

THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, LAVENDER HILL

Sunday 5 January 2025
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Solemn Mass: 11.00am
with Epiphany Ceremonies



*And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary
his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him.*

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 a registered 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

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
To that lowly manger-bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

Holy Jesu, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down:
There for ever may we sing
Alleluyas to our King.

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.

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. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his 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.

COLLECT

Let us pray.

O God, who on this day
revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star,
grant in your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith,
may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory.
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 60: 1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes all round, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 72

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

Response:



SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3: 2-3, 5-6

Brothers and sisters: I assume that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy Apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All stand to welcome the Gospel.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*We saw his star when it rose
and have come to worship the Lord.*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 2: 1-12

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” ’

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.’ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROCLAMATION OF THE DATE OF EASTER & OTHER MOVEABLE FEASTS

The proclamation of the date of Easter and the other moveable feasts on Epiphany dates from a time when calendars were not readily available. It was necessary to make known the date of Easter in advance, since many celebrations of the liturgical year depend on its date.

Although calendars now give the date of Easter and the other feasts in the liturgical year for many years in advance, the Epiphany proclamation still has value. It is a reminder of the centrality of the resurrection of the Lord in the liturgical year and the importance of the great mysteries of faith which are celebrated through the liturgical year.

Know, dear brethren
that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour.

On the fifth day of March will fall **Ash Wednesday**, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the twentieth day of April you will celebrate with joy **Easter Day**, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the first day of June will be the **Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

On the eighth day of June, the feast of **Pentecost**.

On the twenty-second of June, the feast of the **Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**.

On the thirtieth day of November, the **First Sunday of the Advent** of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

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

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.

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining,
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall:
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.**

**Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
Odours of Edom and offerings divine?
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?**

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favour secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid**

When the altar is prepared the Priest says:

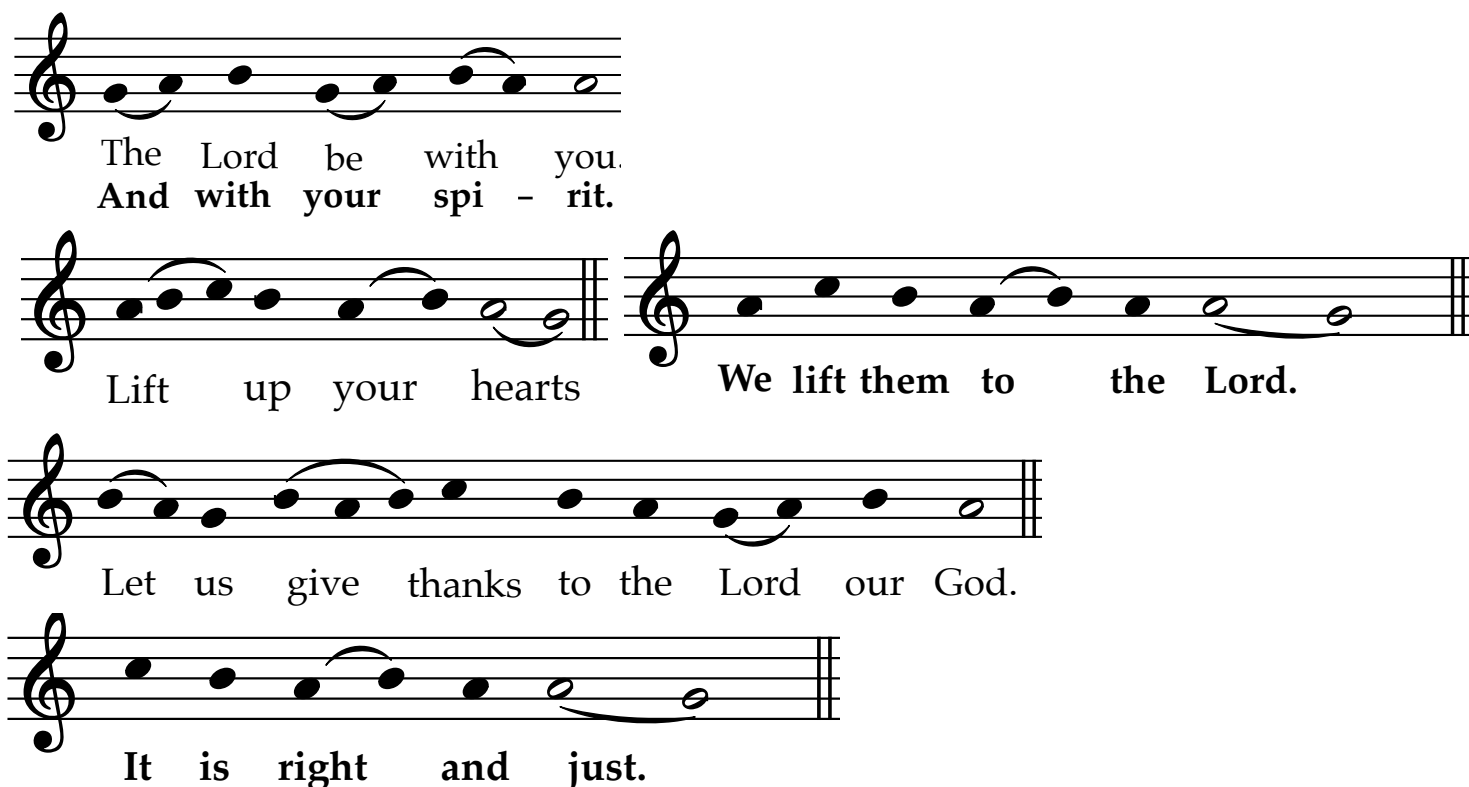
Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

