

**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



ALL SAINTS

**The Parish Eucharist
for
All Saints' Sunday**

**31st October 2021 at 10.00 a.m. at St. John's, Mortimer,
and online at Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>**

Prayer thoughts: At All Saints' tide we give thanks for the countless number of faithful, hopeful and loving men and women through whom the light of Christ's goodness has shone upon and blessed our world. And we humbly ask grace that their examples and their loving prayers may encourage us to let the light of that goodness shine through our lives.

The Parish All Saints' Sunday Eucharist

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 faith 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 Scripture; present the needs of the world and our own needs too; offer our lives to him; gain spiritual nourishment and recharge our weakened spiritual batteries by sharing with him in Holy Communion. The simple structure of the Eucharistic celebration is organized to achieve all these goals.

If you are not able to come to St John's please do share in the weekly service online. May God bless us as we join together to worship. The present guidelines about cleaning, attendance, distancing, singing & speaking and receiving Holy Communion in churches will be followed carefully.

THE GATHERING SONG

**For all the saints, who from their labours rest;
who to the world by faith their Lord confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed:
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**One holy people, fellowship divine!
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine
in earth and heav'n the saints in praise combine:
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**But look! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
saints all-triumphant rise in bright array
the king of glory passes on his way!
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest shore
through gates of pearl, ascending, they adore
the Father, Son and Spirit evermore:
Alleluia, alleluia!**

THE GATHERING

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

The priest may introduce the Eucharist.

THE GREETING

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.

All The Lord be with you
And also with you.

*Rejoice, people of God, praise the Lord!
Let us keep the feast in honour of all God's saints,
in whose victory the angels rejoice and glorify the Son of God.*

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.

**My brothers and sisters, as we prepare to celebrate the Holy Eucharist,
let us call to mind our sins.**

A pause for silent reflection follows.

**Since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight
and the sin that clings so closely,
looking to Jesus in penitence and faith.**

Hebrews 12: 1

**Lord, you are gracious and compassionate:
Lord, have mercy.**

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You are loving to all
and your mercy is over all your creation:
Christ, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

Your faithful servants bless your name
and speak of the glory of your kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

The Absolution

Priest + Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life.

All **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.
To him be glory forever.
To him be glory forever.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia amen, alleluia amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, son of the Father.
Glory to God, glory to God, son of the Father.
To him be glory forever.
To him be glory forever.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia amen, alleluia amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.
To him be glory forever.
To him be glory forever.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia, amen.
Alleluia amen, alleluia amen.**

THE COLLECT

Priest Let us pray as we rejoice and keep festival in honour of all the saints.

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.

Priest God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
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).

THE FIRST READING – THE BOOK OF REVELATION 7: 9 - 17. - Read by Roger Jones.

Reader A reading from the Book of Revelation.

The multitude from every nation

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!’

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.’

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’ I said to him, ‘Sir, you are the one that knows.’ Then he said to me, ‘These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’

At the end of the reading:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Now we 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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God’s own people,
called out of darkness into his marvellous light.

1 Peter 2:9

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING - ST MATTHEW’S GOSPEL 5: 1 - 12.

The Beatitudes

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

At the end of the Gospel

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **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 **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**
**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL OR GENERAL INTERCESSION - Led by Elizabeth Porter

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: **United in the company of all the faithful and looking for the coming of the kingdom,
let us offer our prayers to our Heavenly Father.**

The minister continues:

**Merciful Lord, strengthen Christian people everywhere by your Holy Spirit, that we may live to the praise of
Jesus Christ our Saviour and make his Gospel known.**

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

**Bless Justin, our archbishop, Steven our bishop, Olivia our area bishop, and all of us as ministers of your
Church, that by faithful proclamation of your word we may be built on the foundation of the apostles and
prophets into a holy and living temple in the Lord.**

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

**Empower us by the gift of your holy and life-giving Spirit that we may be transformed into the likeness of
Jesus Christ.**

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

**Bless Elizabeth our Queen, our government, our members of parliament and our district and village
councillors. Give to the world and all its peoples the peace that comes from you that we may find Christ's
way of freedom and life.**

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

**Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the service of the poor and needy; all who minister to
the sick and dying; and all who bring light to those in darkness.**

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

Give healing to the broken hearted and all who are suffering and in pain...

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Touch all those lives which are scarred or disfigured by self-centredness and sin that, raised from death to life in Christ, all our sorrows may be turned to eternal joy.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Remember in your loving mercy all those who have gone before us....

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Preserve us in faith, hope and love, guide us to your kingdom and grant us your peace.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We give thanks with Blessed Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and the whole company of the saints in glory, with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises; by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in your eternal love.

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

THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY 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 *We are fellow-citizens with the saints* *Ephesians 2:19,17*
and of the household of God, through Christ our Lord,
who came and preached peace to those who were far off
and those who were near.

To crown all things there must be love, *Colossians 3:14,15*
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

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

THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

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.

Priest **BREAD**
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 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.

Lord, as we ask you to receive our gifts in thanksgiving for all the saints in glory, give us grace to heed their examples and find encouragement in their faith, hope and love.

All **Amen.**

And as the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on your table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

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 by the priest 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:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always sing of your glory, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For you are the hope of the nations, the builder of the city that is to come.

Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost, restores the sinner and gives dignity to the despised.

In his face your light shines out, flooding lives with grace and truth, gathering a divided and broken humanity into one in your kingdom.

Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation we glorify your name, for ever praising you and singing:

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 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, John the Evangelist, 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

Priest With all the saints, 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.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY 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 communion can only be given 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.**

THE SONG DURING HOLY COMMUNION

**Bless'd are the pure in heart,
for they shall see our God;
the secret of the Lord is theirs,
their heart is Christ's abode.**

**The Lord, who left the heavens,
our life and peace to bring,
to dwell in lowliness with men,
their pattern and their King.**

**He to the lowly soul
doth still Himself impart,
and for His dwelling and His throne
chooseth the pure in heart.**

**Lord, we Thy presence seek;
may ours this blessing be;
give us a pure and lowly heart,
a temple meet for Thee.**

After Holy Communion we may keep a further period of silence.

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 Heavenly Father, in this Eucharist you have brought us near
to the innumerable company of the saints made perfect:
as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage we have shared their fellowship,
so may we come to share their joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE NOTICES FOR THE COMMUNITY ARE GIVEN.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

All The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

THE BLESSING

Priest May God the Father, who kindled the fire of love in the hearts of the saints,
give you the riches of his grace that, in the service of the truth which sets free,
you may find joy in their fellowship and share in their thanksgivings and praises.

All **Amen.**

May the love of Christ our King give you courage to do his loving will
that you may follow the saints in the way of holiness
and come at the last to the full radiance of eternal glory.

All **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit who makes saints of sinners,
and who has transformed those for whom we give thanks today,
raise and strengthen you that you may transform the world.

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

Follow God's saints in the ways of holiness and truth
and go in the peace of Christ to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

OUR SENDING OUT FOR MISSION SONG

**Let saints on earth in concert sing
with those whose work is done;
for all the servants of our King
in heaven and earth are one.**

**One family, we dwell in him,
one church, above, beneath;
though now divided by the stream,
the narrow stream of death.**

**E'en now to their eternal home
there pass some spirits blest;
while others to the margin come,
waiting their call to rest.**

**Jesu, be thou our constant guide;
then, when the word is given,
bid Jordan's narrow stream divide,
and bring us safe to heaven.**

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 have been closed due to Covid 19 and with no regular Government or Church of England funding we have lost significant income. Please see the website to see how to give efficiently.*

