



Welcome to the **Patronal Mass**

For Saint Nicolas

A brief introduction to our Patron Saint.....

Nicolas was a fourth-century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor (southern Turkey). His reputation as a worker of wonders was enhanced by a ninth-century author of his hagiography and he is now best known through these stories. Many of them concern his love and care for children, how he fed the hungry, healed the sick and cared for the oppressed. He saved three girls from a life of ill repute by providing them with dowries and so developed the tradition of bearing gifts to children on his feast day, a practice appropriated by the Christmas celebrations. Nicolas is also one of the patron saints of Russia.

For more detailed notes on St Nicolas, see the end pages of this order of Service.

Fr Neil

¶ Please **STAND** for the entry of the altar party and **HYMN**

The Gathering

Priest ☩ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Priest The Lord be with you:

All And also with you.

All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession

Priest Jesus is the Good Shepherd:
in every generation he raises up overseers,
to shepherd the Church of God that he obtained
with his own blood.

cf Acts 20.28

¶ Please SIT

Priest We are sinners: let us call to mind the times when we have failed to hear his voice and not followed where he has led.

Kyrie eleison

Priest Lord Jesus, you call by name those who are yours:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest Lord Jesus, you lead us in the right paths for your name's sake:

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Priest Lord Jesus, you are the door of the sheepfold;
those who enter by you will be saved:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

Priest Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Collect

Priest Almighty Father, lover of souls,
who chose your servant Nicolas
to be a bishop in the Church,
that he might give freely
out of the treasures of your grace:
make us mindful of the needs of others
and, as we have received, so teach us also to give;
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

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah
(40:1-11)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she
has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she
has received from the Lord's hand double for all her
sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way
of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for
our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every
mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground
shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then
the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people
shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has
spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

¶ Please STAND for the GRADUAL HYMN

A reading from the GOSPEL Matthew 18:12-14

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Make disciples of the nations:
baptizing and teaching them,
as I have commanded you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew

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

What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

¶ *Please SIT*

The Homily

¶ *Please STAND*

The Creed

**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 Prayers of the People

¶ *Please SIT OR KNEEL*

Priest In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.

Intercessor

In every age you have raised up holy men and women to reflect the light of Christ and to teach us the way of holiness.

We thank you for those who have been teachers in the school of Christ: give understanding to those who study the faith the Church has handed on, and clarity to those who communicate the gospel in a changing world. Today we give you especial thanks for those who have lived, loved and worshipped here at St Nicolas and have given of their time, skills and money to the praise and glory of your name in this place.

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

We thank you for those who have been shepherds of your people: give a pastoral heart to deacons, priests and bishops, and the needful gifts to all your people in their ministry.

We pray for Justin our Archbishop, Francis, Bishop of Rome, Batholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch and the leaders of the free churches. We pray too for all those who serve as priests in your temples dedicated to St Nicolas your servant. For Fr Neil our parish priest of Guildford, and for all called to share the bishop's cure of souls in parishes under the protection of Nicolas.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We thank you for those who have been Christian rulers in the world, and for those who carried the good news to lands where it had not been before: give wisdom to all who have power and influence among the nations, and establish God's sovereignty among people of every race. We pray for Charles our Sovereign Lord and for the Royal Family. We pray for the parliaments of our land and all who hold and seek public office. And we pray for the Armed Forces of the Crown who serve at home and abroad. We pray for our Commonwealth and for our friends and allies and we pray, too, for our enemies and those who wish us harm.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We thank you for the noble army of martyrs
by the shedding of whose blood the Church has
been enriched: keep under your protection those
who are persecuted for the cause of Christ,
and acknowledge, we pray, those who have passed
through death trusting your promises.

All Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord
And may light perpetual shine upon them

All May they rest in peace
And rise in glory.

All Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Hasten, Lord, the day when people will come from
east and west,
from north and south,
and sit at table in your kingdom,
and we shall see your Son in his glory.

¶ *Please STAND*

Priest Our Lady is Mother of the Church and shows her care for us all by her prayers.
We join our prayers with hers as we say,

All **Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners
now and at the time of our death. Amen.**

Priest And so aided by the prayers of Our Lady, on whose constant intercession we rely, we commend the world for which Christ gave His life saying,

All **Merciful Father, accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour,
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

May the God of peace sanctify you:
may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness
that you may be blameless before him
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.

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

We all may exchange a sign of peace

¶ Please **STAND** for the **OFFERTORY HYMN**

During which a collection will be taken for the work of the church and good causes. Consider using the Giving envelope so we can be tax efficient or do ask about using the cordless payment machine.