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

Look with favour, Lord, we pray,
on these gifts of your Church,
in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh,
but he who by them is proclaimed,
sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

PREFACE



The Lord be with you.
And with your spi - rit.

Lift up your hearts We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

The priest sings the Preface, after which we sing:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

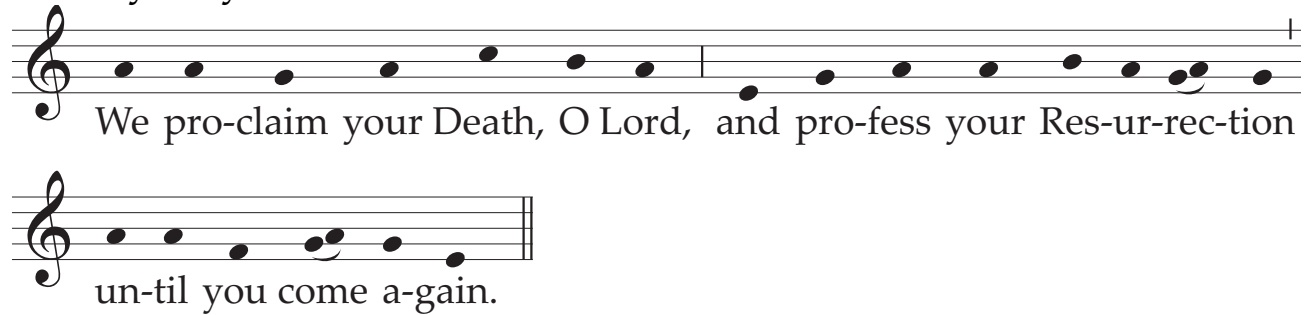
Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth, are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes 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

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us 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

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

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 wish to receive the Precious Blood, please make your way, after receiving the Host, to the chalice-bearer.

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.

MUSIC DURING HOLY COMMUNION

From the Eastern Mountains

Tune: KING'S WESTON

COMMUNION HYMN

**Hail, thou Source of every blessing,
Sovereign Father of mankind!
Gentiles now, thy grace possessing,
In thy courts admission find.**

**Once far off, but now invited,
We approach thy sacred throne;
In thy covenant united,
Reconciled, redeemed, made one.**

Now revealed to eastern sages,
See the star of mercy shine,
Mystery hid in former ages,
Mystery great of love divine.

