



SAINT FIN BARRE'S
CATHEDRAL + CORK



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

The Eucharist
(Said)

Sunday 28th December 2025
11.15am

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Monday 29th December - The Feast of the Holy Innocents (transferred)

12 noon The Eucharist (said, in the Dean's Chapel)

Tuesday 30th, Wednesday 31st & Saturday 3rd December

No services

Thursday 1st January 2026 - The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

12 noon The Eucharist (said, in the Dean's Chapel)

The Cathedral resumes normal opening hours from 9am on Friday 2nd January

Friday 2nd January

12 noon The Eucharist (said, in the Dean's Chapel)

Sunday 4th January - Sunday of the Epiphany

11.15am Festal Choral Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher: Very Rev. Nigel Dunne (Dean of Cork)

3.30pm Festal Choral Evensong

LIVE-STREAMING

In line with the first of the Five Marks of Mission ('To proclaim the good news of the kingdom') this service is being live-streamed and recorded via www.churchservices.tv. The camera is at the back of the Cathedral and covers the Nave, Crossing, Choir Stalls and High Altar. It does not cover the North and South Aisles, Dean's Chapel and Ambulatory. If you do not wish to appear on camera please consult the churchwardens/stewards and they will guide you to a seat out of shot.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Please ensure that all cellphones are switched off.
Photography of any kind is not permitted during the Service.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Cathedral is fitted with a Deaf Loop System. Those who have digital hearing aids should set them to "T". Large print copies of this order of service are available.

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THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All stand for the

HYMN OF THE PROCESSION - 39

Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he
with sleepy cows and asses;
but the very beasts could see
that he all men surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled:
'A prince', he said, 'in Jewry!'
And all the little boys he killed
at Bethlem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
while the choir with peals of glee
doth rend the air asunder.

Latin, 15th century

Tr Percy Dearmer 1867-1936

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The service is introduced.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

PENITENCE

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

All say:

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned in thought and word and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may walk in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

The Absolution is pronounced.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All say **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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 OF THE DAY

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
Grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

Sit for

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 63: 7-9

At the end of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148

1. Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.
2. **Praise him, all you his angels;
praise him, all his host.**
3. Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you stars of light.
4. **Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**
5. Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.
6. **He made them fast for ever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**
7. Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
8. **Fire and hail, snow and mist,
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;**
9. Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
10. **Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and birds on the wing;**

11. Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
12. **Young men and women, old and young together;
let them praise the name of the Lord.**
13. For his name only is exalted,
his splendour above earth and heaven.
14. **He has raised up the horn of his people
and praise for all his faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.**

Sit for

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 2: 10-18

At the end of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand for the

HYMN OF THE GRADUAL - 42

The last verse of this hymn is sung after the Gospel

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

‘Fear not,’ said he; for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind,
‘glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

To you, in David’s town, this day
is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

‘The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid.’

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels, praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

All stand and face the reader for

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 2: 13-23

Reader: Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Saint Matthew, chapter two, beginning at verse thirteen.

All say: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the end of the Gospel

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All say: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The hymn continues:

'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace!

Goodwill, henceforth, from heaven to men
begin, and never cease.'

Nahum Tate (1652 - 1715)

Sit for **THE SERMON**

Rev. Martin Steele - *Dean's Vicar*

Stand to say

THE NICENE CREED

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.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of 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.

Kneel or sit for

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The following response is used at the end of each petition:

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

At the end of the prayers:

Merciful Father,

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

Stand for

THE PEACE

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Stand to sing

THE HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY - 28

A collection for Cathedral funds is taken during the singing of this hymn.

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.

In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breastful of milk and a manger full of hay;
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only in her maiden bliss
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches. **Amen.**

THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us celebrate the feast.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

And so with all your people, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**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!**

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things;
you made us in your own image, male and female you created us;
even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us,
but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin;

giving your only begotten Son to become man
and suffer death on the cross to redeem us;
he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world:
he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue,
a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again:

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, 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 when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying,
Drink this, all of you, for 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.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we do as Christ your Son commanded:

**we remember his passion and death,
we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,
and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts,
grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit
that we may be made one in your holy Church
and partakers of the body and blood of your Son,
that he may dwell in us and we in him;
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
**all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:
Our Father who art in heaven ...

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ
We, being many, are one body for we all share in the one bread.

The AGNUS DEI is said.

**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.**

THE COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

THE GREAT SILENCE

is kept for thanksgiving and reflection

GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Stand to sing the

POST-COMMUNION HYMN - 32

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 to-night.

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.

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.

Where children pure and happy
pray to the blessèd Child,
where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.

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.
Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

Heavenly Father,
you have refreshed us with this heavenly sacrament.
As your Son came to live among us,
grant us grace to live our lives,
united in love and obedience,
as those who long to live with him in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

THE 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 with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Trio Sonata no. 1, Adagio BWV 525 - J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Please remain in your seat in silence until the Organ Voluntary is over.