

ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Burwood

CHRISTMAS DAY
The Nativity of Our Lord

Thursday 25 December 2025

9:00AM CHORAL EUCHARIST

Welcome to St Paul's

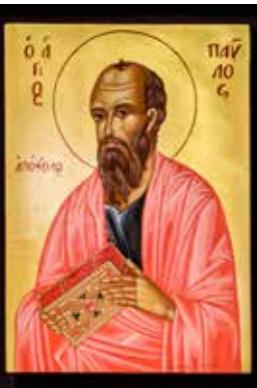
We warmly welcome you and are glad that you have come to worship God with us today, Christmas Day, as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.

I pray that, at this Christmas-tide and through the coming year, you will experience the love of Jesus Christ, the One who comes to us in such humility, and that the tenderness and gentleness of Mary, Jesus' Mother, will fill your lives, and that you will know the peace of God, Jesus' Father and our Heavenly Father, and that God's peace will strengthen and sustain you both now and forever more. Amen.

Peace,
Fr James Collins OAM
Rector

Please take this order of service home.

The Rector Fr James Collins, and Dr Helen Collins, along with Fr Michael and Mrs Antonia Deasey, together with the Church Wardens and Parish Councillors and the Parish Staff and Ministry Team: Ms Rosemary King, Fr Mark Battison, Mr David Russell, Mr Bailey Yeates, Mr Brian Luhr, Ms Natalie McDonald, and Mrs Caroline Badra, extend to all Parishioners and their families, and to all friends of St Paul's, every blessing for a holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.
May the love of God enfold you.



The texts and prayers are taken from *A Prayer Book for Australia* © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation.

Hymn texts are taken from *The New English Hymnal* © 1996, The English Hymnal Company Ltd.

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Cover Photo: Lady Chapel (detail)

Icon (left): Icon of St Paul in the Chapel of Our Lady

Please STAND as the bell is rung. The choir sings the introit in procession.

Introit

Puer natus est nobis, et filius datus est nobis:
cujus imperium super humerum ejus:
et vocabitur nomen ejus, magni consilii Angelus.
Cantate Domino canticum novum: quia mirabilia fecit.

*A child is born to us and a Son is given to us:
Whose government is upon His shoulder:
and His Name shall be called, the Angel of Great Counsel.
Sing ye to the Lord a new song for he has done wonderful things.*

The Processional Hymn is introduced with the following:

Let us proceed in peace.

✠ In the name of Christ. Amen.

Processional Hymn

ADESTE FIDELIS Irregular

Melody probably by J.F. Wade (1711-86)
Descant by Sir David Willcocks CME MC (1919-2015)

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the King of Angels:
 *O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*
- 2 God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:
- 3 See how the Shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither, bend our joyful footsteps:
- 4 Lo! star-led chieftans, Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child bring our heart's oblations:
- 5 Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
- 6 Sing, choirs of Angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above.
Glory to God in the Highest:
- 7 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Latin 18th century

Tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-80) and others

Greeting

✠ Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The priest continues with the opening sentence:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

Let us pray:

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Christmas Wreath Liturgy

Today all the candles of the Advent wreath will blaze with light. We relight the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We light the Christ candle and celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Christ, the Light of the World.

Loving God, we are people of hope, peace, joy, love and light. As we hear again the good news of great joy, we pray that your light will shine in our daily lives so that we may bring light to others. Amen.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honour and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Remain standing for the Kyrie and Gloria which is sung by the choir.

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in excelsis

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will toward 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 the most high ✠ in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Remain standing for the collect of the day.

Collect

God Most High, whose eternal Word chose a dwelling among us, that we might live in your presence: grant us a spirit of wisdom to know how rich is the glory you have given us, and how great is the hope to which we are called in the Word made flesh; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Please SIT for the readings and psalm.

First Reading: Isaiah 52.7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated.

Psalm: 98

Chant: Joseph Robinson (1815-1894)

Sung by the choir.

