

# The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice of

St Saviour  
Mortimer West End

St Mary and St John  
Stratfield Mortimer

St John the Baptist  
Padworth

St Mary's Church of England School

St John's Church of England School

Diocese of Oxford



## The Parish Sunday Eucharist

The Third Sunday before Advent Year A: St Matthew

Remembrance Sunday

12<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 10 a.m. at John's, Mortimer

Online at Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

Since the armistice which marked the end of the Great War people have gathered on the 11<sup>th</sup> November and on Remembrance Sunday to remember those who gave their lives in that terrible tribulation. We can only imagine what was in the hearts and minds of those from Mortimer who witnessed that war give way to a sombre peace. Then came the terrible tribulation of the Second World War and, again, it was the community's solemn duty to add to Mortimer's Roll of Honour the names of those dear ones who had given their lives in that fight against evil. Sadly, there have been other conflicts since and the names of more loved ones may have to be added to the roll of sacrifice.

It seems, as one Mortimer World War 2 veteran used to say, 'Remembrance is in the air at this time of year' when we honour those whose lives were given and taken in the service of our country and give thanks for their continuing influence and witness of sacrificial service. Now, there may, of course, be a whole range of feelings and emotions 'in the air' when we remember those who died in war. Yet, perhaps this whole experience of our 'community remembrance' can nurture us on beyond a due, fitting and profound respect to a sense of awe and wonder and inspire in us new hope in what, working together, we might achieve. In other words, as we remember we might be drawn to reflect on how we might be able to keep faith and carry forward the lessons learned and communicate their timeless significance to next generations – 'lest we forget.'

From our mother's knee we are taught the importance of remembering others - perhaps in prayer. We learn as children the importance of remembering birthdays and anniversaries and festivals. And we learn that we can disappoint others and diminish ourselves when we forget or don't bother. We learn that remembering someone, as by name, can bring us somehow closer to her or him, and make them the more 'present' to us so that we can better relate to them. Even at the level of something 'in the air.' And there's a kind of communal remembrance which can bring our differing experiences – of heart and mind – together into a new unity, a new integrity, where we come together to perceive what's really important and needs to be done.

In today's Gospel passage we hear Jesus tell a story about people who knew the importance of 'remembrance.' In fact the story tells how those 'wise bridesmaids' kept a whole night's 'vigil' of remembrance and, because of their foresight and prudence, were equipped and ready when 'the bridegroom' arrived. Other 'bridesmaids' waited around going through the motions, but failed to 'remember' to be faithful and diligent in doing their part. Their mistake proved costly and left them abandoned. And, of course, throughout the Gospel Christ illustrates time and again the priority of remembering the qualities of both justice and forgiveness, and he 'represents' this to us when we remember his words 'Do this in remembrance of me.'

The simple message seems to be that we've been given the gifts we need to keep our vigil of life and so, like the wise ones, we should remember to keep them in good order - our lamps well stocked - and press on faithfully to serve and do our part. 'Remembrance' keeps us from that sleep of slothfulness and indifference and, instead, ready, as St Paul somewhat poetically puts it, 'to meet the Lord in the air' (*1 Thess. 4: 17*).  
God bless, Paul

# The Parish Eucharist for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023

The Third Sunday before Advent - Year A: St Matthew

## Remembrance Sunday

A warm welcome to the Parish Sunday Eucharist.

An induction loop is provided. To use, please turn your hearing aid to T.

Gluten free wafers are available for those who need them. Please inform one of the vergers who will pass the information on to the clergy.

*Online:* If you are not able to come to St John's you are warmly invited to share in the Parish's Sunday Eucharist online. And may God bless and renew us as we join together to worship. **Thank you.**

*THIS 'HOLY MEMORIAL' is known by various names: 1) 'The Eucharist' - which means 'Thanksgiving' - because Jesus offered himself in love; 2) 'The Lord's Supper' - or 'Breaking of the Bread' - because we celebrate it as a shared meal; 3) 'Holy Communion,' - because we become one with Christ by receiving him; and 4) 'Holy Mass' - holy sending - because it gives us a mission: to go in peace to serve the Lord.*

*The 'objectives' of the Eucharist: The community gathers for the public celebration of the Eucharist in order to worship God; ask his forgiveness for sins; thank him for blessings received; listen to his voice in the Scriptures; present the needs of the world and our own needs too; offer our lives to him and his loving service; gain spiritual nourishment and recharge our weakened spiritual batteries by sharing life with him in Holy Communion. The simple structure of the Eucharistic celebration is organized around achieving these goals.*

