



St Mary  
the Virgin



Fifth Sunday of Easter  
**The Eucharist**  
**with Holy Baptism**  
Sunday May 3rd 2026  
10.45am

**Welcome to Saint Mary's Church  
in the Parish of Witney.**

**A particular welcome to all joining us as we celebrate the  
Baptisms of Darcie, Nova, Sonny and Freya.**

We are an inclusive church embracing a hospitable Christianity.

Everyone is welcome at this service. If you usually receive communion please join us – or please come forward to receive a blessing.

**If you are interested in becoming a part of what is happening through the church please speak to one of the welcomers afterwards. We also have Welcome Packs available with more information – please ask!**

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a simple and secure way for churches to receive regular donations. It is an established service for managing Direct Debit donations, designed to support churches to fund their mission and ministry. Talk to one of the church wardens to find out more or for help signing up, or pick up a leaflet at the North door.

*This service is live-streamed. If you do not want to appear on the stream please speak to the Welcomers or Duty Wardens.*

*As the sacristy bell sounds all stand*

## **The Procession**

All my hope on God is founded;  
he doth still my trust renew.  
Me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true. God unknown, he alone,  
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with care and toil he buildeth,  
tower and temple fall to dust.  
But God's power, hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
splendour, light and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of nought.  
Evermore, from his store  
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth the almighty giver  
bounteous gifts on us bestow;  
his desire our soul delighteth  
pleasure leads us where we go.  
Love doth stand at his hand,  
joy doth wait at his command.

Still from earth to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ his Son,  
Christ doth call one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.

Words: Robert S Bridges, 1844-1930 based on a hymn by J Neander  
Music: MICHAEL, Herbert Howells, 1892-1983

## The Greeting

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

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

God raised Jesus Christ from the dead  
and sent the Holy Spirit to recall the whole world to himself.  
In baptism we die to sin and rise to newness of life in Christ.  
Here we find rebirth in the Spirit,  
and set our minds on his heavenly gifts.  
As children of God, we are continually created anew,  
as we walk the path of faith,  
and feed on the forgiveness of his healing grace.

## Gloria in Excelsis

*We sing together:*

**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.**

### **The Collect**

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**All Amen**

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter (*1 Peter 2.2-10*)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and

whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner’, and ‘A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.’ They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## The Gradual Psalm

*The choir sings and we repeat*

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 31: 2-3, 3-4, 17, 25*



**Lord, be my rock of safe - ty.**

Music: © 2015 Royce Nickel. Licensed in the Creative Commons by-nc-nd 3.0

## The Gospel

*We stand for the Gospel Alleluia:*



**Al - le - lu - ia, — al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!**

The Lord be with you  
**All and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

*John 14.1-14*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit*

**The Sermon**

**The Liturgy of Baptism**

*As the altar party moves to the font, all stand.*

*The priest asks those candidates for baptism who are able to answer for themselves*

Do you wish to be baptized?

**I do.**

*The priest addresses the congregation*

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

**All With the help of God, we will.**

*The priest then says to the parents and godparents*

Parents and godparents, the Church receives these children with joy. Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith. Will you pray for them, draw them by your example into the community of faith and walk with them in the way of Christ?

**All With the help of God, we will.**

In baptism these children begin their journey in faith. You speak for them today. Will you care for them, and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

**All With the help of God, we will.**

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

**All I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

**All I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?

**All I renounce evil.**

*The priest makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, saying*

Christ claims you for his own.  
Receive the sign of his cross.

*When all the candidates have been signed, the president says*

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**All Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ  
against sin, the world and the devil,  
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,  
restore in you the image of his glory,  
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

**All Amen.**

### **Prayer over the Water**

Praise God who made heaven and earth.

**All Who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ  
was baptised in the river Jordan:  
we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse and revive us.  
We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led  
your people out of slavery to freedom  
in the promised land.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

+ Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them,  
bring them to new birth in the household of faith;  
and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;  
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

## **Profession of Faith**

Let us affirm,  
together with these who are being baptized,  
our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.  
We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

## The Baptism

*The priest asks those who can answer for themselves*

N., is this your faith?  
**This is my faith.**

*The priest pours water over the head of each candidate, saying*

N., I baptize you  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

*The priest anoints each candidate with the Oil of Chrism, saying*

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church,  
pour upon you the riches of his grace,  
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people  
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,  
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

**All Amen.**

## The Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:  
by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

**All We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;  
we are children of the same heavenly Father;  
we welcome you.**

## The Giving of a Lighted Candle

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.  
You have received the light of Christ;  
walk in this light all the days of your life.

**All Shine as a light in the world  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*All sit or kneel*

### Intercessions

Father, we thank you that by baptism  
you have raised these your children with Christ  
to new life in the Spirit.

