The Parish Church of St Matthew Northampton

131st Dedication Festival



The Parish Mass

Sung by St Matthew's Church Choir and members of Northampton Philharmonic Choir

Sunday 22nd September 2024 10.15 am

¶ 131st Dedication Festival

According to ancient custom church buildings are dedicated to the service of God by act of solemn consecration in the course of a special ceremony at which a bishop presides. Henry VIII, in 1536, ordered that the Feast of Dedication should be kept 'throughout this realm' of England on the first Sunday in October, an injunction still followed to this day if the date of consecration is not known.

The Parish Church of St Matthew, Northampton was dedicated on St Matthew's Day, Thursday 21st September 1893, by the Bishop of Peterborough, Mandell Creighton. He also instituted The Revd John Rowden Hussey as first Vicar.

This anniversary of the dedicated church building reminds us that it is *Domus Ecclesiae*, the 'House of the Church', the house of God's pilgrim people. God's Church is the community of the baptised, rather than the building in which they gather. We are the People of God called to serve him by living and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ in the world, to be 'living stones', and so nurture and grow his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

* * * * * *

Safeguarding St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe environment for all who come. If you have any concerns, please speak with one of our welcomers or a churchwarden who may be identified by their lanyard. They will be happy to help you.

Toilet and baby changing facilities may be found at the base of the church tower. There is also a small servery.

For younger children In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted area equipped with age-appropriate Christian resources is provided. Please feel free to make use of it.



Setting

A Little Jazz Mass



Bob Chilcott (b 1955)

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ The bell is rung, and all are asked to stand

Introit

- § The sancturary party enters. The servers form up in the centre aisle
- § The sacred ministers stand on the dais facing the congregation
- § Incense is blessed

Choir Locus iste a Deo factus est, inaestimabile sacramentum, irreprehensibilis est. This place was made by God, a priceless sacrament, it is irreproachable.

Music Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Introduction

Priest How awesome is this place!

All This is none other than the house of God.

In every age,

God's people have been inspired to build and sanctify houses of prayer for the celebration of the sacred mysteries. With joy and gratitude we give thanks to God for the dedication of this Parish Church of St Matthew 131 years ago, for the foresight and generosity of benefactors, and for all who in each generation have faithfully witnessed to Christ, and offered here their prayer, worship and praise. Today, as we rededicate ourselves to the service of Christ, we pray that we may be worthy of this inheritance, and continue along the pilgrim way until our hope is fulfilled in the eternal city of the living God.

The priest intones

Let us go forth in peace, All in the name of Christ. Amen.

Processional Hymn

All

BLESSÈD city, heavenly Salem, Vision dear of peace and love,
Who, of living stones upbuilded, Art the joy of heaven above,
And, with angel cohorts circled, As a bride dost earthward move!

Many a blow and biting sculpture Fashioned well those stones elect, In their places now compacted By the heavenly architect, Who therewith hath willed for ever That his palace should be decked.

Christ is made the sure foundation, And the precious cornerstone, Who, the two walls underlying, Bound in each, binds both in one, Holy Sion's help for ever, And her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city, Dearly loved by God on high, In exultant jubilation Pours perpetual melody, God the one, in threefold glory, Singing everlastingly.

To this temple, where we call thee, Come, O Lord of hosts, today; With thy wonted loving-kindness, Hear thy people as they pray; And thy fullest benediction Shed within its walls for ay. Here vouchsafe to all thy servants Gifts of grace by prayer to gain; Here to have and hold for ever, Those good things their prayers obtain, And hereafter, in thy glory, With thy blessèd ones to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father, Laud and honour to the Son, Laud and honour to the Spirit, Ever three and ever one, Consubstantial, co-eternal, While unending ages run. Amen.

 Words Latin c 7th century
 Music Westminster Abbey

 Translation John Mason Neale (1818-1866)
 Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

- † In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.All Amen.
- The Greeting

Peace be to this houseAll and to all who worship in spirit and in truth.

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

We are the temple of God's indwelling Holy Spirit, yet we have grieved him. The temple of our bodies does not belong to us, but was bought with the price of Christ's precious blood. So we come, in sorrow yet with confidence, to ask forgiveness of our heavenly Father.

Confession

All

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly; love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Choir Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Absolution

All

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon † and forgiveness of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo	Glory to God in the highest
et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.	and on earth peace to men of goodwill.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.	We praise you. We bless you.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.	We worship you. We glorify you.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.	We give thanks to you for your great glory.
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,	Lord God, heavenly King,
Deus Pater omnipotens,	almighty God the Father,
Domine Filil unigenite, Jesu Christe.	O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.	Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.

Qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus sanctus. Tu solus Dominus
Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you only are holy. You only are the Lord. You only are the most high, Jesus Christ. With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer: we praise you for the many blessings you have given to those who worship here; and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you, and being filled with the Holy Spirit may become a living temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

§ Sit

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

All

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious;

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected

has become the very head of the corner',

and

'A stone that makes them stumble,

and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,

but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

I Peter 2.1-10

This is the word of the Lord.AllThanks be to God.

Psalm



Choir I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem; **Response** Jerusalem, built as a city that is at unity in itself. Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as is decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. For there are set the thrones of judgement, the thrones of the house of David. **Response**

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you. 'Peace be within your walls and tranquillity within your palaces.' **Response**

For my kindred and companions' sake, I will pray that peace be with you. For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good. **Response**

Psalm 122

§ Stand

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

All

All



Choir Lord, we love the house of your habitation and the place where your glory abides.All Alleluia.

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.



The festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell

us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.'



Homily

§ Sit

The Nicene Creed

§ Stand

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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.

All may For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, bow 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.

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest	The risen Christ is here in the midst of us. We bring these our prayers to him as Lord of the Church:
	§ Kneel

Intercessor	For the Church universal,
All	of which this building is a visible symbol, Lord, receive our thanks and praise.
	For this congregation as we remember your promise
	that when two or three are gathered in your name
	you are there in the midst of them,
All	Lord, receive our thanks and praise.
	For this place where we may be still and know that you are God,
All	Lord, receive our thanks and praise.

All	For the fulfilling of our desire and petitions as you see best for us, Lord, receive our thanks and praise.
All	For your blessings in the past and for a vision of the future, Lord, receive our thanks and praise.
All	For the gift of the Holy Spirit and new life in baptism, Lord, receive our thanks and praise.
All	For the pardon of our sins when we fall short of your glory, Lord, receive our thanks and praise.
All	For a foretaste of your eternal kingdom in the sacrament of the Eucharist, Lord, receive our thanks and praise.
All	For the blessing of our vows and the crowning of our years with your goodness, Lord, receive our thanks and praise.
All	For the faith of those who have gone before us, for grace to persevere like them, and for the sick and all in need of our prayers, <i>N</i> and those who care for them, Lord, receive our thanks and praise.
All	For our benefactors and all who have died in the peace of Christ, recently $N \dots$, for those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time $N \dots$, and we remember with thanksgiving the life of Jane Thornton whose ashes will be laid to rest after this service, Lord, receive our thanks and praise.
All	For fellowship with Christ's apostles, for Matthew, our patron, for the prayers of Blessed Mary, and of all the heavenly host, Lord, receive our thanks and praise.

 Priest O God, from living and chosen stones you prepared an everlasting dwelling-place for your majesty. Grant that in the power of the Holy Spirit those who serve you here may always be kept within your presence. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

§ Stand

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Peace to this house from God our heavenly Father. Peace to this house from his Son who is our peace. Peace to this house from the Holy Spirit the life-giver.

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

Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offertory

The bread and wine are brought forward and presented to the presiding priest. The altar is prepared.

Hymn

All

WITH all who in this hallowed place Their lifelong homage paid,
Who sang of God's redeeming grace,
Who worshipped here and prayed,
We come, as down the years they came,
And lift our hearts today
To Christ for evermore the same,
Our new and living Way. He comes to meet us in our need, The Bread of life divine, On him alone our spirits feed In story, song and sign; The Lord alike of age and youth, The living Word is he, The rock of everlasting Truth Who sets his people free.

Here may the Spirit's fruit be known In peace and joy and love,
Where all on whom his breath is blown Are born from God above;
In Christ from sin and death restored And from the grave to rise,
We worship him, the living Lord, The life which never dies.

O God of grace, in this our day May Christ his church renew,
To live his life, to walk his way, And to his truth be true.
So send us out with hearts aflame To tell his praise abroad,
And to a weary world proclaim The love of Christ the Lord.

Words Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

Music St Matthew William Croft (1678-1727)

Invitation to Prayer

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

All 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 Church.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, as we recall the day you filled this church with your glory and holiness, may our lives also become an acceptable offering to you. Grant this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The 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, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, enthroned upon the praises of your people.

We thank you for this house of prayer, in which you bless your family as we come to you in pilgrimage. Here you reveal your presence in sacramental signs, and make us one with you through the unseen bond of grace. Here you build your temple of living stones, and bring the Church to its full stature as the body of Christ throughout the world, to reach its perfection at last in the heavenly city of Jerusalem, which is the vision of your peace.

Therefore, in union with the heavenly Jerusalem, with angels in joyful assembly, with all whose names are written in heaven, and with the spirits of the righteous made perfect, we lift up our voices to join in the triumphal song of praise: Choir Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Osanna in excelsis.