### THE GATHERING SONG

**I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,  
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:  
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,  
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;  
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,  
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.**

**And there's another country I've heard of long ago,  
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;  
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;  
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;  
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,  
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her ways are peace.**

### THE GATHERING

Priest           + In the name of God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
All                **Amen.**

### THE GREETING - Words of Welcome and Introduction.

*The greeting proclaims the presence of the Lord with us.*

*The Penitential Rite, the Gloria and the Opening Prayer follow. The purpose of these preliminary rites is to help the people, gathered for the celebration of the Eucharist, to join with each other as a worshipping community, and to prepare to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist - the Great Thanksgiving.*

Priest           The Lord be with you.  
All                **And also with you.**

*The priest may introduce the Eucharist.*

### THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*The Invitation to Confession - we call to mind our sins that we may repent of them / turn from them and ask forgiveness of God and each other.*

Priest           My brothers and sisters,  
                  as we prepare to celebrate the mystery of God's love,  
                  revealed to us in Word and Sacrament,  
                  let us call to mind our sins.

*A pause for quiet reflection follows.*

All                **I confess to almighty God,  
                  and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
                  that I have sinned through my own fault,  
                  in my thoughts and in my words,  
                  in what I have done and in what I have failed to do.**

*The Absolution*

All                + Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.  
All                **Amen.**

## THE GLORIA

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

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 sins 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

Priest Let us pray.

*Together we spend a few moments in silence, realising, and giving thanks, that we are in the presence of God our Father to whom we make our prayers. The prayer 'collects' our thoughts.*

God, our refuge and strength,  
bring near the day when wars shall cease  
and poverty and pain shall end,  
that earth may know the peace of heaven  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The Liturgy of the Word consists of readings from the scriptures; a sermon/homily, which expounds the readings; the Profession of Faith, which is the Creed of God's people; and the Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercessions in which the people of God intercede for all humankind and all creation.*

*In the Liturgy of the Word God speaks to us of redemption and salvation and nourishes us with his 'word.' We are not only listening to past history. The God who speaks to Israel and to the early Church speaks to us today through the power of the Holy Spirit working within us as we listen to him and as he reveals the pattern for our lives. 'The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double edged sword but more finely...it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts' (The Letter to the Hebrews 4:12).*

*Either two or three READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE follow, the last of which is the Gospel.*

**THE FIRST READING – 1 THESSALONIANS 4: 13 - 14.** - To be read by Sarah Theaker.

Reader A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

We want you to be quite certain, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them like people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

*At the end of the reading:*

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

*Now we prepare to hear the Gospel (the Good News) and acknowledge that we are his people and called to be part of his mission to the world inasmuch as we share his message and his life with faith, hope and love.*

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

All Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Stay awake and stand ready,  
because you do not know the hour  
when the Son of Man is coming.

*Matthew 24: 42.44.*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## **THE GOSPEL READING – ST MATTHEW’S GOSPEL 25: 1 - 13.**

**All**           The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you .**

**All**           Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, “The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.” At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, “Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out”. But they replied, “There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves”. They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. “Lord, Lord,” they said “open the door for us.” But he replied, “I tell you solemnly, I do not know you”. So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.

*At the end of the Gospel:*

**All**           This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE SERMON**

*We are a Eucharistic community - united around word and sacrament. Through the readings God has spoken to his people of his redeeming love and of the nourishment which his Spirit gives. The sermon reflects on our readings and relates them to our Eucharistic celebration and to our ordinary daily life.*

*After the sermon there may be a short period of silent reflection.*

## **THE PROFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH - THE CREED**

*We make the profession of faith in response to the word of God written in the Gospels and spoken in the sermon. We testify that God is our Father who gives us new life through his Son and who calls us together in the power of his Spirit to be a Eucharistic people, a ‘thanksgiving people’, a living community of his abiding self-giving love.*

**All**           **We believe and trust in God the Father who made the world.**  
**We believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world.**  
**We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God. Amen**

## **THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL OR GENERAL INTERCESSION**

*We are invited to pray for all people and for all creation and for the needs of the Church’s mission in bringing Christ’s Gospel to the world. Through baptism we have been made one with Christ, our great high priest, and we share in his prayer before the Father for the needs of the Church’s mission to the world and for of people. Our prayer flows from our listening to the Gospel and sermon by which we have been made more aware of our Christian commitment.*

