



**St John's  
Pevensey Road  
Pews News  
and Service Sheet  
for St Matthew's Day  
21<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

*Welcome  
to Mass  
this  
morning*

During the week

Deanery Confirmation  
will be tomorrow at 7pm at  
All Saints' Church, Hastings.  
Please pray especially for  
John W from this church.



**10am Wednesday: Mass  
in St Peter's Chapel  
Wednesdays at 10am:  
Online Zoom service\*  
Fridays, 10 – 12 noon, in  
Church: Morning Coffee**

Next Sunday 28th September –  
St Michael and All Angels  
8am Said Mass  
10.30am Sung Mass



## St John's Prayer Cross



**Our prayers are asked for:** Gillian; Sue and Ken; Tim;

**Please pray also for** the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Fr Andrew ...and those whose Years Minds fall around this time, and all who mourn.

All are regularly prayed for by name



### Urgently needed items for the foodbank include:

Toilet Rolls, UHT Milk, Coffee, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Vegetables. Other needed items include:

Tinned fish, tinned potatoes, tinned rice pudding, toiletries.

If you are able to donate, please leave items in the container at the back of church and they will be collected by the Food Bank rep. Thank you.

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.

*Prayer said by the choir: ....* grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Introit: O taste and see – Vaughan Williams**

## **Opening Hymn**

When morning gilds the skies,  
my heart awaking cries,  
may Jesus Christ be praised:  
alike at work and prayer  
to Jesus I repair;  
may Jesus Christ be praised.

The sacred minster bell  
it peals o'er hill and dell,  
may Jesus Christ be praised:  
O hark to what it sings,  
as joyously it rings,  
may Jesus Christ be praised.

My tongue shall never tire  
of chanting in the choir,  
may Jesus Christ be praised:  
the fairest graces spring  
in hearts that ever sing  
may Jesus Christ be praised.

The night becomes as day,  
when from the heart we say,  
may Jesus Christ be praised:  
the powers of darkness fear,  
when this sweet chant  
they hear,  
may Jesus Christ be praised.

In heaven's eternal bliss  
the loveliest strain is this,  
may Jesus Christ be praised:  
let air, and sea, and sky  
from depth to height reply,  
may Jesus Christ be praised.

**Be this, while life is mine,  
my canticle divine,  
may Jesus Christ be praised:  
be this the eternal song  
through all the ages on,  
may Jesus Christ be praised.**

*German, 19<sup>th</sup> century, Tr Edward Caswall  
(1814-79)*

## **The Welcoming of the People**

*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.**

**The Blessing of the Children  
and Lighting of the Candle as  
they go to Godly Play**

## **Prayers of Penitence**

*Deacon* The saints were faithful  
unto death and now dwell in the  
heavenly kingdom for ever. As we  
celebrate their joy, let us bring to  
the Lord our sins and weaknesses,  
and ask for his mercy.

*Silence is kept*

We are often slow to follow the  
example of Christ.

Lord have mercy  
**All Lord, have mercy.**

We often fail to be known as  
Christ's disciples.

Christ, have mercy  
**All Christ, have mercy.**

We often fail to walk  
the way of the cross.

Lord have mercy  
**All Lord, have mercy.**

## **Absolution**

*Priest* God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive you your sins and make you holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **All Amen.**

*The Gloria in Excelsis is sung*

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.  
Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, Heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.**

**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.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.**

**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.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest.**

## **The Collect**

*Priest* O Almighty God, whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist: give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **All Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word *all sit***

### **A reading from the book of Proverbs**

*Proverbs 3. 13 - 18*

Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy.

For the Word of the Lord.  
**All Thanks be to God.**

### **A Reading from the second letter to the Corinthians**

*2 Corinthians 4. 1-6*

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful

things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. For the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn during which the Gospel is brought amongst us.*

**Ye servants of God,  
your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad  
his wonderful name;  
the name all-victorious  
of Jesus extol:  
his kingdom is glorious,  
and rules over all.**

**God ruleth on high,  
almighty to save;  
and still he is nigh:  
his presence we have.  
The great congregation  
his triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation  
to Jesus our King.**

**Salvation to God  
who sits on the throne!  
Let all cry aloud,  
and honour the Son.  
The praises of Jesus  
the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces,  
and worship the Lamb.**

**Then let us adore,  
and give him his right:  
all glory and power,  
all wisdom and might,  
all honour and blessing,  
with angels above,  
and thanks never-ceasing,  
and infinite love.**

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

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

Alleluia, alleluia. I have called you friends, says the Lord, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. **All Alleluia.**

**Deacon** The Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

**Dcn** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

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

*Matthew 9. 9 - 13*

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need

of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### The Creed

*Dcn* Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God

**All** Though he was divine,  
he did not cling  
to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God  
has raised him on high,  
and given him  
the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

### The Peace

*Priest* May the God of peace sanctify you: may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before him at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints. 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 Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me,  
my Master and my friend:  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end:  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my friend.

O let me see thy footmarks,  
and in them plant mine own;  
my hope to follow duly  
is in thy strength alone:  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
uphold me to the end;  
and then in heaven receive me,  
my Saviour and my friend.