Guide and protect them with your grace,  
that they may follow you all their days  
and grow in knowledge and love of you.  
Father, by the victory of your Son,

**All give light to the world.**

May Christ who conquered sin and death  
keep his whole Church faithful to his gospel.  
Help us always to hold fast to truth  
and to walk in the way of life.

Father, by the victory of your Son,

**All give light to the world.**

May the Holy Spirit fill the hearts and minds of all nations  
to unite the world in peace and love.

By your healing power restore all that is broken  
and unite us with you, our God and Father.

Father, by the victory of your Son,

**All give light to the world.**

*All stand*

## The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,  
'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

Alleluia. The peace of the risen Christ be always with you  
**All and also with you. Alleluia.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## The Offertory Hymn

*We stand as the Offertory Hymn is sung and the gifts of bread and wine are placed upon the Altar.*

**You can give to the work of the Church by signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme, or by using these bank details** - Witney PCC, Sort Code 20-97-48, Account Number 00971626.

There is also a card reader by the North Door,

All that we bring to the altar is a gift from God, and our offering back to God is a sign of the offering of our lives in the Lord's service.

Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord, and precious,  
binding all the Church in one;  
holy Zion's help for ever,  
and her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,  
dearly loved of God on high,  
in exultant jubilation  
pours perpetual melody;  
God the One in Three adoring  
in glad hymns eternally.

To this temple, where we call thee,  
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;  
with thy wonted loving-kindness  
hear thy servants as they pray,  
and thy fullest benediction  
shed within its walls alway.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants  
what they ask of thee of gain;  
what they gain from thee, for ever  
with the blessed to retain,  
and hereafter in thy glory  
evermore with thee to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father,  
laud and honour to the Son,  
laud and honour to the Spirit,  
ever Three, and ever One,  
consubstantial, co-eternal,  
while unending ages run. Amen.

Words: Latin, seventh century Tr J.M. Neal, 1818-1866  
Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659-1695

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**All And also with you**  
Lift up your hearts  
**All We lift them to the Lord**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**All It is right to give thanks and praise**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
and in these days of Easter

to celebrate with joyful hearts  
the memory of your wonderful works.  
For by the mystery of his passion  
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,  
has conquered the powers of death and hell  
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.  
He has placed them once more in paradise  
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.  
And so, in the joy of this Passover,  
earth and heaven resound with gladness,  
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation  
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**All 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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
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 gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
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.

Great is the mystery of faith  
**All Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of Mary the Mother of God,  
and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so  
we pray:

**All Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Priest breaks the consecrated host*

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## Agnus Dei

**All 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.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*All who are used to receiving Communion are welcome to do so here  
– please make your way to the altar as directed by the Sidesperson.*

*If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are warmly invited to  
come forward for a blessing – please approach the president carrying  
this booklet. Gluten free wafers are available on request.*

## The Communion Hymn

Bread of the world in mercy broken,  
Wine of the soul in mercy shed,  
By whom the words of life were spoken,  
And in whose death our sins are dead:  
look on the heart by sorrow broken,  
Look on the tears by sinners shed,  
And be thy feast to us the token  
That by thy grace our souls are fed!

Words: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826  
Music: RENDEZ À DIEU, Louis Bourgeois, c1510-1561

## Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**All Amen**

**All Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with 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.**

*We sit for the notices*

**The Notices**

**The Blessing**

*Please stand for the Blessing*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

### The Dismissal



Go in the peace of Christ. Al-le-lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



**All** Thanks be to God. Al-le-lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### The Recessional Hymn

Life comes to an upper room,  
breaking through the fear and gloom;  
walls and door-locks are no bar:  
Jesus meets us where we are.  
Life dispels the doubt of grief  
bringing hope and new belief;  
touching scars – these signs of pain  
bring us back to life again.

Life comes to a broken heart,  
bowed by sorrow, torn apart;  
in the darkness of our tears  
Jesus speaks to calm our fears.  
On our journey life comes home,  
in this fellowship made known;  
with Christ's body we are fed:  
life revealed in broken bread.

Life comes to a sunlit shore,  
sharing food with friends once more;  
Fresh new callings banish guilt,  
hope and faith and love rebuilt.  
Jesus' vict'ry over death  
brings new life with every breath,  
to the world it's freely giv'n,  
reconciling earth with heav'n.

Words: Ally Barrett  
Music: ST EDMUND, Charles Stegall

Let us bless the Lord  
**All Thanks be to God.**

***Everyone is welcome to stay for coffee after the Eucharist.***







THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

Copyright material is included from *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* © The Archbishops' Council 2000. *Times and Seasons* © The Archbishops' Council 2000. *Common Worship: Christian Initiation and Festivals* © The Archbishops' Council 2008. *Hymns and music reproduced under CCLI Number: 174801*  
Calamus Licence: 2274