



ST. LAURENCE CHURCH  
THE PARISH EUCHARIST  
SERVICE CELEBRATED IN CELTIC  
STYLE

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

YEAR B  
28.1.2024



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The Zoom details for this service  
are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784  
Passcode: 5i1UCa

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The sides people today are:  
Kate Lagden and Diana Ringer

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Hymn (Please stand if you are  
able)

All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing,  
"Alleluia! Alleluia!"  
Thou burning sun with golden  
beam,  
thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
O praise Him, O praise Him!  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou rushing wind that art so  
strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,  
O praise Him! Alleluia,

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
ye lights of ev'ning, find a voice,  
O praise Him, O praise Him!  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
And all ye men of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take your part,  
O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and on Him cast your  
care;  
O praise Him, O praise Him!  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship Him in humbleness;  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise  
the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One;  
O praise Him, O praise Him!  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Welcome/The Gathering

Gather us in, the lost and the lonely,  
the broken and breaking, the tired  
and aching, who long for the  
nourishment found at your feast.  
Gather us in

The done and the doubting, the  
wishing and wondering, the puzzled  
and pondering, who long for your  
company, found at your feast.  
Gather us in

The proud and pretentious the sure  
and superior the never inferior who  
long for the levelling found at your  
feast.  
Gather us in

The bright and the bustling, the  
stirrers, the shakers, the kind  
laughter makers who long for the

deeper joys found at your feast.  
Gather us in

From corner or limelight, from mansion or campsite, from fears and obsession, from tears and depression, from untold excesses, from treasured successes; to meet, to eat, to be given a seat; be joined to the vine; be offered new wine; become like the least; be found at the feast. Gather us in!

### Confession

**Create a clean heart within me, O God, so that it may become your chosen shelter and the resting place of the Holy Spirit. I take the cross upon me, over the tablet of my heart, and I beseech the living God of the universe, may the light of lights come to my dark hard heart so that I may live in the power of your love. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Collect

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory

in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

### First Reading read by Sandra Dreyer

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter eighteen beginning at the fifteenth verse

Moses spoke to all the people, saying: "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.' And the LORD said to me, 'This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.'"

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### Gradual Hymn

Thy hand, O God, has guided thy flock from age to age;

thy faithfulness is written  
on history's open page.  
Our fathers owned your goodness,  
and we their deeds record;  
and both to this bear witness:  
one church, one faith, one Lord!

Thy heralds brought the gospel  
to greatest and the least;  
they summoned men and women  
to share the great King's feast.  
And this was all their teaching  
in ev'ry deed and word,  
to all alike proclaiming:  
one church, one faith, one Lord!

Thy mercy will not fail us  
nor leave your work undone;  
with your right hand to help us  
the vict'ry shall be won.  
And then by earth and heaven  
your name shall be adored;  
and this shall be our anthem:  
one church, one faith, one Lord!

### Gospel Reading

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
The people who sit in darkness  
have seen a great light; on those  
dwelling in a land overshadowed by  
death, light has arisen.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you  
And also with you

### A reading from the Holy gospel according to Mark, Chapter one beginning at the twenty first verse

Then they came to Capernaum,  
and on the sabbath Jesus entered  
the synagogue and taught. The  
people were astonished at his

teaching, for he taught them as one  
having authority and not as the  
scribes. In their synagogue was a  
man with an unclean spirit; he cried  
out, "What have you to do with us,  
Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come  
to destroy us? I know who you  
are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus  
rebuked him and said, "Quiet!  
Come out of him!" The unclean  
spirit convulsed him and with a loud  
cry came out of him. All were  
amazed and asked one another,  
"What is this? A new teaching with  
authority. He commands even the  
unclean spirits and they obey him."  
His fame spread everywhere  
throughout the whole region of Gal-  
ilee.

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

### Reflection

#### Affirmation of Faith

There is no other God, there never  
was and there never will be, than  
God the Father, unbegotten and  
without beginning, the Lord of the  
universe, as we have been taught.  
And His son Jesus Christ, whom we  
declare to have always been with  
the Father in a way that baffles de-  
scription. He was made man, de-  
feated death and received into  
heaven by the Father and given  
power over all names, in heaven, on  
earth and under the earth.

We believe in Him and look for His coming soon as a judge of all, treating everyone according to their faith and deeds.

He has poured out His Spirit on us in abundance, the gift and guarantee of eternal life.

We acknowledge and adore Him as one God in the Trinity of the Holy Name. Amen.

The Prayers of the Church led by Peter Wyllie

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

Everlasting God, thank you for welcoming us in love, hear us as we pray for the good of the church, the world and for all in need.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we thank you for our church leaders on our Parochial Church Council and for our relationship with other Christian Churches in our parish.