Priest Pray, 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 our good and the good of all his holy
Church.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Priest The Lord is here
All **His Spirit is with us.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Priest It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
We rejoice in the glorious splendour
of your majesty
for you have given us a share with Nicolas
in the inheritance of the saints in light.

In the darkness of this passing age
they proclaim the glory of your kingdom.

Chosen as lights in the world,
they surround our steps as we journey on
towards the city of eternal light
where they sing the everlasting song of triumph.
In communion with angels and archangels
and all who have served you on earth
and worship you now in heaven,
we raise our voices to proclaim your glory,
for ever praising you and saying:

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.**

¶ *Please SIT or KNEEL*

Priest Lord, you are holy, indeed,
the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and
for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

All Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind
his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once
for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Our Lady,
Nicolas, George, Benedict and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Priest Let us pray with confidence
as our Saviour has taught us:

All Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
in 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 Fracture

Priest We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

*You are welcome to make your communion. Sidespeople will guide you.
Anyone baptised may receive the Eucharist.*

Prayer after Communion

God, shepherd of your people,
whose servant Nicolas revealed the loving service
of Christ

in his ministry as a pastor of your people:
by this eucharist in which we share
awaken within us the love of Christ
and keep us faithful to our Christian calling;
through him who laid down his life for us,
but is alive and reigns with you,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood
of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you
our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

¶ Please STAND

The Blessing & Dismissal

**May Christ who makes saints of sinners,
who has transformed those we remember today,
raise and strengthen you,
that you may transform the world;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.**

All Amen

**The Mass is ended.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Do join us for cheese and wine
in the Parish Hall after Mass.
You would be most welcome.*



And if you want to know a little more about Nicolas ...

The legend says that young Nicolas sought God earnestly, learned scriptures, fasted often, and prayed much. His parents died while he was still a young man, and he inherited their property. From the start, he determined to use it for good. He gave assistance secretly, not wishing his good deeds to be seen. For example, when he learned that a local nobleman had fallen on hard times and was contemplating selling his daughters into prostitution, he secretly threw the gold into the house to enable the girls to marry and escape degradation. Some versions say he threw the gold down the chimney where it lodged in stockings they had hung up to dry. By such tactics, he rescued many people from moneylenders and provided clothes for the homeless.

Later he sailed to Palestine to tour the places where Christ had walked. On the way, says the story, Satan raised a great storm, hoping to destroy the ship. Desperate, the sailors cried to Nicolas to pray for them. He did, and the sea immediately became calm. Shortly afterward, one of the sailors slipped while climbing the mast and fell to the deck where he lay dead. In answer to Nicolas' prayers, God restored the seaman to life.

After visiting the shrines at Jerusalem, he boarded a ship for Lycia. The Lord had forbidden him to become a hermit as he wished. Plotting evil, the sailors steered in the wrong direction. Nicolas prayed. A storm arose and blew the boat to Lycia.

St. Nicolas in Myra

Myra was the chief city of Lycia. Nicolas headed to Myra. About the time of his arrival, the city's bishop died. The church seemed ready to split as its leaders argued who should be the next bishop. At that point, one of the bishops was instructed in a vision to choose the man who came to church earliest in the morning. It so happened that Nicolas was the first to the church, for he rose at midnight each night to begin his day of prayer. When questioned, he

responded so meekly that the assembled bishops agreed he was God's choice.

As bishop of Myra, Nicolas resisted tyrants and taught the truth, especially rejecting the Arian heresy. His people loved him. Whereas before, he had done his acts of charity anonymously, he now realized that he must act openly, for he must be an example to his people. "The doors of his house were open to all. He was kind and affable to all, to orphans he was a father, to the poor a merciful giver, to the weeping a comforter, to the wronged a helper, and to all a great benefactor." He brought down a local temple of the goddess Diana, confronted unjust rulers, defended individuals who were falsely accused, and prayed for relief during a famine. Nicolas attended the Council of Nicea, where he was almost stripped of his office because frustrated with the claims of Arius against Christ, he slapped him. He was required to apologize.

Saint Nicolas' Day

After a short illness, Nicolas died on this day, December 6, somewhere between 341 and 352. His body was laid in state in his church. Myrrh is said to have flowed from him. In the eleventh century, Italians took his relics to Bari, Italy, supposedly to preserve them from Muslim invaders. That is where they remain. It is claimed that myrrh still oozes from the relics and has a special virtue to heal the sick. In Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands, gifts are given on Nicolas's day and in the United States, on Christmas day. Russia holds him as a patron saint. In fact, on March 13, 2001, A delegation of the Catholic Archdiocese of Bari, Italy brought a portion of the relics of St. Nicolas to the Russian Patriarch as a gesture of goodwill.