> Benedictus qui venit in nominee Domine. Osanna in excelsis

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might. heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:



And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world, rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup. Welcome into your kingdom all who have faithfully worshipped you in this house of prayer and left this world in your friendship. In the company of Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, Matthew our patron, and all the saints, may we with them praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.





The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ Kneel

The Lord's Prayer

As we wait for your loving-kindness, O God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us: 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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Agnus Dei

All

All

Choir Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.	Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,	Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
miserere nobis.	have mercy on us.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,	Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
dona nobis pacem.	grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.Blessed are those who are called to his supper.AllLord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Giving of Communion

Bring us, O Lord, into the gate of heaven to dwell in that house where there shall be no darkness but one eternal light.

Baptised persons who are communicant members of other Churches are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion.

Alternatively, if you wish to receive a blessing, please bring this booklet with you as a sign.

Spiritual Communion – for those at home

Act of Reception

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,

(and remembering particularly my own parish)

I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,
I pray you to come into my heart.
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind.
Let nothing separate me from you;
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

Motet

Ave verum

Hymn

In thanksgiving for former worshippers

All IN our day of thanksgiving one psalm let us offer
 For the saints who before us have found their reward;
 When the shadow of death fell upon them, we sorrowed,
 But now we rejoice that they rest in the Lord.

In the morning of life, and at noon, and at even, He called them away from our worship below; But not till his love, at the font and the altar, Had girt them with grace for the way they should go.

These stones that have echoed their praises are holy, And dear is the ground where their feet have once trod; Yet here they confessed they were strangers and pilgrims, And still they were seeking the city of God.

Sing praise then, for all who here sought and here found him, Whose journey is ended, whose perils are past; They believed in the light; and its glory is round them, Where the clouds of earth's sorrows are lifted at last.

Words William Henry Draper (1855-1933)

Music St Catherine's Court Richard Strutt (1848-1927)

§ All sit for a period of silent reflection and thanksgiving

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ Stand

Father in heaven, whose Church on earth is a sign of your heavenly peace, an image of the new and eternal Jerusalem: grant to us in the days of our pilgrimage that, fed with the living bread of heaven, and united in the body of your Son, we may be the temple of your presence, the place of your glory on earth, and a sign of your peace in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Hymn

All

NOW thank we all our God, With heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things hath done, In whom his world rejoices; Who from our mothers' arms Hath blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us, With ever joyful hearts And blessèd peace to cheer us; And keep us in his grace, And guide us when perplexed, And free us from all ills In this world and the next. All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given, The Son, and him who reigns With them in highest heaven, The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore; For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore. Amen.

Words Nun danket alle Gott, Martin Rinkart (1586-1649) Trans Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) Music Nun Danket Melody by Jahann Crüger in Praxis Pietatis Melica, 1647 harmony chiefly by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Lobgesang, 1840

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

§ Stand

¶ Sending Out

All The Lord be with you and also with you.

Solemn Blessing

All	The Father, whose glory fills the heavens, and has assembled you to recall the dedication of this house of prayer cleanse you by his holiness and send you to proclaim his word. Amen.
All	The Son, who has ascended to the heights, pour upon you the riches of his grace that you may become one temple of his body. Amen.
All	The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, dwell within you and equip you and give you joy in your ministry. Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen**

The Dismissal

All

Like living stones, precious in his sight, go in peace to proclaim the mighty acts of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary

Final [Symphonie 1]

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Please remain standing until the procession has departed. Thank you.

Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary.

Refreshments are being served in church, please do join us.

If you are a newcomer to the parish, please introduce yourself to the clergy or speak to a member of our Welcome Team.

Burial of Ashes

Please note the ashes of Jane Thornton will be buried in the church grounds following the service. You are most welcome to join Jane's family.

Collection – responding to God's generosity

We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew's Church. You may do so using any of the following methods:

Cash, cheques, stewardship envelopes - using the receptacle provided at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid (an extra 25p for every pound given) associated with your giving.

Contactless giving - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - $\pounds 5$, $\pounds 10$, or $\pounds 20$, and then hold your bank card over the reader.

Giving on your smart phone - using the QR code printed below. It gives you the option of any amount, Gift Aid, and making a regular payment.

Giving online - click the donate button on the parish website or Facebook page and follow the instructions.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.



Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 8 who has generously financed the production of this week's service booklet.

131st Dedication Festival

This evening at 5.30 pm Solemn Choral Evensong Next Sunday

Michaelmas

The Feast of St Michael and All Angels

10.15 am Procession and The Parish Mass

5.30 pm Solemn Evensong

Please take this booklet home as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week, and then re-cycle it.

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St Matthew's Parish Church, The Parish Office, 27A The Drive, Kingsley, Northampton NNI 4RY Tel: 01604 791251 www.stmatthews-northampton.org.uk office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk