



24th December 2025

# The First Mass of Christmas

## Midnight Mass

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.”*

*(Isaiah 9.2)*

# Welcome to St Thomas the Apostle Church, Hanwell for our Parish Mass.



*We hope you enjoy your time with us.*

*The hymns are in the Green New English Hymnal Books.*

*The Mass Setting for this Service is the John Rutter Service.*

*Please do take this Service Booklet away with you for your own prayers & reflections this coming week.*

**First Hymn: 26 Hark! the herald angels sing.**

## **Blessing of the Christmas Wreath**

*The Priest blesses the Lit Candles and Advent Wreath using the following words:*

God our Father, today the Saviour is born and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the light of your Son and to share the good news of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who has come into the world.

**All: Amen.**

## **The Gathering & Welcome**

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord.

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

**All: And also with you.**

## **The Prayer of Preparation**

**All: Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit;  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## **Invitation to Confession**

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**All: Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love,**

and marred your image in us.  
We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light.  
Amen.

## Kyrie Eleison

*We Sing together the Kyrie Eleison.*

**All:** Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, and be ✠ cleansed from all your sins, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

## Gloria in Excelsis

*Please Stand as we Sing together The Gloria.*

**All:** Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heav'nly 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 Collect

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**All:** Amen.

**The First Reading:** Isaiah 52. 7-10. *(Reading is read by Pauline Britton)*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices; together they shout for joy, for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth; shout together for joy, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**The Second Reading:** Hebrews 1. 1-12. *(Reading is read by Chris Michell)*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds and his servants flames of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” And, “In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn: 42 While shepherds watched their flocks.**

**All:** Alleluia, alleluia.

*Cantor:* “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, : and we have seen his glory”.

(Luke 19.38)

**All:** Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

**All:** And also with you.

✠✠✠Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to S. John 1. 1-14.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**The Sermon or Homily** *is given.*

*The Motet is sung.*

**‘Torches’** John Joubert (1927-2019) | *Translated (from the Galician) J. B. Trend. (1887-1958)*

Torches, torches, run with torches  
All the way to Bethlehem!  
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;  
Come and sing your song to Him!  
  
Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby,  
Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;  
Sleep you well, my heart's own darling,  
While we sing you our Rorro.

Torches, torches, run with torches  
All the way to Bethlehem!  
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;  
Come and sing your song to Him!  
  
Sing, my friends, and make you merry,  
Joy and mirth and joy again;  
Lo, He lives, the King of heaven,  
Now and evermore. Amen.

**All:** 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

Please **Kneel or Sit** for the Prayers of Intercession. (*Led by Stephen Brooks*)

*And at the end.*

Holy God.  
**All: Hear our prayer.**

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

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

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

(Luke 2. 14)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of Peace.*

**Offertory Hymn: 32 O little town of Bethlehem.**

### Preparation of the Table

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

**All: Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

**All: Blessed be God for ever.**

Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our poverty: by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

**All: Amen.**

The Lord is here.

**All: His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**All: 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.**

*Congregation **Kneel or Sit.***

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:

**All: 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 the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this 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 Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, Joseph, her spouse, St Thomas the Apostle and our Patron, 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.

**All: ✠ Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All: 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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**All: God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

✠ Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

**All: Lord, give us this bread always.**

**All:** We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us.  
Amen.

The Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) *is sung.*

**All:** Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

*The Priest, Altar Party, Choir and the People all receive communion.*

*If you are baptised and receive communion in your own church, you are welcome to receive communion here.*

*You are welcome to receive a blessing instead of communion.*

*If you wish to receive a blessing, please keep your head bowed.*

**Communion Hymn: 35 Silent Night! Holy night!**

### Prayers after Communion

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

**All:** To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

**All:** Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,

so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**The Parish Notices** *are given.*

**Final Hymn: 30 O come all ye faithful.** (omit v.4)

*During the singing of O come all ye faithful, the Christ-child is carried by the Priest to the Crib.*

*The Carol stops before v7 at which the Crib is aspersed, blessed, and censed.*

## **The Blessing of the Crib**

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever.

