



# Advent

*A Season of Hope  
& Expectation*

**WELCOME**  
to  
**St Nicolas**  
**Church & Infants School**



## The Gathering

*Please stand for the Processional Hymn*

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

All **Amen.**

## Confession

Priest When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.  
Turn to us again, O God our saviour,  
and let your anger cease from us:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Show us your compassion, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation:

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,  
that glory may dwell in our land:

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 First Sunday in Advent

## *The Patriarchs*

### The Advent Wreath

*The Advent Candle for Advent I is lit and censed and this prayer is said,*

God of Abraham and Sarah,  
and all the patriarchs of old,  
you are our Father too.  
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,  
Son of God and Son of David.  
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth  
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit  
to make his home among us.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.

*The Junior Church are gathered and blessed on their way.*

### Collect

**Priest** Let us pray:

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**All** Amen

# The Second Sunday in Advent

## *The Prophets*

### The Advent Wreath

*The Advent Candle for Advent II is lit and censed and this prayer is said,*

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets,  
but in our days you speak through your Son,  
whom you have appointed the heir of all things.  
Grant us, your people, to walk in his light,  
that we may be found ready and watching  
when he comes again in glory and judgement;  
for you are our light and our salvation.

*The Junior Church are gathered and blessed on their way.*

### Collect

**Priest** Let us pray:

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power  
and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

**All**

**Amen**

# The Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

## *John the Baptist*

### The Advent Wreath

*The Advent Candle for Advent III is lit and censed and this prayer is said,*

God Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth  
as a burning and shining light.  
May we your servants rejoice in his light,  
and so be led to witness to him  
who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,  
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.  
Blessed be God for ever.

*The Junior Church are gathered and blessed on their way.*

### Collect

**Priest** Let us pray:

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient  
to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**All** Amen

## The Fourth Sunday in Advent *The Blessed Virgin Mary*

### The Advent Wreath

*The Advent Candle for Advent III is lit and censed and this prayer is said,*

God our Father,  
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary  
that she was to be the mother of your Son.  
Though Mary was afraid,  
she responded to your call with joy.  
Help us, whom you call to serve you,  
to share like her in your great work  
of bringing to our world your love and healing.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world.

*The Junior Church are gathered and blessed on their way.*

### Collect

**Priest** Let us pray:

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
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

### ¶ Please SIT

A reading from the OLD TESTAMENT

*At the end of the reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* Thanks be to God.

A PSALM may be sung

A reading from the NEW TESTAMENT

*At the end of the reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* Thanks be to God.

### ¶ Please STAND for the Gradual HYMN or Motet

*Gospeller* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

*All* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

*Gospeller* Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

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

*All* Glory to you, O Lord.

*At the end of the Gospel:*

*Gospeller* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* Praise to you, O Christ.

### ¶ Please SIT

The Homily



**¶ Please STAND**

## The Apostles' 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.

## Intercessions

Priest Watchful at all times,  
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence  
before our Maker and Redeemer.

*The Intercessor leads the congregation in prayer and ending:*

**¶ 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 hour 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

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
The peace of the Lord be with you always

All **And also with you**

### ¶ *The Offertory Hymn*

### ¶ Please remain **STANDING**

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 the praise and glory of his name, 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.**

*From Advent Sunday until 16 December:*

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
For when he humbled himself  
to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed  
before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.  
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day  
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.  
And so we join our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven  
to proclaim your glory  
for ever praising you and *saying:*

*From 17 December until Christmas Midnight:*

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,  
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.  
John the Baptist was his herald  
and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy  
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,  
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.  
And so, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your glory,  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

*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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

*All*

**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,  
    Catherine, 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, 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 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.

## Communion

Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are you 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 President and people receive communion.*

*All baptised Christians are welcome to receive the sacrament.*

*You will be directed to the altar by a sidesperson.*

*Any person may come to the altar for a blessing holding this service order is a useful signal to the priest.*

## Prayers after Communion

### The First Sunday in Advent

*Priest* O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### The Second Sunday in Advent

*Priest* Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity of his first coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### The Third Sunday in Advent

*Priest* We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

### The Fourth Sunday in Advent

*Priest* Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*            **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.**

## **The Blessing & Dismissal**

*Priest*        Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God Almighty:  
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be with you and remain with you always.