- 1 O sing to the Lord a new song: for he has done marvellous things
- 2 His right hand and his holy arm: they have got him the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his salvation:
he has revealed his just deliverance in the sight of the nations
- 4 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness
toward the house of Israel:
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth:
break into singing and make melody.
- 6 Make melody to the Lord upon the harp:
upon the harp and with the sounds of praise.
- 7 With trumpets and with horns:
cry out in triumph before the Lord, the King.

8 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it:
the good earth and those who live upon it.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands:
and let the mountains ring out together before the Lord.

10 For he comes to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with
righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1.1–12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.'

But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'

And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

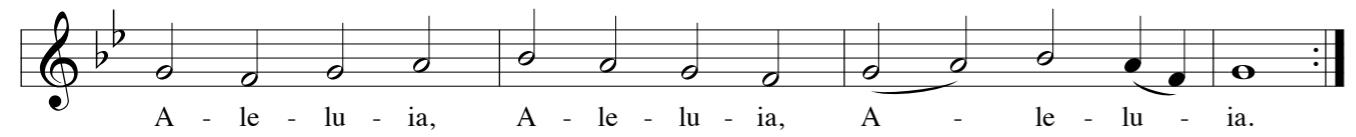
For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please STAND with the Celebrant for the gospel acclamation.

Gospel Acclamation

The Alleluia is sung first by the cantor and then repeated by all.



*A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia.*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

✠ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel: John 1.1–14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

For the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

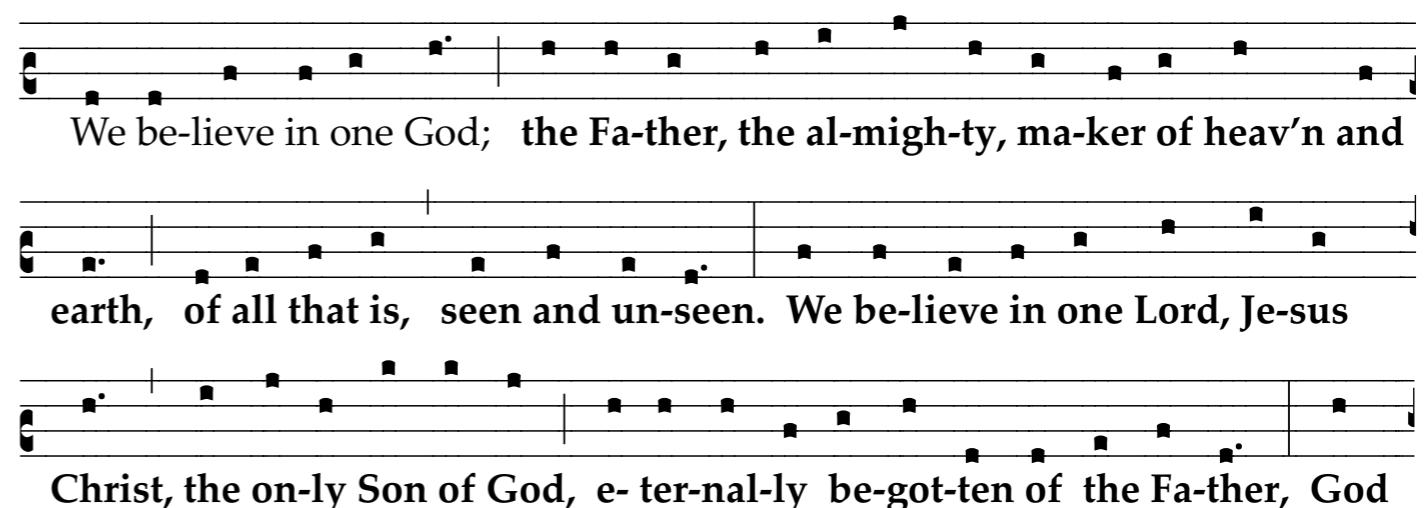
Please SIT.

