

# St Mary's Church, Walkley



**The Church on the Road:**  
*Inclusive, Eucharistic, a safe place to be with God*

## **The Holy Innocents Eucharist**

**28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley**

**President: The Revd Mike Gilbert, Associate Archdeacon**  
**Preacher: The Revd Mike Gilbert, Associate Archdeacon**  
**Team Warden: Janet**

## The Gathering and Opening Hymn

*We stand and we sing the opening hymn.*

*President* In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Greeting

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

*All* **and also with you.**

## The Confession and Absolution

*Minister* On this day when we recall the murder of innocent lives,  
let us stand before our just and holy God,  
and remembering the violence and injustice of our world,  
confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*We keep a time of silence.*

*All* **Father we have sinned.  
We are not worthy to be called your children.  
We turn to you again.  
Have mercy on us,  
bring us back to yourself  
as those who once were dead  
but now have life through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*We remain standing and we sing:*

*Cantor* Kyrie eléison

*All* **Kyrie eléison**

*Cantor* Christe eléison

*All* **Christe eléison**

*Cantor* Kyrie eléison

*All* **Kyrie eléison**

*Cantor* Kyrie eléison  
*All* **Kyrie eléison**  
*Cantor* Christe eléison  
*All* **Christe eléison**  
*Cantor* Kyrie eléison  
*All* **Kyrie eléison**

*President* May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw us to himself,  
that we may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
and be cleansed from all our sins,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*All* **Amen.**

*We remain standing and we sing.*

### **The Gloria in Excelsis**

*All* **Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,  
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship  
you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,  
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of  
God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us,  
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the  
Father: receive, receive our prayer.  
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,  
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you  
alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with Holy Spirit, in the  
glory of God the Father. Amen. In the glory of God the Father,  
Amen.**

## The Collect

*President* Let us pray:

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.

*All* **Amen.**

*We sit.*

## The Reading: Jeremiah 31. 15 - 17

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord:

A voice is heard in Ramah,  
lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;  
she refuses to be comforted for her children,  
because they are no more.

Thus says the Lord:

Keep your voice from weeping,  
and your eyes from tears;  
for there is a reward for your work,

says the Lord:

they shall come back from the land of the enemy;  
there is hope for your future,  
says the Lord:  
your children shall come back to their own country.

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## The Gradual Hymn

*We stand and we sing. During the hymn we turn to face the processional cross as the book of the Gospels moves to the middle of the people.*

## The Gospel Reading: Matthew 2. 13 - 18

*Minister* Alleluia, alleluia.  
Never despise these little ones;  
their guardian angels in heaven look continuously  
on the face of my heavenly Father.

*All* **Alleluia.**

Matthew 18.10

*Minister* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Now after the Magi 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.'

*Minister* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## The Sermon

*We stand.*

## **The Creed**

*President* Let us declare our faith in God,

*All*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

*We sit or kneel.*

## **The Prayers of Intercession**

*Intercessor* Jesus, saviour,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Or another response is used.*

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

*We stand.*

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **The Peace**

*President* 'I will comfort you,' says the Lord, 'as a mother comforts her child,  
and you shall be comforted.'

Isaiah 66.13

*President* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

*Minister* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We exchange the peace through smiles, waves and handshakes  
with those around us, as you feel comfortable.*

## **The Offertory Hymn**

*We stand and we sing as the altar is prepared. If you would like to  
support St Mary's, donations can be made after the service at the  
back of church using the collection plate or contactless card giving  
station. If you would like to give regularly to St Mary's please speak  
to the Treasurer, or one of the Team Wardens.*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*President* The Lord is here.

*All* **His Spirit is with us.**

*President* Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*President* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*President* All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In love for our fallen human race,  
you sent your Son into the world to lighten our darkness.  
In his life  
he rejoiced in the innocence and beauty of children;  
in his death  
he carried in his body the violence and cruelty of our world;  
in his resurrection  
he brought life and salvation to his people  
and began the new creation.

As our ascended and merciful high priest,  
he hears our cries and knows our grief;  
and will come as universal Lord to whom all must give account.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

*Cantor* Holy Holy Holy Lord

*All* **Holy Holy Holy Lord**

*Cantor* God of power and God of might

*All* **God of power and God of might**

*Cantor* Heaven and earth are full of your glory

*All* **Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

*Cantor* Hosanna in the highest

*All* **Hosanna in the highest**

*Cantor* Blessed is he who comes

*All* **Blessed is he who comes**

*Cantor* In the name of the Lord most High

*All* **In the name of the Lord most High**

*Cantor* Hosanna

*All* **Hosanna**

*Cantor* Hosanna

*All* **Hosanna**



*Cantor* Hosanna in the highest  
*All* **Hosanna in the highest**

*President* We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

*Minister* Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

*Cantor* Dying you destroyed our death  
*All* **Dying you destroyed our death**

*Cantor* Rising you restored our life  
*All* **Rising you restored our life**

*Cantor* Lord Jesus come  
*All* **Lord Jesus come**

*Cantor* Lord Jesus come  
*All* **Lord Jesus come**

*Cantor* Come again in glory  
*All* **Come again in glory**

*President* Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with Mary, Mark, John, the Holy Innocents  
and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*We sit or kneel.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*President* Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

*All* **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*President* We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

*All* **God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

## The Giving of Communion

*President* Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.  
*All* **Lord, give us this bread always.**

*The president will give instructions on how to come forward for communion and on returning to our seats. All are welcome to come to front for the bread and wine or a blessing. If you would like a blessing please keep your arms folded across your chest at you approach the front.*

*We are now able to receive the wine as well as the bread. The president will dip the wafer in the wine before giving it to you. Gluten free wafers are available, please ask at the altar.*

*During the distribution we sing.*

## The Prayer after Communion

*President* Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
in your humility you have stooped to share our human life  
with the most defenceless of your children:  
may we who have received these gifts of your passion  
rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents  
to the purity of your sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross;  
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **We praise and thank you, creator God,  
for you have not left us alone.  
Every year we celebrate your coming as Emmanuel.  
Every eucharist celebrates his death,  
in the bread we break and the cup we share,  
until that day when we shall see you face to face,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Notices

*We stand.*

## The Blessing

*President* Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,  
fill us with peace and goodwill  
and make us partakers of the divine nature;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.  
*All* **Amen.**

## The Closing Hymn

*We remain standing and we sing during which we turn to face the back of church as the robed ministers process.*

## The Dismissal

*Minister* Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.  
*All* **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

***Coffee and tea are served after the service.***

For more information: [stmaryswalkley.co.uk](http://stmaryswalkley.co.uk)

