THE PARISH OF WITNEY

St Mary the Virgin



All Saints' Day

The Eucharist

with Holy Baptism

Sunday November 1st 2026

10.45am

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.

We extend a particular welcome to the families and friends of Isobelle, Matthew and Tilly, whose baptisms we are celebrating this morning.

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

For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who Thee by faith before the world confessed;
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

But lo there breaks a still more glorious day:
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on His way.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Words: William Walsam How (1823-1897)
Music: SINE NOMINE

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.**

In baptism, God calls us to be his friends and to make us holy in his Son Jesus Christ.
On this journey of faith we have no abiding city, for we have the promise of the heavenly Jerusalem, where the whole creation is brought to a new birth in the Holy Spirit.

Here we are united in the company of all the faithful, and we look for the coming of the eternal kingdom. As children of God, we look through this passing age for the signs of the dawn of everlasting glory.

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

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from the Book of Revelation (*7.9-end*)

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’ I said to him, ‘Sir, you are the one that knows.’ Then he said to me, ‘These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

How bright these glorious spirits shine!
Whence all their white array?
How came they to the blissful seats
Of everlasting day?
Lo, these are they, from sufferings great,
Who came to realms of light;
And in the blood of Christ have wash'd
Those robes which shine so bright.

Now with triumphal palms they stand
Before the throne on high,
And serve the God they love amidst
The glories of the sky.
His presence fills each heart with joy,
Tunes every mouth to sing;
By day, by night, the sacred courts
With glad hosannas ring.

The Lamb, which reigns upon the throne,
Shall o'er them still preside;

Feed them with nourishment divine,
And all their footsteps guide.
'Mong pastures green He'll lead His flock,
Where living streams appear;
And God the Lord from every eye
Shall wipe off every tear.

Words: Isaac Watts
Music: Stacey Plays Hymns

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my

account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

Matthew 5.1-12

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit

The Sermon

Presentation of the Candidates

The altar party moves to the font, and is joined by the baptism candidates, parents, and godparents.

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 children and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

All With the help of God, we will.

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?
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?
With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

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?
I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?
I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?
I renounce evil.

Signing with the Cross

The priest makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate with the Oil of Baptism, saying:

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

When all the candidates have been signed, the priest 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 thanks and praise.**

Lord of the heavens,
we bless your name for all your servants
who have been a sign of your grace through the ages.
You delivered Noah from the waters of destruction;
you divided the waters of the sea,
and by the hand of Moses you led your people from slavery
into the Promised Land.
You made a new covenant in the blood of your Son,
that all who confess his name may, by the Holy Spirit,
enter the covenant of grace, receive a pledge of the
kingdom of heaven, and share in the divine nature.
Fill these waters, we pray, with the power of that same Spirit,
that all who enter them may be reborn and rise from the grave
to new life in Christ.
As the apostles and prophets, the confessors and martyrs,
faithfully served you in their generation,
may we be built into an eternal dwelling for you,

through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.
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.

Baptism

The priest pours water on each candidate, saying each time:

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

All **Amen.**

Then 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.**

Giving of a Lighted Candle

The priest gives each candidate a candle lit from the Paschal (Easter) candle

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.
[N], 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.

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.

Intercessions

Heavenly Father,
receive into the arms of your mercy
all who have been baptized
and make them your own for ever;
that, having tasted of your goodness,
they may ever hunger for your continuing presence
in their walk of faith.
Your kingdom come.

All **Your will be done.**

Stir up within your Church the zeal that inspires
your saints in every generation.
Give us a due sense of your grace,
and the strength to do your will.
You measure us by our needs;

may we never measure you by our impatience.
Your kingdom come.

All **Your will be done.**

Surrounded by so great a company of witnesses,
may we honour your blessings
in all the ages that have gone before,
and live in joyful expectation
of your promises in the ages yet to come.
Your kingdom come.

All **Your will be done.**

The Peace

We are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God through Christ our Lord, who came and preached peace to those who were far off and those who were near.

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.

Be here, Lord, in your churches,
And shine through us your light,
As cities built on hill-tops
We'll not be hid from sight,

O give us, Lord, the courage,
the energy and drive
to make our faith turn outwards,
incarnate and alive.

May we, in words and action
Bring all your plans to birth,
Make us your holy people
for this, your needy earth.
When all our aspirations
Can't set our hearts on fire,
Lord, fill us with the passion
that you alone inspire.

Lord, give us roots that nourish
the branch, the leaf, the shoot,
And help us by your pruning
To yield a richer fruit.
Lord, save us from distractions
that human minds devise,
And give us grace to strive for
the trophies you most prize.

Are we a true communion,
diverse and yet as one?
A house with doors wide open,
and room for all who come?
Renew your church in mission,
In ministry and grace,
That all who seek may find you,
In this and every place.

Words: Ally Barrett
Tune: AURELIA

Prayer over the Gifts

To you we come, Father of lights,
with angels and saints,
where heaven and earth unite.
May Jesus meet us in the breaking of the bread.

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, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
And now we give you thanks, most gracious God,
surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses
and glorified in the assembly of your saints.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
We, your holy Church, acclaim you.
In communion with angels and archangels,
and with all who served you on earth
and worship you now in heaven,
we raise our voice to proclaim your glory,
for ever praising you and singing:

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.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died:**
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

With saints and martyrs through the ages,
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

Blest are the pure in heart,
For they shall see our God,
The secret of the Lord is theirs,
Their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens
Our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men,
Their pattern and their King;

Still to the lowly soul
He doth himself impart,
And for his dwelling and his throne
Chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord, we thy presence seek;
May ours this blessing be;
Give us a pure and lowly heart,
A temple meet for thee.

Words: John Keble
Music: FRANCONIA

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

Lord, in the vision of your heavenly kingdom
you reveal among us the promise of your glory;
may that glory be ours
as we claim our citizenship in the kingdom
where you are alive and reign, one God, for ever and 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

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

May God,
who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.
All **Amen.**
May he give you joy in their fellowship
and a share in their praises.
All **Amen.**
May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness
and to come to the full radiance of glory.
All **Amen.**

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

Following God’s saints in the ways of holiness and truth,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn

All hail the power of Jesu's name;
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
To crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, ye morning stars of light,
Who fixed this floating ball;
Now hail the Strength of Israel's might,
And crown him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
Ye ransomed of the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
And crown him Lord of all.

Hail him, ye heirs of David's line,
Whom David Lord did call;
The God incarnate, Man divine,
And crown him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
The wormwood and the gall,
Go spread your trophies at his feet,
And crown him Lord of all.

Let every tribe and every tongue
responsive to his call
Lift high the universal song,
And crown him Lord of all.

WORDS: Edward Perronet (adapted)
MUSIC: MILES LANE

Let us bless the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Everyone is welcome to stay for coffee after the Eucharist.



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