

**The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice  
of**

**St Saviour  
Mortimer West End**

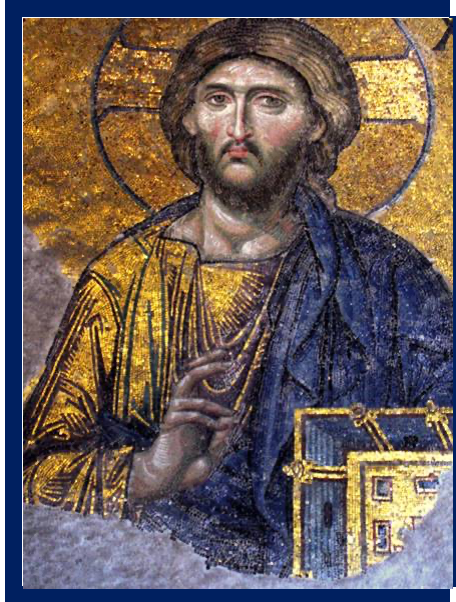
**St Mary and St John  
Stratfield Mortimer**

**St John the Baptist  
Padworth**

**St Mary's Church of England School**

**St John's Church of England School**

**Diocese of Oxford**



*Part of a mosaic of Christ,  
Hagia Sophia, Istanbul / Constantinople*

**The Parish Sunday Eucharist**  
*on the feast of*  
**Christ the King**

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

**Prayer thoughts:** This Sunday's celebration of the feast of Christ the King was formalised in 1925 in order to be a clear reminder to the totalitarian movements of the time - led by the likes of Mussolini, Hitler and Stalin - that, for Christians, Jesus Christ is our ultimate King and he rules by love. Likewise, that Christians declare our loyalty to Christ through our commitment to serve others and by our solidarity with the poor and the marginalised. The point is that we honour Christ as King of our hearts and lives by allowing the spirit of his friendship to encourage and strengthen us, and his teaching to guide us into living his way. His throne is the Cross. The Sermon on the Mount is his rule of law. And his people need obey only one major law: 'Love God with all your being, and love others as I have loved you.' His love is selfless, forgiving, compassionate and unconditional. He is a King with a mission, which is to free humanity from every form of servitude and subjugation that all the people of this world may live peacefully and joyfully together on this planet and be its good stewards. And, as Christ assured the thief on the next cross, so he assures each and every one of us of our inheritance to eternal life. God bless, Paul

# The Parish 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

**Rejoice, the Lord is King,  
Your Lord and King adore;  
Mortals, give thanks and sing  
And triumph evermore:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

**Jesus, the Saviour reigns,  
The God of truth and love:  
When He had purged our stains  
He took His seat above:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

## 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.

## 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.*

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 silent reflection follows.*

Now, let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.  
*cf Matthew 4.17.*

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

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

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

*The Absolution*

Priest        + Almighty God have mercy on us,  
                  forgive us our sins,  
                  and bring us 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 God be glory forever!*  
    *To God be glory forever!*  
    *Alleluia, Amen!*  
    *Alleluia, Amen!*  
    *Alleluia, Amen!*

Glory to God, glory to God,  
Glory to Christ Jesus!  
Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to Christ Jesus!  
    *To God be glory forever!*  
    *To God be glory forever!*  
    *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 God be glory forever!*  
    *To God be glory forever!*  
    *Alleluia, Amen!*  
    *Alleluia, Amen!*  
    *Alleluia, 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.*

Priest        Almighty God our heavenly Father,  
                  help us to hear the call of Christ the King  
                  and to follow in his service,  
                  whose kingdom has no end;  
                  for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
                  one God, one glory.  
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 – REVELATION 1: 5 - 8.** - Read by Elizabeth Porter.

Reader            A reading from the Revelation to John.

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the First-born from the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. It is he who is coming on the clouds; everyone will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the peoples of the earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

*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.**

*Mark 11: 9.*

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## **THE GOSPEL READING - ST JOHN'S GOSPEL 18: 33 - 37.**

The Lord be with you.

All                **And also with you .**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All                **Glory to you, O Lord.**

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

*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                **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:** Let us with confidence offer our prayers to the throne of grace.

*The deacon or minister continues:*

Heavenly Father, we pray for the Church that it may be a sign of your reign of peace and justice, and serve to extend your loving welcome to all people. Bless Justin, our archbishop, Steven our bishop, Olivia our area bishop. And give grace to Christians of every denomination that together we may come to understand the royal priesthood you bestow on every person in baptism.

Your kingdom come;

**Your will be done.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for this community of faith that attentive to your word we may worship in spirit and in truth.

Your kingdom come;

**Your will be done.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for all in positions of authority that they may govern with wisdom and integrity, serving the needs of all their people. Bless Elizabeth our Queen, our government, our members of parliament and our district and village councillors.

Your kingdom come;

**Your will be done.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for those whose commitment to truth brings them into conflict with earthly powers that they may have the courage to endure.

Your kingdom come;

**Your will be done.**

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for all who are suffering and in pain...

Your kingdom come;

**Your will be done.**

Heavenly Father, in your loving mercy receive all those who have gone before us...

Your kingdom come;

**Your will be done.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Your kingdom come;

**Your will be done.**

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and the whole company of heaven, with whom we join our prayers and praises; by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in love.

**Priest** Heavenly Father, you have taught us that the power of the heart is greater than the power of wealth and might.  
Hear us as we pray for the fulfilment of your reign.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our King; to him be glory and power for ever.

**All** 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 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, the sacrifice of your Son reconciles humankind.  
May it bring unity and peace to our world.

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 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 sing of your glory,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

And now we give you thanks

because you anointed Jesus Christ, your only Son, as priest and King.

Crowned with thorns, he offered his life upon the cross  
that he might draw all people into that kingdom of love  
where he now reigns in glory.

Therefore, with the whole company of heaven,  
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 Blessed 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

Priest Looking for the coming of his kingdom, as our Saviour taught us, so let us pray:

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 HYMN DURING HOLY COMMUNION

**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.**

*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 Stir up, O Lord,  
the wills of your faithful people;  
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,  
may by you be plenteously rewarded;  
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

**All**                    May God the Father, who has given to his Son the name above every name,  
strengthen you to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord.  
**Amen.**

**All**                    May God the Son, who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,  
give you courage to live his Way.  
**Amen.**

**All**                    May God the Holy Spirit, who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,  
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.  
**Amen.**

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

**All**                    Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### THE SENDING OUT FOR MISSION SONG

**Christ is the King! O friends, rejoice;  
brothers and sisters, with one voice  
let the world know he is your choice.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Let love's unconquerable might  
your scattered companies unite  
in service to the Lord of light.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**So shall God's will on earth be done,  
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,  
and the whole church at last be one.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**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.*