**All: Amen.**

*We continue by singing the final verse of O come all ye faithful.*

*Then follows The Blessing and after which The Dismissal is given.*

## **The Blessing**

The Lord be with you.

**All: and also with you.**

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty ☩ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord proclaiming the Word made flesh.

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen.**



Throughout the week, The Daily Offices of  
**Morning & Evening Prayer**  
are observed in Church at 9am and 5pm.

**On Mondays & Wednesdays**  
(Live-streamed on Facebook)

**On Tuesdays and Thursdays**  
The Offices are said in-person in the Lady Chapel.  
(These are said privately to allow for personal, private prayers and reflections)  
(All are warmly welcome to join in person.)

**On Fridays**

Morning Prayer only.  
This is at the earlier time of 8.30am.  
(Live-streamed on Facebook)

*Scan the QR Code to join us for The Daily Offices*



**Tuesday 30th December 2025 - 12(Noon) MASS in the Lady Chapel**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025: Parish Mass for the First Sunday of Christmas**

Reader(s): Pauline Harrison & Alan McDougall

Intercessor(s): Eileen Sinclair | Chalice: Sue Cunningham & Steve Purcell



St Thomas' Players  
*present*  
**Aladdin**  
A Pantomime by Ben Crocker

8th, 9th January 7:30pm  
Sat 10th 1pm & 6pm  
Adults £15 Children £5  
Thursday Adults £10 Children £5

Box Office: [stickets@me.com](mailto:stickets@me.com)  
07850 889948

St Thomas' Church Boston Road W7 2AD





# Ceilidh

## FUNDRAISER

**When:** Saturday 24th January 2026, 7.30pm

**Where:** St Thomas Church Hall  
182 Boston Road, W7 2AD

**Tickets:** Adults: £20, children £10

**Licenced bar** with snacks

**Get your tickets here:** <https://shorturl.at/uYxOf>

Music by

**Banter**





# Vision and Values Day

Join us for our Vision and Values Day, where we will work together as a parish to define our long-term vision and core values. Teas and coffees provided. Lunch afterwards.

**17 January 2026**

**10 to 2 pm**



## Parish Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, and let us thank almighty God for his goodness.

**The Wider Church:** *We pray for the Church throughout the world, for our partners in mission and friendship.*

*Especially we pray for: ✠ Bishop George Dawson-Ahmoah and the Churches of Nkoranza, Ghana.*

*✠ Pfr. Jens Oehme and the people of the L  therkirche, Hartau in Chemnitz, Germany. ✠ Revd Canon Clement Francis M.P.S. (Emeritus) and the people of Christ the King, Hillsborough, Carriacou,*

*May our fellowship in the Gospel bear witness to Christ's love and draw many to his light.*

**The Church of England and the Anglican Communion:** *We pray for the life of the Church of England and the whole Anglican Communion. Grant to all who lead your Church wisdom and vision. Especially we pray for:*

*✠ Sarah, Archbishop Designate and Bishop of London, ✠ Lusa, Bishop of Willesden, ✠ Catherine, Archdeacon of Northolt. We give thanks for the Cathedral Church of St Paul the Apostle, our Diocesan Mother Church, and for all who work and worship there.*

**Our Parish and Community:** *We give thanks for this Parish of St Thomas the Apostle. Especially we pray for: Reverend Julia Palmer, our priest, her mother Marlene, and the Davoren family. We pray for our Churchwardens, PCC, and all who together serve in the life of the Parish. Bless our young people and their leaders - especially:*

*Rowland Linder - Pastoral Assistant and Youth Intern, and Stephen Brooks - Parish Administrator and Liturgical Assistant. We give thanks for all who make use of our Parish Hall, and for the friendships formed there.*

*Strengthen our ministries, deepen our fellowship, and guide us as we grow in grace, serving others in truth and love.*

**We pray for our local community in Hanwell and beyond.** *Especially we pray for: our schools - Ealing Fields, Elthorne, Oaklands, and New Level Academy; for all who teach and learn within them; and for all who live and work in this parish. May Christ dwell in our homes and hearts, and may his peace be known among us.*

