

Chesterfield Parish Church Saint Mary & All Saints

The Octave of Christmas is a strange thing: as soon as we think we can sit back and celebrate for a bit, real life starts flooding in—the martyrdom of Stephen, the first martyr, followed by a respite when we can contemplate the profound understanding of the Incarnation in Saint John; and then today...



You might suggest that there are enough atrocities in the modern day and in the news—why recall another one today?

It's a reminder that the Incarnation is messy and the world Jesus is born into is full of evil and suffering—which he will share.

It's an assertion that the birth of Jesus brings hope in the middle of the darkest times. It tells all who will take notice that God in Jesus is for real!

THE HOLY INNOCENTS (28th December 2025)

10.30 Sung Mass

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

MONDAY 29TH DECEMBER

Mass 12.15

TUESDAY 30TH DECEMBER

Mass 12.15

WEDNESDAY 31st December

Mass 12.15

THURSDAY 1ST JANUARY

Mass 12.15

FRIDAY 2ND JANUARY

Mass 12.15

SATURDAY 3RD JANUARY

Mass 12.15

NEXT SUNDAY *See back page*

VISITING HOURS

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THURSDAY, THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FROM 10.00 TO 14.00 FOR PRIVATE PRAYER AND VISITING.

*ON THURSDAY, NEW YEAR'S DAY, THE CHURCH WILL **ONLY** BE OPEN FOR MASS.*



Please respect those who wish to prepare for Mass in quiet prayer; also those who wish to listen to the closing Organ Voluntary.

THE HOLY INNOCENTS

SUNG MASS

Processional Hymn: 35

Setting: Merbecke (*Hymn Book 684*)

Collect Prayer

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace; 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. **Amen**

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 1.26-29

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

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

Gradual Hymn: 61

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

Matthew 2.13-18

Now after the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

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

Homily, Creed, Intercessions & Peace

Offertory Hymn: 52

Post-Communion Hymn: 51

Voluntary: *Es ist das Heil uns kommen her*
(Dietrich Buxtehude)

Prayer Intentions This Week:

Today 28th December - The Holy Innocents

- The love of the Christ child
- ◇ The Anglican Church of Canada
- ✦ *Arthur Crofts; Martha Bullous; Beryl Thompson;*
Brian Orwin

Monday 29th December - Thomas Beckett

- Parish of St John Walton & St Peter Holymoorside
- ◇ Sebei - The Church of Uganda
- ✦ *Jenny Turner; Marian Chaplin; Ivor Maltby;*
Vera James; Wilfred Smith; June Parkinson

Tuesday 30th December

- Parish of St Michael & All Angels Brimington
- ◇ Sekondi - The Church of West Africa
- ✦ *Albert Hatton; Vera Costigan; Peggy Rose*

Wednesday 31st December - John Wyclif

- Our hopes for the coming year
- ◇ Seoul - The Anglican Church of Korea
- ✦ *Sheila Hearnshaw; Doris Allan*

Thursday 1st January - The Naming & Circumcision of Jesus

- Parish of Christ Church Cotmanhay and Shipley
- ◇ Seychelles - The Church of the Indian Ocean
- ✦ *Ethel Ecclestone*

Friday 2nd January - Basil the Great; Gregory of Nazianzus; Seraphim; Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah

- Parish of St Lawrence Heanor
- ◇ Sheffield - The Church of England

Saturday 3rd January

- Parish of Holy Trinity Ilkeston
- ◇ Shinyanga - The Anglican Church of Tanzania
- ✦ *Constance Walton; Brian Pick; Ray Addison*
- Diocesan Cycle of Prayer
- ◇ Anglican Worldwide Cycle of Prayer
- ✦ Year's Mind

Vicar: Canon Patrick Coleman
The Vicarage, 11 Bryn Lea, Chesterfield,
Derbyshire, S41 0EP
vicar@crookedspire.org

Clergy Team: Revd Mark Crowther-Alwyn; Revd
Iain Faulkner; Revd John Pinder-Packard; Revd
Steven Tricklebank

Parish Office: 01246 206506
(a priest is available 24/7)

Parish Reader: John Gascoyne

Churchwardens: John Hague
Colin McKenna

Organist & Choirmaster:
Peter Shepherd choir@crookedspire.org

Our prayers have been asked for:

Tony Ragan; Lisa; Linda Weston; Ralph Turner;
Ian Mackenzie; John Nickols; Ambrose Mason;
Cathy; Joan Melbourne; Trevor Crane; Elise
Wilson; Joshua Wilson; Anthony Duce; Dorothy
Crawshaw

✦ *Leo Shirley*

✦ *Martin Davies*

✦ *David Manson, priest*

Church 'Post Box'

Don't forget to collect any remaining Christmas
Cards from the back of the church.

Visitor Opening Times

Between now and 3rd January, the church will
be open to visitors from 10.00am to 2.00pm
**except on New Year's Day, when it will only be
open for Mass.**

Many thanks to those who have volunteered as
Stewards during this period.

Gift Aid Envelopes

Grateful thanks also to those using the Gift Aid
Scheme to increase the value of their
donations. Please bear in mind, though, that
the scheme is aimed only at UK tax payers, and
that the Gift Aid Envelopes need to carry your
name and address to be effective. Non gift-
aided donations are gratefully received on the
offertory plate or in one of the collecting boxes.

Gift Shop

The Shop will reopen on Monday 5th January
2025. Normal times: Monday-Saturday, 10am -
4pm.

Next Sunday - 4th January - Epiphany Sunday

08.30 Holy Communion (1662)

10.30 Choral Mass
Readings: Ephesians 3.1-12
Matthew 2.1-12

18.30 Choral Evensong
Readings: Psalm(s) 98 & 100
Isaiah 60.1-9
John 2.1-11

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