

**THE PARISH OF
WITNEY**



**St Mary
the Virgin**



The Eucharist

*Feast of the Birth of the Blessed
Virgin Mary*

*Oikologia: Wisdom from our Home
Planet*



**SEASON OF
CREATION**

Sunday 12 September 2021

10.15am

**We warmly welcome everyone
to Saint Mary's Church in the Parish of Witney.**

From the time when Christianity ceased to be persecuted, Christians built churches and gave them the name of a 'Patron Saint' – a saint whose prayers and example the worshippers wanted to especially remember in their own prayers and worship. The custom of a Patronal Festival grew up, as the feast day of that saint was marked with a celebration of the church bearing their name.

There are many feast days that commemorate Mary, the mother of Jesus. At Saint Mary the Virgin, Witney, we celebrate our Patronal Festival on the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8th September). This is also the time of year when we celebrate our Dedication Festival (the anniversary of the time when our new church building was rededicated and reconsecrated in 1243—The Feast).

Today we end our celebrations of the 'new' church having served our town for 778 years. Our Patronal Festival, the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is an occasion to celebrate all that God has done for us, as individual Christians and as the worshipping community here at Saint Mary's. May we all be able wholeheartedly to sing, with Mary, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.'

During our service we will commit ourselves to the next stage of our common life. It is our prayerful hope that the Mother of Our Lord may draw us closer to one another as we come closer to Jesus Christ our Saviour and Redeemer.

Heavenly Father, We thank you for this church of Saint Mary's. We thank you for Mary our Patron. ^[SEP] We pray for the grace to live like Mary; always trusting in the word of God and

living our lives according to the word of God. We ask this through Jesus the Lord. Amen.

The Gathering

As we gather we stand to sing

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
but wholly trust in Jesus' Name. (Repeat)

*Christ alone, cornerstone,^{[[SEP]]}
weak made strong in the Saviour's love,
through the storm,
he is Lord,^{[[SEP]]} Lord of all.*

When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
^{[[SEP]]}In every high and stormy gale,^{[[SEP]]}
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in him be found,^{[[SEP]]}
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless stand before the throne. *Refrain*

Words & Music: Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan & William Batchelder Bradbury © 2011 Hillsong Music Publishing (Admin. by SHOUT! Music Publishing UK)

The Procession

*As the sacristy bell sounds all stand for a fanfare as the procession moves into place and **we all sing with masks on the first hymn***

Church of God, elect and glorious,
holy nation, chosen race;<sup>{}{}
,SEP;</sup>
called as God's own special people,
royal priests and heirs of grace:
know the purpose of your calling
show to all his mighty deeds;
tell of love which knows no limits,
grace which meets all human needs.

God has called you out of darkness
into his most marvellous light,
brought his truth to life within you,
turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
that God's name is glorified;
and all find fresh hope and purpose
in Christ Jesus crucified.

Once you were an alien people,
strangers to God's heart of love;
but he brought you home in mercy,
citizens of heaven above.
Let his love flow out to others,<sup>{}{}
,SEP;</sup>
let them feel a Father's care;<sup>{}{}
,SEP;</sup>
that they too may know his welcome
and his countless blessings share.

Church of God, elect and holy,

be the people he intends;
strong in faith and swift to answer
each command your master sends:
royal priests, fulfil your calling
through your sacrifice and prayer;
give your lives in joyful service –
sing God's praise, God's love declare.

Words: M Seddon © Laudate! 825
Music: AUSTRIA, Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809

The Greeting

✠ In the name of the Creator of all things,
and of the Son, the firstborn of creation,
and of the Spirit, the breath in all life.

All **Amen.**

From Christ the wondrous Light of all mysteries:
Grace, mercy, and peace be with you

All **and also with you.**

The service is introduced

The Commissioning of Ordinands

Today we welcome James Elward (formerly a pastoral assistant) as our new Ordinand in training with us for the next 2 years. We also welcome a new ordinand on a short placement with us in the benefice, Heather McCulloch, who is also undertaking priestly formation. Please pray for them as they begin their time among us.

