



ST NICOLAS'  
PARISH CHURCH



*Welcome*



¶ Please **STAND** for the entry of the priest and **HYMN**

For those who give us life and breath

*Tune: O Waly Waly*

For those who gave us life and breath,  
For love that's stronger far than death,  
Today we bring our thankful hearts,  
For all a mothering love imparts.

For kindness, patience, warmth and care,  
For each embrace, each smile, each tear,  
Each word of peace, each healing touch,  
These simple gifts which mean so much.

We look to you, our mothering Lord,  
Who shows love's cost, and love's reward,  
Your passion fiercer than the grave,  
Nailed to the world you came to save.

So teach your people how to live,  
How to endure, how to forgive,  
Teach us to trust, to sacrifice,  
To share the love that has no price.

## The Gathering

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

*All* **Amen.**

Priest The Lord be with you:

*All* **And also with you.**

Praise God who loves us.

*All* **Praise God who cares.**

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved  
and laughed and laboured as they cared for their  
children.

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

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept  
in sorrow and joy for their children.

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

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and  
nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your  
patient, waiting love.

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

## Confession

*Priest* Let us call to mind our failure  
to value the love of others  
and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

*Silence for reflection*

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception.  
We fail to live as your children.  
Lord have mercy.

*All* **Lord have mercy.**

You call us to do good. We seek our own good.  
Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ have mercy.**

You hear us when we cry for help.  
We ignore the cries of others.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord have mercy.**

## Absolution

*Priest* May the God of all mercies  
cleanse you from your sins,  
and restore you in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Collect

*Priest* God of love,  
passionate and strong,  
tender and careful:  
watch over us and hold us  
all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Signs of the Passion

Lent IV: The Nails

*The fourth sign of the Passion, the nails are brought to the Cross in the Sanctuary*

Pierced One,  
By your agony and cruel nails  
Guide my eyes to see those whom I hurt  
with my judgements, actions and inactions  
With Blessed Mary may we love you  
with all our heart.  
We pray in the name of the bearer of our sins.

*All*      **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

**¶ Please SIT**

A reading from the letter to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*Reader*      For the word of the Lord

*All*            **Thanks be to God.**

## ¶ Please **STAND** for the **GRADUAL HYMN 285**

*All* A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John  
**Glory to you O Lord.**

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

*All* This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## ¶ Please **SIT**

The Sermon

## ¶ Please **STAND**

The Affirmation of The Faith

*Priest* Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

¶ Please SIT OR KNEEL

## The Prayers of the People

Priest In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ  
let us pray to the Father.

Leader As children of a loving God who always listens to our  
cries, let us pray to our Father in heaven.  
Loving God, you have given us the right to be called  
children of God. Help us to show your love in our  
homes that they may be places of love, security and  
truth.

Leader God of love:  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, Jesus, your Son, was born into the family of  
Mary and Joseph; bless all parents and all who care for  
children; strengthen those families living under stress  
and may your love be known where no human love is  
found.

Leader God of love:  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church.  
We pray that all may find in her their true home; that  
the lonely, the marginalized, the rejected may be  
welcomed and loved in the name of Jesus.

Leader God of love:  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world we pray for healing among the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is oppression; for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all your children.

Leader God of love:  
All hear our prayer.

Priest Our Lady is Mother of the Church and shows her care for us all by her prayers. We join our prayers with hers as we say,

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

## The Peace

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says,  
'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'  
The peace of the Lord be with you always

All **And also with you**

*We all may exchange a sign of peace*

## OFFERTORY HYMN 161

*During which a collection will be taken for the work of the church and good causes. Consider using the Giving envelope so we can be tax efficient or do ask about using the cordless payment machine.*

# The Eucharistic Prayer

Priest The Lord is here  
All **His Spirit is with us.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.  
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Priest It is indeed right and good  
to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
We have seen the wonder of your love  
expressed and multiplied in creation;  
we have heard the powerful warnings spoken  
by your prophets, when in the hardness of our hearts  
and stubbornness of our wills;  
we would not take you by the hand.

We have read the story of your Son's abiding in a  
human family.

We rejoice in the full extent of Jesus' love  
shown through his teaching.

