

*The Benefice of St Mary the Virgin,  
Higham Ferrers with St John the Baptist,  
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott*

# Order of Service



## Family Mass

*Celebration of Holy  
Eucharist*

***Welcome to St Mary's today for this simple said service of Eucharist.***

*Eucharist means thanksgiving, and we do indeed give thanks for the reopening of our churches for public worship once again.*

*We come to celebrate both that our Lord Jesus gives himself to save us and also that he is with us now, through his Spirit, and as we gather,*

*in every part of the Eucharist, in each other, and, as we have discovered so richly during the recent lockdown, in our homes, in creation, in our worship online, and in all places, all people, all times.*

*And we come, all too aware of the ongoing danger of Coronavirus, of all those who still cannot be with us through shielding and vulnerabilities, and of all those who have lost their lives in the UK, and around the world.*

*So for everyone's safety, please take great care each and every day, and especially as we gather here. The guidelines that follow will keep us as safe as we can be while together in church:*

- Please maintain a 2m distance from anyone not in your family or "bubble."*
- Please use hand sanitiser as you enter and put on a face covering.*
- If you wish to come forward for Communion, which will be administered standing, please go row by row, starting from the front, and maintain distances in a single line when waiting for Communion – please use the hand sanitiser placed at the front, and go forward one at a time, holding your hands out to receive the bread.*

- *We will receive Communion in one kind only. The president will receive from the chalice on behalf of everyone present.*
- *There will be no refreshments after the service.*
- *Please leave row by row, starting from the back, maintaining distances, and take your service booklet home with you to use another time, and taking care that only you touch it.*

*The collection will be taken as you leave. Please consider giving by contactless card donation. Envelopes are available if needed and for Gift Aid donations. Thank you for your gift.*

## ***The Gathering***

### **The Greeting**

*Please stand as the bell rings and the ministers enter:*

*The President says:*

Welcome in the name of Christ.  
 God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.  
**and also with you.**

### **Opening Prayer**

*We pray together as our worship begins:*

Be with us, Spirit of God;  
**nothing can separate us from your love.**

Breathe on us, breath of God;  
**fill us with your saving power.**

Speak in us, wisdom of God;  
**bring strength, healing and peace.**

*Silence is kept*

The Lord is here.  
**His Spirit is with us**

## **Prayers of Penitence**

*If you are able, please remain standing as the president introduces the liturgy and the deacon then invites us to confession using these or an alternative introduction*

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel  
the darkness of our hearts.  
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our  
sins.

*We use either the Kyrie confession with suitable  
biddings:*

Lord, have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy**

Christ, have mercy  
**Christ, have mercy**

Lord, have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy**

*Or we use the following confession:*

**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.**

*The president pronounces the absolution:*

## **Absolution**

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

*All remain standing to say*

## **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 sins 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 president introduces the Collect of the Day with a sentence  
or with the invitation to pray, then we keep a moment of silence  
as we collect our thoughts and prayers before God.*

## **Collect**

Let us pray.

*We keep silence and at the end of the Collect say together:*

**Amen.**

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

*We sit to hear one or two readings set for the day from the Old  
or  
New Testament*

## **Reading**

*At the end of the reading(s) the reader says:*

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*We stand, if we are able, for the Gospel, which is introduced with an acclamation:*

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness

but will have the light of life. *cf John 8.12*

**Alleluia.**

*Then the deacon or president greets us because we are about to hear a story from the gospels in which we meet directly with the actions and words of the Lord Jesus.*

## Gospel Reading

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*At the end the reader says:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit to hear a short reflection on the readings*

## Homily

*We stand to declare our faith together, and use either the full Nicene Creed, or a shorter Affirmation of Faith. The president will say this or another introduction:*



Let us declare our faith in the living God:

## **The Creed**

**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.**

Or

## **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen**

*We sit or kneel for the prayers.*

## **Prayers**

*The prayers are introduced with these words or a similar sentence:*

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

*One of these responses, or some other, may be used:*

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

*or*

Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*and at the end*

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

*We stand as we prepare to share the Peace.*

# ***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

## **The Peace**

*Under current restrictions, we can only share the Peace directly with those from our own households, but we can look at those around us and smile as we offer the peace to one another.*

We are all one in Christ Jesus.  
We belong to him through faith,  
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you;  
**and also with you.**

*Bread and wine are placed upon the altar and we ask that Christ may be present with us as we share communion around the table of the Lord.*

*If we can, we remain standing throughout the Eucharistic Prayer which is offered by all God's people, with the president speaking the words on our behalf. However, if we need to sit at any point, it is fine to do so, otherwise, we sit or kneel for the Lord's Prayer.*

## **The Preparation of the Table**

Be present, be present,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
our risen high priest;  
and make yourself known in the breaking of bread.  
**Amen**

# The Eucharistic Prayer

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.**

Father, you made the world and love your creation.  
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.  
His dying and rising have set us free  
from sin and death.  
And so we gladly thank you,  
with saints and angels praising you, and *saying*:

**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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory**

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 our Blessed Lady Mary,  
St John the Baptist 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.  
**Amen.**

*If not already, we sit or kneel for the Lord's Prayer*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught  
us:

**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.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

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.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy upon us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy upon us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
grant us peace.**



## Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*Communion is administered in one kind only. The President receives the wine on behalf of all present.*

*Please observe safe distancing when you come up for Communion. Please come to the front where communion will be received standing, and use the hand gel before coming forward to receive.*

*If you do not wish to receive communion, you are welcome to come up for a prayer of blessing, which will be given without physical contact.*

*Music may be played.*

*After all who wish to, have received, a moment of silence is kept, we then stand if we are able, as we pray in thanksgiving for the Eucharist*

## Post Communion Prayer

*The president prays the Post Communion prayer for the day, to which we reply*

**Amen.**

*Then we pray together:*

**God of glory,  
you nourish us with your Word  
who is the bread of life:  
fill us with your Holy Spirit  
that through us the light of your glory  
may shine in all the world.  
We ask this in the name  
of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## ***The Dismissal***

### **Blessing**

*The president prays God's blessing upon us, in these or other suitable words:*

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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Music is played as the service concludes and we depart.*



**x**