



Holy Trinity Church, Horfield, Bristol
Creating connections through the inclusive Catholic
tradition in worship, welcome and service



Sunday, 14th December 2025
Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday

Quiet Christmas this Afternoon at 4.00 pm

Collect: God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

HYMNS & MUSIC FOR THE MASS

Mass setting

Kyries: Missa de Angelis

***Kyrie Eleison* (x2), *Christe Eleison* (x2), *Kyrie Eleison* (x2)**

[Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy]

Sanctus & Agnus Dei: People's Mass – Dom Gregory Murray

HYMNS

- 45** O come, O come, Emmanuel
- 34** Earth was waiting, spent and restless
- 43** Now from the heavens descending
- 30** Come, thou long expected Jesus

PRAYERS

Please pray for those who are unwell: Stuart Crow, Marcia, Annie, John Crocker, Dorothy Charlton, Sophia Vryoni-Dickson, Ray Harris, Bryan and Joan Bufton, Phillada Ware, Martin Nicholls, David Ryan, Geraldine, Frank, Michael, George Poole, Matthew, Robin, Christine Menzies, May Hughes, Michael Lewis, Henry Wills, Sian Pearson, Kaydee Short, Mollie Lievesley, Eileen Cleaver, Ann and Bryan Plaister, Celia Wells, Rob Brace, Rachel Harris, Vanessa Blundell.

Please pray for those recently departed: Joy North, Rosemary Sheehan, **and for those in our Year's Mind:** Harold Edwards (14th), Jenny Rees, Ken Thomas (16th), George Hopton, Doris Hopton (17th), Mac Day (18th), Trevor Williams (19th), Alf North (20th)

If you wish to add a name to the prayer list, please contact either Fr David, Caroline Plaice or Carolyn Larcey.

The Welcome Project Prayer

Lord, our God, source of all life, you reveal your compassion and mercy in the life we share. Bless us as we respond to your Spirit's invitation to open wide our doors to Christ. May the doors of our hearts remain ever open in holy and unconditional welcome. Bless *The Welcome Project* – that our welcome may be wide enough to receive all who need love and fellowship, as we reach out to welcome the stranger and friend alike and so welcome your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Peace

Holy and gracious God, we pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia; of Israel and Palestine. We pray for all those who are afraid; for those who are suffering and traumatised; and for those who are grieving, that your everlasting arms may hold them in this time of great suffering. We pray for those who choose war; that they will turn their swords into ploughshares and seek for peace. We pray for the leaders of nations; that they may follow the wisdom and compassion of Christ. We ask this in the name of your blessed Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

Our Lady of Kyiv, pray for your children!

Prayer and Pastoral Care Needs

If you need prayer support either for yourself or for someone you know do let Fr David know in confidence. Fr David is also in church most Saturday mornings to offer counselling, prayer, hear confessions or just for a chat. If you, or a member of your family, is in hospital, or housebound through illness, please let Fr David or Caroline (warden) know, and a pastoral or holy communion visit can be arranged by the Rector.

Prayer and Meditation for December

God of perfect peace, violence and cruelty can have no part with you.

May those who are at peace with one another hold fast to the good will that unites them; may those who are enemies forget their hatred and be healed.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

(2 Thessalonians 3:16)

Morning Prayer on Fridays during Advent

As part of the holy season of Advent there will be Morning Prayer at 9.15am in the Chapel of Peace and Reconciliation each Friday during Advent.

Morning Prayer makes a wonderful start to the day and lasts about twenty minutes. Everyone is very welcome.

FFI please have a word with Helen Hinksman.

CRAFT CLUB - "Weekly 'Craft Club' every Monday! Bring along your own craft work to do or have a go at the craft of the day (materials supplied). Craft Club will be running alongside Monday's 'Warm Welcome' from 9.00am to 10.30am.

Can you help with toys for families on lower incomes?

