

St Nicholas Church, Sighthill

St Nicholas Day

6th December 2020

St. Nicholas Day

God is good, all the time



CELEBRATION
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

Opening hymn: Let there be love shared among us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mvs6rMJUwc>

Let there be love shared among us
Let there be love in our eyes.
May now your love sweep this nation.
Cause us, O Lord, to arise.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Lord Christ, at a moment in time, you come to earth and the veil of separation is rent. You come to us in terms so clearly understood, not in some triumphant, awesome drama, not in a battle engaged with principalities and powers; but in the everyday circumstance of a helpless child, born to a single mum, born a refugee in a troubled and angry world.

All: **Bind us now to your love for all made plain in this endlessly rich story. Help us to trust that, in all our exploring, we are ultimately found. And that you wish to gather us in the warmth of your everlasting arms. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Matthew 6: 9-13 (NKJV)

Bible Reading: 'God's love and ours' (1 John 4:7-18)

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Message from Santa

<https://youtu.be/Z44BPO8e04s>

St Nicholas Day celebration Picture (2017, 2018, 2019)

<https://youtu.be/69LuISPfpUo>

Two reflective prayers on St Nicholas Day

Prayers for St. Nicholas Day celebrating the life of St Nicholas of Myra, a fourth-century Christian bishop considered the real-life model for Santa Claus.

Loving God, we thank You for the example of St. Nicholas, who fed the hungry, brought hope to the imprisoned, gave comfort to the lost, and taught the truth to all. May we strive to imitate him by putting You first in all we do. Give us the courage, love and strength similar to that You gave to St. Nicholas, so that, like him, we may serve You through loving our brothers and sisters.

Amy Welborn, author of 'St. Nicholas of Myra: A Saint for Advent and Christmas'

Lord Jesus, we thank you for good St Nicholas who was known for his love and care for children. Help us always to take care of children, to protect and guide them, and to keep them safe. Help us to be open to all that children can teach us about pure joy and unconditional love. May we in turn help the children in our parish and beyond to grow into the beautiful persons You created them to be. Keep us mindful of the needs of others and to reach out to those around us in need, in respectful ways and with love and generosity, as St Nicholas did. We celebrate Your loving and faithful servant Nicholas and his example of self-less living. We pray that we too may follow You with singleness of heart and mind. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Leader: God of vibrant life, of rich soil and roaring sea, of fruit and flower, of seed and crop, of starry sky beyond our knowing. God of the city, with its bustling ferment of life, of its culture and energy, every good thing comes from You and will find its home in You.

All: *We offer ourselves to You and ask You to use us in the world to bring healing and hope, peace and goodwill to our city.*

Leader: God of all goodness and light, for sharp wind in the winter cold, that has the smell of summer in it; for gentle beauty in the pastel sunrise, bringing us the new day; for love shared, for friend and stranger, filling us with hope and joy.

All: *For these and all Your blessings, we give You thanks and praise*

Leader: Lord of the city and of all nations and peoples, we pray for those who long for a home of safety, justice, love and freedom; for the dispossessed and the lonely; the political prisoner and the refugee, for those who live in fear and those who work to keep our streets safe.

All: *Let us climb up on to the mountain of the Lord. Teach us to walk in Your paths, to live with compassion and love.*

Leader: Lord of the children of light, we pray for young people denied childhood by forced labour, abuse, neglect, pandemic or war; for the enslaved and the oppressed, the lost and the forgotten.

All: *Let us climb up on to the mountain of the Lord. Teach us to walk in Your paths, to live with compassion and love.*

Leader: Lord of the promise of salvation. We pray for those rejected because of beliefs, gender, race or sexuality, for the labelled and the branded, the victimised and the excluded. We stand in the light of Your grace and mercy, mindful of our common humanity with all others, our relationship with all creation, and hopeful of a future shaped by justice and peace.

All: *We remember those who have gone before us, Your faithful servants throughout the years. Help us also to live as You would have us: to do justice to love kindness and to walk humbly with You, our God. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*



Hymn: on Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plr21lGfPg>

Final blessing

Gracious and good Lord, we again thank You for St. Nicholas, Your servant, who is an example to us of a life of charity and love. May we see in his life an invitation to imitate his good deeds. Make us always mindful of the needs of others and help us rejoice in the abundance of Your goodness around us.