We pray for all who preach your word, inspire, lead and grow us as disciples as we reach out to those in need in our communities and in our world.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

God of every land and nation, you spoke your word and revealed your good news in Jesus Christ. We pray for our troubled world its peoples and their leaders. We pray

for those caught up in war, and violence, and hatred; especially the innocent victims of these evils. May peace abound and righteousness flourish, that we may vanquish injustice and wrong:

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, although we are sometimes separated by language and culture from the people we live amongst, we long to see your will done here on earth as it is in heaven. We pray for our neighbours, not only with words but day by day, moment by moment, in the things we do and the way we do them.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Abundant God, be with those of us that desire and need your restoration and healing. As we remember the way your son Jesus Christ cast out demons we remember today all those who live in the depths of depression and mental illness. Today, we ask for your blessing and healing touch upon them. We pray for: Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, Ray Wicks, John Tanner, Hilary Deller, Georgie Whitaker, Helen Whitaker, Brian Elliott.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, your love reaches beyond the grave. At the end of our

days on earth be with us and with those we love. May those who have gone before us rest in your eternal peace. We remember before you those who have died and we pray for all whose life is saddened by the death of a loved one, be with them in their loneliness.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for: John Hunt, Christian Jervis-Read, Raymond John Collins, Nigel Lemon, recently departed, and those whose years' minds occur at this month: Jack Travers, Evelyn Waghorn, Eleftheria Corfield, William Butler, Hilary Wood, Cecille Mallinson, Lily Collins, Malcolm Dreyer, Richard Dyke, Jane Barker, Olaf Phillips, Doris Bird, Gilbert French, Rosaline Beeny, William Fawcett, Stephen Barker, Isoline Vaughan, Hylda Reynolds, Kathleen Wood, Sheila Maugham, Sylvia Smith, Prudence Bilsby, Leila Wood  
Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Lord God we pray for ourselves; as we go from your house today to start the week ahead, we ask that in all we do, we may we walk more closely with you at our side safe in the knowledge that your fatherly love and care knows no bounds.

Merciful Father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

So, in the presence of the Bread of Life who refused food for himself in

order to nourish others, we deepen our devotion by praying His words:

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

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea.

There's a kindness in God's justice,  
which is more than liberty.

There is welcome for the sinner,  
and more graces for the good.  
There is mercy with the Savior,  
there is healing in his blood.

But we make God's love too narrow  
by false limits of our own,  
and we magnify its strictness  
with a zeal God will not own.

For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of the mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple,  
we should rest upon God's word,  
and our lives would be illumined  
by the presence of our Lord.

Prayer of Adoration

Heaven is here, and earth and the space between them is thin. Dis-

tance may divide, but Christ's promise unites those bounded by time, those blessed by eternity. Let heaven be glad;  
Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Heaven is here, and earth, and the Church above and below is one. Peter is here, and Paul, Martha and all the Mary's, the saints from far back and those who left us not long ago. And only sight prevents us from seeing them, one with us on the other side.

Let heaven be glad  
Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Heaven is here, and earth, and the God who made them is present. The lamb, glorious on the throne, sits beside us; the Spirit of God, the Dove makes her resting place among us.

God inhales the breath of our prayers and spreads a table for our satisfaction.

Let heaven be glad.  
Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Blessing and honour and glory and power be to our God for ever and ever.  
Amen!

### The Invitation

He was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna. At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pleaded the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people; welcoming the stranger, he

was always the guest. But here, at this table, He is the host. Those who wish to serve Him must first be served by Him, those who wish to follow Him, must first be fed by Him, those who would wash His feet, must first let Him make them clean. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished. This is the time when God can make us new. So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, a better life, a fairer world. Jesus Christ who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at His.

### The Story

What we do here, we do in imitation of what Christ first did. To his followers in every age, Jesus gave an example and command rooted in the experience he shared with his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

On the night when he was betrayed, as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it, he gave it to the disciples saying 'This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.'

Later after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine and said 'This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me.'

So now, we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labour. In these Jesus has

promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

All that I am, all that I do,  
all that I'll ever have, I offer now to you.

Take and sanctify these gifts  
for your honour, Lord.

Knowing that I love and serve you  
is enough reward.

All that I am, all that I do,  
all that I'll ever have I offer now to you.

### The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our  
God

It is right to give our thanks and  
praise

It is indeed right for you made us,  
and before you made us you made  
the world we inhabit, and before the  
world you made the eternal home in  
which, through Christ we have a  
place.

