

THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, LAVENDER HILL

Sunday 3 December 2023
The First Sunday of Advent
11.00am Solemn Mass

*A very warm welcome to everyone especially if this is your first visit.
Please join us for refreshments following the service.
Please take this order of service away with you*

THIS WEEK

Observances Tuesday: *Advent Feria*
Low Mass: 10.00am
Ernest Lerner Carol Service: 7.00pm

Wednesday: *St Nicholas*
Low Mass: 12.30pm

Thursday: *St Ambrose*
Low Mass: 10.00am

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

First Evening Prayer: 6.15pm
Solemn Mass: 7.00pm

Friday: **Low Mass: 10.00am**

Saturday: *Advent Feria*
10.30am: Holy Rosary
11.00am: Low Mass

Sunday 10th: **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Solemn Mass: 11.00am

Website:
ascensionlavenderhill.org.uk

Email:
ascensionsw11@gmail.com

Phone:
020 7228 5340

A warm welcome to the Ascension, Lavender Hill. We are a Parish of the Diocese of Southwark and under the Episcopal care of the Bishop of Fulham. If you would like to know more about the Ascension, have queries about baptisms, weddings and funerals, or any questions about the Christian Faith, please speak to the Parish Priest, Fr Philip, who will be pleased to assist you:

Fr Philip Kennedy

tel: 020 7228 5340

email: ascensionsw11@gmail.com

We are an excepted charity, and rely principally on donations to sustain our work. Please give as generously as you are able, either at the Offertory or by scanning the QR code below.

If you are a taxpayer and are able to gift-aid your donation please do so by either placing your cash donation into a blue envelope and filling in your details on the front, or ask one of the Churchwardens for a Gift Aid form.

Thank you for your support.



*Our **Churchwardens** are the Bishop's representatives in the Parish (elected by the parishioners) and work together with Fr Philip to ensure the smooth running of the Parish. They can be contacted as follows:*

MRS ANN WARWICK
annwarwick1@aol.com

MS CHERYL HARPER
cherylharper1964@hotmail.com

*We take the **safeguarding** of children and vulnerable adults very seriously. Here are the details of our **Parish Safeguarding Officers**, who should be the first point of contact for any concerns:*

MS RUTH CANSDALE
07737 116364

MR ALEX BANSON
020 7738 1916

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Please stand when the bell rings.

ENTRANCE HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel;
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer,
Our Spirits by Thine Advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law,
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

The priest introduces the Mass.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*At the end of the prayer, all respond: **Amen.***

Those taking part in Sunday School depart as a group.

PENITENTIAL ACT

The priest introduces the confession. Silence is kept for recollection of our sins.

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us. **Lord, have mercy upon us.**
Christ, have mercy upon us. **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Lord, have mercy upon us. **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

COLLECT

Let us pray.

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.
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.
Amen.

All sit for the readings.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, 'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins.

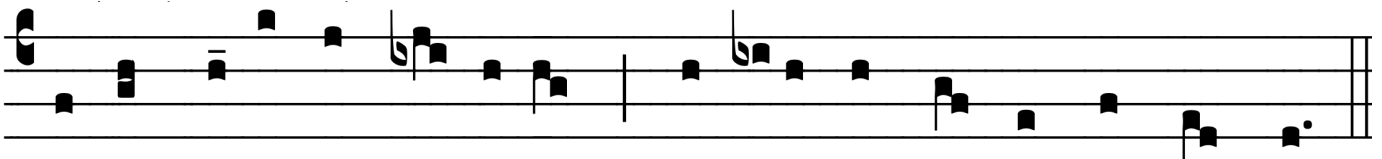
And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: ADVENT PROSE

Verses sung by the cantor. We sing the Response together.

Response:



Drop down, ye hea - vens, from a - bove, and let the skies pour down right - eous - ness.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All stand to welcome the Gospel.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
*Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.*
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING: MARK 13: 33-37

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

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

All sit

HOMILY: Fr Philip Kennedy, *Vicar*

THE NICENE CREED

All stand.

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
All bow at the memorial of the Incarnation:
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became
man. *All rise*
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day 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.**

**I 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 adored and glorified, who has spoken
through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one
Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

The response to each prayer:

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

At the end of the intercessions we pray together:

**Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among
women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary,
Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.
*At the conclusion of the intercessions: Amen.***

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

*All stand to sing the offertory hymn as the altar is prepared. A collection is
taken to support the ministry and mission of the Church.*

**Lo he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluya!
God appears, on earth to reign.**

Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing
Shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Now Redemption long expected,
See! in solemn pomp appear!
All his Saints by Man rejected,
Now shall meet Him in the Air!
Alleluya!
See the Day of God appear.

