

Sunday 25 December
Christmas Day



A very warm welcome to St. Anselm this beautiful and exciting morning.

We leave the world behind as we arrive, and during this service we let the love of God wash over us and His Peace descend on us.

Christmas Day Mass is a true celebration of the love of God made incarnate in Jesus Christ.

Be happy! Be joyful! Praise God!

It's easy to follow along - **say the bits in bold** - and let the Priest say the bits that are not.

Join in, or let the words drift over you, do what feels best to you this morning.

With all my love and prayers for a blessed New Year,

Fr. Matthew

The Introductory Rites

All stand. The Priest approaches the altar with the ministers and venerates it.

Entrance Antiphon

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; he sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Sign of the Cross

All make the Sign of the Cross as the Priest says:

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

The people reply:

Amen.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

The people reply:

And with thy spirit.

Penitential Act

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

All recite together the formula of general confession:

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,**

And, striking their breast, they say:

**through my fault,
through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

The absolution by the Priest follows:

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

Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. **Lord, have mercy.**

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. **Christ, have mercy.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. **Lord, have mercy.**

The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

We praise you,

we bless you,

we adore you,

we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,

have mercy on us.

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.

Let us pray.
O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature
and still more wonderfully restored it,
grant, we pray,
that we may share in the divinity of Christ,
who humbled himself to share in our humanity.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
(one) God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

All sit.

First reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

Rejoice, for the Lord is consoling his people

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation,
and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.
Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.
The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.
The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 97(98):1-6

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Sing a new song to the Lord

for he has worked wonders.

His right hand and his holy arm

have brought salvation.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

The Lord has made known his salvation;

has shown his justice to the nations.

He has remembered his truth and love

for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

All the ends of the earth have seen

the salvation of our God.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth,

ring out your joy.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp

with the sound of music.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn

acclaim the King, the Lord.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.



Second reading

Hebrews 1:1-6

God has spoken to us through his Son

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: *You are my Son, today I have become your father;* or: *I will be a father to him and he a son to me.* Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: *Let all the angels of God worship him.*

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to sing the Gospel Acclamation to welcome the Gospel.

They remain standing in honour of the Gospel reading, the high point of the Liturgy of the Word.



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations, worship the Lord,
for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.
Alleluia!

Gospel

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us

In the beginning was the Word:
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.
A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock

or urge of the flesh
or will of man
but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims:
‘This is the one of whom I said:
He who comes after me ranks before me
because he existed before me.’

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –
yes, grace in return for grace,
since, though the Law was given through Moses,
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God;
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father’s heart,
who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All reply:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the proclamation of the Gospel the congregation is seated.

The Homily

*At the end of the Homily it is appropriate for there to be a brief silence for recollection.
The congregation then stands.*

The Creed

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
At the words that follow, up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all bow.
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayer of the Faithful (Bidding Prayers)

*The Priest concludes the Prayer of the Faithful with a collect.
When the Liturgy of the Word has been completed, the people sit.*

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Offertory

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the bread we offer you:
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
it will become for us the bread of life.

If the Priest says the prayers aloud the assembly's acclamation is:

Blessed be God for ever.

The Priest continues, either quietly or aloud:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the wine we offer you:
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
it will become our spiritual drink.

If the Priest says the prayers aloud the assembly's acclamation is:

Blessed be God for ever.

The people rise as the Priest says aloud:

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

The people reply:

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.**

Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day,
when you manifested the reconciliation
that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight
and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And with thy 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 Priest continues with the Preface.

Preface

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the mystery of the Word made flesh
a new light of your glory has shone upon the eyes of our mind,
so that, as we recognise in him God made visible,
we may be caught up through him in love of things invisible.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

The Priest concludes the Preface with the people singing or saying aloud:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

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.

After this the congregation kneels for the remainder of the Eucharistic Prayer.

Eucharistic Prayer II

The Priest alone recites:

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
the fount of all holiness.
Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,
so that they may become for us
the Body and  Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed
and entered willingly into his Passion,
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and eat of it,
for this is my Body,
which will be given up for you.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice
and, once more giving thanks,
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and drink from it,
for this is the chalice of my Blood,
the Blood of the new and eternal covenant,
which will be poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in memory of me.

After the words of Consecration the priest says:

The mystery of faith.

The people continue, acclaiming:

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

Therefore, as we celebrate
the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,
we offer you, Lord,
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,
giving thanks that you have held us worthy
to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.
Remember, Lord, your Church,
spread throughout the world,
and bring her to the fullness of charity,
together with **Francis** our Pope, **Justin** our Archbishop, **Jonathan** our
Bishop and all the clergy.

Remember also our brothers and sisters
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,
and all who have died in your mercy:
welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray,
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
with the blessed Apostles,
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages,
we may merit to be co-heirs to eternal life,
and may praise and glorify you
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

*At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer the Priest takes the chalice and the paten with the host and,
raising both, he alone says:*

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer

The congregation stands and the Priest says:

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

Together with the people, he continues:

**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 alone continues, saying:

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The people conclude the prayer, acclaiming:

**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Then the Priest alone says aloud:

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

The people reply:

Amen.

The Priest adds:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

The people reply:

And with thy spirit.

The Deacon, or the Priest, adds:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

And all offer one another the customary sign of peace in a COVID safe manner.

Breaking of the Bread

During the breaking of the host the following is sung or said:

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

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

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

After the Lamb of God, the people kneel.

Invitation to Communion

The Priest genuflects, takes the host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice says aloud:

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.

And together with the people he adds once:

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Communion

The Priest, facing the altar, says quietly:

May the Body of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

And he reverently consumes the Body of Christ. Then he takes the chalice and says quietly:

May the Blood of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

And he reverently consumes the Blood of Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 97: 3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

After the priest has reverently consumed the Body and Blood of Christ the communicants come forward in reverent procession, and make a preparatory act of reverence by bowing their head in honour of Christ's presence in the Sacrament. They receive Holy Communion standing. The Priest says:

The Body of Christ.

The communicant replies:

Amen.

After the distribution of Communion, if appropriate, a sacred silence may be observed for a while, or a psalm or other canticle of praise or a hymn may be sung.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God,
that, just as the Saviour of the world, born this day,
is the author of divine generation for us,
so he may be the giver even of immortality.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Concluding Rites

Any brief announcements to the people follow here. Then the dismissal takes place.

Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

May almighty God bless you,

the Father, and the Son,  and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Dismissal

Then the Deacon, or the Priest himself, says:

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

The people reply:

Thanks be to God.





YOU'RE INVITED.

You are invited to Alpha for a time of great food, even better conversation and talks that make you think.

If you come along, we won't call you after, write, or ask you to pick up the cheque — the balls are completely in your court.

What have you got to lose?

WHAT IS ALPHA?

Alpha is **a place to explore** the Christian faith in an easy and friendly environment.

There's no cost, and no pressure. Just lots of great conversation and space to think. Each session starts with food and a short talk. Then there's **plenty of time** to share your thoughts.

There's no follow up, charge, or pressure. No matter your background or beliefs, **everyone's welcome.**

SIGN UP NOW

Our first evening will be at St. Anselm church hall (UB3 4DF) on January 19th, and then each Thursday evening (7:30pm) until the 30th April. Just come along or sign up in advance at www.stanselm.co.uk/alpha

#TryAlpha





ST. ANSELM'S

Proclaiming Christ in Hayes

www.stanselm.co.uk