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**First Sunday of Christmas  
29<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

8.00am

Holy Communion

10.30am

Parish Eucharist



*The Flight into Egypt by Giotto di Bondone (1304–1306, Scrovegni Chapel, Padua)*

**Welcome** to all who are visiting St Mary's for the first time today. We hope that you will find this church a place where you can encounter God, enjoy worship & make new friends.

**Christians of all denominations** are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Those who prefer to receive a blessing are asked to hold the service leaflet in your hand as a helpful sign to the clergy. Coffee will be served after the service. Please stay and enjoy a few minutes' conversation.

**Children** are most welcome in the service. We encourage families with children to sit at the FRONT of the church so that children can see what is going on.

For information and help, please see one of the stewards

**Today's stewards are:** Anthony Wills, Amanda Martin

<b>MINISTRY TEAM</b>	
The Revd Preb. Marjorie Brown ( <i>Vicar</i> ) Vicarage: 44 King Henry's Road, NW3 3RP	<b>Tel:</b> 020 7722 3062 <b>Email:</b> vicar@smvph.org.uk
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<b>OFFICE &amp; ADMINISTRATION TEAM</b>	
Celyn Cooke ( <i>Parish Administrator &amp; bookings</i> ) Parish office open 9.30am–2.30pm, Mon-Fri	<b>Tel:</b> 020 77223238 <b>Email:</b> office@smvph.org.uk
Ted Ruscoe ( <i>Treasurer</i> )	<b>Email:</b> ted.ruscoe@westwoodpropertiesltd.com
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## PARISH EUCHARIST

*Please stand at entrance of servers and clergy.*

**Mass setting:** Hymns

**President:** The Revd Mark Wakefield

**Entrance Hymn 25:** God rest you merry, gentlemen

*The president says*

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

**All**           **Amen.**

May the grace and light of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**All**           **and also with you.**

*The president introduces the service briefly.*

*The deacon says*

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

*The president says*

You were born for our salvation:  
Lord, have mercy.

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

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace:  
Christ, have mercy.

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

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives:  
Lord, have mercy.

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

May 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.**

**Gloria (to the tune of Cwm Rhondda)**

Glory be to God in heaven,  
songs of joy and peace we bring,  
thankful hearts and voices raising,  
to creation's Lord we sing.  
Lord, we thank you, Lord, we bless you,  
glory be to God our King,  
glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on your shoulders  
bore the load of this world's sin,  
only Son of God the Father,  
you have brought us peace within:  
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy,  
now your glorious reign begin,  
now your glorious reign begin.

### **Collect**

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.**

### **First Reading:** Hebrews 2.10-end

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’

And again,

‘I will put my trust in him.’

And again,

‘Here am I and the children whom God has given me.’

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**All**      **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual Hymn 39:** Unto us a boy is born

*Turn to face the gospel procession as it moves to the centre of the congregation.*

**Gospel: Matthew 2.13-end**

*When the Gospel is announced:*

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

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

*At the end of the Gospel the deacon says:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon:** The Revd Mark Wakefield

**Nicene Creed**

**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.**

### **Intercessions** *led by Eric Barendt*

#### **Peace**

*The president says*

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.**

*The deacon says*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*During this hymn bread and wine are brought to the altar.*

*A collection is taken so that those who do not give by standing order may make a donation if they wish. Gift Aid envelopes are available from the stewards. A server will cense the congregation with incense towards the end of the hymn, to show that all present are set apart as the holy people of God.*

#### **Offertory Hymn 36: The first Nowell**

*The collection is offered at the altar. Please remain standing as the president begins the Eucharistic Prayer. The first part is sung.*

#### **Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

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

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image. Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high. Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession.