Sermon

Fr James Collins
Rector

Please STAND for the Creed.

Creed



from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, be-got-ten not made,
 of one be-ing with the Fa-ther, through him all things were made. For us
 and for our sal-va-tion he came down from heaven, was in-car-nate of the
 Ho-ly Spi-rit and the vir-gin Ma-ry and be-came tru-ly hu-man. For
 our sake he was cru-ci-fied un-der Pon-tius Pi-late; he suf-fered death and
 was bu-ried. On the third day he rose a-gain in ac-cor-dance with the
 Scrip-tures; he as-cen-ded in-to heav'n and is sea-ted at the right hand of
 the Fa-ther. He will come a-gain in glo-ry to judge the liv-ing and the dead
 and his king-dom will have no end. We be-lieve in the Ho-ly Spi-rit, the
 Lord, the gi-ver of life, who pro-ceeds from the Fa-ther and the Son, who
 with the Fa-ther and the Son is wor-shipped and glo-ri-fied, who has spo-

ken through the pro-phets. We be-lieve in one ho-ly ca-tho-lic and a-
 po-sto-lic Church. We ac-know-ledge one bap-ti-sm for the for-give-ness
 of sins. We look for the re-sur-rec-tion of the dead, [¶] and the life of the
 world to come. A-men.

Prayers of the Faithful

Please kneel. The intercessor leads the prayers from the lectern.

The following response is used:

Christ, the saviour is born:

O come let us adore him.

At the end of the prayers, the following is recited:

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.
 Grant that what we have asked in faith
 we may by your grace receive,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A selection of Scripture sentences may be used concluding with the Prayer of Approach recited together:

We do not presume
 to come to your table, merciful Lord,
 trusting in our own righteousness,
 but in your manifold and great mercies.
 We are not worthy
 so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
 But you are the same Lord
 whose nature is always to have mercy.
 Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
 so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
 and to drink his blood,
 that we may evermore dwell in him
 and he in us. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

The priest introduces the confession.

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

(Silence may be kept)

Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to him, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us.

Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The priest pronounces the Absolution.

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:

¶ pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All STAND.

Greeting of Peace

The Greeting of Peace is introduced with these words:

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Please remain standing to sing the offertory hymn.

An offertory is taken for the work of the parish. This can be done in cash via the collection plate, direct debit, or by scanning the QR code to make your offering directly from your mobile phone.

There is also a donation point at the West Door where you can tap your card.



Offertory Hymn

YORKSHIRE (STOCKPORT) 10 10 10 10 10 10

John Wainwright (1723-68)



- 1 Christians awake! salute the happy morn
Whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
Rise to adore the mystery of love
Which hosts of angels changed from above;
With them the joyful tidings first begun
Of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.
- 2 Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
Who heard the angelic herald's voice, 'Behold,
I bring you tidings of a Saviour's birth
To you and all the nations on the earth:
This day hath God fulfilled his promised word,
This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'
- 3 He spake; and straightway that celestial choir
In hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;
The praises of redeeming love they sang,
And heaven's whole orb with alleluyas rang:
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
Peace on the earth, and unto men good will.
- 4 To Bethl'em straight the enlightened shepherds ran
To see the wonder God had wrought for man,
And found, with Joseph and the blessed Maid,
Her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid:
Joyful, the wondrous story they proclaim –
The first apostles of his infant fame.
- 5 Like Mary let us ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;
Trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
From his poor manger to his bitter cross;
Then may we hope, angelic hosts among,
To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song.