All that is spectacular, all that is  
plain have their origin in you; all that  
is lovely, all who are loving point to  
you as their fulfilment. And grateful  
as we are for the world we know and  
the universe beyond our ken, we  
particularly praise you, whom eter-  
nity cannot contain, for coming to  
earth and entering time in Jesus.  
For his life which informs our living,  
for his compassion which changes

our hearts, for his clear speaking  
which contradicts our harmless gen-  
eralities, for his disturbing presence,  
his innocent suffering, his fearless  
dying, his rising to life breathing for-  
giveness, we praise you and wor-  
ship him. Here too our gratitude  
rises for the promise of the Holy  
Spirit, who even yet, even now, con-  
fronts us with your claims and at-  
tracts us to your goodness. There-  
fore we gladly join our voices to the  
song of the Church on earth and in  
heaven:

Holy, holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, Lord God almighty!

And we lift our hearts before you as  
a token of our love:

holy, holy, holy, holy.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,  
come and fill our hearts anew, Holy  
Spirit.

And we lift our voice before you as a  
token of our love,

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

And now, lest we believe that our  
praise alone fulfils your purpose, we  
fall silent and remember him who  
came because words weren't  
enough. Setting our wisdom, our  
will, our words aside, emptying our  
hearts and bringing nothing in our  
hands, we yearn for the healing, the  
holding, the accepting, the forgiving  
which Christ alone can offer...

Merciful God, send now in kindness,  
your Holy Spirit to settle on this  
bread and wine and fill them with the  
fullness of Jesus. And let that same

Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of Him whose food we now share. Amen.

Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread and broke it, and said, 'This is my body—broken for you'. Later he took a cup of wine and said 'This is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Take it, all of you, to remember me.' He whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread. He who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup. So take this bread and this wine. In them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

Holy, holy, holy, holy.  
Holy, holy, Lord God almighty!  
And we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love:  
holy, holy, holy, holy.

#### The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious

blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

#### A Prayer as we join with those watching and worshipping with us on Zoom

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

#### The Distribution of Communion

The Chalice Bearers are: Ali Jones and Charles Vernede

#### Communion Hymn

Be still and know that I am God,  
be still and know that I am God,  
be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord that healeth thee.  
I am the Lord that healeth thee.  
I am the Lord that healeth thee.

My boundless mercy shall endure.  
My boundless mercy shall endure.  
My boundless mercy shall endure.

I love you with a steadfast love.  
I love you with a steadfast love.  
I love you with a steadfast love.

In Thee, O Lord, I put our trust,  
in Thee, O Lord, I put our trust,  
in Thee, O Lord, I put our trust.



### Post Communion Collect

Generous Lord, in Word and Eucharist we have proclaimed the mystery of your love: help us so to live out our days that we may be signs of your wonders in the world; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen**

### The Peace

Christ who has nourished us, is our peace. Strangers and friends, male and female, old and young. He has broken down the barriers to bind us to him and to each other. Having tasted His goodness, let us share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.

The Peace is shared.

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you.

Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us and encourage many by us. So Lord may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

### Benediction

On our heads and our homes  
The blessing of God  
In our coming and going  
The Peace of God  
In our life and believing

The Love of God

Be with us all

Today until the end of time. Amen.

### The Blessing

May Christ draw you to humility and worship, and bring you to see God at work; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

### Notices

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)  
O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread thro' all the earth abroad  
the honours of your name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease,  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean;  
his blood availed for me.

To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever given  
by saints below and saints above,  
the Church in earth and heaven.

The Lord be with you  
And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord  
Thanks be to God

May the divine assistance remain  
with us always.

And with all our brothers and sisters  
in Christ.

May the souls of the faithful de-  
parted through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace. And rise in glory.  
Amen.

We sit to listen to the Organ Volun-  
tary

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### **The Sanctoral Cycle for the week ahead**

28 Thomas Aquinas, Priest,  
Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith,  
1274

30 Charles, King and Martyr, 1649

31 John Bosco, Priest, Founder of  
the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888

### **February**

1 Brigid, Abbess of Kildare, c.525

2 The Presentation of Christ in the  
Temple (Candlemas)

Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg,  
Missionary in Denmark and  
Sweden, 865

### **AT YOUR SERVICE**

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Rodney  
Dreyer 01580 754459

Churchwardens:  
Miss Alison Jones  
01580 755705

Mrs. Liz Hatcher  
01580 712099

Organist:  
Dr. Charlotte O' Neill  
01580 753817

Safeguarding:  
Mrs Jane Cooper  
07825044877

### **NOTICES**

**SERVERS WANTED** – if you are  
interested in becoming an Altar  
server. Please speak to Mrs Rachel  
Elliott or Father Rodney who will  
explain more about this.

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE** – will  
take place on Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup>  
at 10am.

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER-**

will be held in St. Laurence church  
on 1st March. Lunch will be

served at 12 noon followed by a talk on Palestine and a service.