



29th December 2025

The First Sunday of Christmas

(The Holy Family)

Parish 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.

The Gathering & Welcome

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

All: Amen.

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

All: And also with you.

First Hymn: 32 O little town of Bethlehem.

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.

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:

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; 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 63. 7-9. *(Reading is read by Pauline Harrison)*

I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us— yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses. He said, “Surely they are my people, children who will be true to me”; and so he became their Saviour. In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading: Hebrews 2. 10-end. *(Reading is read by Alan McDougall)*

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.” And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: 40 What child is this.

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. Matthew 2. 13-end.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.” So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon or Homily is given.

‘Coventry Carol’ (Second Version)

Original Tune of 1591 | Arr: M. E. F. Shaw (1875-1958)

Pageant of the Shearman and Tailors, 15th Century

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By by, lully lullay.

^{1.} O sisters too,
How may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling,
For whom we do sing,
By by, lully lullay!

^{2.} Herod the king,
In his raging,
Charged he hath this day
His men of might,
In his own sight,
All young children to slay.

^{3.} That woe is me,
Poor child for thee!
And ever morn and day,
For thy parting
Neither say nor sing
By by, lully lullay!

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By by, lully lullay.

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.

Please Kneel or Sit for the Prayers of Intercession. (Led by Eileen Sinclair)

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

‘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: 202 Word supreme before creation.

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.

Almighty God, accept our gifts on this joyful feast of our salvation. By our communion with the Word made flesh in bread and wine, may we become more like Christ who joins our lives to yours, for he is Lord forever and ever.

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: 22 Silent Night.

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: 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: 39 Unto us a boy is born.

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.



Christmas Blessings

FROM THE REVEREND JULIA PALMER
& THE PEOPLE OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE, HANWELL.



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: tickets@me.com
07850 889948
St Thomas' Church Boston Road W7 2AD



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 Lütherkirche, 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 Arthturs, Roy Arthturs, John Ball, Paul Ball, Caroline Baxter, Ebenezer Blavo, 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 Viv.*

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.
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The Parish Office is closed on Fridays