John Byrom (1691-1763)

The Preparation

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

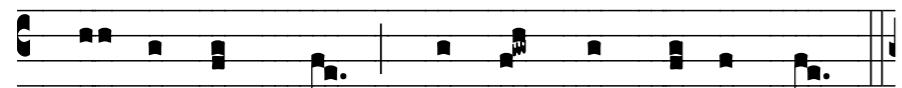
Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

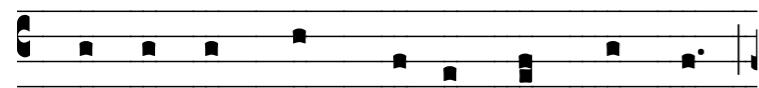
Great Thanksgiving



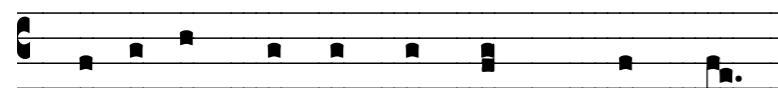
The Lord be with you. And also with you.



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



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The priest continues with the Prayer of Thanksgiving.

Please KNEEL as the sanctuary bell is rung three times.

Sanctus & Benedictus

Sung by the 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.

The priest continues with the Prayer of Consecration.

Memorial Acclamation

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

✠ Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of

the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

**✠ Blessing and honour and glory and power,
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

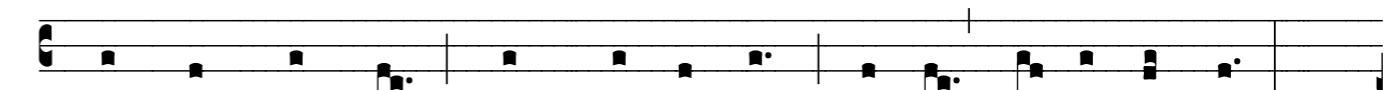
The Lord's Prayer

The priest says or intones:

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:



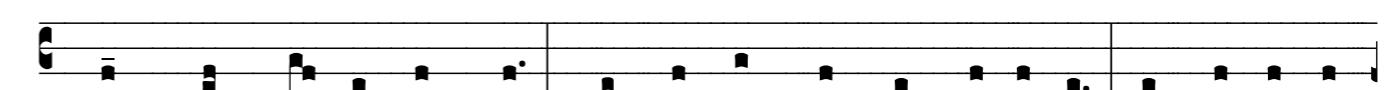
Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name;



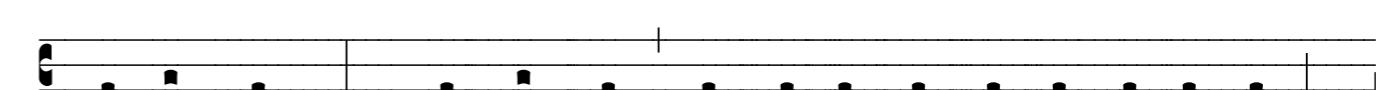
Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.



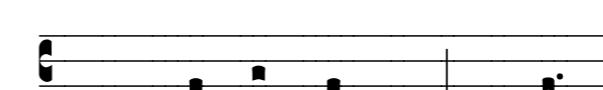
Give us to-day our daily bread for-give us our sins as we for-give



those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri-al, and de-liv-er



us from e- vil For the king-dom, the po-ter and the glo-ry are yours,



now and for e - ver. A-men.

The breaking of the bread

The priest breaks the bread and says the following:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,

for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei

Sung by the 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

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

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

Communion

Communion is distributed along the full length of the communion rail.

Please form a single line on the Organ side of the nave and return on the Pulpit side.

Communion Motet

The Infant King

Desmond Radcliffe (1917-2001)

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now reclining, sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the infant king. Angels are watching, stars are shining over the place where he is lying: sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the infant king. Soon will come sorrow with the morning, soon will come bitter grief and weeping: sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-dozing: sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the infant king. Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing, then in the grave at last reposing: sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby! is the baby awaking? sing lullaby. Hush, do not stir the infant king. Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning, conquering death, its bondage breaking: sing lullaby!

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Please remain kneeling or seated to sing the communion hymn.