As you continue your priestly formation, we welcome you as you come among us to serve. You come to lead God's people in praise and proclamation. You are to set the example of the Good Shepherd always before you and to sustain the community of the faithful by your ministry and by word and sacrament. We pray for you as you join us, that we

may be a blessing to you, and that you may be a blessing to us. (*silence*)

All **May you be an isle in the sea,
may you be a star in the darkness,
may you be a staff to the weak;
may the love Christ Jesus gave fill every heart for you;
may the love Christ Jesus gave fill you for every one.
Amen.**

(from the Celtic tradition)

The ordinands are anointed:

I anoint you for your new ministry here. May God so strengthen you that you may bear pain and give life in your ministry here and in the years to come.

All **Amen.**

The Confession

As we come into the presence of the God of all creation,
Let us hold silence as we prepare to confess our sins:

Born of a woman, born under the law,
Christ has redeemed us from the curse of sin: ^{SEP}
let us come to him that he may heal us and set us free:

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God
and Prince of Peace:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God
and Son of Mary:

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh
and splendour of the Father:

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive you ✠ and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Gloria

To begin, the choir sings the refrain then the congregation joins the repeat:

Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est heav'ns.
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Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's peo-ple, all peo-ple on earth.

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***All:* Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.
Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,
all people on earth.**

***Choir:* Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father, we worship you,
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

***All:* Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.
Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,
all people on earth.**

***Choir:* Lord Jesus Christ, Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy, mercy on us,**

All: Have mercy, mercy on us.

Choir: You are seated at the right hand, at the right hand of the
Father: receive, Lord, receive our prayer.

All: Receive Lord, receive our prayer.

Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.
Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,
all people on earth.

Choir: For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord.
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit, in
the glory, glory of God, the glory of God the Father.

All: Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest heav'ns.
Peace, peace, peace on the earth, peace to God's people,
all people on earth.

Choir: Amen!

All: Amen!

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The Collect

Let us pray:

Mighty One, whose power does not reside
in fleshless lonely purity,
whose word is enwombed at the heart of creation:
we praise you for Mary,
whose hospitable Yes
made a place for love;
whose song of transformation makes thrones and rulers
tumble; whose prayer is heard because she is one of us;
through Jesus Christ, Mary's child.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit for the first reading, Micah 5.1-4. At the end

This is the word of the Lord.


All **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Chant

We remain seated for the gradual chant:

Like rivers in the desert, like springs from the rock,^[SEP] new hope
came through Mary,^[SEP] when the Word became flesh and our
humanity regained its former glory.

Abbey of Tamié



Bles-sed Ma - ry, spring of new hope, from your Son flow the wa-ters of life.

Refrain

The song of the spring will glorify the Lord.

Refrain

The freshness of the clear cooling spring will quench our burning
thirst.

Refrain

This river in our desert will fill our hearts with joy.

Refrain

Like rivers in the desert, like springs from the rock,^[SEP] new hope
came through Mary,^[SEP] when the Word became flesh and our
humanity regained its former glory.

Abbey of Tamié

Words: Pamela Stotter

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We remain seated for the second reading, Romans 8.18-20. At the end

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

We stand as the Choir sings the Alleluia which heralds the Gospel, and we repeat:

Choir/cantor, then all repeat. All repeat once between verses if applicable.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

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al - le - lu - ia al - le - lu - ia.

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The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Luke*.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end

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

Luke 1.26-38

The Sermon

We sit for the sermon

The Creed

Let us declare before God the faith of the Church,
in which we pray we may all find grace to grow:

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.

The Intercessions

United in the foundation of Christ,
let us offer our prayer to the one who created us
and sustains us in the power of the loving Spirit,
in union with Mary our patron:

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

All **Holy is your name.**

After the prayer for the departed

All Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

All May they rest in peace
and rise in glory. Amen.

And so we unite our prayers with those of faithful disciples and pilgrims in every generation, the apostles, martyrs and saints

who inspire us with their lives to answer the call of God and most chiefly with those of Mary, Mother of all Christians.

