



December 25 2019 Christmas Day Mass

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R: 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. **R.**

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. **R.**

All the ends of the earth have seen

the salvation of our God.

Shout to the Lord all the earth,

ring out your joy. **R.**

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. **R.**

SECOND READING

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

"In the beginning was the Word: 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, through 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

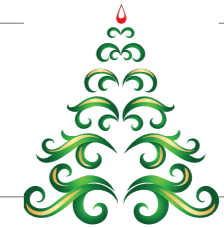


THE PARISHES OF THE CATHEDRAL, BLACKPOOL, THE GLEN, BALLYVOLANE & SUNDAY'S WELL

Newsletter



December 24 2019
Christmas Eve Mass



FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

A son is given to us.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him; Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R: Today a Saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,

sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

2. Proclaim his help day by day,

tell among the nations his glory

and his wonders among all the peoples.

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,

let the sea and all within it thunder praise,

let the land and all it bears rejoice,

all the trees of the wood shout for joy

at the presence of the Lord for he comes,

he comes to rule the earth.

4. With justice he will rule the world,

he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R.**

SECOND READING

A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to Titus.

God's grace has been revealed to the whole human race.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-strained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy:

today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Today a saviour has been born to you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up, since to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger,' and suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to men who enjoy his favour'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PARISHES OF THE CATHEDRAL, BLACKPOOL, THE GLEN, BALLYVOLANE & SUNDAY'S WELL

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SACRISTY / OFFICE HOURS:

Blackpool: 021 4300518
 Tuesday 10am to 12 noon
 Wednesday 9am to 12 noon
 Thursday 11am to 12 noon
 Friday 9am to 10.30am
 Sunday 11am to 12 noon

Cathedral: 021 4304325
 Sacristy: 021 4210717

Cathedral Parish Office Hours:

Monday: 8.30am – 4pm
 Tuesday: 8.30am – 4.30pm
 Wednesday: 8.30am – 4.30pm
 Thursday: 8.30am – 4pm
 Friday: 8.30am to 4.30pm

Closed for Christmas and will reopen on January 2nd 2020.

Prayer as we light the Fifth Candle of our Advent Wreath

Eternal Father, you revealed your kindness and love on this night/day when Jesus, your Son, was born at Bethlehem. He became one of us to free us from the darkness of sin and to drive away the shadows of fear. He is the Light of the World and the Prince of Peace. Guided by him, may we become his very own people, united in love. With Mary, his mother may we always treasure in our hearts the meaning of Christ's birth. And with the angels of heaven, may we give you glory and praise this night/day for ever and ever. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Reflection

As we light the Christmas candle – the Light of the World – Perhaps we could reflect on the birth or re-birth of Jesus in my life. Birth is a time of celebration and joy – new life – light and brightness. What do I want to celebrate as I open my heart to the Light of the World this Christmas? What are the gifts that I wish to share because the Word has been born anew in my heart?

Christmas Carols

1. Silent Night, Holy night:
 All is calm, all is bright,
 Round yon virgin mother and child,
 Holy infant so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace,
 Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night:
 Shepherd's quake at the sight,
 Glories stream from heaven afar,
 Heavenly hosts sing alleluia:
 Christ the Saviour is born,
 Christ the Saviour is born.

2. O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
 Come and behold him born the King of angels:
 O come let us adore him,
 O come let us adore him,
 O come let us adore him,
 Christ the Lord.
 Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
 Sing all ye citizens of heaven above:
 Glory to God in the highest!
 O come, let us adore him.....

3. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
 I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
 And stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
 Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
 And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

4. Hark, the herald angels sing,
 Glory to the new-born King;
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled:
 Joyful all ye nations rise,
 Join the triumph of the skies,
 With th'angelic host proclaim,
 Christ is born in Bethlehem.
 Hark, the herald angels sing,
 Glory to the new-born King.

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
 Hail the Son of righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 Ris'n with healing in his wings;
 Mild he lays his glory by,
 Born that we no more may die,
 Born to raise us from the earth,
 Born to give us second birth.

5. The first Nowell the angel did say
 was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
 in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
 on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 born is the King of Israel!*

They looked up and saw a star,
 shining in the beyond them far
 and to the earth it gave great light
 and so it continued both day and by night

And by the light of the same star,
 three wise men came from a country far.
 To seek for a king was their intent,
 and to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
 o'er Bethlehem it took rest,
 and there it did both stop and stay
 right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three,
 full reverently upon their knee,
 and offered there in his presence
 their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood mankind hath brought.

