

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton



The Parish Mass with Confirmation

President and preacher
The Right Reverend Andrew Proud

Sunday 18 October 2026

10.15 am

Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church



Safeguarding St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any safeguarding concern, or are worried about the safety or wellbeing of a child, young person, or adult, please speak to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, a member of the clergy, or a churchwarden.

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Ben Drouet safeguarding@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk 01604 791251

Diocese of Peterborough Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@peterborough-diocese.org.uk 01733 887040

If someone is in immediate danger or needs urgent medical attention, please call 999.

Live Streaming and Recording Please note that some services are live-streamed or recorded. Filming is limited as far as reasonably possible to those leading or assisting with the service, including clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians, choir members, and servers. Holy Communion is not filmed.

If you would prefer not to appear online, please sit in one of the side aisles or speak to a welcomer or churchwarden, who will be happy to help you find seating outside the filmed area.

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Toilet and Baby Changing Facilities Toilet and baby changing facilities are available at the base of the church tower. A small servery is also available.

For Younger Children In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted children's area with age-appropriate Christian resources is available. Please feel free to make use of these facilities during the service.



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.



Today's celebration ...

Good morning and a warm welcome to St Matthew's as we celebrate this Parish Mass and the Confirmation of two adults, AJ Rowan Lupita Lush, Michael William Bell.

We are delighted to welcome The Right Reverend Andrew Proud, Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Peterborough, who presides at the Mass and administers Confirmation. We also warmly welcome the candidates' families and friends.

Christian initiation is accompanied by three sacraments: Baptism, the beginning of new life in Christ; Confirmation, its strengthening by the gift of the Holy Spirit; and the Eucharist, which nourishes us in our life of faith. Today, as AJ and Michael renew their baptismal commitment and receive the laying on of hands and anointing with Holy Chrism, we pray that they may be strengthened in faith and rooted more deeply in Christ.

We pray also for ourselves, that the Holy Spirit may renew the gift of faith within us and draw us ever more deeply into the life of Christ and his Church.

Prayer

Almighty God, whose Holy Spirit gives life to your Church:
we pray for AJ and Michael
as they come to renew their baptismal vows
and receive the gift of your Spirit in Confirmation.
Deepen their faith, strengthen their hope,
and kindle within them the fire of your love.
May they know themselves to be called by name
and held securely in the love of Christ.
Bless their families and friends,
and all who have supported them on their journey of faith.
Bless Bishop Andrew as he presides over this celebration,
and grant us all open hearts to receive afresh the gifts of your Holy Spirit.
May our worship today glorify you, strengthen us in the life of Christ,
and send us out to serve you and one another in the power of the Spirit,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Setting

Missa Sancti Johannis de Deo

Joseph Haydn 1732-1809

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

Any notices are given before the service begins

§ **All stand** at the sound of the bell

Hymn

The procession enters and the altar is honoured with incense

All

**SOURCE and fount of all creation,
Pour your Spirit from above
On the bearers of your image,
Offspring of a human love.
Human hopes and human graces
Break beneath the weight of sin;
Fear and envy wrench asunder
World without and self within.**

**Human love is unavailing
Counter-weight to sin and strife;
Love of God alone can hold us
On the way that leads to life.
Praised be God, whose Son our Saviour
Human nature has restored,
Living, dying, raised in glory,
To the likeness of its Lord.**

**Trace, O Christ, salvation's pattern,
God and sinner reconciled,
In an all-embracing story:
New creation, new-born child.
Word incarnate, world's redeemer,
Here in us your work repeat,
Signed and sealed your own for ever,
Till the pattern stands complete.**

**Christ our universal Saviour,
 Nature's poet, nature's priest,
 Through life's troubled waters bring us
 To the eucharistic feast,
 Where rejoicing saint and sinner
 Praise the Lord of time and space,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 Fount of being, source of grace.**

Words Peter Baelz 1923-2000

*Music Blauenwern
 William Penfro Rowlands 1860-1937*

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

The Greeting

All Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

All There is one body and one spirit.
There is one hope to which we were called;
 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
All **one God and Father of all.**

All Peace be with you
and also with you.

The bishop introduces the service

Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo
 et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
 Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
 Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.
 Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
 Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
 Deus Pater omnipotens,
 Domine Filii unigenite, Jesu Christe.
 Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.

*Glory to God in the highest
 and on earth peace to men of goodwill.
 We praise you. We bless you.
 We worship you. We glorify you.
 We give thanks to you for your great glory.
 Lord God, heavenly King,
 almighty God the Father,
 O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
 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

Bishop Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by that same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

§ *Sit*

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Reader A reading from the First Letter Paul to the Corinthians.

We speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
 nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him'—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

I Corinthians 2:7-12

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Psalm



Choir

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid? **Response**

When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,
came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.
Though a host encamp against me,
my heart shall not be afraid,
and though there rise up war against me,
yet will I put my trust in him. **Response**

One thing have I asked of the Lord and that alone I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
To behold the fair beauty of the Lord
and to seek his will in his temple. **Response**

For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his shelter;
in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me
and set me high upon a rock. **Response**

And now shall he lift up my head
 above my enemies round about me;
 Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness;
 I will sing and make music to the Lord. **Response**

Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;
 have mercy upon me and answer me.
 My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.'
 Your face, Lord, will I seek. **Response**

Psalms 27.1-10

§ Stand

Holy Gospel

Acclamation



Choir The heavens were torn apart:
 and the Spirit descended on him like a dove.

All **Alleluia.**

§ We turn to face the Book of the Gospels

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

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.



John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed,

‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

Mark 1.4-11

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Homily

§ Sit

There may follow by a period of quiet reflection

¶ The Liturgy of Initiation

§ *The congregation remains seated*

The Presentation of the Candidates

The bishop asks the candidates, who are in their places, to stand

To the candidates

Bishop Have you been baptized in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

Candidates **I have.**

Bishop Are you ready with your own mouth
and from your own heart
to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

Candidates **I am.**

To the whole congregation

Bishop Faith is the gift of God to his people.
In baptism the Lord is adding to our number
those whom he is calling.
People of God, will you welcome these candidates
and uphold them in their life in Christ?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

The Decision

The bishop addresses all the candidates

Bishop In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

Candidates **I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

Candidates **I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins
that separate us from God and neighbour?

Candidates **I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

Candidates **I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

Candidates **I submit to Christ.**

Candidates Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?
I come to Christ.

All May God who has given you the desire to follow Christ
give you strength to continue in the Way.
Amen.

§ *Stand*

The bishop leads the candidates to the font

§ *The congregation turns to face the font*

Vidi Aquam

Choir Text:
*I beheld water, which proceeded out of the temple,
on the right side thereof, alleluia:
and all they to whom that water came
were healed, every one: and they say, alleluia, alleluia.*

Music Stephen Moore b. 1985

Prayer at the Font

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

Blessed are you, sovereign God of all,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
You are our light and our salvation.
From the deep waters of death
you have raised your Son to life in triumph.
Grant that all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit,
may daily be renewed in your image,
walk by the light of faith,
and serve you in newness of life;
through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit we lift our voices of praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

All

The Apostles' Creed

Bishop Brothers and sisters,
I ask you to profess together with these candidates
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.**

The bishop invites the candidates for Confirmation to dip their hand in the font and sign themselves with the cross

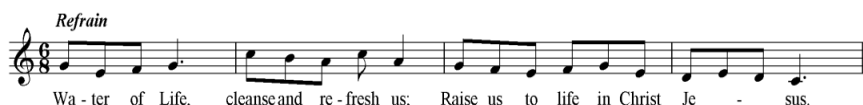
Holy water is drawn from the font

Sprinkling with Holy Water

O God most high, in the sacrifice of your risen Son
you have made spring up fountains of living water;
may this sprinkling revive in us the grace of baptism
that we also may rise to the glory of new and eternal life.

All **Father, cleanse and bless your people.**

Water of Life



Choir All you who thirst, come to the waters;
and you will never be thirsty again. **Refrain**

As rain from heaven, so is God's word,
it waters the earth and brings forth life. **Refrain**

Dying with Christ, so we shall rise with him,
death shall no longer have power over us. **Refrain**

Turn to the Lord, cast off your wickedness,
you will find peace in his infinite love. **Refrain**

§ *The candidates precede the bishop and make their way to the communion rail*

§ *The bishop sprinkles the assembly with holy water as a reminder of baptism, and through which we share in the life of Christ*

When the bishop has returned to his chair ...

All **Almighty God,**
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptised in your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Veni, creator Spiritus

§ Kneel

Choir

COME, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart:

Thy blessèd unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love;
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight:

Anoint and cheer our soilèd face
With the abundance of thy grace:
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of both, to be but one;
That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song,

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Words John Cosin 1595-1672
based in *Veni, creator Spiritus*
attributed to Bl Rabanus Maurus c780-856

Music *Veni* creator (Mechlin) Mode viii
accompaniment by John Henry Arnold 1887-1956
adapted by Michael Flemming 1928-2006

The Confirmation

The bishop extends his hands towards those to be confirmed

Bishop

Almighty and ever-living God,
you have given these your servants new birth in baptism
by water and the Spirit,
and have forgiven them all their sins.
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.