We remember his trial, his death by our sin and his  
rising by your power.

And so we join with saints and angels  
for ever praising you and *singing*:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of pow'r and God of might: heav-en and

earth, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry, your

pow'r and might. Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-

san - na in the high - est heav'ns. Ho - high - est heav'ns.

Bless-ed, bless-ed is he who comes, bless-ed,

bless-ed is he who comes; bless-ed is he, bless-ed is

he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

## ¶ Please SIT or KNEEL

Priest     How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.  
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,  
you embraced a people as your own.  
When they turned away and rebelled  
your love remained steadfast.  
From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour,  
    born of Mary,  
to be the living bread,  
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.  
He offered his life for sinners,  
and with a love stronger than death  
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,  
he came to supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.  
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
**Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:

**Drink this, all of you;  
    this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for man  
    for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.**

Let us pro-claim the mys-t'ry of faith: Christ has  
 died, Christ is ris'n, Je - sus Christ will  
 come a - gain Ho - san - na, ho - san -  
 na, ho - san - na in the high - est heav'ns!

Father, we plead with confidence  
 his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;  
 we remember his dying and rising in glory,  
 and we rejoice that he intercedes for us  
 at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you  
 these gifts of your creation;  
 may they be for us the body and blood  
 of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,  
 form us in the likeness of Christ,  
 and build us into a living temple to your glory.  
 Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.  
 Reveal her unity, guard her faith,  
 and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with Blessed Mary, Nicolas, George,  
 Catherine, Benedict, Helena and all the saints  
 to the vision of that eternal splendour  
 for which you have created us;  
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
 by whom, with whom, and in whom,  
 with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
 we worship you, Father almighty,  
 in songs of everlasting praise:

*All*            **Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

*Priest*        **At the Saviour's command and formed by Divine  
teaching we dare to say,**

*All*            **Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.**

*Priest*        **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.**

*All*            **For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Fracture**

*Priest*        **We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## Agnus Dei

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

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

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

*You are welcome to make your communion. Sidespeople will guide you.  
Anyone baptised may receive the Eucharist.*

## Prayer after Communion

O God, our blanket against the cold,  
You wrap us in the shawl of forgiveness  
when we trip and fall,  
you rock us in your arms till our weeping ceases.  
Though our thanks can never be sufficient,  
We promise today to prove the teaching  
and sacrifice of your Son,  
through our daily lives,  
and in the mothering of others.

*All* Amen

## Prayer for those who mother

Praise God who loves us.  
*All* Praise God who cares.  
For the care of mothers;  
*All* Thanks be to God.  
For their patience when tested;  
*All* Thanks be to God.  
For their love when tired;  
*All* Thanks be to God.  
For their hope when despairing;  
*All* Thanks be to God.  
For their service without limit;  
*All* Thanks be to God.

¶ Please **STAND**

### Hymn & Distribution of Flowers

Fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers,  
all those who love us, for whom we care:  
help and befriend them, keep and defend them,  
Jesus our Saviour, this is our prayer.

And for those others, fathers and mothers,  
children who hunger, they must be fed:  
we would be caring, readily sharing  
one with another our daily bread.

Sisters and brothers, fathers and mothers,  
we who together offer our praise,  
hear our thanksgiving, God ever living,  
may we walk with you all of our days.

## The Blessing & Dismissal

*Priest*      May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless you:  
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother,  
                bless you:  
may God, who broods as a mother over her children,  
                bless you.  
May almighty God bless you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

*All*            **Amen.**

*The clergy and altar party process to Our Lady for the Angelus.*

# Angelus

1. The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary: and she conceived by the Ho - ly  
2. Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it unto me a - cord - ing to thy  
3. And the word was made flesh: and dwelt a - mong

7

Spirit. Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with Thee Blessed art thou among women and  
word us.

12

blessed is the fruit of thy womb Je - sus; Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now

19

and at the hour of our death, A - men Pray for us O Holy Mother of God

25 Response accompanied

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. (Collect) A - men.

**We beseech Thee, O Lord, pour Thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the incarnation of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by His Passion and Cross we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Priest     The Mass is ended.  
              Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*All*         **In the name of Christ. Amen.**