*This Prayer of the Faithful, or General Intercession, is announced and consists of a series of intercessions; we pray for the universal Church and its mission and for our bishop and for our benefice - our parishes and our two Church schools; for the world, for our Queen and country, for our local communities, families and friends; for the sick and suffering and for all in pain; and we remember those who have died. And in communion with Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the Saints of God we entrust one another and all people and all creation to God’s saving love.*

**Priest**           In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Jesus Christ, let us pray to our heavenly Father.

*The deacon or minister continues:*

Heavenly Father, strengthen your Church in the service of Christ that Christians everywhere may witness to the grace and compassion of Christ. Bless Justin our Archbishop, Steven our Bishop, Olivia our area Bishop, and our parishes and schools of St Mary’s and St John’s that we may be equipped for the mission before us...

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, bless Charles our King and give grace to our Government, to our Parliament, to our District and Village Councils, and to all in authority that they may govern with justice and wisdom and seek always the common good...

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, bless us, and our families and friends, and all our relationships that we may serve Christ in one another and love others as he loves us...

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for all who are suffering today; for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of conflict and war. May the love of Christ bring them comfort and may the hope of the resurrection bring them peace...

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we commend to you all who have died recently and today we remember before you all those whose lives have been given and taken in conflicts and wars past and present. As you have fulfilled in them the purpose of your love, so bring us, at the last, to be with them in love's eternal joy...

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, may the fears of our world be cast out by love; may our hearts and communities be renewed by hope; may we and all you people strive for justice and live lives of courage and mercy; and give us grace to commit ourselves to work in penitence and good faith that all people may live in freedom, justice and peace...

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, in communion with Mary, John the Evangelist, John the Baptist and all the saints, we commend all humankind and all creation to your unfailing love.

Priest            Merciful Father,  
All                **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

*At the Last Supper Christ 'took some bread and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying "This is my body which will be given for you; do this in remembrance of me". He did the same with the cup...' (Luke 22:19-20). The Church, joyfully obedient to the Lord's command, celebrates the Eucharist taking care that our 'liturgy' corresponds to the words and actions of Christ: 1) Taking bread and wine - we take our own gifts to the Altar, such as our time and talents and our money for the poor and for ministry. 2) Giving thanks (the meaning of the word Eucharist) - in the Eucharistic Prayer the priest, in the name of us all, says the great hymn of our thanksgiving to God for the whole work of salvation, in which the offerings become the Body and Blood of Christ. 3) The breaking of the one bread is a sign of the unity of the faithful - a sign of the unity which comes through sharing in Christ. 4) And in Holy Communion we receive Christ. In this way, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, the Church tries to carry out what the Lord asked his disciples to do in remembrance of him.*

### **THE PEACE**

*We acknowledge and give thanks for our unity with one another in Jesus Christ our Lord, which his death and resurrection have brought to us. He is the peace between us. The sign of peace echoes Christ's own resurrection greeting to his disciples. Before we share in the same bread we express our love for one another in Christ and pray for peace and unity (cf Luke 1.78,79).*

Priest            Christ is our peace.  
                      He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.  
                      We meet in his name and share his peace.  
  
                      The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
All                **And also with you.**

### **THE PRESENTATION AND PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS**

*The peoples' gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. The offerings of money is made and promised to support the wider ministry and work of the Church. Taking the Gifts: We give thanks to God for the gifts in the following words.*

#### **BREAD**

Priest            Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
                      which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.  
All                **Blessed be God for ever.**

#### **WINE**

                      Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
                      fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.  
All                **Blessed be God for ever.**

#### **OUR TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE/MONEY**

                      Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have the gifts of our  
                      time, talents and money to offer. May our offerings of our gifts be a sincere sign of our  
                      gratitude and our dedication to your service.  
All                **Blessed be God for ever.**

*The priest prays quietly: Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble, contrite and thankful hearts.*

*The priest washes hands as an act of cleanliness and as an expression of the desire for inward purification, praying quietly: Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.*

## **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Priest Pray my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God,  
the Almighty Father.

**All 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 Church.**

Priest Amen.

