

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

The Solemnity of The Most Holy Trinity

Year A



The Parish Mass

Sunday 31 May 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.



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.



The Most Holy Trinity

Good morning everyone, and welcome to our Parish Mass on this beautiful Trinity Sunday. We gather today in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit — the one God who is love, communion, and life.

Today the Church invites us to reflect on the mystery at the heart of our faith: God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Though this mystery is beyond our full understanding, it is revealed to us in the love shared within God and poured out into our world.

In our first reading, from the Second Letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul encourages the community to live in joy, peace, and unity, reminding them that the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit are with us always.

In the Gospel according to Matthew, the risen Lord Jesus sends his disciples out to all nations, baptising in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, with the promise: “I am with you always.”

As we begin this Eucharist, let us give thanks for God’s presence in our lives, and pray that we may grow ever more deeply in faith, hope, and love, sharing that divine love with all whom we meet.

Let us now prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

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:

Reflection

Nowadays, thanks to the security camera, we are often being watched, watched by a cold, dispassionate eye, intent only on catching us in wrongdoing. The feeling that someone is *watching* us is not a pleasant feeling. But the feeling that someone is *watching over* us is a lovely feeling. God is not watching us. God is watching over us. The conviction that God is watching over us gives us comfort in times of sadness, strength in times of weakness, and hope in times of despair.

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

§ *Please stand at the sound of the bell*

Hymn

§ *The procession enters and the altar is honoured with incense*

All

**HOLY, Holy, Holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, Holy, Holy! all the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be!**

**Holy, Holy, Holy! though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy, there is none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

Words Reginald Heber 1783-1826

Music Nicaea
John Bacchus Dykes 1823-1876

† In the name of the holy and undivided Trinity,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

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

All

The service is introduced

Invitation to Confession

We have too often exchanged the worship of the living God
for idols of our own imagining.
As we gather to offer our praises to the holy and undivided Trinity,
and to worship him in spirit and in truth,
let us call to mind our sins.

Silence is kept

Kyrie Confession

Heavenly Father, you come to meet us when we return to you:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross to save us from our sins:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you give us life and peace:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

May the God of love and power forgive † us
and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

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 and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
through Jesus Christ your Son 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 Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

2 Corinthians 13.11-13

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Rosalie Bonighton

Response

cf. v.2 A - bove the heav'ns your ma - jes - ty is praised.



Choir

O Lord our governor, how glorious is your name in all the world!
Your majesty above the heavens is praised
out of the mouths of babes at the breast.
You have founded a stronghold against your foes,
that you might still the enemy and the avenger. **Response**

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have ordained,
What is man, that you should be mindful of him;
the son of man, that you should seek him out? **Response**

You have made him little lower than the angels
and crown him with glory and honour.
You have given him dominion over the works of your hands
and put all things under his feet, **Response**

All sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field,
The birds of the air, the fish of the sea
and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.

O Lord our governor, how glorious is your name in all the world! **Response**

Psalm 8

§ Stand

Holy Gospel

Acclamation

1. Choir only

2. Choir and Congregation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Choir Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
 one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty.

All **Alleluia.**

§ We turn to face the Book of the Gospels

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

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

All



Musical notation for the text "Glo - ry to you, O Lord." The notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G, an eighth note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, a quarter note G. This is followed by a half note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, a quarter note G. The piece ends with a half note A. A dynamic marking of *f* is placed above the first A note. A fermata is placed over the final A note.

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Matthew 28.16-20

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Musical notation for the text "Praise to you, O Christ." The notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G, an eighth note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, a quarter note G. This is followed by a half note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, a quarter note G. The piece ends with a half note A. A dynamic marking of *f* is placed above the first A note. A fermata is placed over the final A note.

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 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 As we pray to the Father for our needs,
we pray in the name of Jesus, the Son,
and confident that the Spirit prays with us.

§ *Kneel*

Intercessor Father of heaven, whose love profound
a ransom for our souls has found:
We pray for the world, created by your love,
for its nations and governments ...
Extend to them your peace, pardoning love, mercy and grace.
All **We plead before your throne in heaven.**

Almighty Son, incarnate Word,
our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord:
We pray for the Church, created for your glory,
for its ministry to reflect those works of yours ...
Extend to them your peace, pardoning love, mercy and grace.
All **We plead before your throne in heaven.**

Eternal Spirit, by whose breath
the soul is raised from sin and death:
We pray for families and individuals, created in your image,
for the lonely, the bereaved, the sick and the dying ...
Breathe on them the breath of life
and bring them to your mercy and grace.
All **We plead before your throne in heaven.**

Thrice holy! Father, Spirit, Son,
Mysterious Godhead, Three in One:
We pray for ourselves,
for your Church, for all whom we remember before you ...
Bring us all to bow before your throne in heaven,
to receive life and pardon, mercy and grace for all eternity,
as we worship you, saying,