Communion Hymn

FOREST GREEN DCM

English Traditional Melody

Harmony by Ralph Vaughan Williams. (1872-1958)
Descant: Sir Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

- 2 O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
- 3 How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Phillip Brooks (1835-93)

All STAND for the post-communion prayer.

Post-Communion Prayer

The priest says the following seasonal prayer:

God of heaven, dwelling among us, we thank you for feeding us with this holy food. By your grace keep us ever faithful to your Word made flesh that as his body in the world we may bring your presence to all people.

**Father, we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Blessing

The priest says this seasonal Blessing:

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; and the blessing of God almighty, **¶** the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

¶ In the name of Christ. Amen.

Remain standing to sing the final hymn.

Final Hymn

MENDELSSOHN 7777 7777 77

From a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)
Descant by Sir David Willcocks CME MC (1919-2015)

1 Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:
*Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:
*Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:
*Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo BWV 729

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

To maintain the prayerfulness of the liturgy, it is requested that there be no applause at the end of the organ postlude. Please be mindful of those who wish to stay, listen or pray.



TODAY'S MUSIC DETAILS:

Introit: *Stille nacht* (Franz Grüber, 1787-1863)
Setting: **Communion Service in E** (Harold Darke, 1888-1976)
Carols: **Sing lullaby** (arr. Desmond Ratcliffe, 1917-2001)

* * * * *

UPCOMING CHORAL SERVICES:

Sunday 28 December – Holy Innocents
Sunday 4 January – The Epiphany
Sunday 11 January – Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday 18 January – Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:00am Sung Eucharist
Mass of St Francis (Paul Taylor, b.1957)

Sunday 25 January – The Conversion of Paul

8:00am Said Eucharist

10:00am Choral Eucharist
Missa Brevis (G.P. da Palestrina, c.1525-1594)
Give us the wings of faith (Ernest Bullock, 1890-1979)



