The Parish Church of St Matthew Northampton

The Second Sunday before Advent

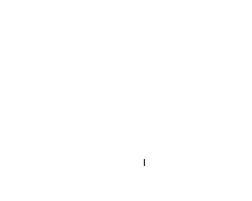


'The days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.'

The Parish Mass

Preacher
The Bishop of Peterborough
The Right Reverend Debbie Sellin

Sunday 16 November 2025 10.15 am



Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

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.

Live streaming Please note that this service is being streamed. You may sit where you wish. If, however, you prefer not to be seen online, please sit in a side aisle. The administration of Holy Communion will not be shown.

GDPR Some of St Matthew's services (most Sunday mornings and some special services) are live-streamed or recorded for those who cannot attend church in person. Under GDPR, the church must gain the consent of anyone whose image may be captured, as this constitutes collection of "personal data". This includes clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians and congregation. Whilst every attempt is made not to capture the faces of members of the congregation, this may occasionally happen if people turn around or move around the church during the service. The exception is communion, when the congregation is not filmed. The side aisles and back of the nave are so far as possible film-free areas not covered by the camera. Any-one whose personal data is collected must give their consent. Consent forms are available both in church and on the website. The full policy can be read on our parish website or on the noticeboards in church.

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-specific Christian resources is provided. Please feel free to make use of these facilities.







Collection – 'Building a Generous Church'



Our response to God's generosity

We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share his generosity with others. A generous life is therefore a hallmark of our faith and a testament to it, as the more generous we are, the more we reflect the generous God we believe in. Generosity is, therefore, at the heart of our faith, and our own generosity is a sure sign of our faith in action. Generosity is a spiritual gift, and we need to encourage people to seek this gift as they grow in their faith. The ministry and mission of St Matthew's is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.

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 - £5, £10, or £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.



Good morning Welcome to our Parish Mass on this Second Sunday before Advent. As the Church's year draws toward its close, our readings remind us of God's justice and invite us to look both to the present moment and the fulfilment of God's promise to renewal and redeem all things.

From the prophet Malachi, we hear of a coming day that will reveal God's justice and healing light. St Paul, writing to the Thessalonians, calls us to faithfulness and perseverance in our daily lives, living out our faith through steady, patient service. And in the Gospel according to Luke, Jesus speaks of trials and upheavals, yet reminds us not to be afraid - for even in uncertainty, God's promise endures.

This morning, we are especially glad to welcome the Bishop of Peterborough, The Right Reverend Debbie Sellin, on her first visit to our parish. It is a joy to share this celebration of the Eucharist with her, as together we give thanks for God's faithfulness and seek strength for our witness in the world.

May this time of worship renew our faith, strenghen our hope, and draw us closer to Christ our King who is our peace, our courage, our sure hope, and ultimately, the coming of his Kingdom.

It is our custom to spend some time in quiet preparation before the liturgy begins, and save further conversation until we meet socially for refreshments afterwards. The following prayer, based on today's themes, may be found helpful:

Prayer

Though the dawn breaks cheerless on this isle today, my spirit walks in a path of light.

For I know my greatness.

Thou hast built me a throne within my heart.

I dwell safely within the circle of thy care.

I cannot for a moment fall out of thine everlasting arms.

I am on my way to thy glory.

Alistair Maclean, Hebridean Altars

Setting

Missa brevis

William Mathias 1934-1992 [Commissioned for the 80th Patronal Festival, in 1973]

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ At the sound of the bell, all stand

Hymn

The procession enters

ΑII

O CHRIST the Lord, O Christ the King, Who wide the gates of death didst fling, Whose place upon creation's throne By Easter triumph was made known, Rule now on earth from realms above, Subdue the nations by thy love.

Lord, vindicate against man's greed
The weak, whose tears thy justice plead;
Thy pity, Lord, on those who lie
Broken by war and tyranny;
Show them the cross which thou didst bear,
Give them the power that conquered there.

Let those whose pride usurps thy throne Acknowledge thou art Lord alone; Cause those whose lust torments mankind Thy wrath to know, thy mercy find; Make all the rebel world proclaim The mighty power of thy blest name.

So shall creation's bondage cease, Its pangs of woe give birth to peace; And all the earth, redeemed by thee, Shall know a glorious liberty: O haste the time, make short the days, Till all our cries dissolve in praise.

