



Sundays 21st and 28th December 2025

Newsletter

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CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION SERVICES – DECEMBER/JANUARY

Sunday 21 December

10am Sung Eucharist
4pm Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's
6.30pm Blue Christmas Service at Church of the Ascension

**All are welcome to Morning Prayer at St Mary's at 8.30am
on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this week.**

Monday 22 December

5pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 23 December

5pm Evening Prayer
10am Midweek Said Eucharist

Wednesday 24 December

10am Midweek Eucharist
4pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Thursday 25 December - CLOSED

10am Team Eucharist at St Mary's

Sunday 28 December

10am Team Eucharist at Church of the Ascension

**Please note that there is no Morning Prayer at St Mary's or Evening Prayer at
Church of the Ascension on Monday 29th, Tuesday 30th or Wednesday 31st December.**

Sunday 4 January

10am Morning Prayer

**All are welcome to Morning Prayer at St Mary's
at 8.30am on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 5th January.**

Pray for our sick and those who care for them: Evelyn, Pat Hughes, Bob, Carol, Steph Randall, Pam, Fran and Peter, Tim Dalloway, Anne-Marie, Chris Hemsley, Angela, Winnifred Quirke, Winston Sharpe, Phil Mayhew, Mike, Henry, Samantha Hart, Sarah, Denise, Kirsty, Richard Hughes, Robert Hodges, Beryl Pritchett, The Dean, Stephen Edwards, John Whitby, John Timmins, Kerry, Maria, Peter, Russel Boyce, Scott, Thomas, Brian, Rev'd David Lingwood.

MU Members, especially the house bound.

**In the first week of January we will be starting a new list of prayers for the sick.
Please let Lindsey know any names which need including.**

Recently Departed: Herbert Samuel Grove, Margaret Hickman, Tony Mason

Margaret Hickman – Funeral Arrangements

- **Thursday 8th January at 4pm**
 - **Friday 9th January 3pm**
- Margaret will be brought into St Mary's
Funeral Service at St Mary's followed by
committal at Gornal Wood Crematorium at 4.10pm

Mainly Music There is a new cake rota at the back of church and we would greatly appreciate if you could put your name on the list. Thank you to everyone who has supported us in supplying cakes this year 😊

Used stamps for The Beacon Centre Please remember to bring in any used stamps for us to send to this very worthy charity.

Sunday 28 December at 10am – Team Eucharist

There will be a Team Eucharist on Sunday 28 December at **Church of the Ascension**.

There will be no service at St Mary's on this day.

Morning and Evening Prayer 29th – 31st December

Please note there will be no morning or evening prayer on Monday 29, Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 December. They will recommence on Monday 5th January.

Fr Mel's Prayer Group will re-start for the new year on Monday 5th January.

Bishop Hugh There will be a service of welcome and installation on **Saturday 17th January at 2pm** at **Worcester Cathedral** as Bishop Hugh begins his ministry in the Diocese. All are welcome. It doesn't seem like we will need to book a coach. If anyone does want to attend, I'm sure we can sort lifts out if needed. Please speak to one of the clergy or churchwardens.

A prayer for Bishop Hugh

Gracious and loving God, through your Son Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd,
you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church:

we thank you for calling your servant Hugh to be Bishop of Worcester;
sustain him by your love, strengthen him in faith, encourage him in hope
and grant him the needful gifts of grace;

that through his ministry among us we may live and grow as Kingdom People
sharing faith, hope and love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Confirmation Service On **Sunday 18th January** there will be a **Confirmation service at St Mary's at 10am** and all are welcome. **There won't be a service at CoA.**

We will be welcoming Bishop Alan Winton to lead the confirmation. He was formally the Bishop of Thetford and upon retirement he moved to Worcester and is an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese. For more information on Bishop Alan please see:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Winton

We are also welcoming Bishop Victor Condori from the Diocese of Peru to the same service. Bishop Victor is in the UK to attend the installation of Bishop Hugh at the Bishop of Worcester. For more information on Bishop Victor please see:

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/new-assistant-bishop-in-peru.php>

Please do pray for the candidates being confirmed and if you're able to attend what I know will be an uplifting service and share some of the work in this part of God's Kingdom.

Pause, Pray, Ponder, Praise

Is a new reflective service being held on the third Sunday of the month by Chris Knight at **Church of the Ascension** starting on **Sunday 18th January at 4 pm**.

It will be a service when you will have time to just sit quietly with God. Everyone is welcome.

For more details, please speak to Chris or send her an email to knightchristine2059@gmail.com

21st December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Today's Readings

Isaiah 7: 1-16

Psalm 80: 1-8, 18-20

Romans 1: 1-7

Matthew 1: 18-end

Post Communion

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. **Amen.**

28th December - Team Service at Church of the Ascension

Collect

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Today's Readings

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-end

Matthew 2:13-end

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please pray for the people that live in the care homes in our parish and for the people who care for them.

Baptism Preparation – Prayer for December

Book: Aliens In Underpants

*Loving God, we ask that You help this family know and understand the fullness of Your love.
Give them peace in knowing that You are with them from the beginning until the end. **Amen***

A prayer from one of the children at Church of the Ascension School

Dear God. Thank you for sending your son down to earth so he could save us from our sins.
Please help us remember the true message of Christmas at this important time of year. We are
so grateful for everything you do for us and others. **Amen.**

Gluten Free Wafers - whenever the Eucharist is celebrated gluten free wafers will be available.