And now we give you thanks because, by the power of the Holy Spirit, he took our nature upon him and was born of the Virgin Mary his mother, that being himself without sin, he might make us clean from all sin.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

**Sanctus** (to the tune of *Be thou my vision*)

**Holy, most holy, all holy the Lord,  
in power and wisdom for ever adored.  
The earth and the heavens are full of your love;  
our joyful hosannas re-echo above.**

**Blessed, most blessed,  
all blessed is he whose life makes us whole,  
and whose death sets us free;  
who comes in the name of the Father of light,  
let endless hosannas resound in the height.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious

ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love, and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 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**

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### **The Communion**

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.**



**Agnus Dei** (to the tune of *Dear Lord and Father of mankind*)

**All**            **O Lamb of God, come cleanse our hearts  
and take our sins away.**

**O Lamb of God, your grace impart,  
and let our guilty fear depart,  
have mercy, Lord, we pray;  
have mercy, Lord, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, our lives restore,  
our guilty souls release.**

**Into our lives your Spirit  
pour and let us live for evermore  
in perfect heav'nly peace,  
in perfect heav'nly peace.**

**Administration of Communion**    (*All stand for final prayers*)

### **Post 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**            **Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and  
blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our  
souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the  
power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

### **Notices**

**Final Hymn 29:** It came upon the midnight clear

### **Blessing and Dismissal**

The Lord be with you.

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

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises  
and obey his will; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the  
Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

**All**            **Amen.**

*The deacon then dismisses the people saying*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

**Organ Voluntary:** Helft mir Gotts Güte preisen (BWV 613) – J.S. Bach

**Our worship has ended. Now our service begins.**

## Special Intentions

Parish cycle of intercessions: This week at the daily office and Eucharist the clergy will be praying for people on the congregational roll with names Waller to Bradley

We pray for the people of our partner parishes, Wannsee (Berlin), St Luke in the Fields (West Greenwich Village, New York City), and our ALMA link parish of St Peter, Cazenga (Luanda, Angola).

The sick and those who have asked for our prayers:

The Revd Linda Dean, Amanda Martin, Diana Pinover, Christine Sykes, Iris Reeves, Barbara Cawley, Margaret Thornton, Lena Renwick, Rachel Elliott, Cherry Elliott-Millar, Jean-Marc Salmon, Paula Bryan, Maureen Tuffs, Ron Swan, Libby, Marcus, Daphne, Beatrice, Krista, Ana, André, Kezia and Flo.

We hold in our prayers the recently departed and those whose anniversaries occur this week:

29 <sup>th</sup> December	Dolla van der Pump
31 <sup>st</sup> December	Elizabeth Fleszar, Timmy Taunton Frenton
1 <sup>st</sup> January	Nina Ellingham
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Gwyllym Hughes, Winifred Smith

## NOTICES

**Many thanks to everyone who kindly sent cards, gifts and good wishes to the ministry team over the Christmas period.**

**New Year's Eve** – we will have a Watchnight Service at St Mary's at 11.30 pm. Church open from 11 for prayer and reflection. After we ring in the New Year we will share a drink to celebrate.

**Epiphany** will be celebrated next Sunday, 5th January, at 10.30 am with the children's procession of gifts as we sing "We Three Kings". Please come early to dress as one of the kings or helpers. We will also be chalking the church door on Epiphany.

**The monthly Bible course** for all the family, with a video from the Bible Society, will begin after the eucharist on 5th January. Do stay and learn more about the Scriptures, with children from KS2 up particularly invited to join in.

There will be **choral Evensong for Epiphany** on Sunday 5th January at 6 pm.

**St Mary's 2020 wall calendar** is on sale at the back of church – only £10.

### Lifts to church

A few of our older members would be grateful for lifts to and from church, especially in the winter months. If you are able to help, even occasionally, please let the clergy know.



# SERVICES IN THE COMING WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
9am	Morning Prayer <i>Church &amp; Parish office closed during the day</i> Cold weather shelter takes place in the evening	
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>New Year's Eve</b>
11.30pm	<i>Church &amp; Parish office closed during the day</i> <b>Watchnight Service (Church open from 11pm)</b>	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b>
	<i>Church &amp; Parish office closed</i>	
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<i>Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops, 379 and 389</i>
	<i>No services, Tearoom or Carers &amp; Sharers today</i> <i>Church &amp; Parish office closed</i>	
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	
	<i>Church &amp; Parish office closed</i>	
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
	<i>Church &amp; Parish office closed</i>	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Epiphany</b>
<b>8am</b> <b>10.30am</b>  <b>12noon</b> <b>6pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Parish Eucharist children's Epiphany procession</b> Preacher: The Revd Nick Walters <i>Chalking of church door at the end of the service</i> <b>Bible Society course begins for all the family</b> <b>Choral Evensong</b>	