



4<sup>th</sup> January 2025

The Feast of  
The Epiphany  
of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Parish Mass

*“We have seen his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”*  
(S. Matthew 2. 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.*

*Front Cover Image: Adoration of the Kings by Sandro Botticelli and Filippino Lippi, c. 1470.*

## 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: 36 The first Nowell.

## 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

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

*(cf Titus 2.11-14)*

Let us 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 60. 1-6. (*Reading is read by Pauline Britton*)

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. “Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

*Please Stand as we Sing together the Psalm.*

**Psalm 72. 10-15.** (*Deus, judicium*)

- <sup>10.</sup> The kings of Tharsis and of the isles shall give presents : the kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring gifts.
- <sup>11.</sup> All kings shall fall down before him : all nations shall do him service.
- <sup>12.</sup> For he shall deliver the poor when he crieth : the needy also, and him that hath no helper.
- <sup>13.</sup> He shall be favourable to the simple and needy : and shall preserve the souls of the poor.
- <sup>14.</sup> He shall deliver their souls from falsehood and wrong : and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
- <sup>15.</sup> He shall live, and unto him shall be given of the gold of Arabia : prayer shall be made ever unto him, and daily shall he be praised.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost ;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

**The Second Reading:** Ephesians 3. 1-12. (*Reading is read by Sue Cunningham*)

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages

past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn: 49 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning.** *(Tune: i Epiphany)*

**The Gospel**

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Cantor: "We have seen his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage 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. 1-12.

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

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**The Sermon or Homily is given.**  
*By Reverend David Maclure - Holy Trinity, Southall*

<sup>1.</sup> In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan;  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
    Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
    Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter  
    Long ago.

<sup>3.</sup> Enough for Him, whom Cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
    A breast-ful of milk  
And a manger-ful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom Angels  
    Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
    Which adore.

<sup>2.</sup> Our God, heaven cannot hold Him  
    Nor earth sustain,  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
    When He comes to reign:  
    In the bleak mid-winter  
    A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty —  
    Jesus Christ.

<sup>4.</sup> What can I give Him,  
    Poor as I am?  
    If I were a Shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
    If I were a Wise Man  
    I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give Him,  
    Give my heart.

**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 David Gilbert)*

*And at the end.*

Lord, in your mercy.  
**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

Christ is our peace.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

*(2 Corinthians 5.17)*

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: 47 As with gladness men of old.**

### 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.**

Lord, accept your people's gifts, not gold, frankincense or myrrh, but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation.

**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 honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst.

In the coming of the magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

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: 27 How brightly shines the Morning Star!**

**Prayers after Communion**

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.*

A Junior Church Presentation *may be given.*

Final Hymn: We three Kings of Orient are.

<sup>1</sup>. We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we travel afar,  
Field and fountain,  
moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star:

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

<sup>3</sup>. Frankincense to offer have I,  
Incense owns a Deity nigh:  
Prayer and praising,  
all are raising,  
Worship Him, God most high.

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

<sup>2</sup>. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever,  
ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign:

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

<sup>4</sup>. Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume  
Breathes a lie of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing,  
bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

The Lord be with you.

**All: and also with you.**

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

**All: Amen.**

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, give us a place with the saints in light in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

**All: Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in your hearts and fill your lives with his joy and peace.

**All: Amen.**

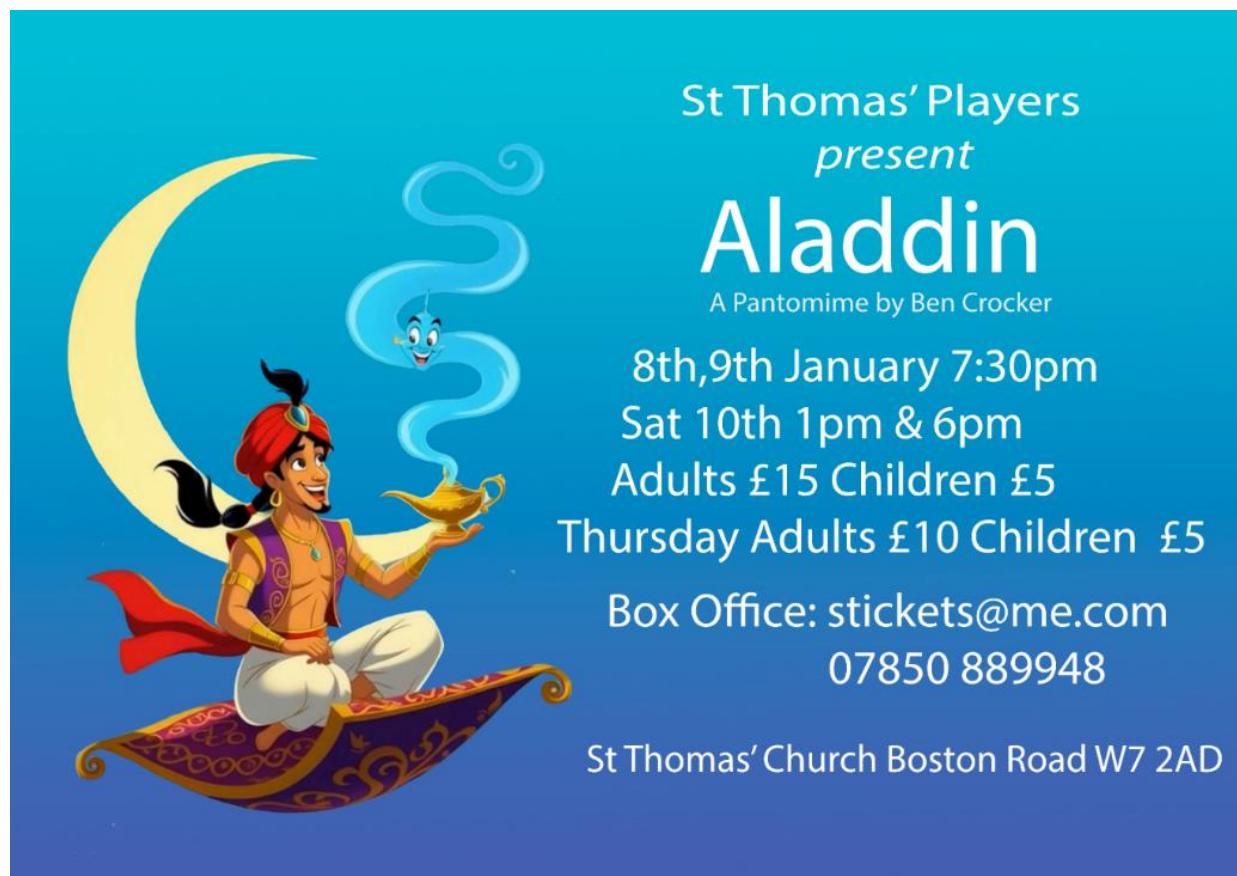
and the blessing of God almighty □ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

### The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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





## 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, Priscilla 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.*



*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.*

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**The Parish Office is closed on Fridays**

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