Each Christmas the pastoral team at Horfield CE Primary seek donations of Christmas toys and gifts to help struggling families they know to give their children the best Christmas possible. I said I would let Holy Trinity folks know, so you have a chance to contribute if you would like to. Ideas: anything suitable for a Primary school aged child e.g. Lego sets, arts/craft sets, sensory/fidget toys, toy cars, teddies, hair accessories, anything superhero/princess/unicorn. All gifts must be brand new and unopened. All donations are greatly appreciated. - by Monday 15th December please.

Thank you so much.

Mother Diane

Safeguarding at Holy Trinity is everyone's business

Safeguarding is a collective responsibility that involves protecting the health, well-being and rights of individuals, particularly children and vulnerable adults, from harm and abuse. If you have any cause for concern, please do not hesitate to contact Caroline Plaise, Churchwarden and Parish Safeguarding Officer in person or via email: cjplaise@gmail.com or telephone: 07714 255670. A copy of the church Safeguarding policy and procedures is available in the Welcome area.

Parish Contacts

Rector: Revd. Canon Dr. David McGladdery, SCP

Tel 07859 787787 Email: rector.horfield@gmail.com

Please note that Fr David's day off is on a Monday.

Assistant Priest: Revd. Diane Simms Tel: 07396732318

Email: dianemsimms4977@gmail.com

Churchwarden: Caroline Plaice: 07714 255670 Email: ciplaice@gmail.com

Horfield Parochial Church Council (General Account)

Sort Code: 301611 **Account Number:** 00887278

Horfield Parochial Church Council (Charity Account)

Sort Code: 306296 **Account Number:** 27658063

Horfield Parochial Church Council (Welcome Project)

Sort Code: 306232 **Account Number:** 64788960

Please make any cheques payable to 'Horfield PCC'.

Parish Office:

Email: hpc.sec@horfieldparishchurch.org.uk Tel: 07880 657829

Website: www.horfieldparishchurch.org.uk

Instagram Account: #holytrinityhorfield

Regular Services:

Sunday 10am Mass.

Tuesday 12 noon Mass.

Thursday 10am Mass.

Friday 6pm Mass

Refreshments are served after Sunday and Thursday Mass.

Next Messy Church – 21st December

Additional monthly Services in the Chapel of Reconciliation & Peace at 10am

First Saturday - the Holy Rosary will be prayed for peace.

Last Saturday - a Mass for healing with anointing will be offered.

Holy Hour of prayer – Last Sunday of the month at 4pm

Live streams of Sunday Mass (10 am), Tuesday Mass (12 noon), Thursday Mass (10 am) and any other advertised services being streamed, and recordings of previous services are available at

<https://www.youtube.com/@HolyTrinityHorfield>

Bookings for the Hall, Helliwell and Blancharde rooms can be made via:

<https://www.sharesy.com/v/holy-trinity-horfield>



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Getting involved: 14th December 2025

Activities

- **Welcome Conversation** - An open discussion group led by a different person each time. Third Saturday of the month at 11.00 am.
- **Gravestone and memorial recording project.** Supported by local historian Andy Buchan, we are creating a record of every memorial which will be lodged with the local records office and the church. Training is provided and we arrange to work in pairs to complete this exciting project.
For information about any of these volunteering opportunities, please talk to Nick Stephenson or Caroline Plaice (warden).
- **Christingle Making:** Monday, 22nd December - 10.30am
- **Burns Night supper** - Friday 30th January. More details to follow very soon.

Churchyard : Green Gym and Sapling Saturday

The churchyard is maintained and managed by volunteer groups. Our groups are now paused until the spring. If you are interested in helping in the Churchyard, please talk to Nick Stephenson or Caroline Plaice (warden).

Throughout the winter please continue to enjoy the tranquility of our Churchyard. We will try to ensure the paths do not get too muddy, but please take care as you walk around grassed areas, they can be uneven and slippery.

Holy Trinity Church 2025, AD Christmas Services

Sunday 21st December, 6 pm
Festival of Lessons and Carols
sung by the Holy Trinity Festival Choir

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CHRISTMAS EVE

3.00 pm Christingle Service

11.30 pm Midnight Mass

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CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00 am Dawn Mass

10.00 am Day Mass