Silence is kept and the Celebrant concludes the intercessions with a collect

O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
through Jesus Christ yours Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9.6

The peace of our Creator be with you in all things
All and also with you.

Let us offer one another the sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn

We stand as the Offertory Hymn is sung by the choir and the gifts of bread and wine are placed upon the Altar. Because of Covid, a collection is taken at the end of the service. The bread, wine and money are all gifts from God and our offering of them back to God is a sign of the offering of our lives in the Lord's service. In order to maintain the safety of the congregation, we are not able to pass the offertory plate around at the moment. Instead you can give in

one of three ways: i) There will be a collection plate as you leave the church by the West Door; ii) there is a contactless card reader by the door for you to use; iii) or you can text WITPCC to 70480 to donate £10. For other amounts text WITPCC followed by the amount that you wish to give to 70480 eg WITPCC15, WITPCC5 etc.

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.

*Lord of all, to you we raise,
This our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent child.
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild.

For your Church that evermore
Lift its holy hands above,
Off'ring up on ev'ry shore
A pure sacrifice of love.

For yourself, O Gift Divine!
To our world so freely giv'n;
For that love, from which will shine,
Peace on earth and joy in heav'n.

*Lord of all, to you we raise,
This our sacrifice of praise.*

Words: FS Pierpoint, 1835-1947
Music: ENGLANDS LANE, English Melody

Prayer over the Gifts

Let us pray:

As you gather us, O God, at your holy altar
on this feast of Saint Mary,
grant, we pray, through her intercession,
that what we offer with praise and petition
may strengthen us all in charity and faith.
We pray this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

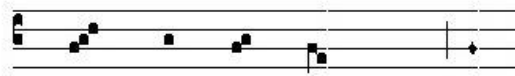
All **Amen.**



The Lord be with you



And al-so with you.



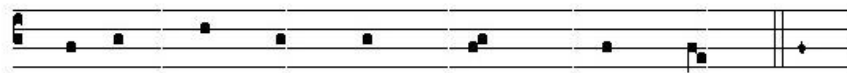
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our salvation,
almighty Father, ever-living God,
to give you thanks and praise
for the work of your grace in the Blessed Virgin Mary.
For by the overshadowing of your Holy Spirit
she conceived and bore the Word made flesh.

At the cross she kept her vigil,
 and saw the saving work of your Son brought to its perfection.
 She rejoiced in his resurrection,
 and joining her prayers with those of the apostles,
 was filled with the gift of your promised Spirit.
 In her you show us the greatness of your love,
 and the wonderful purpose you intend for all your children.
 Therefore we join our voice with hers,
 and all the company of heaven,
 as they sing with joy the hymn of your glory:

9 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might:
 17 heav-en and earth, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry, your pow'r and might. Ho -
 25 san - na Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est heav'ns, Ho -
 33 san - na Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est heav'ns.
 41 Bles-sed, bles-sed is He who comes, bles-sed, bles-sed is He who comes,
 bles-sed is He, bles-sed is He, who comes in the name of the Lord. Back to

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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

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 Mary the Mother of God,
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.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the Word made flesh
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated host

We break this bread to share our unity with creation in Christ and to share in the creativity of God.

All **Though we are many, we are one creation,
because we all share in the love of the creator.**

Je-sus, Lamb of God, Bread of Life for us; Je-sus Lamb of God, Wine of Joy for us;
Source of un - i - ty; Pre-cious cor - ner - stone;
Bread that makes us one; Wine that heals our pain;

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Je - sus, Lamb of God, bear - ing all our sins: have mer - cy on us, give us your peace.

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Here is the table of our star-flinging God, whose light dances across eternity and dazzles us into the mystery of love. Here we are gathered to God's Kingdom meal, a foretaste of things eternal. Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love. Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith. Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole. Come, old and young, there is room for all as we travel into the gift of a new week.

