St Matthew's Newsletter 15th November 2026

Message from the Vicar

Dear friends,

One of the most distinctive features of Christian worship is the sharing of bread and wine. This is an act with many names – you may have heard it referred to as Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper, or the Eucharist. But here at St Matthew's, as in many other Anglo-Catholic churches, it is most commonly referred to as the Mass.

The word 'Mass' comes from the Latin phrase 'Ite missa est', words traditionally spoken at the end of the service which roughly translate as 'go, it is the dismissal'. In other words, by calling it Mass we remember that the reason we gather together for worship is so that we can be sent out into the world, to share the light of Christ with others.

The bread and the wine that we receive should therefore be understood as food for the journey. We only receive a small wafer and a sip of wine, but we believe that Christ is really present in these elements – they become for us his body and his blood. Christians have debated *how* exactly Christ is present, but we trust that this is more than just a symbolic act; as St Paul wrote in the earliest days of the Church, 'The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?' (1 Corinthians 10:16).

That is why we celebrate Mass so often. Whilst some other churches share Holy Communion less frequently, for Anglo-Catholics our worship must be centred on the Mass, because it is here that Christ feeds us with himself. That doesn't mean that other aspects of our worship are unimportant – the reading and preaching of the Bible is also central to what we do in church – but we believe that Word and Sacrament belong together. We encounter Christ, the living Word, through both the written word of Scripture and the regular reception of Holy Communion. As our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters put it, the Mass is 'the source and summit of the Christian life' (*Lumen Gentium,* Second Vatican Council).

In bread and wine, we receive God's love in the most intimate way imaginable, through tangible elements that we consume, kneeling side by side around the altar. We remember that 'though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread', and then we are then sent out to share that love with others.

With my prayers,
Father George

This week's Services

Sunday 15th November –10 am Parish Mass and Sunday School

Preacher *Fr Sam Rigby*

All are welcome to tea, coffee and biscuits in the lounge after the service

Monday

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm Bereavement & Friendship Group

Tuesday

7:30 pm Phone-in Service

Wednesday

4:30 pm: Evening Prayer in the Chapel

7 pm: Mass in the Chapel

7:30 pm PCC Meeting

Thursday

9:15am Morning Prayer

10 am Mass in the Chapel

Friday

9:15am Morning Prayer

10 am Mass in the Chapel

11 am. Coffee morning

Sunday 22nd November – Next before Advent

10am: Parish Mass and Sunday School

All are welcome to tea, coffee and biscuits in the lounge after the service

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Dates for your Diary

Friday Coffee Mornings

All are welcome for Coffee/Tea and Cake in The Lounge. Every Friday 11am – 1pm

Berevement and Friendship Group

If you've suffered a bereavement or are feeling isolated and lonely come and meet others who know how you are feeling. Every Monday, 1:30 to 3:30 pm in The Lounge.

Book Club.

The next meeting of the Book Club is on Wednesday 2nd December. The book for November is Needless Alley by Natalie Marlow. If you love reading and would like to join us over a cup of tea/coffee you are warmly invited to our next meeting.

Guest Preachers

We are delighted to be welcoming a series of guest preachers at our 10am Parish mass during the season of Autumn and Advent. For further details see notices in church or the Web Site.

From 25th October-6th December, Fr Sam Rigby will be serving a placement in the Diocese of Birmingham, working in several churches including St Matthew's. Fr Sam is currently Assistant Curate in the Wenlock Team Ministry in the Diocese of Hereford. He will be with us most Fridays, and will be preaching one Sunday during this time. We look forward to welcoming him here.

The next meeting of the PCC will be on Wednesday 18th November; Mass at 7pm, followed by the meeting.

Saturday 5th December From 11am to 2pm, St. Matthews Christmas Fair.

Full details of Christmas Services are available on the Web Site, and on notices around the church centre.

NOTICES

A reminder that we welcome contributions towards the cost of flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one. Please place any donations in the pot on the table.

Contributions of food for the **FOODBANK** are always welcome. Please give as generously as you can and place any items in the basket by the door. Our church relies on the generosity of visitors and worshippers. If you would like to contribute to the ministry and mission of St Matthew's but don't have any cash, there is a contactless card reader on the table by the front door.
Please put your request for prayers during the intercessions on the sheet on the table.
If you could offer a lift to someone to Church, please let us know.
We are buying a memorial stone to commemorate Fr Michael Westlake's time at St. Matthew's. Contribution towards the cost of this would be gratefully received

Scripture Readings for This Week

Sunday 15th Nov (2nd Before Advent) Matthew 25.14–30

Monday 16h Nov	Luke 18.35–end
Tuesday 17th Nov	Luke 19.1–10
Wednesday 18th Nov	Luke 19.11–28
Thursday 19th Nov	Luke 19.41–44
Friday 20th Nov	Luke 19.45–end
Saturday 21st Nov	Luke 20.27–40

A Collect for Sunday 15th November

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

St. Matthew's Prayer List,

Please Pray for The Sick and Those in Need:

Please contact Margaret Cox if you would like to add anyone to our prayer list.

Sat: Barbara Linley, Andrew & Gail Walker, John Hope, Barbara Hayward

Mon: Fr Barry Smart, Revd Frank and Margaret Finch, Bali Dhugga, John Duncombe**,** Pam Millard

Tue: Jayne Middleton, Loretta Charles, Bernadette O'Sullivan, Lorna Wild, Barrie Greenwood, Graham Staton, Rachel & Fay.

Wed: Shirley Woodley, Eileen Eveson, Jean Hayes, Irene Roberts

Thu: Dai & Lal Gravell, Shirley and Ray Hollins, Mark Hawkins Ann Edwards, Roger Furnell, Helen Haig

Fri: David & Anne Gadd, Barbara Dring, Sue & Tony Kyte, Henry Cole

ST MATTHEW'S
PERRY BEECHES