Words R. T. Brooks 1918-1985

Music Surrey Henry Carey c1687-1743 † In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. All Amen.

The Greeting

ΑII

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you and also with you.

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

We live in a world which is full of confusion and unrest. In the midst of such a world we are expected to witness to Christ. To be good and faithful witnesses we need help from on high. Let us, therefore, turn to God now for the courage and strength we need.

Silence is kept

Confession

All Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Kyries

Lord Jesus, you strengthen us when we are weak:

Kyrie eleison.

All Kyrie eleison.

You give us courage when we are afraid:

Christe eleison.

All Christe, eleison.

You give us hope when we fall into despair:

Kyrie eleison.

All Kyrie eleison.

Absolution

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring you his pardon † and peace, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

Choir Glory be to God on high,

and in earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art Most High, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

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.

All Amen.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, now that we have prepared for this encounter with God in the holy scriptures, let us be seated to receive into our hearts and minds the living word of the Lord as it is proclaimed to us.

§ Sit

\P The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the Book of Daniel.

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

This is the word of the Lord.

ΑII Thanks he to God.

Psalm



Choir

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things. His own right hand and his holy arm have won for him the victory. Response

The Lord has made known his salvation; his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness Towards the house of Israel. and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Response

Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; break into singing and make music. Make music to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the voice of melody. Response With trumpets and the sound of the horn sound praises before the Lord, the King. Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, the world and all that dwell upon it. **Response**

Let the rivers clap their hands and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity. **Response**

Psalm 98

New Testament Reading

Reader A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

We command you, belovèd, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. his was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

2 Thessalonians 3.6-13

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

§ Stand

Acclamation



Choir Stay awake at all times, praying that you may have the strength

to stand before the Son of Man.

All Alleluia ...

ΑII

§ We turn to face the Book of the Gospels

The Lord be with you and also with you.

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

All

Glo - ry to you, O__ Lord.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.' They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.'

Mark 13 1-8

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

§ Sit

The Bishop of Peterborough
The Right Reverend Debbie Sellin

§ At the end, we sit for a time of quiet reflection

Rededication of our Children's Area

Vicar Today we gather as one church family -

young and old, parents and children, friends and teachers

to give thanks for this special space, made new and ready for joyful discovery.

We give thanks to God for the life of our dear friend

and fellow worshipper Rosamund Catlin.

Herself a teacher, Ros' generosity has made possible

the renewal of this space.

Bishop This is a place to learn about God,

to play and wonder, to listen and to grow.

All We give thanks to God for this place!

Reading

Reader Let us hear what Jesus said:

"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them,

for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark 10:14)

Bishop Jesus reminds us that every person, of every age, is part of God's family.

We all belong together in his love.

We thank God for those who teach and care,

and for every child who will come here to learn and grow.

All Thank you, God, for your goodness and love!

§ Stand

Prayer of Dedication

Bishop Let us pray together.

Loving God, we thank you for this beautiful space, for the colours, the furniture, and all the new things we see. May it be a place where children feel safe and loved, where stories of Jesus are shared, and where faith grows strong.

Bless the children who come here, their families and friends, and all who teach and care for them.

Help us to learn together —

to listen to one another, to ask questions, and to follow Jesus with joy.

Fill this place with your Spirit, that laughter, learning, and love may always be found here. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Act of Dedication

We rededicate this children's area to the glory of God, and for the blessing of all who use it — a place to learn, to play, to pray, and to grow.

All May God bless this place and everyone who comes here! Amen.

The bishop sprinkles the area with holy water

All return to their places

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 bow 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.

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest Let us pray that we may witness to Christ in a world marked by tragedy,

violence and sorrow.

§ Kneel

The response to each petition

Intercessor Lord, you are our strength and our salvation.

All Hear our prayer.

After the final petition

Priest God of love and mercy,

in the midst of the uncertainties of this changing world,

keeps us secure in your love,

and give us the peace this world cannot give.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

§ Stand

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

May the God of peace sanctify you: may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before him at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.

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

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

The Offertory

§ The bread and wine are presented to the presiding priest at the dais step and the altar is prepared

Hymn

§ A monetary collection is taken. Please give as you are able using any of the ways indicated at the front of this booklet. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.