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

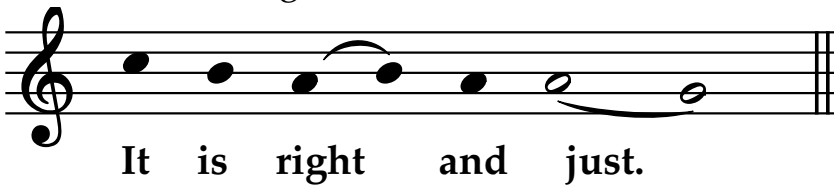
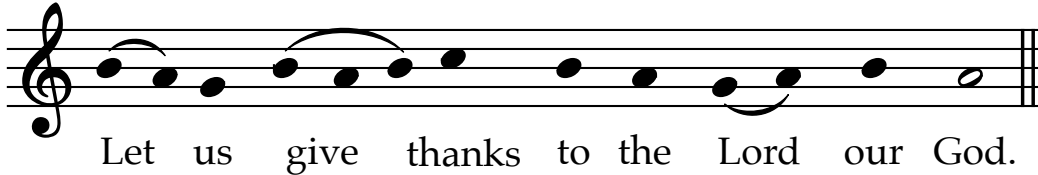
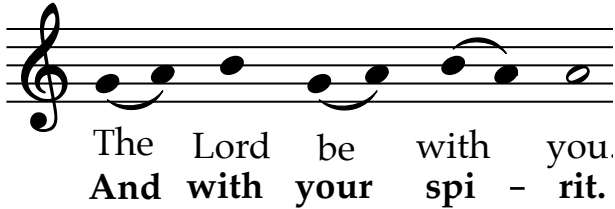
When the altar is prepared the Priest says:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be
acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
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 OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make,
gathered from among your gifts to us,
and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below
gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PREFACE



The priest sings the Preface, after which we sing:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

**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.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

All kneel or sit as the Eucharistic Prayer continues:

The mystery of faith:



The prayer concludes "...for ever and ever" to which all reply:
Amen.

COMMUNION RITE

All stand as the priest invites the people to pray:

**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.**

Deliver us Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may always be free from sin and safe from all distress as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

THE PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace, I give you: look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI

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

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The priest and ministers receive Holy Communion.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

HOLY COMMUNION

If you are baptised in the name of the Trinity and normally receive Holy Communion in your own Church, you are welcome to receive the Sacrament here today.

If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please come to the altar rail and cross your arms or bring this order of service with you as a sign to the priest. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please come to the altar rail and cross your arms or bring this order of service with you as a sign to the priest.

COMMUNION HYMN

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood:
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.**

**Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.**

**At his feet the six-winged seraph;
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluya, Alleluya,
Alleluya, Lord most high!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All stand.

Let us pray.

May these mysteries, O Lord,
in which we have participated
profit us, we pray,
for even now, as we walk amid passing things,
you teach us by them to love the things of heaven
and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE & NOTICES

All sit.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

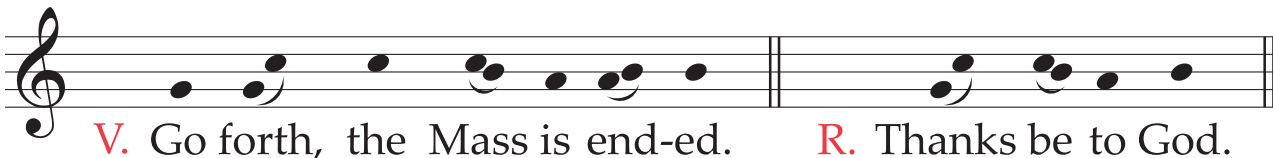
All stand.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Amen.



THE ANGELUS

The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary.
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour
of our death. Amen.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh.

And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by his Cross and Passion may we be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

**Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
The Saviour promis'd long!
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne,
And ev'ry voice a song.**

**On him the Spirit largely pour'd
Exerts its sacred fire;
Wisdom and might, and zeal and love
His holy breast inspire.**

**He comes the pris'ners to release,
In satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.**

**He comes from thickest films of vice
To clear the mental ray,
And on the eye-balls of the blind
To pour celestial day.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And, with his righteousness and grace,
Enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad Hosannas, Prince of peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With thy beloved name.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: Wake, Awake
(*Wachet Auf*) Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Please remain standing until the procession has left the church.