HOLY INNOCENTS
Sunday 28 December 2025
9:00am Sung Eucharist

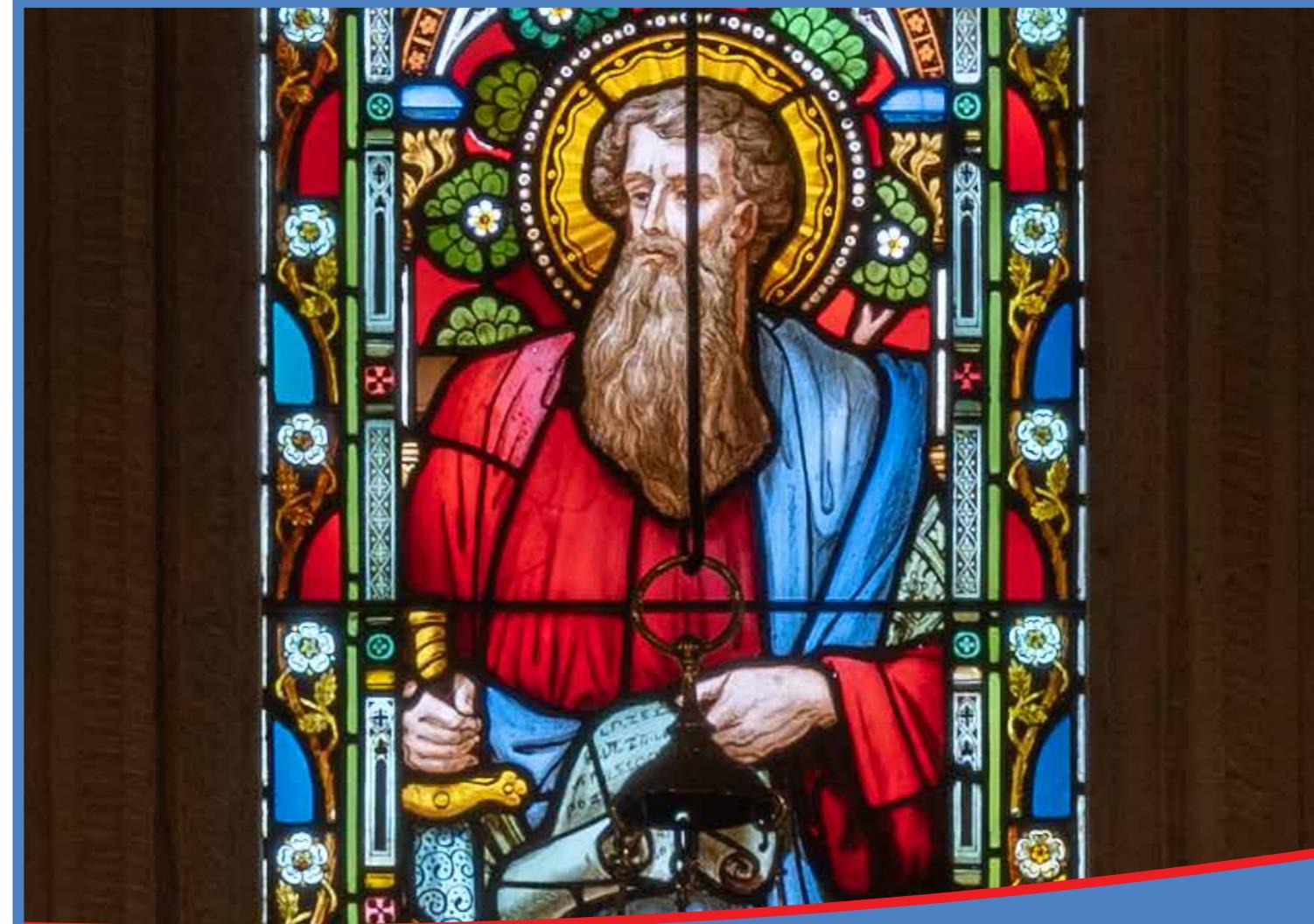




FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
Sunday 4 January 2026
9:00am **Sung Eucharist**

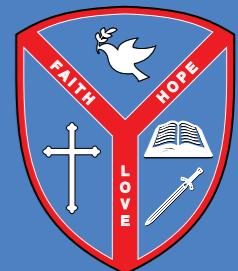


BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
Sunday 11 January 2026
9:00am **Sung Eucharist**



CONVERSION OF PAUL
Sunday 25 January 2026

8:00am **Said Eucharist**
with hymns



10:00am **Choral Eucharist**
Setting: **Missa Brevis**
G.P da Palestrina
Motet: **Give us the wings of faith**
Ernest Bullock

JOIN US @ ST PAUL'S

HOLY COMMUNION

Summer Schedule: (from 28 December 2025 to 18 January 2026)

9:00am Sung Eucharist

Sundays throughout the year: (resume on Sunday 25 January 2026)

8:00am Said Eucharist – *with hymns*

10:00am Choral Eucharist – *with the Choir of St Paul's*

Wednesdays: (resume on Wednesday 4 February 2026)

10:30am Eucharist

Fridays: (resume on Friday 30 January 2026)

5:40pm Evening Prayer

6:00pm Eucharist

Seasonal Services:

6:00pm Choral Eucharist – *with the Choir of St Paul's*

Special services are held during the year to mark Feast Days and other days of seasonal significance. These are advertised in the pew bulletin and on our website.

CHORAL EVENSONG

Sundays as advertised:

5:00pm Choral Evensong – *with the Choir of St Paul's*

For further information please visit our website: stpaulsburwood.org.au



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, BURWOOD

205-207 Burwood Road Burwood NSW 2134

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Rector

Fr James Collins OAM

Senior Assistant Priest

Fr Michael Deasey OAM FRSCM

Honorary Priest

Fr Mark Battison

Lay Minister

Ms Rosemary King

Director of Music

Mr David Russell

Organist

Mr Bailey Yeates

Sacristan

Br Brian Luhr OGS OAM

Lay Assistant

Ms Natalie McDonald