ΑII

FOR the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord, For a just and equal sharing Of the things that earth affords. To a life of love in action Help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,
From despair your world release,
That, redeemed from war and hatred,
All may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
Fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
Let it from the earth be banned:
Pride of status, race or schooling,
Dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
May we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written
Your great name on humankind;
For our growing in your likeness
Bring the life of Christ to mind;
That by our response and service
Earth its destiny may find.

Words Fred Kaan 1929-2009

Music Alleluia dulce carmen Harmonised by William Henry Monk 1823-1889

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

O Lord, grant that what we offer in the sight of your majesty may obtain for us the grace of being devoted to you and gain us the prize of everlasting happiness.

Through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

ΑII

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always sing of your glory, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For you are the hope of the nations, the builder of the city that is to come. Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost, restores the sinner and gives dignity to the despised. In his face your light shines out, flooding lives with goodness and truth, gathering into one in your kingdom a divided and broken humanity.

Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation we glorify your name, for ever praising you and singing:

Choir Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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.



ΑII

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.

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, lesus 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:

ΑII



Bless-ing and hon-our and glo-ry and pow'r be yours for ev-er and ev-er. A - men.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ Kneel

The Lord's Prayer

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All 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

My flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed, says the Lord.

All Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them.

Agnus Dei

Choir O Lamb of God,

that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy 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.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Giving of Communion

It is good for me to draw near to God; in the Lord God have I made my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

Spiritual Communion – for those at home

Act of Reception

All 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.

Hymn

ΑII

THIS is my body, broken for you, Bringing you wholeness, making you free. Take it and eat it, and when you do, Do it in love for me.

This is my blood, poured out for you, Bringing forgiveness, making you free. Take it and drink it, and when you do, Do it in love for me.

Back to my Father soon I shall go.
Do not forget me; then you will see
I am still with you, and you will know
You're very close to me.

Filled with my Spirit, how you will grow! You are the branches; I am the tree. If you are faithful, others will know You are alive in me.

Love one another: I have loved you, And I have shown you how to be free; Serve one another, and when you do, Do it in love for me.

Words vs 1&2 Jimmy Owens vs 3-5 Damian Lundy b.1944

Music Jimmy Owens arranged by Christopher Tambling b. 1964

Motet

Choir

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are mine.

When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you; you will never sink beneath the waves.
When the fire is burning all around you, you will never be consumed by the flames.

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are mine.

When the fear of loneliness is looming, then remember I am at your side.
When you dwell in the exile of a stranger, remember you are precious in my eyes.

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are mine.

You are mine, O my child, I am your Father, and I love you, I love you with a perfect love.

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are mine.

Music Philip Stopford

Text from Isaiah 43

§ All sit for a period of silent reflection and thanksgiving

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ Stand

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All Amen.

Generous God, you have fed us at your heavenly table. Set us on fire with your Spirit that when Christ comes again we may shine like lights before his face, who with you and the Spirit lives for ever. Amen.

Hymn

ΑII

THINE for ever! God of love, Hear us from thy throne above; Thine for ever may we be Here and in eternity.

Thine for ever! Lord of life, Shield us through our earthly strife; Thou the Life, the Truth, the Way, Guide us to the realms of day.

Thine for ever! O how blest
They who find in thee their rest!
Saviour, guardian, heavenly friend,
O defend us to the end.

Thine for ever! Thou our guide, All our wants by thee supplied, All our sins by thee forgiven, Led by thee from earth to heaven.

Words Mary Fawler Maude 1819-1913

Music Newington William Dalrymple Maclagan 1826-1910

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

The Lord be with you and also with you.

Solemn Blessing

ΑII

May you be blessed with an unshakeable trust and confidence in God's love for you.

All Amen.

May the Lord, who conquered the evil one, keep you steadfast, courageous and strong.

All Amen.

May you be faithful witnesses for the Gospel by the example of love and joy you radiate.

All 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

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty;

All for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

Yours, Lord is the kingdom:

All and you are exalted as head over all.

The Mass is ended. Go in peace.

All Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Toccata "Nu la oss takke Gud"

Egil Hovland 1924-2013

- § Please remain standing until the procession has departed
- § Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary
- § Refreshments are being served in the parish centre, adjacent to the carpark. Do please join us.

This evening at 5.30 pm

Choral Evensong and Benediction

Our thanks are due to Martin and Lindsey Stone who have generously financed the production of this week's service booklet.

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

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