



St Mary
the Virgin



The Blessed Virgin Mary
The Eucharist
Sunday August 16th 2026
10.45am

**We warmly welcome everyone
Welcome to Saint Mary's Church
in the Parish of Witney.**

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

Father in whom we live,
in whom we are and move,
the glory, power, and praise receive
of thy creating love.

Let all the angel throng
give thanks to God on high,
while earth repeats the joyful song,
and echoes to the sky.

Incarnate Deity,
let all the ransomed race
render in thanks their lives to thee
for thy redeeming grace.

The grace to sinners showed
ye heavenly choirs proclaim,
and cry: 'Salvation to our God,
salvation to the Lamb!'

Spirit of holiness,
let all thy saints adore
thy sacred energy, and bless
thine heart-renewing power.
Not angel tongues can tell

thy love's ecstatic height,
the glorious joy unspeakable,
the beatific sight.

Eternal triune Lord!
Let all the hosts above,
let all the sons of men, record
and dwell upon thy love.
When heaven and earth are fled
before thy glorious face,
sing all the saints thy love hath made
thine everlasting praise.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747

Music: DIADEMATA, GJ Elvey, 1816-1893

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.

The service is introduced.

Prayers of Penitence

We have done what was wrong in the Lord's sight
and chosen what displeased him.

Yet as a mother comforts her child,
so shall the Lord himself comfort us.
So let us come to him who knows our every deed and
thought.

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the
Father;
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

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

Let us pray:

Almighty God,
who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and chose her to be the mother of your only Son:
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood
may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

All Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (*Isaiah 61.10-end*)

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Let saints on earth in concert sing
with those whose work is done;
for all the servants of our King
in heaven and earth are one.
One family, we dwell in him,
one church, above, beneath;
though now divided by the stream,
the narrow stream of death.

One army of the living God,
to his command we bow:
part of the host have crossed the flood,
and part are crossing now.

E'en now to their eternal home
there pass some spirits blest;
while others to the margin come,
waiting their call to rest.

Jesu, be thou our constant guide;
then, when the word is given,
bid Jordan's narrow stream divide,
and bring us safe to heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley
Music: DUNDEE, Melody from *Scottish Psalter*

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians (*Galatians 4.4-7*).

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

We stand and face the reader as the book of the Gospel as is carried amongst us. The organ plays through and then we sing twice:



The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All Glory to you, O Lord.

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Luke 1.46-55

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit

The Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare before God the faith of the Church:

**All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from
heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin
Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
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.**

**We 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 worshipped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Intercessions

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ
let us pray to the Father.

The Intercessor may use the response

Lord in your mercy
All Hear our prayer.

And at the end:

Merciful Father,
All Accept these prayers
For the sake of your Son
Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

All stand

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All and also with you.

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.

My soul is filled with joy
As I sing to God my saviour:
You have looked upon your servant,
You have visited your people.
*And holy is your name
Through all generations!
Everlasting is your mercy
To the people you have chosen,
And holy is your name.*

I am lowly as a child,
But I know from this day forward
That my name will be remembered,
For all will call me blessed. *Refrain.*

I proclaim the pow'r of God,
You do marvels for your servants;
Though you scatter the proud-hearted
And destroy the might of princes. *Refrain.*

To the hungry you give food,
send the rich away empty.
In your mercy you are mindful
of the people you have chosen. *Refrain.*

In your love you now fulfill
What you promised to your people.

I will praise you, Lord, my saviour,
Everlasting is your mercy. *Refrain.*

Words: Anon.

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Scottish trad.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
your handmaid Mary fed your Son at her virgin breast.
Nourish us at this table with the bread of heaven
and the cup of salvation.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

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 and good,
our duty and our salvation,
almighty Father, ever-living God,
to proclaim the wonders you have worked in all your saints,
and on the feast of Mary, ever blessed,
to echo her praise of your loving kindness.
For you have truly done great things

and holy is your name,
and your mercy is on those who fear you
in every generation.

When you looked with favour on your lowly servant
you remembered your promise of mercy
and gave the world through her
your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Through him the hosts of heaven adore you
and rejoice in your presence for ever.

May our voices join with theirs
in the triumphant hymn of praise:

**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.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

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

For Mary, Mother of our Lord,
God's holy Name be praised,

Who first the Son of God adored
As on her Child she gazed.

The angel Gabriel brought the word
She should Christ's mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
Made answer willingly.

She gave her body as God's shrine
Her heart to piercing pain;
She knew the cost of love divine
When Jesus Christ was slain.

Dear Mary, from your lowliness
And home in Galilee
There comes a joy and holiness
To every family.

Hail, Mary; you are full of grace,
Above all women blest;
And blest your Son, Whom your embrace
In birth and death confessed.

Words: JR Peacey, 1896-1971

Music: ST BOTOLPH, Gordon Slater 1896-1979

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

God most high,
whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh:
we thank you that in this sacrament of our redemption
you visit us with your Holy Spirit
and overshadow us by your power;
strengthen us to walk with Mary the joyful path of
obedience
and so to bring forth the fruits of holiness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

When the Word became flesh
earth was joined to heaven in the womb of Mary:
may the love and obedience of Mary be your example.

All Amen.

May the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts and homes.

All Amen.

May you be filled with the joy of the Spirit
and the gifts of your eternal home.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ, Amen.

The Recessional Hymn

Sing we of the blessed Mother

Who received the angel's word,
And obedient to his summons
Bore in love the infant Lord;
Sing we of the joys of Mary
At whose breast that child was fed
Who is Son of God eternal
And the everlasting Bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
Of the sword that pierced her through,
When beneath the cross of Jesus
She his weight of suffering knew,
Looked upon her Son and Saviour
Reigning high on Calvary's tree,
Saw the price of man's redemption
Paid to set the sinner free.

Sing again the joys of Mary
When she saw the risen Lord,
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,
Waited on his promised word;
From on high the blazing glory
Of the Spirit's presence came,
Heavenly breath of God's own being,
Manifest through wind and flame.

Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
When on earth her work was done,
And the Lord of all creation
Brought her to his heavenly home;
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,

Raised on high and crowned with grace,
May your Son, the world's redeemer,
Grant us all to see his face.

Words: GB Timms 1910-1997

Music: ABBOTS LEIGH, Cyril Taylor 1907-1991

Let us bless the Lord
All Thanks be to God.

Everyone is welcome to stay for coffee after the Eucharist.



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