

The Greeting - Hello and Welcome

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

and also with you

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

Let us worship the Lord.

All praise to his name.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn 162 - In the bleak midwinter

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone:
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

2 Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

3 Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breastful of milk and a manger full of hay;
enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

4 Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only in her maiden bliss
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

5 What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

Penitence - saying sorry

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned in thought and word and deed,
and in what we have left undone.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may walk in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Forgiveness - a reminder of God's gift

Preparing - to hear God's word

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon our path.

O Lord, your word is everlasting:
it stands firm for ever in the heavens.

Let us then receive the word of the Lord.

So may the light of your presence shine into our hearts.

Psalm 119:161-168 - we stand to say

Rulers persecute me without cause, but my heart trembles at your word.
I rejoice in your promise like one who finds great spoil.

I hate and detest falsehood but I love your law.

Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous laws.

Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

I wait for your salvation, Lord, and I follow your commands.

I obey your statutes, for I love them greatly.

I obey your precepts and your statutes, for all my ways are known to you.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;•

as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Acts 7:51-60 - please be seated

'You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: you always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him – you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.'

When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.'

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Hymn 310 - Spirit of the living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

The Sermon - with PREACHER

Declaring Faith - affirming our belief

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 again 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.**

Praying Together - Intercessions

Blessed are you, eternal God,
to be praised and glorified for ever.

Hear us as we pray for your holy catholic Church:
make us all one, that the world may believe.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you:
that the life of Christ may be revealed in us.

Strengthen all who minister in Christ's name:
give them courage to proclaim your Gospel.

Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world:
guide them in the ways of justice and peace.

Make us alive to the needs of our community:
help us to share each other's joys and burdens.

Look with kindness on our homes and families:
grant that your love may grow in our hearts.

Deepen our compassion for all who suffer from sickness, grief or trouble:
in your presence may they find their strength.

We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory:
bring us all to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Hear our prayer, Lord God
**and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you for ever. Amen.**

Sunday Collect - St Stephen's Day

The Lord's Prayer

Let us say together:

We go into the world
**to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory.**

The Blessing - and Dismissal

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn 174 - O Little town

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord, Emmanuel.

Worship with us at Holy Communion:

New Year's Day 1st January | 10:00 am | St. Ignatius', Carryduff

Sunday 2nd January | 12:00 pm | St. Andrew's, Killaney