*John Bode (1816-74)*

**Prayer at the Preparation of the Altar**

Blessed be God, by whose grace creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

**The Eucharistic Prayer (E)**

*Priest* The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

*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, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. We rejoice in the glorious splendour of your majesty for you have given us a share with St Matthew in the inheritance of the saints in light. In the darkness of this passing age the saints proclaim the glory of your kingdom. Chosen as lights in the world, they surround our steps as we journey on towards the city of eternal light where they sing the everlasting song of triumph. In communion with angels and archangels and all who have served you on earth and worship you now in heaven, we raise our voices to proclaim your glory, for ever praising you and singing:

**All Holy, holy, holy, Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth  
are full of your glory,**

**Hosanna, Hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, Hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me. 🕯

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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. 🕯

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

**Dcn** Jesus Christ is Lord

**All Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.**



**You are the Saviour of the world.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with St John the Evangelist, St Matthew, St Peter, Mary the Mother of God and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. *All* **Amen.**

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

*Deacon* 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.*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
*All* **we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

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

**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.**

### **Giving of Communion**

*The priest says the invitation.*

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

*All* **Lord, I am not worthy to  
receive you, but only say the  
word, and I shall be healed.**

*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: Ave Verum Corpus -  
Elgar**

### **Hymn**

**Jesu, the very thought of thee  
With sweetness fills my breast;  
But sweeter far thy face to see,  
And in thy presence rest.**

**Nor voice can sing,  
nor heart can frame,  
Nor can the memory find,  
A sweeter sound  
than thy blest name,  
O Saviour of mankind!**

**O hope of every contrite heart,**



O joy of all the meek,  
To those who fall,  
how kind thou art!  
How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find?  
Ah, this  
Nor tongue nor pen can show;  
The love of Jesus, what it is  
None but his loved ones know.

Jesu, our only joy be thou,  
As thou our prize wilt be;  
Jesu, be thou our glory now,  
And through eternity.

*Latin c 12<sup>th</sup> century Tr E Caswall (1814-78)*

### Prayers after Communion

*Priest* Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; 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

#### The Blessing

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*All* And also with you

*Priest* God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and hope and love; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be amongst you and remain with you always. *All* Amen.

### Final hymn

O worship the King  
all glorious above;  
O gratefully sing  
his power and his love;  
our shield and defender,  
the ancient of days,  
pavilioned in splendour  
and girded with praise.

O tell of his might,  
O sing of his grace,  
whose robe is the light,  
whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath  
the deep thunder clouds form,  
and dark is his path  
on the wings of the storm.

The earth, with its store  
of wonders untold,  
Almighty, thy power  
hath founded of old:  
hath 'stablished it fast  
by a changeless decree,  
and round it hath cast,  
like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care  
what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air,  
it shines in the light;  
it streams from the hills,  
it descends to the plain,  
and sweetly distils  
in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust  
and feeble as frail,  
in thee do we trust,  
nor find thee to fail;  
thy mercies how tender,  
how firm to the end!  
Our Maker, Defender,  
Redeemer, and Friend.

O measureless Might,  
ineffable Love,  
while angels delight  
to hymn thee above,  
thy humbler creation,  
though feeble their lays,  
with true adoration  
shall sing to thy praise.

*Robert Grant (1779-1838)*

### **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  
departed, through the mercy of  
God, rest in peace **and rise in  
glory. Amen.**

*Deacon* Go in peace to love and  
serve the Lord.

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

### **Concluding voluntary**

Thank you to Mr Nigel Howard  
for playing the organ today.

*Do stay a while!*



## **EXPLORE THE FAITH with BISHOP LAURIE**

**Starting at 2:30 pm on  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September in  
All Saints room  
(under St John's Church)**

**All welcome!  
Meeting weekly to learn  
about**

**Bible, Jesus, the Creeds,  
the Mass, the Church,  
Prayer, the Saints,  
Suffering, Confirmation,  
*anything you want to  
discuss.***

**Tea, Coffee, biscuits  
provided**



*Inspiring Faith* - a new, online resource for sharing your faith.

Are you looking for a new way of exploring the Christian Faith? Inspiring Faith is a great new resource to help you grow in your Christian journey, whether you're learning on your own or with others. Discover scripture with ease, joy and curiosity.

## 2026 - Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi.



In April next year the Bishop will be leading a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi which you are all warmly invited to join. Bishop Martin writes: Join me for this opportunity to deepen your own spiritual experience on this special two-centre pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. You will encounter some of the great saints who have shaped Western Christianity. Like millions of Christians before us, we will seek to learn, pray and experience God in the pilgrimage sites of these cities.

I hope you will join me.  
+Martin

Fr David writes: As most of you know, our previous Rector the lovely Fr Andrew Perry died very peacefully on the morning of Wednesday 3rd September. We now have details of his funeral services. There will be a Requiem Mass at 6pm on Wednesday 1st October. The funeral itself will take place on Thursday 2nd October at Midday. As these services are taking place in St Mary's East Preston which only seats about 120 people we will not be organising a coach. If people wish to attend they are most welcome, but please attend one but not both of the services. At St John's we are planning to show both services on the big screen with the projector as St Mary's are live-streaming them. We are yet to decide whether this will be in the hall or the church. Everyone is most welcome to attend. May Fr Andrew rest in peace and rise in glory.

### St John's Personnel

Rector: Fr David Hill;

Parish Administrator and PCC Secretary: Lucy W

[admstjohns30@gmail.com](mailto:admstjohns30@gmail.com); Parish Office: 07831904321

Please contact Lucy also for **Church Hall Bookings**.

Website: [www.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk](http://www.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk)

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\*Please request a link to the Wednesday Zoom service by emailing [pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:pewsnewsstjohns@gmail.com)

Also to this email address please send any updates for prayer lists or pews news sheet by 4pm on Tuesdays. (Printing, folding and stapling is done on Wednesdays) Thank you.