**The Nations of the World:** *We hold before God the nations of the world, especially: the Holy Land, Palestine, Gaza, and all who suffer in the Middle East, India and Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Ukraine. Grant to all in authority the spirit of justice and reconciliation, and to every people the gift of peace.*

**The Sick and Those in Need:** *We pray for the housebound, the sick, and all who are in hospital or in care.*

*Comfort all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, and give them hope and healing in your love. Especially we pray for: Andrea Arthurs, Roy Arthurs, John Ball, Paul Ball, Caroline Baxter, John Brake & Family, Nathaniel Brito-Ault, Nigel & Davina Brooks, Ivan Carter, Noel Chardon, Jenny Cornwell, Patrick Dennerly, Daphne Dorival, Leo & Estriana Douglas, Merfyn Edwards, Gillian Fontaine, Geraldine, Celia Griffith, Darren Hancock, Ian King, Jaxon Prentice, Nick Lunn, Arda & Joe Metcalf, Dermot Molloy, Stuart Minty, Nicholas Robinson, Sarah, Gill Shaw, Keith & Sara Spillett, Colin Spooner, Leslie Stanton, John Tozer Lynne Wilson, Anthony Wilson and Vin.*

**The Departed:** *We commend to your mercy all who have died recently.*

**We remember those whose year's mind falls at this time.** *Especially we pray for: Norman Newlyn, Bill Duce, Norman Lumsden, Priscillia Piggott, Violet Martha Lunn, Anne Bowles-Bevan, Mary Hammant, Cliff Cosstick, George Rosario, Elizabeth Mary Hickling, Rosemary Robinson, Christina Joseph, Ralph Baxter, Hazel Poole & Sandy Newlands.*

**✠ May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise in glory. ✠**

*Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Thomas the Apostle, and all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and all for whom we pray, to your unfailing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*





### Add a Bauble of Remembrance

As we approach Christmas, we hold close in our hearts all those we love but see no longer.

At the back of the church you will find our *Tree of Remembrance* - a place of quiet reflection and gentle hope.

You are warmly invited to write the name of a loved one on a bauble and hang it on the tree. Whether your loss is recent or long-ago, this simple act of remembrance allows us to honour their memory before God's enduring light.

Please take a moment before or after the service to add your bauble, say a prayer, and know that you are held in the love and prayers of this community.

*May Christ, the Light of the World, bring comfort and peace to all who mourn.*



*The Mass Setting for this Service is the John Rutter Service.*

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service, is copyright*

*© The Archbishops' Council 2000. Common Worship: Times and Seasons, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006. CCL No: 154364.*

## The Parish Church of St Thomas the Apostle, Hanwell

182 Boston Road, Hanwell, London, W7 2AD

🌐 : [StThomasHanwell.com](http://StThomasHanwell.com) ☎ : (020) 3302 1040 ✉ : [stthomashanwell@gmail.com](mailto:stthomashanwell@gmail.com) 📺 : [Facebook.com/StThomasHanwell](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasHanwell)

📷 : [Instagram.com/StThomasHanwell](https://www.instagram.com/StThomasHanwell)

**The Reverend Julia Palmer (MA, MSc)**  
Vicar

St Thomas' Vicarage,  
182 Boston Road,  
Hanwell, London, W7 2AD

☎ : (020) 3302 1040

☎ : 07939 043 959

✉ : [revjuliap@msn.com](mailto:revjuliap@msn.com)

**Rowland Linder**  
Pastoral Assistant | Youth Outreach

St Thomas' Parish Office, The Vestry,  
St Thomas the Apostle Church,  
Hanwell, London, W7 2AD

☎ : 07907 280 705

✉ : [RowlandLinder@gmail.com](mailto:RowlandLinder@gmail.com)

**The Parish Office is closed on Fridays**

**Stephen Brooks**  
Parish & Liturgical Administrator

St Thomas' Parish Office, The Vestry,  
St Thomas the Apostle Church,  
Hanwell, London, W7 2AD

☎ : Parish Office & Hall Bookings:  
07933 895 761

Tuesday to Thursday (11am – 4pm)

✉ : [stthomashanwell@gmail.com](mailto:stthomashanwell@gmail.com)