Priest Lord of mercy,  
in this Eucharist we proclaim the death and resurrection of the Lord.  
Bless the gifts we bring for your service,  
deepen our generosity of spirit  
and help us follow him with love and joy  
for he is our Lord for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*The Eucharistic Prayer is the centre and high point of the whole Christian celebration. This great prayer of praise and thanksgiving proclaims the wonderful works of God and through it we join ourselves with Christ in praise and thanksgiving to God the Father and in offering ourselves to him in union with Christ's self-offering on the cross. We express our share in the prayer, which is said on behalf of all the people, by listening inwardly and joining in the acclamations (joyful shouts or songs) and the Sanctus (the Holy, Holy, Holy which concludes the preface), the memorial acclamation and the great 'Amen' which concludes our Eucharistic Prayer.*

Priest The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*In the Preface we praise God for his mighty acts:*

Heavenly Father, it is our joy always and everywhere to give you thanks  
because through Christ you have delivered us from the old order of fear and pride and sin  
into the glorious freedom of the people of God.

And so, with all the company of heaven we proclaim the glory of your goodness  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**All 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.**

*We pray to the Father for the sending down of the Holy Spirit and recall the Lord's Supper.*

Priest We thank you, loving Father, because when we turned away  
you sent to us your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

He gave his life for us upon the cross. He shows us now the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine  
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks,  
broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

‘This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.’

After they had eaten he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples,  
saying:

‘This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this to remember me.’

So, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit upon us and change us more and more  
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist, and all your saints, we give you glory, through Jesus Christ and in the strength of your Holy Spirit, today and for ever.

**All**                    **Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

*The communion rite lays strong emphasis on peace, unity and our prayer for forgiveness. We come together to the Lord's table in accordance with the Lord's command, 'Take, eat... take, drink', as a community bound together by the love of God manifest in Christ. We can all be confident in Christ's mercy as we respond to his call to come to his table. Our communal recitation of the Lord's Prayer - the prayer he taught us - prepares us for Holy Communion with our Lord.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*We bless God and pray for our world, our communities and our lives to be shaped by God's will; we pray for daily needs to be met, for forgiveness for wrongdoings, strength to resist temptation and protection from danger.*

**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;  
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.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The priest takes the host and breaks it over the cup, praying quietly: 'May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.' 'Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread' (1 Corinthians 10:17)*

*Christ's gesture of breaking bread with his disciples at the Last Supper gave the Eucharist the name of the 'breaking of bread.'. This gesture signifies that we who share one bread and one cup are made one. The breaking of the Eucharistic bread becomes a sign of unity and charity as the one bread is distributed to the family of God's people.*

**Priest**                We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All**                    **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

*The priest prepares quietly for Holy Communion. We may all join quietly in this prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free me from all my sins and from every evil. Keep me faithful to your teaching, and never let me be parted from you. Amen.*

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**Priest**                Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.                    *cf. John 1: 29*

Blessed are those 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.**

*The sign of communion is more complete when given under both 'kinds' since then the 'sign' of the eucharistic meal appears more clearly. However, we live in exceptional times when, if you think right, communion may be received in one 'kind.'*

*The priest takes the host, raises it a little and shows it saying: The Body of Christ. And the same with the cup saying: The Blood of Christ. When receiving Holy Communion the response and assent to Christ is:*

**+ Amen.**

## **DURING HOLY COMMUNION** *The Choir may sing anthems or songs or lead hymns.*

'For The Fallen' by Douglas Guest

The Contakion for the Departed

## **PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION**

Priest Let us pray.

*The priest invites us all to pray that the Holy Eucharist will have its effect in transforming our lives and bring us all to God's kingdom. We pray together silently for a while before the Post Communion prayer.*

Priest God of peace,  
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom  
and restored the broken to wholeness of life:  
look with compassion on the anguish of the world,  
and by your healing power  
make whole both people and nations;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

## **THE NOTICES FOR THE COMMUNITY ARE GIVEN.**

### **THE CONCLUDING RITE**

Priest The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

### **THE BLESSING**

Priest The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

+ And the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you for ever.

All **Amen.**

Let us go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

### **THE SENDING OUT or RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!**

**Please donate regularly to support the Church's mission and work. *The church here needs your help in order to serve our villages, our diocese, our nation and our world in the future. Our doors were closed due to Covid 19 and with no regular Government or Church of England funding the parish lost significant income. Please see the website to see how to give efficiently. Thank you.***



