



**St John's
Pevensey Road
Pews News and Service
Sheet for Sunday 29th
December 2024**



*Welcome to Mass
this morning -
The First Sunday
of Christmas*

During the week:
Wednesday 10am
Online Zoom service*:
(Wednesday -
NO Midweek Mass)
Morning Coffee/Warm
Space: Fridays
10 – 12 noon in Church

Next Sunday 5th January-
the Feast of the Epiphany-
8am Said Mass
10.30am Sung Festival
Mass



Simon Bening, The Seven Sorrows of Mary
from the *Prayer Book of Cardinal
Albrecht of Brandenburg*
Flemish (Bruges), c.1525-1530
Los Angeles, J. Paul Getty Museum
MS Ludwig IX 19, fol. 251v

Our prayers are asked for: David S, Ken, Royston H, Helena O, John T;
Please pray also for the repose of the souls of the recently departed,
including Gill T and Catherine M, ...and those whose Years Minds fall around
this time, and all who mourn.

**St John's
Prayer
Cross**

Catherine; Ramona;
Tom V; Bostik;
Diane; Goldie;
Louice T; Lorenzo

Anna
Mog
Don
John
The
Freebury
family

All are
regularly
prayed
for by
name

Please let us know of those who require this longer-term prayer support. Or pin their names, via the slips of paper provided, on the wooden Prayers Cross at the back of the Church. Thank you.



"This Christmas-tide please spare a thought for the seafarers who work in all weathers to bring us 95% of everything we use - including most Christmas presents. The Mission to Seafarers centres provide a welcome and help with problems in 250 ports in 50 countries during their brief port stays, or visits ships when they can't come ashore. A donation would further their work. Just put the money in an MtS envelope and drop in the collection box. If paying electronically, please put a note in the box with the amount and designation to Mission to Seafarers. Many thanks." FM

**Lord God, heavenly 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

Priest God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.
All. Amen

The Liturgy of the Word *all sit*

A reading from the first book of Samuel

1 Samuel 2. 18-20,26

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD

repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

....

²⁶ Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and with the people.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the letter to the Colossians

Colossians 3. 12-17

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.

For the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn during which the Gospel is brought amongst us.

**God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Saviour
was born on Christmas day,
to save us all
from Satan's power
when we were gone astray:**

***O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!***

**From God our heavenly Father
a blessed angel came,
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name:
*O tidings of comfort and joy,...***

**And when they came to
Bethlehem,
where our dear Saviour lay,
they found him in a manger,
where oxen feed on hay;
his mother Mary kneeling down
unto the Lord did pray:
*O tidings of comfort and joy,...***

**Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
with Christian love and
fellowship
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all other doth efface:
*O tidings of comfort and joy,...***

Traditional

Gospel Reading *When the Gospel is announced the Deacon says*

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

All Alleluia.

Deacon The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Dcn Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2. 41 – end

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival.

When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them.

Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Deacon Let us declare our faith in God.

All 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.

Prayers of Intercession

The Peace

Priest Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **All and also with you.**

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory hymn *during which the altar is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep
and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears
of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing
to God the King,
and peace to all on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep,
the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.**

**How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive
him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

**Where children pure and happy
pray to the blessed child,
where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door,**

**the dark night wakes,
the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes
once more.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

Prayer at the Preparation of the Altar

The priest takes the bread and wine.

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 Eucharistic Prayer (B)

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 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.**

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. 🕯

Dcn Great is 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 St John the Evangelist, Mary the Mother of God, St Peter 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

Deacon 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.

Breaking of the Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated 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.**

*We sit as **Agnus Dei** is sung by all.*

Jesus, Lamb of God:

have mercy upon us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins:

have mercy upon us.

Jesus, Redeemer of the world:

give us your peace.

Giving of Communion

The priest says the invitation.

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

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

Communion is received. Please bow your head if you prefer to receive a blessing.

The Body of Christ. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

Anthem

Hymn

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

**'Fear not', said he
(for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy
I bring to you and all mankind.**

**'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour,
who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:**

**'The heavenly Babe
you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped
in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'**

**Thus spake the seraph;
and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God,
who thus
addressed their joyful song:**

**'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from
heaven to all,
begin and never cease.'**

Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

Prayer after Communion

Priest 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.

Notices

Blessing of the Congregation

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you

Priest May God the Father keep
you in all your days.

May God the Son shield you in all
your ways.

May God the Spirit bring you
healing and peace.

May God the Holy Trinity drive all
darkness from you and pour upon
you blessing and light. *All* Amen.

Final hymn

**Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation.**

**Cradled in a stall was he
with sleepy cows and asses;
but the very beasts could see
that he the world surpasses.**

Herod then with fear was filled:

'A prince', he said, 'in Jewry!'
and all the little boys he killed
at Bethlem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
while the choir with peals of
glee
doth rend the air asunder.

Latin, 15thc. Tr Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

The Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you

All May the grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ, and love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy
Spirit, be with us all, evermore.
Amen.

Priest May the souls of the faithful
departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace...

All and rise in glory. **Amen.**

To be said facing the open doors:

Dcn To a troubled world
peace from Christ.

Dcn To a searching world
love from Christ.

Dcn To a waiting world,
hope from Christ.

Deacon Go in peace.
Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All **Glory, thanks
and praise to God.**

*Organ voluntary: Sortie in E flat –
Lefebure-Wely*

Do stay a while!



**Celebrating
Faith**

Hastings and Rye
Deanery Celebration

A service celebrating the history
and Christian faith in our Deanery
with Bishop Martin and Bishop Will

Wednesday 15 January @ 7:00pm
St Peter & St Paul Church, Hastings

www.celebratingfaith.co.uk

This pew sheet is printed on
100% recycled paper

FYI : The Seven Sorrows are:

1. The prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:25-35)
2. The flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15)
3. Loss of the Child Jesus for three days (Luke 2:41-50)
4. Mary meets Jesus on his way to Calvary (Luke 23:27-31; John 19:17)
5. Crucifixion and Death of Jesus (John 19:25-30)
6. The body of Jesus being taken from the Cross (Psalm 130; Luke 23:50-54; John 19:31-37)
7. The burial of Jesus (Isaiah 53:8; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Mark 15:40-47) (from imaginemdei.blogspot.com)

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Lucy is our Administrator.

Please contact her also for
Church Hall bookings.

Safeguarding Officer can be
contacted on
safestjohn30@gmail.com

*Please request a link to the
Wednesday Zoom service by
emailing
pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com
Also to this email address
please send any updates for
prayer lists or pews news
sheet by 4pm on Monday this
week. Back to 4pm on
Tuesdays after this. Vx

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