

## Gospel Reading - Luke 2: 1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## Prayer over the Gifts for Christmas Day

Lord, accept this sacrifice and through the prayers of Mary, the virgin Mother of God, and of her husband, Joseph, unite our families in peace and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

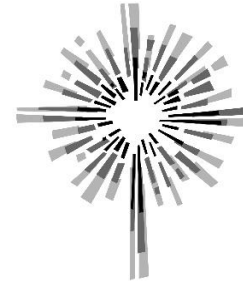
### Christmas Retiring Collections at St Michael's Church will support:

**Crib Service: 24<sup>th</sup> December - Keech Hospice Care:** Local hospice care for children (Registered Charity Number 1035089)

**Midnight /Christmas Day: 24<sup>th</sup>/ 25<sup>th</sup> December (Split 50/50)**

**Living Room:** Addiction Support (Registered Charity Number: 1080634)

**Centre 33:** Homelessness Support in St Albans (Registered Charity Number: 1146438)



*St Michael with St Mary*

## Services for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 2024

*All services take place at St Michael's unless otherwise stated.*

### Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024: Christmas Eve

11.30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist at Fosse House
4.00 p.m.	Crib Service
11.00 p.m.	Midnight Mass

### Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024: Christmas Day

9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist
11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion (St Mary's)

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### Contact Information:

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Telephone: 01727 835037  
Website: [www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk)

Welcome to our worship. If you'd like to keep little people busy, the children's corner contains themed-worksheets, books and toys but there is no obligation to use it! If you need privacy (e.g. nappy change) the Tower Room is available and has sound relay of the service.

**Toilets** are available in the Parish Centre at the east end of the churchyard; please see a steward for access.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE – 2024**

### **Collect for Christmas Eve**

Eternal God,  
in the stillness of this night  
you sent your almighty Word  
to pierce the world's darkness  
with the light of salvation:  
give to the earth the peace that we long for  
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven,  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

### **Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 52: 7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

### **Gospel Reading - John 1: 1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## **CHRISTMAS DAY – 2024**

### **Collect for Christmas Day**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.

### **Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 9: 2-7**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.