



The Parish Church of All Saints Pittville

www.allsaintspittville.co.uk

Parish Priest: Father David Lawrence-March

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Sunday 6th September 2026

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass at 8.00am

The Solemn Mass at 10.30am

Preacher: The Parish Priest

Mass times this week at All Saints

Tuesday NATIVITY OF OUR LADY Mass at 6.30pm PCC Meeting this evening

Thursday Mass at 11.00am

Saturday The Most Holy Name of Mary Mass at 10.00am

Eucharistic Adoration for thirty minutes before Mass on weekdays

A priest is available to hear confessions before Mass on weekdays or by appointment

PLEASE TAKE TODAY'S MASS SHEET AWAY FOR REFERENCE

Thought for the week ...

Before you judge someone, please take a look at yourself and ensure that you're perfect, and you are able to deal with all of the things about yourself that need taking care of.

St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) whose feast day was yesterday

Welcome to All Saints. If this is your first visit we hope you enjoy sharing our celebration of the Holy Eucharist this morning. Do stay and join us for refreshments after the Solemn Mass. Father David's duty days this week are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Please note that there will be no collection taken during the Mass. Instead you are invited to place your offering in the collection plate located centrally in the nave before Mass.

Gift Aid envelopes are provided for UK Taxpayers.

Please keep a reverent silence before Mass begins.

'Be still and know that I am God.'

**THE PARISH THAT PRAYS
IS THE PARISH THAT GROWS**

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.
Verses from Psalm 118

THE OPENING HYMN **363** *Lord of beauty, thine the splendour*

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Brothers and sisters, as we prepare to celebrate together the great mystery of God's love in Christ, let us pray that God may grant us the humility and courage to be peacemakers, always seeking reconciliation in those areas of our lives where it is most needed.

Lord Jesus, you destroyed the chains of sin and death:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ Jesus, you reconcile us to the Father:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you grant us wholeness and peace:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

At the 8 o'clock Mass

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
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.**

At the Solemn Mass

The Gloria from The Mass of St Thomas

682b in the Revised English Hymnal

Refrain: **Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.**

We **remain standing** as the Priest says, Let us pray to the Lord, before he says,

THE OPENING COLLECT

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,
that those who believe in Christ
may receive true freedom
and an everlasting inheritance.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

The First Reading (at both Masses)

A reading from the prophecies of Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord: 'So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Why does the Church choose this passage, about the prophet warning sinners, to pair with a gospel reading about reconciliation? Partly because every person's sin or failure affects the whole Church. **If I fail in my duty to my brother or sister or spouse or child or other dependent, this harms the holiness of the whole Church.** I can't shrug it off as no concern of mine: 'I can't be bothered', 'too busy', 'nothing to do with me, anyway'. Of course it is all very well for the prophet Ezekiel to point out other people's faults: that is the job of a prophet, to show others how God sees them (and priest are enjoined, if necessary, to call their people to repentance and reconciliation ...). Heaven forbid that I should go round telling people their faults ... On the other hand, just occasionally I can learn some home-truths about myself when someone flies off the handle; that is the time to listen and learn. Jesus did

not denounce sinners: he dined with them. For myself, there are countless people and occasions where a healing word, a healing touch can begin the process of growth over the scar-tissue. But it must be a healing in love, and unless there is real, overflowing love, keep clear ...)

The Responsorial Psalm: Verses from **Psalm 95** *(Only at the Solemn Mass)*

Please join in with the Response after each verse.

O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts.’

Come, let us ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;
let us hail him with a song of praise.

O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts.’

O come; let us bow and bend low.
Let us kneel before the Lord who made us,
for he is our God, and we the people,
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts.’

O that today you would listen to his voice!
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your forebears put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.’

O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts.’

The Second Reading *(only at the Solemn Mass)*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Church in Rome.

Brothers and Sisters: Owe no one anything, except to love each other. For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet’, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Paul has described the process of salvation, won for us by Christ’s loving obedience to his Father. Now he gives his instructions how we should live as Christians; he merely slips into the basic command of Judaism: love your neighbour as yourself. Each of these negative

commandments he mentions contains a clutch of positive values. If I really love and bond with my life partner, it will never come to adultery. 'You shall not kill' implies also the values of furthering life in all the ways we can. 'You shall not steal' involves also the respect for the property and well-being of others. **The only debt I owe to anyone is love.** It is easy to kid ourselves that we are practising love, when in fact it is self-interest, self-justification. It is easy enough to be loving to our friends (most of the time!), but that is not what Paul means. In his earlier letter to the Corinthians he gave us that searching test for true love, 'Love is always patient, never jealous, not boastful or conceited, never rude, never seeks its own advantage,' and so on. How many of us are able to look many of those qualities in the face without some embarrassment?)

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation, which is usually sung at the Solemn Mass.

Alleluia, alleluia.

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:15-20

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(The Evangelist Matthew is a realist. Despite the presence of Christ in the Christian community there are going to be disagreements and misunderstandings in every community and every family. The vital thing is to sort them out and not to let them fester. So here we are given a safe process. Interestingly, it is the same process as is laid down in the **Community Rule** of the Dead Sea Scrolls found at Qumran; did Matthew take it from them, or was it widespread at the time? One might complain that it is not very Christian of Matthew to abandon the offending brother or sister to be as a hated tax-collector (not least

as Matthew's pre-Jesus occupation was that of a tax collector for the occupying power), even after the failure of attempts at reconciliation. But note that just afterwards, this process of attempted reconciliation is supplemented by Jesus' teaching that we have to forgive not just seven times (the perfect number) but seventy-seven times. That means again and again and again, without limit – even if the attempts at reconciliation have failed. We also get the reminder that Christ is present always in his community. The same promise is given at beginning (the name Emmanuel means 'God with us') and end of the gospel ('I am with you to the end of time'). It is especially striking that the same promise **Therefore the strength of the community both to reconcile grievances and to make further requests of the Father lies in the presence of Christ within it.** is here given to the Church as had earlier been given to Peter himself. There is the same assumption as within Judaism, that the Lord is present in the assembled community; in Judaism this is expressed as the presence of the awesome divine presence, the Shekinah; within Christianity it is normally expressed as the presence of the Spirit of Christ in Word and Sacrament.)