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

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

§ Stand

Sign of Peace

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.
Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

All 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 Gifts are presented to the presiding priest and the altar is prepared*

Hymn

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

All

**THE God of Abraham praise
Who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of everlasting days,
And God of love:
To him uplift the voice,
At whose supreme command
From earth we rise and seek the joys
At his right hand.**

**There dwells the Lord our King,
The Lord our righteousness,
Triumphant o'er the world of sin,
The Prince of Peace:
On Sion's sacred height
His kingdom he maintains,
And glorious with his saints in light
For ever reigns.**

**Before the great Three-One
They all exulting stand,
And tell the wonders he has done
Throughout the land:
The listening spheres attend,
And swell the growing fame,
And sing in songs which never end
The wondrous Name.**

**The God who reigns on high
The great archangels sing,
And 'Holy, Holy, Holy' cry
'Almighty King!
Who was, and is the same,
And evermore shall be:
Eternal Father, great I AM,
We worship thee.'**

**The whole triumphant host
Give thanks to God on high:
'Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost'
They ever cry:
Hail, Abraham's God and mine!
(I join the heavenly lays)
And might and majesty are thine,
And endless praise.**

Words Thomas Olivers 1725-1799
based in the Hebrew *Yigdal*

Music Leoni
Hebrew melody

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

God, source of every good gift,
as we enter the fellowship of your table in praise and thanksgiving,
let this sacrament make us an everlasting gift to you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For with your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit
you are one God, one Lord.

All that you reveal of your glory,
the same we believe of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
without any difference or inequality.

We, your holy Church, acclaim you,
Father of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
Three Persons we adore,
one in being and equal in majesty.

And so with angels and archangels,
with cherubim and seraphim,
we sing for ever of your glory:

All

**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

Musical notation for the first part of the text. It is in 4/4 time, G major, and begins with a treble clef. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are: Christ has died: Christ is ris - en: Christ will come a - gain. Dynamics include *mf*, *cresc.*, and *f*.

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,
Saint 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

Musical notation for the word 'Amen'. It is in 4/4 time, G major, and begins with a treble clef. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are: A - - - - - men. Dynamics include *f*.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ *Kneel*

The Lord's Prayer

Thrice-holy God, remember us in your kingdom,
as we pray with confidence in the words our Saviour 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

All Come, eat my bread, receive my body which I have prepared.
Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Agnus Dei

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
All **Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Giving of Communion

You are the sons and daughters of God, so God has given you the Spirit of his Son to form in your hearts and make you cry out:
Abba, Father.

§ *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

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.

Motet

Hymn to the Trinity

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky 1840-1893

Hymn

All

**FATHER of heaven, whose love profound
A ransom for our souls hath found,
Before thy throne we sinners bend:
To us thy pardoning love extend.**

**Almighty Son, incarnate Word,
Our prophet, priest, Redeemer, Lord,
Before thy throne we sinners bend:
To us thy saving grace extend.**

**Eternal Spirit, by whose breath
The soul is raised from sin and death,
Before thy throne we sinners bend:
To us thy quickening power extend.**

**Thrice Holy! Father, Spirit, Son,
Mysterious Godhead, three in one,
Before thy throne we sinners bend:
Grace, pardon, life to us extend.**

Words Edward Cooper 1770-1833

Music Rievaux
John Bacchus Dykes 1823-1876

§ *All sit for a time of reflection and thanksgiving*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand with the priest*

Almighty and eternal God,
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:
hold us firm in this faith,
that we may know you in all your ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three Persons yet one God,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

All **ALL hail, adorèd Trinity;
All hail, eternal unity;
O God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, ever one.**

**Three persons praise we evermore,
One only God our hearts adore;
In thy sweet mercy ever kind
May we our sure protection find.**

**O Trinity, O unity,
Be present as we worship thee;
And with the songs that angels sing,
Unite the hymns of praise we bring.**

Words Latin, c10th century
tr John David Chambers 1805-1893

Music Illsley
John Bishop c1665-1737

Notices for the Community

§ *Sit*

¶ Sending Out

§ Stand

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

Solemn Blessing

All God the Father,
who first loved us and made us accepted in the beloved Son,
bless you.
Amen.

All God the Son,
who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
bless you.
Amen.

All God the Holy Spirit,
who sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts,
bless you.
Amen.

All The blessing † of the one true God,
to whom be all love and all glory for time and for eternity,
come down upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

All The Mass is ended, go in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Fugue in E flat BWV 552 ii

J S Bach 1685-1759

§ 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 served in church, please do join us*
- § *If you are a newcomer to the parish or area, please introduce yourself to one of the clergy or speak to a member of our Welcome Team.*

This evening at 5.30 pm

Solemn Choral Evensong

Next Sunday

Corpus Christi

10.15 am All Age Mass for the Parish Family,
Corpus Christi Procession and Benediction

5.30 pm Choral Evensong

Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 5
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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