*You are warmly invited to join us after Mass for
refreshments at the back of the church*

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Those in need

Elly Kostur, Jean Tester, Cath Papangelou, Maureen Papangelou,
Shabnam Mehdi-Poor, Alvin Rhodon, Andrew Woods, Carol Farley,
Luke Guthrie, Alan, Jim Warwick, Roy Norton, Robin Farquhar-
Thomson

We pray for a cessation of hostilities in the Holy Land.

Recently departed

Jago Wilson, Mel Tohill

Anniversaries of death

3: Edmund Paul

4: Hermione Oakley

6: Agnes Eliza Fowler

7: Agnes Wheatley, Lavinia Wingate

8: Wilfred Apthorpe Bradley

9: Eleanor Smith, Lalit Adolphus, Minnie Wells

NOTICES

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE TONIGHT

We have been invited by Fr Philip Barnes to join him and the people of St Stephen's, Gloucester Road for Advent Carols & Benediction. An easy journey by bus from here: 345 bus then a five-minute walk to the church.

For those who wish to travel together will meet here outside church at 5pm sharp and we shall get the bus from the stop at Tipthorpe Road.

THANK YOU

to those who helped in any way with yesterday's Christmas Fair, and to all who supported it on the day.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

to Ann Guthrie, celebrating her 80th birthday today. She invited members of the congregation to join her to celebrate after Mass today.

LARNER & SONS CAROL SERVICE

This Tuesday at 7.00pm, followed by refreshments – all are welcome!

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sung Mass this Thursday, 7 December at 7.00pm. Visiting preacher: Fr Stephen Miller, Assistant Curate of St Luke, Shepherd's Bush

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

We will assemble the Nativity scene and Christmas tree on Sunday 10 December following the Parish Mass. Any help appreciated. Many thanks.

ADVENT OBSERVANCES

Healing Mass Wednesday 13 December at 7.30pm

Mass, Exposition & Benediction Wednesday 20 December at 7.30pm

Holy Hour & Benediction Friday 22 December at 7.00pm

CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Sat 16 December: 10am – 10.50am

Wed 20 December: 6.30pm – 7.20pm

Fri 22 December: 6.15pm – 6.50pm

Sat 23 December: 10am – 10.50am

Other times available by appointment with Fr Philip

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Contributions towards the cost of Christmas flowers would be appreciated in the next few weeks. Thank you in advance for your generosity in order that we may make the church as beautiful as possible for the Holy Season.

A Sermon by St Anselm for the Immaculate Conception, which we celebrate here on Thursday evening.

Blessed Lady, sky and stars, earth and rivers, day and night – everything that is subject to the power or use of man – rejoice that through you they are in some sense restored to their lost beauty and are endowed with inexpressible new grace. All creatures were dead, as it were, useless for men or for the praise of God, who made them. The world, contrary to its true destiny, was corrupted and tainted by the acts of men who served idols. Now all creation has been restored to life and rejoices that it is controlled and given splendour by men who believe in God.

The universe rejoices with new and indefinable loveliness. Not only does it feel the unseen presence of God himself, its Creator, it sees him openly, working and making it holy. These great blessings spring from the blessed fruit of Mary's womb.

Through the fullness of the grace that was given you, dead things rejoice in their freedom, and those in heaven are glad to be made new. Through the Son who was the glorious fruit of your virgin womb, just souls who died before his life-giving death rejoice as they are freed from captivity, and the angels are glad at the restoration of their shattered domain.

Lady, full and overflowing with grace, all creation receives new life from your abundance. Virgin, blessed above all creatures, through your blessing all creation is blessed, not only creation from its Creator, but the Creator himself has been blessed by creation.

To Mary God gave his only-begotten Son, whom he loved as himself. Through Mary God made himself a Son, not different but the same, by nature Son of God and Son of Mary. The whole universe was created by God, and God was born of Mary. God created all things, and Mary gave birth to God. The God who made all things gave himself form through Mary, and thus he made his own creation. He who could create all things from nothing would not remake his ruined creation without Mary.

God, then, is the Father of the created world and Mary the mother of the re-created world. God is the Father by whom all things were given life, and Mary the mother through whom all things were given new life. For God begot the Son, through whom all things were made, and Mary gave birth to him as the Saviour of the world. Without God's Son, nothing could exist; without Mary's Son, nothing could be redeemed.

Truly the Lord is with you, to whom the Lord granted that all nature should owe as much to you as to himself.