*All*            **Amen.**

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

*All*            **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**¶ Please REMAIN STANDING for the Recessional Hymn**



## Prayers after Mass Advent Collect:

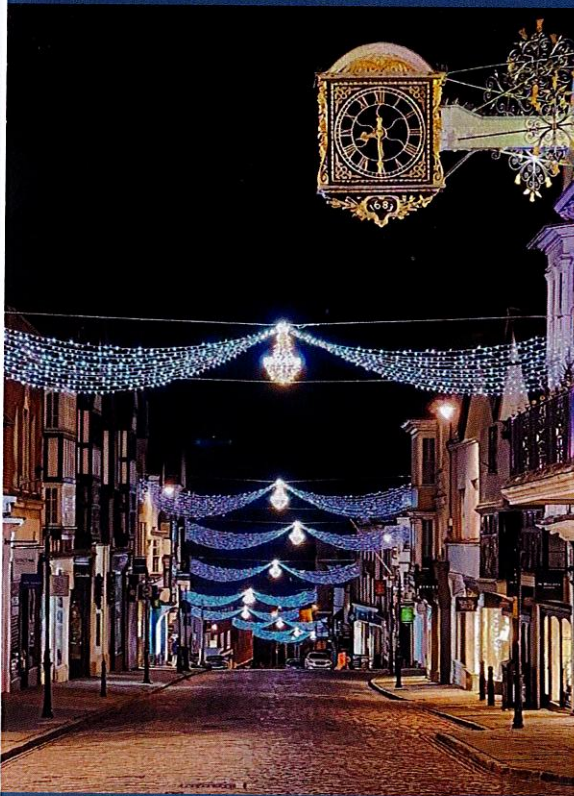
*Urgent God, breaking through the static to speak to our hearts:  
disarm our love of control and shake the silent heavens  
to reveal your dawning glory, judging all in the light of love;  
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.*

### *A Prayer attributed to Saint Benedict*

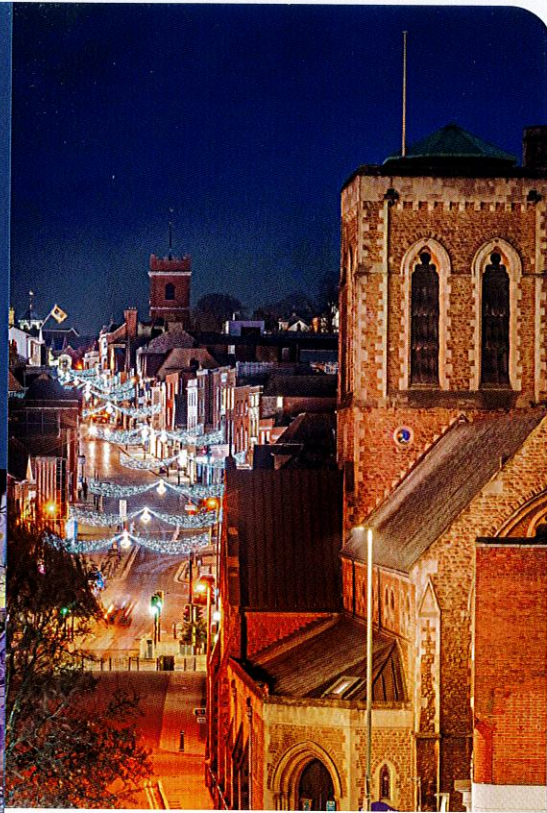
*O gracious and holy Father,  
give us wisdom to perceive you,  
intelligence to understand you,  
diligence to seek you,  
patience to wait for you,  
eyes to behold you,  
a heart to meditate upon you,  
and a life to proclaim you,  
through the power of the Spirit  
of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen*



# Christmas at St Nicolas



Guildford St Nicolas CofE  
Church & Infants School  
[www.saintnics.com](http://www.saintnics.com)



## Christmas Services

Christmas with family and friends, gifts, cosy fires, good food and a drink or two: these are what we all think of and look forward to - and why not? For many it is a real pleasure to look forward and focus. For others, it is a time of pressure - the right present, the right look, the right food; for others it is a lonely time and this year a cold time. Whatever it is to you, know that God is in it.

That is what **Immanuel** means in our Carols - **God is with us**. So come to your Parish Church and be warm, welcome and blessed this Christmas and hear once again the message of the Angels - **Unto us a Son is born**.

There is something for everyone.  
*Fr Neil, Rector of Guildford St Nicolas*

# Christmas Services

Sunday 27th November 630pm

## **Advent Carols**

*The one with fabulous Carols and Choir*

Saturday 3rd December 4pm

## **Messy Christmas**

*Family Fun & Food*

Sunday 4th December 3pm

## **Band & Christmas Tree Festival @ GURC**

630pm **Cathedral Choir sings Evensong @ St Nicolas**

Friday 16th December

## **School Christmas Posada**

Sunday 18th December 1030am

## **Nine Lessons, Carols & Mince Pies**

*The famous one - a choral feast!*

Christmas Eve 3pm & 5pm (Tickets needed)

## **Christingle**

*Oranges, candles, children dress up as Mary, Joseph, Shepherds and Angels*

Christmas Eve 1130pm

## **Midnight Mass**

Christmas Day 10am

## **Christmas Day Eucharist**

Office: 01483 564526 | [parishoffice@saintnics.com](mailto:parishoffice@saintnics.com)