

# PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's,*



## Christmas Day Mass

### Introductory Rites

#### Entrance Procession

- 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 **Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:  
glory to God  
in the highest:**

- 3 **Yea, Lord we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:**

#### Greeting & Introduction

#### Lighting of the Christmas Candle

#### Collect

Great and loving God,  
on this most holy day,  
together with Christians throughout the world,  
we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Fill us with wonder on this holy day:  
let us treasure in our hearts what we have been told,  
that our lives may proclaim  
your great and gentle mercy.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

*(Luke 2: 1-14)*

A reading from St Luke's Gospel

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all who enjoy his favour.'

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

#### Carol

- 1 Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echo still their joyous strains.

***Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!***

- 2 Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
th'infant Christ, the new-born King.

*Traditional French Carol (1862)*

### Gospel

*(John 1: 1-5, 9-14)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word:  
and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.  
He was with God in the beginning.  
Through him all things came to be,  
not one thing had its being but through him.  
All that came to be had life in him  
and that life was the light of men,  
a light that shines in the dark,  
a light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was the true light  
that enlightens all men;  
and he was coming into the world.  
He was in the world  
that had its being through him,  
and the world did not know him.  
He came to his own domain  
and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God,  
to all who believe in the name of him  
who was born not out of human stock  
or urge of the flesh or will of man  
but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,  
he lived among us,  
and we saw his glory,  
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily

### Visit to the Crib

- Away in a manger,  
no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus  
laid down his sweet head,  
the stars in the bright sky  
looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus  
asleep on the hay.**
- The cattle are lowing,  
the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus  
no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus!  
Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side  
until morning is nigh.**
- Be near me, Lord Jesus;  
I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever,  
and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children  
in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven,  
to live with thee there.**

## Bidding Prayers

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

#### Preparation of the Gifts

*Music:* For unto us a child is born – G.F. Handel

#### Prayer over the Offerings

Lord,  
accept our gifts on this joyful feast.  
By our communion with your Son,  
may we become more like him

who joins our lives to yours,  
for he is Lord for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

#### Eucharistic Prayer

*Holy, Holy – Mass of Christ the Saviour (Dan Schutte)*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes,**

**who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

#### The Lord's Prayer

#### Sign of Peace

Please exchange the Sign of Peace with those around you in whatever way is most comfortable for you.

#### Communion

#### Prayer after Communion

Lord,

as we rejoice in the birth of your Son,

help us to love one another

and to live in peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## Concluding Rite

### Final Hymn

- Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
let earth receive her King;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.**
- Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns,  
let us our songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, and wonders of his love.**

*Isaac Watts (1719)*

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The **Offertory Collection** takes place as you leave church – a basket will be available, or you can use the 'Tap & Go' facility. This collection is the main source of income for the parish. Many thanks for your generosity.

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#### Acknowledgements

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