THE HOMILY
Father David

Please sit

After a period of silent reflection **we stand** to profess our faith, in the words of
THE NICENO-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all now bow up to and including 'and became man')
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
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.**

**I 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 adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

We remain standing for
THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL (THE BIDDING PRAYERS).

The Priest introduces and concludes the Bidding Prayers, each petition ending,
Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN 531 (3rd t) **O for a thousand tongues to sing ...**

The Priest invites us to join with him in offering anew the sacrifice of Christ to the Father.
Pray, brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace,
graciously grant that through this offering,
we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty
and, by partaking of the sacred mystery,
we may be faithfully united in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Proclamation of the presence of Christ in the Community of Faith

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right and just.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues with the Preface, and after as without end we acclaim:

At the 8.00am Mass **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
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.**

At the Solemn Mass
 The Sanctus and Benedictus *from The Mass of St Thomas*
 682c *in the Revised English Hymnal*

Please **KNEEL OR REMAIN STANDING**
for the continuation of the Eucharistic Prayer, which includes
 The mystery of faith.
 **We proclaim your death, O Lord,
 and profess your Resurrection
 until you come again.**

The Eucharistic Prayer ends
... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE COMMUNION RITE **PLEASE STAND**

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**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.**

The Priest alone continues, saying:
Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The people conclude the prayer, acclaiming:
**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Then the Priest alone says aloud:

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
All may offer a greeting of peace to those around them.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

The Priest invites the people to Holy Communion

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

The Priest says THE COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.

Holy Communion is given with these words

The body of Christ. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ. **Amen.**

*Those who have been baptised in the name of the Trinity and usually receive Holy Communion in their own church are welcome to do so here. If you would prefer to receive a blessing please carry this booklet with you or cross your arms over your chest. Some may prefer to receive Holy Communion in one kind only. Canon Law states that the fullness of sacramental grace is received in either or both kinds, the Sacred Host and the Precious Blood. Gluten free hosts are available – please ask if you would prefer one. **Please do not intinct** (dip the Sacred Host into the chalice) – **it is forbidden by our bishops and can be potentially dangerous for coeliacs and for those with gluten allergies.***

THE COMMUNION HYMN **401 Sweet Sacrament divine**

*After the distribution of Holy Communion the Priest says, Let us pray, and we **stand** for the Prayer after Communion.*

Grant that your faithful, O Lord,
whom you nourish and endow with life
through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament,
may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts
that we may merit an eternal share in his life.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION HYMN **428 All my hope on God is founded**
after which notices may be given by the parish priest.

*Please **stand** for*
THE BLESSING AND THE DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

May the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE ANGELUS is recited in honour of the Incarnation.

The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary.
And she conceived by 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 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 you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts,
that as we have known the Incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ,
by the message of an angel,
so, by his Cross and Passion,
we may be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Daily Intentions for this week

6th Sun	23rd IN ORDINARY TIME	<i>Our Parish and people</i>
7th Mon	Feria	<i>The recently bereaved</i>
8th Tue	NATIVITY OF OUR LADY	<i>The Parochial Church Council</i>
9th Wed	St Peter Claver	<i>Victims of modern slavery</i>
10th Thu	Feria	<i>Cheltenham Heritage Days</i>
11th Fri	Feria	<i>Our Churchwardens, Christopher and Simon</i>
12th Sat	The Most Holy Name of Mary	<i>The Gloucester Diocesan Staff</i>

The Daily Intention provides a focus for our personal prayers and also the intention at Mass.

Next Sunday

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass at 8.00am

The Solemn Mass at 10.30am

ADVANCE NOTICES

Sunday 20th September ...

... is the day of the Cheltenham Half Marathon with major disruption in the town centre and so, as last year, the Solemn Mass will be at 4.00pm,
followed by the Holst Birthday Tea!

Please see the notice at the back of church and sign-up with any offers of cakes, scones or other teatime delicacies you may be able to contribute.

Sunday 27th September

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

with the Harvest Lunch following the Solemn Mass

Sign-up (£5 a head) from NEXT SUNDAY: bread, cheese, paté and a glass of wine.

Cheltenham Heritage Days

These begin on Friday and we are looking for as many volunteers as we can muster to help as welcomers and stewards for the days All Saints will be open.

Please see the notices at the back of church, and ask **Sarah Davies** and **Christopher Seton-Smith** for further information.

We're hoping to well and truly 'push the boat out' this year but will need help from as many of you as possible.

LITURGICAL NOTEBOOK

The Liturgical colour Green

The theological virtue of hope is symbolized by the colour green, just as the burning fire of love is symbolized by red. Green is the colour of growing things, and hope, like them, is always new and always fresh. Liturgically, green is the colour of Ordinary Time, the orderly sequence of weeks through the year outside Advent, Christmastide, Lent and Eastertide, a season in which we are being neither single-mindedly penitent (in purple) nor overwhelmingly joyful (in white).

A welcome at All Saints for all who seek to move ...

... from fear to Faith

... from doubt to Hope

... from hate to Love

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All Saints, Pittville, is a Parish in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England under the Sacramental and Pastoral care of the Bishop of Oswestry, in the Diocese of Gloucester, and ...