



Welcome to St Alban's

Lent 2

Before the children leave for Children's Church we pray together....

**Dear God, this church is a family. Help us to learn together,
to worship together, to share together and to pray together.**

In Jesus' name. Amen.

OPENING HYMN *Charles Wesley (1707 - 1788)*

**1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**2. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**3. Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.**

**Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

† In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

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

CONFESSION

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you, †pardon and deliver you
from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Please sit.

*After each reading...This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.***

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 12.1-4a

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 4.1-5, 13-17

GRADUAL HYMN *Gerald Markland©1978 Kevin Mayhew Ltd*

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by your name; you are mine.

**1. When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you;
you will never sink beneath the waves.**

**2. When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames.**

**3. When the fear of loneliness is looming,
then remember I am at your side.**

**4. When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes.**

**5. You are mine, O my child, I am your Father,
and I love you with a perfect love.**

We stand for the Gospel reading and sing...

Hear us O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have sinned against thee.

THE GOSPEL – John 3.1-17

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

At the end of the reading: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

At the end of the prayers we say together:

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

THE PEACE

Please stand. We share a sign of peace with those standing near us.

We meet in the name of Christ and we share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

**1. And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

**2. 'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies:
who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.**

3. He left his Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite his grace;
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me.

4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
my chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

5. No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The president blesses the elements, and the response each time is
Blessed be God for ever.

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The president prays the preface then invites us to join with the whole company of heaven to sing....

**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.** *New People's Mass, A Gregory Murray © 1975, 1987 McCrimmon*

The president recalls the last supper

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

The president continues to praise God for his mighty acts. At the end we say...Amen

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:
**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.
And 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**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**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.**

New People's Mass, A Gregory Murray © 1975, 1987 McCrimmon

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own churches are welcome to receive communion. Any member of the congregation may come to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN *Noel and Tricia Richards © 1987 Kingsway's Thankyou Music*

**1. All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord;
who can compare with the beauty of the Lord?
Forever He will be
the Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee,
and worship Him alone.**

**2. I will proclaim the glory of the risen Lord,
who once was slain to reconcile man to God.
For ever You will be
the Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee,
and worship You alone.**

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,

and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities
which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts. And the blessing.... **Amen.**
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *Damian Lundy 1944 - 1997 © 1978, 1993 Kevin Mayhew Ltd*

**1. The Spirit lives to set us free,
walk, walk in the light.
He binds us all in unity,
walk, walk in the light.**

***Walk in the light, walk in the light, walk in the light,
walk in the light of the Lord.***

**2. Jesus promised life to all,
walk, walk in the light.
The dead were wakened by his call,
walk, walk in the light.**

**3. He died in pain on Calvary,
walk, walk in the light.
To save the lost like you and me,
walk, walk in the light.**

**4. We know his death was not the end,
walk, walk in the light.
He gave his Spirit to be our friend,
walk, walk in the light.**

**5. By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,
walk, walk in the light.
The Father's kindness is revealed,
walk, walk in the light.**

**6. The Spirit lives in you and me,
walk, walk in the light.
His light will shine for all to see,
walk, walk in the light.**

*Everyone is warmly invited to stay for refreshments after the service.
If you are new or just visiting please feel welcomed as one of the family.*

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Our Prayer for Vision and Leadership

Lord, we come before you with grateful hearts
for the tremendous talent within our church.

We are a body filled with gifts yet
we sometimes lose sight of why
we were so richly blessed in the first place.

Forgive us when we fail to heed Your calling in our lives,
or as a community.

Despite our forgetful nature, we know you love us dearly
and want us to partner with you:
not as servants, but as your children.

Bring us a renewed vision of ourselves from your perspective.
Help us to embrace your love
so that we may share it with others.

Guide us as we look to the future
of this Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush.

Grant us a renewed vision as we seek you in your word.

Give us dreams that make us come alive because
we are doing what you created us to do.

Let our joy overflow from the vision of the future you give us.
Let us honour you with our work,
with our families and with our lives.

Amen



Celebrating God's love in the heart of our community