6. Joy to the world, the Lord has come,
 Let the earth receive her King.
 Let every heart prepare His room,
 And heaven and nature sing,
 And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace
 And make the nations prove
 The glories of his righteousness,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders, and wonders of His love.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION
 The collection taken up on the Christmas Day Masses is for the Priests of the Parishes. There will only be one collection on Christmas Day.
Thank you for your generosity.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARISH NEWSLETTER TEAM
 and to Collins Print, Kilbarry Business Park, Dublin Hill, for their kindness and attention throughout the past year.

THANK YOU
 We would like to thank all the parishioners who handed in their Autumn dues and to all the collectors who distributed and collected these envelopes. **A sincere thank you from the Priests of the Parishes.**

Old Story, New Hope

Hearing the old story: Each year we hear again the ancient Christmas story. Each year we retell the astonishing entrance that God made into our broken world and we are moved by God's capacity to surprise us with love. Something new had happened; something original and fresh had been revealed; nothing would ever be quite the same again. God made the choice to break the silence of ages, to give himself away in a Word. The most important Word that God has ever spoken took flesh in the womb of a young maiden, and like all flesh was born as a fragile bundle of new life.

The mystery of God was concentrated in a child; the hope of God's love was fastened on to this little one. God was choosing to visit his people-not through the dreams and words of the prophets, but in human flesh. The God who lived in the highest heavens chose another address: he decided to pitch his tent among us.

The Christmas story we hear each year is the same, but we are different. Our world is different. Our memories have grown, our hopes have been tested, our love has been called on in new ways. But no matter what changes we have undergone, what losses we have mourned, the Christmas story speaks to us again of new birth and the possibility of our own rebirth. It tells us that things can be different; it gives substance to our hope that new life is possible because of the birth of the Son of God.

Christmas 2019

The word was made flesh and lived among us.
A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE
'And Man will live forever more because of Christmas'

Christmas is a very special time. Looking at it through the eyes of a child it is sheer joy and excitement. For adults it may evoke different memories and feelings. But there is no doubt that Christmas is good news. God became one of us. In Bethlehem God took on our flesh and blood, he took on our lives. In this year of 2019 he is born again. Here and now in our time he longs to live with us, in this moment, in this place, in you and me. God is with us now. Our crib as well as having images of the Christ-Child with his Mother Mary and St. Joseph, the Shepherds, the Kings the Animals, also has a space for you and me and for all that makes up life in the Cathedral, Blackpool, The Glen, Ballyvolane and Sunday's Well today. May we bring our lives and all that we have to God this Christmas.

'Today a Saviour is born to us, he is Christ the Lord'.

We welcome home those who have returned to be with their families this Christmas. Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick, those away from home, our dead and those bereaved during the year. We wish you all that is best at this grace filled time. We are happy to celebrate this great feast with the people of the Cathedral, Blackpool, The Glen, Ballyvolane and Sunday's Well. May our hearts and our homes be filled with the peace and joy of our infant saviour? You are all remembered in our masses at this Christmas time.

The Priests of the Parishes

CHRISTMAS DIARY

Your Guide to Masses for Christmas

CATHEDRAL	NORTH PRES	BLACKPOOL	ST BRENDAN'S	ST OLIVER'S
Christmas Eve Night 5.00pm & 9.00pm		Christmas Eve Night 6.00pm & 9.00pm	Christmas Eve Night 7.00pm	Christmas Eve Night 7.30pm
Christmas Day 11.30am	Christmas Day 10am	Christmas Day 9.00am & 12noon	Christmas Day 10.00am	Christmas Day 11.00am

Weekday Masses After Christmas Day

MASSES	CATHEDRAL	NORTH PRES	BLACKPOOL	ST BRENDAN'S	ST OLIVER'S
St. Stephen's Day	10.15am		11.00am		
27th December	10.15am		11.00am		
28th December	5.00pm Vigil		6.00pm Vigil	9.45am	6.00pm Vigil
29th December	11.30am & 5.30pm	9am	12noon	10.00am	11.00am

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL
Celebrant: On this Christmas night/day, as we celebrate the birthday of the Prince of Peace, let us joyfully raise our hearts in prayer.

Intercessions:

- On this Christmas night/day, may God bless the Catholic Church and Christians of all traditions throughout the world. May the coming of the Saviour help us to overcome all division, in a spirit of charity and truth.
Lord, hear us.....
- Our Saviour was born into a world in tumult. May he bring healing and peace to our world, and may he bless the efforts of all who seek peace and reconciliation in his name.
Lord, hear us.....
- Our Lord was born to poverty and misunderstanding. May he bless the poor efforts of his followers, and help us to be courageous in the face of misunderstanding and opposition.
Lord, hear us.....
- We pray for those who are in sorrow at this time, while others rejoice. May the new-born Christ console them, and may each of us be sensitive and responsive to the needs of those we meet.
Lord, hear us.....

Celebrant: We praise and thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have revealed your infinite grace through your son, Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.