

ST NICOLAS **GUILDFORD**



Happy Christmas
2023

The Gathering

Please stand for the processional hymn 30 verses 1-2 and 5-6-7

Rector ✕ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Rector 'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord.

All **Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a manger.**

Rector From eternity to eternity you are God,

All **and now we see you as a newborn child.**

Blessing of Crib & Candle

The Crib and Christmas candle are blessed with holy water and censed

In the faith of Christ,
and in your name, O God most holy,
we present this crib of Christmas,
to set before the eyes of your children
the great love and humility
of Jesus Christ your only Son;
who for us, and for our salvation,
came down as at this time from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit
of the Virgin Mary his mother,
and was made man;
to whom with you and the same Spirit
be all honour, majesty, glory and worship,
now and to the ages of ages.

Prayers of Penitence

Deacon 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.
God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Deacon Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

Rector May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
✠ and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All 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

Rector Let us pray

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
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

¶ Please STAND for the Gradual Hymn 39 omit verse 3

Gospeller Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospeller Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint..

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel:

Gospeller This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

¶ Please SIT

The Homily

¶ Please STAND

The Apostles' 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Reader In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Father, at this time, your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.
Holy God
All hear our prayer.

There was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.
Holy God
All hear our prayer.

Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Your Christ came as a light shining
in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness
of our world.
Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

The angels sang, 'Peace to God's people
on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in all the world.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Shepherds in the field heard good tidings
of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's
redemption.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

All **hear our prayer.**

Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
Holy God

All hear our prayer.

Angels and shepherds worshipped at
the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All hear our prayer.

¶ Please STAND

Priest Our Lady is Mother of the Church and shows her care for us
all by her prayers. We join our prayers with hers as we say,

All 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 time of our death. Amen.

Priest And so aided by the prayers of Our Lady, on whose constant
intercession we rely, we commend the world for which
Christ gave His life saying,

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

The Peace

Rector Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

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

Preparation of the Altar

¶ *The Offertory Hymn 32 omit verse 4*

¶ Please remain **STANDING**

The Eucharistic Prayer

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

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

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

Priest All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
 mighty creator, ever-living God.
 We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
 our Saviour Jesus Christ,
 who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
 and was born of the Virgin Mary
 by the power of your Spirit and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

Choir *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.*

¶ Please **SIT or KNEEL**

Priest 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.

All Great is the mystery of faith:
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 Our Lady, Nicolas, George,
Catherine, Benedict 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

Priest Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All **Our Father, who 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 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.**

The Fracture

Priest 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.

Communion

Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are you 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.

Post Communion Hymn

Joy to the world! The Lord has come, let earth receive her King.

*Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns; let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and make the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His Love, and wonders of His Love,
And wonders, and wonders of His love.*

Prayer after Communion

Priest God our Father, whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the 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.**

The Blessing & Dismissal

Priest **May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.
May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly fill you with joy and peace.
May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became
the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of
Christ.**

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

All **Amen.**

Deacon **The Mass is ended. Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.**
All **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

Voluntary: Variations on an old
carol tune: *Unto us a Boy is born*
Geoffrey Toron Shaw

*Wishing you the love, joy
and peace this Christmas.
Fr Neil*



WHAT'S ON AT ST NICOLAS'

TUESDAY GROUP

10:00 – 11:00 A friendly social group which meets for interesting
(term time) and varied activities

CAFÉ PLAY

Wednesday Toddler morning for children and their grown ups.
10:00 – 11:30
(term time)

COFFEE SHOP

Friday Coffee and company in the hall
10:30 – 12:30
Monthly Lunch on the last Friday of the month
(until 13:30)

Monthly

Beer & Banter

A men's group for those interested in exploring faith and company

Curry & Questions

A chance to explore questions of faith, politics, ethics over curry!

Sundays

08:30 Holy Communion

The quiet, said, traditional one

10:00 Sung Mass

The glorious choir, ritual and bells and smells with Junior Church during term time

www.saintnics.com
parishoffice@saintnics.com

Toastie Tuesdays



For school years 3-6

Tuck shop

(all items 50p each)



Last Tuesday of every month

5 - 6:30pm

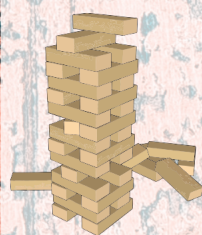
at

Saint Nicolas Church,

Bury Street

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Crafts



For more information contact Nicky, missionenabler@saintnics.com
www.saintnics.com

www.guildfordurc.org.uk



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NEW YEAR

CELEBRATION

at Guildford United Reformed Church,
83 Portsmouth Road, GU2 4BS

Faith based fun,
followed by tea for
everyone.

SATURDAY
6TH JANUARY
4-6PM

*Children must be accompanied by
parent/carer for the duration of this event



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For more information contact Nicky on families.worker@guildfordurc.org.uk
www.guildfordurc.org.uk www.saintnics.com