We break the bread for the whole world. We invite all who seek God and are drawn to Christ, and all who walk the way of faith to come forward and receive the body and blood of Christ in one kind, as directed by the Sidesperson. Or you are warmly invited to come forward for a blessing – please carry this booklet and bow your head. Gluten free wafers are available on request.

The Communion Hymn

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away
Slain for us, and we remember
The promise made
That all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the Cross.

*[L]
[SEP] So we share in this bread of life
And we drink of his sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.*

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ
Torn for you, eat and remember
The wounds that heal
The death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one. *Refrain*

The blood that cleanses ev'ry stain of sin
Shed for you, drink and remember
He drained death's cup
That all may enter in
To receive the life of God. *Refrain*

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond, and to remember
Our call to follow
In the steps of Christ
As his body here on earth.

*As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven*

Around the table of the King!

Behold the Lamb (Communion)

Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend

(c) 2007 Thank you music

*Inspired by C.S. Lewis' Voyage of the Dawn Treader, from the
Chronicles of Narnia - specifically Aslan's Table in the Island of the Star
The Post Communion Prayer*

After a period of silence, we stand with the Priest to pray

All God most high,

whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh:

we thank you that in this sacrament of our redemption

you visit us with your Holy Spirit

and overshadow us by your power;

strengthen us to walk with Mary the joyful path of

obedience and so bring forth the fruits of holiness;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Notices

We sit for the notices

Renewal of Commitment to the Life of the Church

On our patronal festival we celebrate the life of this church and commit ourselves to the work of Christ's Church on earth. We rejoice in the pattern and witness of Mary. And we ask for her to intercede for the needs of the world and of our church community.

Today we also celebrate all that has happened by God's mercy and kindness. And we commit ourselves to our future mission and ministry in this place, to restore and renew ourselves and this ancient house of prayer.

So let us pray for faithfulness in our lives to respond to God's call in our lives, that with Mary we may say:

All 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be done with me according to your word.'

Luke 1.38

As we do this, I invite you to join in praying together

All We praise you and we bless you,
our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for as you were sent by the Father, so you send us.
Equip your Church^{[L][SEP]}
with the gifts to fulfil our calling^{[L][SEP]}
that we may love as you loved,
serve as you served,^{[L][SEP]}
and willingly follow wherever you lead.^{[L][SEP]}
To you, Lord Jesus, gifting your people,^{[L][SEP]}
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

CW Times and Seasons
Stations of the Resurrection (Station 9)

The Blessing

We stand

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

May God who established the dance of creation,
who marvelled at the lilies of the field,

who transforms chaos to order,
lead you to transform your lives and the Church
to reflect God's glory in creation;
and the blessing of God almighty,
✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit come down upon you
and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme

The Dismissal

As we prepare to leave
and embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world,
Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Recessional Hymn

Gracious Lord, our hands are empty
Beggars seeking life and grace
Graft our lives into your own life
Gift your Spirit in this place
Hearts of stone we lift for blessing
Hearts of flesh we seek anew
Help our eyes see with compassion
Comforter, our joy renew.

Servant Lord, you came in meekness
Stooping low to show our worth

Banish pride, restore love's sweetness
Help us heal your wounded earth
Give us hunger for your kingdom
Thirst to see your ways prevail
Satisfy our hope for justice
Make us lights which will not fail.

Living Lord, your name is mercy,
Love made flesh in life and word
Kindness shown to the unworthy
Grace which can be touched and heard
Pure in heart, you offer wholeness
Open eyes that cannot see
Win for all complete forgiveness
Come to set your people free.

Son of God we seek your healing
Over this fragmented globe
Mend our lives, our homes, our nations
Making peace, one seamless robe
Help your church to be courageous
Joined in your eternal search
For the lost, the least, the helpless
Make us more a Christ like Church.

Bishop Steven Croft

Tune: BLAENWERN, W.P. Rowlands, 1860-1937

Let us bless the Lord!
All **Thanks be to God!**

Everyone is welcome to greet one another and enjoy coffee outside the church after the Eucharist.



**Called to be a community
of mercy and kindness**

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