



The Parish Churches of S Philip
and S Augustine and S Matthew
with S Mary the Virgin Newcastle

The Office for Christmas Eve for use at home

Notes

When reciting the office privately, you should move your lips with the words to ensure that your eyes do not just mindlessly move along the text.

Usually, people sit (or kneel) to recite the office privately – in front of a Crucifix, if possible. Some people may choose to light a candle.

The sign of the Cross made at, “ O Lord, open &c) is generally made on the lips with the thumb to seek a blessing on the words of our prayer.

The Responsory is provided in full, but if you are reciting it alone, you can omit the lines in blue.

The booklet is provided in two forms. Some will prefer to read it from their electronic toy; others may need to print it out. Hopefully the booklet format will let you do just that. Please save the file to your hard disk. Other booklets will be sent as and when the Liturgical season requires.

Intercessions will also be circulated so that we can pray for the same thing each day.

Angelus

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee; Blessed art thou
among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the
hour of our death. Amen

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary. . .

And the Word was made flesh.
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary. . .

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts,
that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made
known by the message of an angel, may by His + Cross and
Passion be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the
same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Office

+ O Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
+ O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's Name be praised.

*At Mattins, there follows the **Venite** with its antiphon:*

*Antiphon: Our King and Saviour draweth nigh; O come, let us
adore Him.*

O come, let us sing unto the Lord :
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving :
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

Antiphon

For the Lord is a great God :
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are all the corners of the earth :
and the strength of the hills is his also.

Antiphon

The sea is his, and he made it :
and his hands prepared the dry land.
O come, let us worship and fall down :
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is the Lord our God :
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Antiphon

To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts :
as in the provocation,
and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness;
When your fathers tempted me :
proved me, and saw my works.

Antiphon

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said :
It is a people that do err in their hearts,
for they have not known my ways.
Unto whom I swear in my wrath :
that they should not enter into my rest.

Antiphon

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world
without end. Amen.

Antiphon

The Office Hymn follows:

Mattins:

O heavenly Word of God on high,
Whose love has brought salvation nigh,
And from the Father's heart didst come
To save a race by sin undone.

Our minds enlighten from above,
And kindle with the fire of love,
That as we hear Thy Gospel read,
All sinful thoughts may flee in dread.

So, when Thou comest at the last,
And earth's long history is past,
May we be set at Thy right hand,
And with Thine own in glory stand.

Grant Thou Thy gifts of grace below,
In Heaven and endless joy bestow,
Who art our sole and sovereign Lord,
The saving Judge, and saints' reward.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose Advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

Evensong:

Come, Thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest Thy virgin-birth:
Let every age adoring fall,
Such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, Thou art still
The Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
The Saviour, now to many displayed.

The virgin womb that burden gained
With virgin honour all unstained,
The banners there of virtue glow,
God in His temple dwells below.

Forth from that chamber goeth He,
That royal home of purity,
A giant in twofold substance one,
Rejoicing now His course to run.

From God the Father He proceeds
To God the Father back He speeds,
Runs out His course to death and Hell,
Returns to God's high throne to dwell.

O equal to Thy Father, Thou!
Gird on Thy fleshly mantle now,
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.

(continued over the page)

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness glow with new-born light,
No more shall night extinguish day,
Where love's bright beams their power display.

O Jesu, Virgin-born, to Thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

There follow:

(45) MY heart is inditing of a good matter : I speak of the things which I have made unto the King.
2 My tongue is the pen : of a ready writer.
3 Thou art fairer than the children of men : full of grace are thy lips, because God hath blessed thee for ever.
4 Gird thee with thy sword upon thy thigh, O thou most Mighty : according to thy worship and renown.
5 Good luck have thou with thine honour : ride on, because of the word of truth, of meekness, and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.
6 Thy arrows are very sharp, and the people shall be subdued unto thee : even in the midst among the King's enemies.
7 Thy seat, O God, endureth for ever : the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.
8 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity : wherefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.
9 All thy garments smell of myrrh, aloes, and cassia : out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.
10 Kings' daughters were among thy honourable women : upon thy right hand did stand the queen in a vesture of gold, wrought about with divers colours.

