

**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 SOULS**

*'Whoever comes to me I shall not turn away.'*

# **The Parish Eucharist for All Souls' Day 2021**

(trans.)

**1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 at 7.30 p.m. at St. John's, Mortimer,  
and online at Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>**

*Prayer thoughts: On All Souls' Day we commend to God, with great thanksgiving and love, all who have gone before us. God has shown us in Christ our redeemer that he is merciful and that it is his loving will that everyone should have eternal life in all its wholeness and joy. As we remember and give thanks for our own family members and friends and neighbours who have gone before us so the sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of heaven and immortality. This is the faith, the hope and the love which we are called to share with all who mourn now and all who live in the shadow of death.*

# The Eucharist for All Souls

*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

**The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green: He leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.**

**My soul He doth restore again;  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
ev'n for His name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill:  
for Thou art with me, and Thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.**

**My table Thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes:  
my head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me:  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling place shall be.**

## 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.*

**My brothers and sisters, as we join together  
as God's family to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love,  
let us acknowledge our own failures  
and ask the Lord for pardon and strength.**

*A pause for silent 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*

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

**THE KYRIE ELEISON**

*The traditional nine-fold prayer for healing and wholeness.*

Lord have mercy  
Lord have mercy  
Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy  
Lord have mercy  
Lord have mercy

**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 Everlasting God, our maker and redeemer,  
grant us, with all the faithful departed,  
the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection,  
that, at the last,  
when you gather up all things in Christ,  
we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

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 – ROMANS 5: 5 - 11.** - Read by Gwen Adshead.

Reader A reading from The Letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

*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.**

‘It is the will of him who sent me,’ says the Lord,  
‘that I should lose none of all that he has given me,  
but raise them up on the last day.’

*John 6.39*

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## **THE GOSPEL READING - ST JOHN'S GOSPEL 6: 37 - 40.**

*Let me see again.*

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.**

Jesus said to the crowds:

‘Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me,  
because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me.

And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I  
should raise it on the last day.

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life,  
and I shall raise him on the last day.’

*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

*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 Holy Spirit and in union with Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

*The priest or deacon continues:*

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for the holy Church, for the peace of the whole world and the unity of all.

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

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for Justin our Archbishop, for Steven our Bishop, for Olivia our Area Bishop, and for us and all who are called to the ministry of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

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

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

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for our families, for our friends, for our neighbours, for our communities and for ourselves, that we may offer you an acceptable sacrifice in grace, truth and love.

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

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for the poor, for the sick, for those who mourn and for all who are suffering.

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

Heavenly Father, we remember before you and commend to you with love and thanksgiving those who have gone before us in faith:

### + The Names

*The Names are read aloud by the priests at the altar.*

Let light eternal shine on them, O Lord,  
with all your Saints for ever.  
**For you are merciful.**

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

Heavenly Father, in communion with Blessed Mary, the Mother of Our Lord, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the Saints, we commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to you in the love of Jesus Christ Our Lord.

**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 Jesus said: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives do I give to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,  
neither let them be afraid.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **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, we are united in this holy sacrament by the love of Jesus Christ.

We pray you to accept our humble gifts and receive us with our brothers and sisters  
into the glory of your Son, who is 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 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:*

And now Heavenly Father, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
For in him, who rose from the dead, our hope of resurrection dawned.  
The sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality.  
Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended.  
When the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death we gain an everlasting place in heaven.  
And so with choirs of angels and all the 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, the Mother of our Lord, 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 SONG DURING HOLY COMMUNION

**Jerusalem the golden,  
with milk and honey blest,  
beneath thy contemplation  
sink heart and voice opprest.  
I know not, O I know not,  
what joys await us there,  
what radiancy of glory,  
what bliss beyond compare.**

**O sweet and blessed country,  
the home of God's elect!  
O sweet and blessed country  
That eager hearts expect!  
Jesus, in mercy bring us  
to that dear land of rest;  
Who art, with God the Father  
and Spirit, ever blest.**

*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** God of love, may the death and resurrection of Christ,  
which we have celebrated in this Eucharist,  
bring us, with all the faithful departed,  
into the peace of your eternal home.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
to whom be glory for time and for eternity.

**All** **Amen.**

## THE NOTICES FOR THE COMMUNITY ARE GIVEN.



## THE CONTAKION FOR THE DEPARTED

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servants with thy Saints:  
where sorrow and pain are no more;  
neither sighing, but life everlasting.  
Thou only art immortal,  
the creator and maker of man:  
and we are mortal formed from the dust of earth.  
And unto dust shall we return:  
for so thou didst ordain,  
when thou createdst me, saying,  
‘Dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return.’  
All we go down to the dust;  
and weeping o’er the grace we make our song:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Give rest, O Christ, to thy servants with thy Saints:  
where sorrow and pain are no more;  
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

## THE CONCLUDING RITE

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

## THE BLESSING

Priest       God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
                  bless you with faith in the resurrection of his Son  
                  and open to you the gates of everlasting life.  
All           **Amen.**  
  
                  God the Son, who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,  
                  give you joy as you share the Easter faith of the Resurrection.  
All           **Amen.**  
  
                  God the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,  
                  empower you and fill you with Christ’s peace.  
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.**  
  
All           Go in the peace of Christ.  
                  **Thanks be to God.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lord of all hopefulness,  
Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever child-like,  
no cares could destroy,  
be there at our waking,  
and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,  
at the break of the day.

**Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome,  
Your arms to embrace,  
be there at our homing,  
and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord,  
at the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment,  
Whose presence is balm,  
be there at our sleeping,  
and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,  
At the end of the day.**

**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.*

