parish website
www.ifieldparish.org**