11 Hearken, O daughter, and consider, incline thine ear :
forget also thine own people, and thy father's house.

12 So shall the King have pleasure in thy beauty : for he is thy
Lord God, and worship thou him.

13 And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift : like as
the rich also among the people shall make their supplication
before thee.

14 The King's daughter is all glorious within : her clothing is
of wrought gold.

15 She shall be brought unto the King in raiment of needle-
work : the virgins that be her fellows shall bear her company,
and shall be brought unto thee.

16 With joy and gladness shall they be brought : and shall
enter into the King's palace.

17 Instead of thy fathers thou shalt have children: whom thou
mayest make princes in all lands.

18 I will remember thy Name from one generation to another :
therefore shall the people give thanks unto thee, world without
end.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world
without end. Amen.

(113) PRAISE the Lord, ye servants : O praise the Name of
the Lord.

2 Blessed be the Name of the Lord : from this time forth for
evermore.

3 The Lord's Name is praised : from the rising up of the sun
unto the going down of the same.

4 The Lord is high above all heathen : and his glory above the
heavens.

5 Who is like unto the Lord our God, that hath his dwelling so high : and yet humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven and earth?

6 He taketh up the simple out of the dust : and lifteth the poor out of the mire;

7 That he may set him with the princes : even with the princes of his people.

8 He maketh the barren woman to keep house : and to be a joyful mother of children.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

The Reading

At Mattins:

A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

The time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbours and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zechari'ah after his father, but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marvelled. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbours. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

At Evensong:

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." And they shall be called The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought out, a city not forsaken.

The Responsory for Mattins:

Come to us and save us, Lord God almighty.

Come to us and save us, Lord God almighty.

Let Your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Come to us and save us, Lord God almighty.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

Come to us and save us, Lord God almighty.

The Responsory for Evensong:

The Word was made flesh. Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh. Alleluia, alleluia!

And dwelt among us.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

The Word was made flesh. Alleluia, alleluia!

*At Mattins, there follows the **Benecticus**:*

Antiphon: O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be? for neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after. Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me? The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery.

+ Blessed be the Lord God of Israel : for he hath visited and redeemed his people;

And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us : in the house of his servant David;

As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets : which have been since the world began;

That we should be saved from our enemies : and from the hand of all that hate us.

To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers : and to remember his holy Covenant;

To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham : that he would give us;

That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies : might serve him without fear;

In holiness and righteousness before him : all the days of our life.

And thou, Child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest : for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people : for the remission of their sins,

Through the tender mercy of our God : whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;

To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death : and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

Antiphon

*At Evensong, there follows the **Magnificat**:*

Antiphon: Christ the Lord is born today; today, the Saviour hath appeared. Earth echoes songs of angel choirs, archangels' joyful praise. Today on earth his friends exult. Glory to God in the highest, alleluia.

+ MY soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

Antiphon

The office continues:

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The holy Catholick Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
+ And the Life everlasting. Amen.

Let us pray.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

At Mattins:

O Lord, raise up (we pray Thee) Thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us: that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, Thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of Thy Son our Lord, to Whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost be all glory and honour, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen

(collects continue over the page)

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day when He shall come again in His glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, Who art the Author of peace and Lover of concord, in knowledge of Whom standeth our eternal life, Whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us Thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in Thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, Who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with Thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by Thy governance, to do always that is righteous in Thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Any intercessions follow and a period of silence

+ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

At Evensong:

Almighty God, Who hast given us Thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made Thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Thy Holy Spirit, through the same Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

O God, from Whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto Thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that by Thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness: through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord; and by Thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Any intercessions follow and a period of silence

+ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.