

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Second Sunday before Lent

Year A



The Parish Mass

with Holy Baptism and the healing ministries

Sunday 8 February 2026

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.*



Welcome to our Parish Mass on this Second Sunday before Lent. Today we gather as people who bring with us many different concerns and responsibilities, and we come to place ourselves again in the loving presence of God.

Our Gospel reading today invites us to hear Jesus' words, "*Do not worry*", and to trust in the faithful care of our heavenly Father, who knows our needs and calls us to seek first his kingdom.

This morning our worship is made especially joyful as we celebrate the baptism of Sintija Stepite and Kristine Malinovska. Sintija and Kristine, together with their children, have been worshipping regularly with us, and today they come to be baptised, so that in time they may stand as godparents to one another's children after Easter. We rejoice with them, and we give thanks for their faith and their desire to follow Christ more deeply.

As we prepare to worship, let us hold Sintija and Kristine in our prayers, along with all who will renew their baptismal faith today, and let us open our hearts to God's word, trusting in his love and care for each one of us.

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 reflection, based on today's themes, may be found helpful:

Prayer

Lord, we come to you
for peace of mind and spirit.
Teach us to rest in you and in your love
and to work for the coming of your kingdom.

Setting

Mass of the Altar of Life (Gloria)

David Halls b.1963

Communion Service in B flat

Edgar Day 1883-1983

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *At the sound of the bell, **all stand***

Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

All

**FAIREST Lord Jesus
Lord of all creation,
Jesus, of God and Mary the Son;
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honour,
O thou my soul's delight and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows,
Fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the verdure and bloom of spring.
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes the saddest heart to sing.**

**Fair are the flowers,
Fairer still the sons of men
In all the freshness of youth arrayed;
Yet is their beauty
Fading and fleeting;
My Jesus, thine will never fade.**

**Fair is the moonlight,
Fairer still the sunshine,
Fair is the shimmering, starry sky:
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shine clearer
Than all the heav'nly host on high.**

**All rarest beauty
Heavenly and earthly,
Wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;
None can be nearer,
Fairer or dearer,
Than thou, my Saviour, art to me.**

**When I lie dying,
Still on thee relying,
Suffer me not from thine arms to fall:
At my last hour
Be thou my power,
For thou, Lord Jesus, art my all.**

Words Joseph Augustus Seiss 1823-1904
tr. Lilian Sinclair Stevenson 1870-1960

Music Schönster Herr Jesu
Silesian melody from *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842
Harmony by Martin How 1931-2022

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

The Greeting

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Mass is introduced, and Sintija and Kristine are asked to come forward to the dais step

Introduction to Baptism

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit, and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth. Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. Here we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life.

§ *Sintija and Kristine return to their seats*

Gloria in Excelsis

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone 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,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children:
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.**

All **Amen.**

§ *Sit*

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8.18-25

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

§ *Stand*

Acclamation



Choir God has spoken to us through his Son,
through whom he created the world.
All **Alleluia.**

§ *We turn to face the Book of the Gospels*

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

All



Jesus said to the crowd, 'I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'

Matthew 6:25-34

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All



Homily

§ Sit

¶ The Liturgy of Baptism

Presentation of the Candidates

Sintija and Kristine gather in the baptistry

The priest addresses the whole congregation:

We thank God for Sintija and Kristine
who have come to be baptized today.
Christ loves them and welcomes them into his Church.
So I ask you all:

All Will you support them as they begin their journey of faith?
We will.

All Will you help them to live and grow within God's family?
We will.

The Decision

§ *The Easter Candle is lit*

The priest address Sintija and Kristine

We all wander far from God and lose our way:
Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.
In baptism we respond to his call.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?
I do.

Do you reject evil?
I do.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?
I do.

Do you trust in him as Lord?
I do.

Signing with the Cross

*The priest anoints Sintija and Kristine with the Oil of Baptism
making the sign of the cross on their forehead*

Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed of Christ.
You are his for ever.

All **Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All **Amen.**

Prayer over the Water

All Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

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

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.
Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.
Through water you led the children of Israel
from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.
In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,
to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.
We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.
In it we are buried with Christ in his death.
By it we share in his resurrection.
Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,
we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify † this water that, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
they may be cleansed from sin and born again.
Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith
and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed

Priest Brothers and sisters,
I ask you to profess together with this family the faith of the Church.

All Do you believe and trust in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

All Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

All Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Baptism

In turn the priest pours water on Sintija and Kristine three times, saying

N, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Anointing with the Oil of Chrism

Sintija and Kristine are once more anointed on the crown of the head

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church,
pour upon you the riches of his grace,
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All **Amen.**

Giving of a Lighted Candle

A baptism candle is lit from the Easter Candle, one each to Sintija and Kristine

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

All **Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

Commission

Sintija and Kristine, we are glad to have welcomed you to St Matthew's Church for your baptism. There will always be a place for you here. Your baptism joins you to Christ and to his whole Church, in every part of the world, in the past and in the future, on earth and in heaven.