Hail, thou universal Saviour!
Gentiles now their offerings bring,
In thy temple seek thy favour,
Jesu Christ, our Lord and King.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All stand.

Let us pray.
Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord,
always and everywhere,
that we may perceive with clear sight
and revere with true affection
the mystery in which you have willed us to participate.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING OF CHALK

Remain standing.

Our help is in the name of the Lord
Who made heaven and earth.
The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Bless, + O Lord God, this creature chalk to render it helpful to all people. Grant that we who use it in faith and with it inscribe upon the entrance of our homes the names of the saints, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, may through their merits and intercession enjoy health of body and protection of soul. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The chalk is sprinkled with holy water.

NOTICES

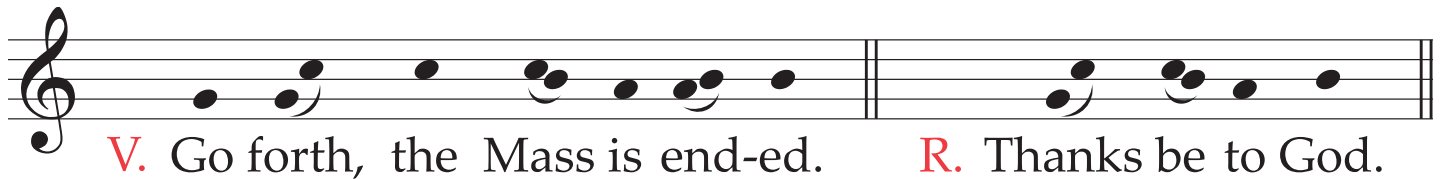
All sit.

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

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
High on his heart he will bear it for thee,
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter His courts in the slenderness
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
These are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
He will accept for the name that is dear;
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: Prelude on *Was lebet*
 Christopher Tambling (1964 – 2015)

THIS WEEK

Observances Monday: *After Epiphany*
 Low Mass: 10.00am

Sunday 12th: **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**
 Solemn Mass: 11.00am
 with renewal of Baptismal promises

NOTICES

BLESSED CHALK

Please take a piece of blessed chalk away with you today. With the chalk is a leaflet to show you how to perform the short, traditional Epiphany blessing on your home, asking God's blessing and the prayers of the Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior & Balthasar.

If you would like Fr Philip to visit and give the blessing, please be in touch.

EPIPHANY CAROLS: SUNDAY 12 JANUARY AT 6.00PM

We're invited to join Fr Paul and the people of St Cuthbert Philbeach Gardens SW5 for Epiphany Carols & Benediction. Followed by refreshments

NEXT SUNDAY

I shall be covering a 9.30am Parish Mass elsewhere in the Deanery on Sunday 12th. I shall be back by 10.55am in order to preside and preach here. *Fr Philip*

FULHAM YOUNG ADULTS: MASS & SOCIAL, WED 22 JAN AT 7.30PM

Monthly meeting of a new group for young adults in parishes under the care of the Bishop of Fulham (18 – 35 yrs). Please see Ekow Mercer Banson for further details and to be added to the mailing list.

NEXT PCC MEETING: TUES 4 FEBRUARY 2025

The Parochial Church Council will meet next in Church on Tues 4 February at 7pm, preceded by Mass at 6.30pm. Papers to follow.

DEANERY SYNOD

The next Deanery Synod meeting will take place here on Thursday 13 February at 7.30pm. There will be a Mass at 6.30pm that evening, and tea and coffee available from 7.00pm

LOURDES 2025: 18-22 AUGUST

Bookings are now open for the Society of Mary pilgrimage to Lourdes. Adults: £745; Children (11-17): £100; flights from and to Heathrow. Contact Tangney Tours for more information: 01732 886666 or visit the website: www.tinyurl.com/lourdes25