

Parish of Saint Mary and Saint Augustine, Stamford



Christmas Vigil Mass

Sunday 24th December 2017 : 6.00pm

Father Simon Gillespie

At the end of the Nativity Play we join in singing:

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head,
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Verses 1 and 2 Anonymous; verse 3 J.T. McFarland (1851-1913)

Please STAND as the Procession enters the church.

O come, now wisdom, from on high, who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, now Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

O come, now Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

O come, now Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

O come, now Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid now our sad divisions cease, and be yourself our King of Peace.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

From the 'Great O Antiphons' (12-13 Century); translated John Mason Neale (1818-66)

Entrance Rites

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

Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And with your spirit.

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare
ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I
have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have
done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my
fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary
ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to
everlasting life.

Amen.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

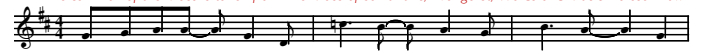
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The common of the Mass is taken from The Mass of Saint Luke, Evangelist; Words and Music: Teresa Brown



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace to



peo-ple of good-will. Glo-ry to God in the high-est and on



earth peace to peo-ple of good-will.



We praise you, we bless you, we a-dore you, we glo-ri-fy you,



we give you thanks for your great glo-ry. Lord God,



hea-ven-ly King. O God, al-migh-ty Fa-ther.



Lord Je-sus Christ, On-ly Be-got-ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God,



Son of the Fa-ther, you take a-way the sins of the world,



have mer-cy on us; you take a-way the sins of the world,



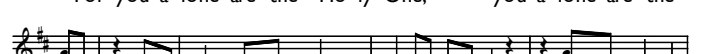
re-ceive our prayer; you are seat-ed at the



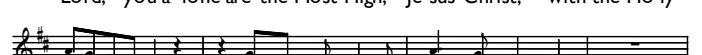
right hand of the Fa-ther, have mer-cy on us.



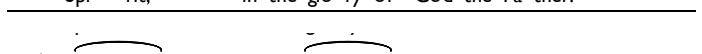
For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the



Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly



Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.



A - men. A - men.

At the end of the Collect all respond:

... who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

All SIT.

Liturgy of the Word

The first reading is taken from the prophet Isaiah (62:1-5); The Lord
takes delight in you.

The word of the Lord.

Amen.

The responsorial is taken from Psalm 88 (verses 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29):



I will sing for-ev-er of your love, O Lord.

The second reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles (13:16-
17, 22-25); Paul's witness to Christ, the son of David.

The word of the Lord.

Amen.

All STAND for the Gospel, taken from Saint Matthew (1:1-25); the ancestry of Jesus Christ, the son of David.



Word of gladness,	Alleluia.	Fill our hearts now.	Maranatha.
Promised Saviour,	Alleluia.	True Messiah.	Maranatha.
Light of nations,	Alleluia.	Light in darkness.	Maranatha.
Here among us,	Alleluia.	Living in us.	Maranatha.

Bernadette Farrell

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel all respond:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All SIT for the homily, preached by Father Simon.

All STAND as we profess our faith:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All GENUFLECT.

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

All STAND.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day 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.

I 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 adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The response to the Prayer of the Faithful is:

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray to Our Lady:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;

blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

All SIT as the altar is prepared and the gifts are brought forward.

The collection taken tonight is your gift for Father Simon – thank you!

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
on Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad?

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad?

When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,

then life and health come in its place;

When sin departs before his grace,

then life and health come in its place;

angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:

'Glory to God and peace to men, now and for evermore. Amen.'

Traditional

All STAND.

Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

After the Prayer over the Offerings the Preface begins:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

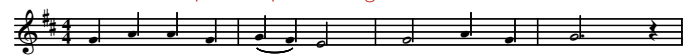
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

At the end of the Preface all sing:



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.



Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-



- san-na in the high-est, ho - san-na, ho-san - na. Ho-



- san-na in the high-est, ho - san-na, ho-san - na.



Bles-sed is he who comes, bles-sed is he,



bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-



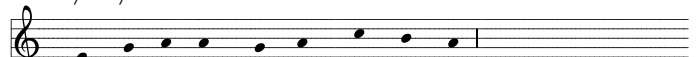
- san-na in the high-est, ho - san-na, ho-san - na. Ho-



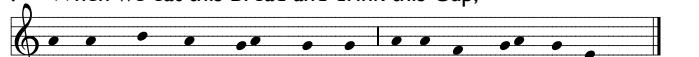
- san-na in the high-est, ho - san-na, ho-san - na.

All KNEEL for the Eucharistic Prayer, the central part of the Mass, during which the bread and wine offered become the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. During the Prayer we acclaim:

The mystery of the Faith:



When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,



we pro-claim your Death, O Lord, un-til you come a-gain.

At the end of the Prayer we affirm our belief:

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever. Amen.

All STAND.

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say: 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.

... and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

... Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

After offering the Sign of Peace we all sing:

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, grant us your peace.

All KNEEL.

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Those who don't usually receive Holy Communion in the Catholic Church are welcome to come forward for a blessing; please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this.

If you do wish to receive Holy Communion, say 'Amen' in response to the priest's invitation: The Body of Christ; then either receive the Sacred Host on your tongue or in your hands, and consume the Sacred Host immediately, before moving away.

Unto us is born a Son, King of quires supernal;
see on earth his life begun,
of lords the Lord eternal, of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heav'n descending low, comes on earth a stranger:
ox and ass their owner know
becradled in a manger, becradled in a manger.

This did Herod sore affray, and grievously bewilder:
so he gave the word to slay,
and slew the little childer, and slew the little childer.

Of his love and mercy mild this the Christmas story,
and O that Mary's gentle Child
might lead us up to glory! Might lead us up to glory!

O and A and A and O cum cantibus in choro,
let the merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino, Benedicamus Domino.

15th century, translated by G.R. Woodward

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 men 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 blesséd 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 waits, 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)

All STAND for the Prayer after Communion, at the end of which all respond:

... for ever and ever.

Amen.

Concluding Rites

After announcements have been made:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Bow down for the blessing.

The response to each invocation is:

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

Go in peace!

Thanks be to God!

We conclude with a Procession to the Crib:

Come, come, come to the manger, children, come to the children's King:
sing, sing, chorus of Angels, stars of morning o'er Bethlehem sing.

He lies 'mid the beasts of the stall, who is Maker and Lord of us all;
the wintry wind blows cold and dreary, see, he weeps, the world is weary;
Lord, have pity and mercy on me!

He leaves all his glory behind; to be born and to die for mankind.
With grateful beasts his cradle chooses, thankless man his love refuses;
Lord, have pity and mercy on me!

To the manger of Bethlehem come, to the Saviour Emmanuel's home;
the heav'nly hosts above are singing, set the Christmas bells a-ringing;
Lord, have pity and mercy on me!

Anonymous

**Wishing you all, and to all your families,
a truly happy, peaceful and joy-filled Christmas**