Even before today, God began his work in you, but it will take the whole of your life to complete that work. There will be moments when the journey ahead is a delight and there will be times when it is hard, but you will never be alone. You will always have the support of other Christians. There will be many milestones on your journey: confirmation will be one of them.

Remember that in Jesus, heaven has touched our world. Belonging to him will change your life and, through reading the Bible, you will learn more deeply the story of God's love. Through worship, prayer and caring for others you will grow more and more like Jesus. Stand up for fairness, truth and kindness.

God's love is for you, and for everyone. Share with other people the good news of his love.

Let us pray.

God of grace and life,
in your love you have given us a place among your people;
keep us faithful to our baptism,
and prepare us for that glorious day
when the whole creation will be made perfect
in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

§ *The congregation turn towards the front and kneel for the prayers*

§ *The baptismal group return to their seats, and the priest and server return to the nave sanctuary*

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest Heavenly Father, you are ever with us in the storms of life
and we know you as our Saviour.
Hear these our prayers.

§ *Kneel*

The response to each petition

Intercessor Lord God, hear us:
All **help us to put our trust in you.**

After the final petition

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

§ *Stand*

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

§ *Sintija and Kristine approach the dais step*

The Welcome of the newly Baptized

All There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
Sintija and Kristine, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.
**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
We welcome you.**

§ *The certificates of baptism are presented*

Sign of Peace

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offertory

§ *The bread and wine are brought forward and given to the presiding priest
The altar is prepared*

Hymn

§ *A monetary collection is taken and placed under the altar.
For alternative ways of giving please refer to the front of this booklet.
Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.*

All **All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluya, alleluya!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam:
 O praise him, O praise him,
 Alleluya, alleluya, alleluya!**

**Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluya!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice:**

**Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluya, alleluya!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest us both warmth and light:**

**Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluya!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them his glory also show:**

**Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluya!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, three in one:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluya, alleluya, alleluya!**

Words William Henry Draper 1855-1933
based on Laudato si!, O me signore
St Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Sun

Music Lasst uns erfreuen
Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

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

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,
for Christ has risen from the tomb
and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade.
This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,
unfolds for us your word,
and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.
And though the night will overtake this day
you summon us to live in endless light,
the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord.

And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory and join their unending song of praise:

Choir 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:

All

mf *cresc.* *f*

Christ has died: Christ is ris - en: Christ will come a - gain.

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,
so that we, in the company of Mary the Virgin Mother of God,
St Matthew and all the saints,
may 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.

All **Amen.**

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

Seeking the salvation of the world,
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.**

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

You still the raging of the seas, the roaring of their waves
and the clamour of the peoples. You prepare grain for your people,
for so you provide for the earth.

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.

Healing ministries

*If you wish to receive the laying on of hands and the Sacrament of Anointing
please make your way to the Lady Chapel having received Holy Communion
or God's blessing at the communion rail.*

The choir sing Angus Dei

Motet

Choir Steal away to Jesus

*Spiritual
arranged by Barnard*

§ *All sit for a period of personal prayer and thanksgiving*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ Stand

God our creator, by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

All **Let us, with a gladsome mind
Praise the Lord, for he is kind:
For his mercies ay endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.**

**Let us blaze his Name abroad,
For of gods, he is the God:**

**He, with all-commanding might
Filled the new-made world with light:**

**He the golden-tressèd sun
Caused all day his course to run:**

**And the hornèd moon by night,
Mid her spangled sisters bright:**

**All things living he doth feed,
His full hand supplies their need:**

**Let us, with a gladsome mind,
Praise the Lord, for he is kind.**

Words John Milton 1608-1674

Music Monkland
Melody by John Antes 1740-1811
Harmony by John Wilkes 19th cent (dates unknown)

Notices for the Community

§ Sit

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All May God the Father,
who clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the birds of the air,
provide us with all we need for life in its fullness.
Amen.

All May God the Son,
who fed the five thousand and turned water into wine,
feed us with his life and transform us in his love.
Amen.

All May God the Holy Spirit,
who hovered over the waters of creation
and formed the world from chaos,
form us in the likeness of Christ and renew the face of the earth.
Amen.

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

The Dismissal

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

All Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Sortie in E flat

Alfred Lefébure-Wély 1817-1869

- § *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, 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.*

This evening at 5.30pm
Congregational Evensong

Our thanks are due to Marva Grant
who has 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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