All

Amen.

The candidates kneel at the communion rail

The bishop addresses each candidate by name

Bishop N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

He then lays his hands on the head of each, saying

Bishop Confirm, O Lord, your servant N with your Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**

*The bishop anoints each of those upon whom he has laid hands,
tracing the sign of the cross, with the Oil of Chrism, as a sign of God's
anointing Spirit.*

*The bishop invites the congregation to pray for those on whom
hands have been laid*

All **Defend, O Lord, these your servants
with your heavenly grace,
that they may continue yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more
until they come to your everlasting kingdom.
Amen.**

§ Stand

Commission

The bishop addresses all the baptized

Bishop Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and,
whenever you fall into sin,
repent and return to the Lord?
All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?
All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?
All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?
All **With the help of God, I will.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.
All **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Sign of Peace

Bishop God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

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

Asst priest Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Offertory

§ *The bread and wine are brought to the dais step and given to the bishop*

§ *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.*

Hymn

All

**O JESUS, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou for ever near me,
My Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.**

**O let me hear thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee,
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my friend.**

**O let me see thy footmarks,
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in thy strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me,
My Saviour and my friend.**

Words John Ernest 1816-1874

Music Wolvercote
William Harold Ferguson 1874-1950

Invitation to Prayer

Bishop 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 holy Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

O Lord, graciously accept these your servants,
so that, signed with the Cross of Christ
and with a spiritual anointing,
they may constantly offer themselves to you
and each day receive the outpouring of your Spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Bishop 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, it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ascending in glory above the highest heaven
and seated at your right hand in power and majesty,
Christ poured out the promised Holy Spirit
on those you had adopted as your children.

Today, on these your servants this precious gift is bestowed,
to renew their faith in Christ your Son,
and increase in them the gift of holiness
by which their lives may give you glory.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

<i>Choir</i>	Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Osanna in excelsis.	<i>Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might. heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.</i>
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Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domine. Osanna in excelsis	<i>Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.</i>
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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.

Asst priest

Christ is the bread of life:

mf

When we eat this bread and drink this cup,

cresc. *f*

we pro-claim your death, Lord Je - sus, un - til you come in glo - ry.

Asst Priest

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.

Bishop

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,
Matthew the apostle, 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

A- men.

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

§ Kneel

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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

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

Invitation to Communion

Bishop Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

First Communion of the newly Confirmed

Choir

May the Lord show His mercy upon you;
May the light of His presence be your guide:
May He guard you and uphold you;
May His Spirit be ever by your side.
When you sleep, may His angels watch over you;
When you wake, may He fill you with His grace:
May you love Him and serve Him all your days.
Then in heaven may you see His face.

Words Based of biblical texts notably
Numbers 6.24-26; Psalm 91; Revelation 22.3-5

Music John Rutter b.1945
'A Clare Benediction'

Order of receiving:

The clergy receive the Holy Communion

§ *AJ and Michael approach the communion rail and receive Holy Communion for the first time from the bishop and vicar*

§ *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.*

§ *The servers and choir receive Holy Communion*

§ *The congregation is invited forward to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.
If you wish to receive a blessing, please bring this booklet with you to the communion rail.*

The choir sings Angus Dei

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

Music Philip Stopford b.1977

Text from Isaiah, Chapter 43

§ *All sit for a period of silent reflection and thanksgiving*

Prayer after Communion

Bishop Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

God of mercy,
 by whose grace alone we are accepted
 and equipped for your service:
 stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit
 and make us worthy of our calling;
 that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

**We thank you, Lord,
 that you have fed us in this sacrament,
 united us with Christ,
 and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
 prepared for all peoples.
 Amen.**

§ *A taper is lit from the Paschal Candle and is brought forward*

Hymn

All

O THOU who camest from above
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return,
In humble prayer, and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work, and speak, and think for thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up thy gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death thy endless mercies seal,
And make my sacrifice complete.

Words Charles Wesley 1707-1788

Music Hereford
Samuel Sebastian Wesley 1810-1876

¶ Sending Out

All

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Blessing

Bishop

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;

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

All

Amen.

Giving of a Lighted Candle

AJ and Michael are each given a candle lit from the Paschal Candle

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

AJ and Michael, 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.**

The Dismissal

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

The bishop leads AJ and Michael to the West End of the church

Organ Voluntary

Fanfare

John Cook 1918-1984

- § *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*
- § *You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments which are being served in church. Please do take the opportunity to meet the candidates and the bishop*
- § *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 5.30 pm
Choral Evensong and Benediction

Our thanks are due to Anonymous Donor 14
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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