

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER THE HOLY INNOCENTS

This sheet contains the hymns, readings and prayers of the day for this service; you can follow all other parts of the service in the green 'Sung Eucharist' booklet.

11.00am Sung Eucharist

Celebrant: The Revd Canon Vanessa Baron, Treasurer

Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr Earl Collins, Chancellor

ENTRANCE HYMN

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim worship night and day,
a breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim thronged the air
but only his mother in her maiden bliss
worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

Words: *Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

Music: *CRANHAM, Gustav Holst (1874-1934)*

COLLECT

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. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31: 15-17

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.

PSALM 124

Response: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

If the Lord himself had not been on our side,
now may Israel say;
If the Lord had not been on our side,
when enemies rose up against us;
Then would they have swallowed us alive
when their anger burned against us;
Then would the waters have overwhelmed us
and the torrent gone over our soul;
over our soul would have swept the raging waters.

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

But blessed be the Lord
who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
Our soul has escaped
as a bird from the snare of the fowler;
the snare is broken and we are delivered.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who has made heaven and earth.

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1: 26-29

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We praise you, O God, we acknowledge you to be the Lord. The noble army of martyrs praise you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 2: 13-18

After the wise men 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.'

OFFERTORY HYMN

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: *Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)*

Music: *FOREST GREEN, traditional English melody*

COMMUNION HYMN—*please remain seated*

Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation. (x2)

Cradled in a stall was he
with sleepy cows and asses;
but the very beasts could see
that he all men surpasses. (x2)

Herod then with fear was filled:
'A prince,' he said, 'in Jewry!'
and all the little boys he killed
at Bethlem in his fury. (x2)

Now may Mary's son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us. (x2)

Omega and Alpha he!
let the organ thunder,
while the choir with peals of glee
doth rend the air asunder. (x2)

Words: *15th-century Latin, tr. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)*

Music: *PUER NOBIS, melody from Piaae Cantiones (1582),
harmony by G. H. Palmer (1846-1926)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

Christ is the world's true light,
its Captain of salvation,
the Daystar shining bright
to every man and nation;
new life, new hope awakes,
where'er men own his sway;
freedom her bondage breaks,
and night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet,
their ancient feuds forgetting,
the whole round world complete,
from sunrise to its setting:
when Christ is throned as Lord,
men shall forsake their fear,
to ploughshare beat the sword,
to pruning-hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great Name
unite us all who own thee;
cast out our pride and shame
that hinder to enthrone thee;
the world has waited long,
has travailed long in pain;
to heal its ancient wrong,
come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

Words: *G. W. Briggs (1875-1959)*

Music: *NUN DANKET, melody in J. Crüger's Praxiis
Pietatis Melica (c. 1647)*

TODAY'S MUSIC

Mass setting: Mass of St Thomas
David Thorne (b. 1950)
Closing Music: Final from Symphony No. 1, Op. 14
Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

SERVICES THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

Monday-Saturday

7.30am **Quiet prayer** (St Clement Chapel)
7.45am **Morning Prayer** (St Clement Chapel)
8.00am **Holy Communion** (Lady Chapel)
See note **Choral Evensong** (except Monday & Friday—
said Evening Prayer. Monday-Thursday at
4.00pm; Friday & Saturday at **5.30pm**)

Sunday 4 January

8.00am **Holy Communion** (BCP)
9.00am **Eucharist** for children, families and
caregivers
10.00am **Choral Mattins**
11.00am **Choral Eucharist**
3.00pm **Evening Prayer** said
6.00pm **Epiphany Procession**

We are delighted to welcome Martus Ensemble from the Netherlands as our visiting choir this week, singing Evensong at **4.00pm** on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; and Cantemus Cum Spiritu who will sing our services on Saturday (at **5.30pm**) and Sunday morning.

Thursdays at 10.30am **Holy Communion** according to the Book of Common Prayer.

NOTICES

The Dean and Chapter would like to thank everyone for their warm wishes and prayers over Christmas; thanks also to the staff and volunteers who have worked so hard over many weeks.

Curate at the Cathedral Last week we announced that Jacob Wigley will be joining us as Curate following his ordination next summer. Here, Jacob writes to introduce himself.

"My name is Jacob, I'm 27, and I'm an ordinand at Wycliffe Hall college in Oxford. I live in a small village called Yarnton with my wife, Hannah, who is currently 34 weeks pregnant with our first child. I grew up in Leeds before moving to France for a few years, but have spent most of my life in Buckingham town. I am a member of the General Synod, and have studied postgraduate theology at the London School of Theology and the University of Oxford, specialising in Christian friendship. In my spare time, I enjoy country walks and reading a good novel. I'm very excited for this new chapter of our lives in Chichester, and look forward to meeting you all after my ordination in July."

Ian Roberts R. I. P. The funeral of Ian Roberts, part of our Verger team for several years, will take place on Tuesday 30 December at 1.15pm, at Christ Church with St Ewen, Broad St, Bristol.

Epiphany Procession All are welcome to join us at 6.00pm next Sunday, 4 January for this special service celebrating the arrival of the Magi at Bethlehem, featuring a living tableau of the Nativity scene and music from the choir of St Paul's, Chichester. This service will also be livestreamed.

Cathedral Fellowship *The Epiphany Procession* Monday 19 January, 2.00pm, Vicars' Hall. Sue Hyland offers an insight into the story behind the popular Epiphany Procession, how it is organised and presented. Costumes used in the Procession will also be on display. No booking is required and admission is free, but donations to cover expenses will be welcomed.

Friends Monthly coffee mornings continue in 2026 on the first Saturday of the month (exceptions will be announced here), starting on Saturday 3 January at 10.00am in the Cathedral. Join us to catch up with old friends or make new ones!

Why Legacies Matter: New Year, Lasting Impact Vicars' Hall, Thursday 15 January 2026, 2.00–3.30pm. Legacies play an essential role in the life of Chichester Cathedral. They help care for its music, heritage and the life of faith it nurtures, ensuring it can continue to inspire and serve future generations. Join us for an informal afternoon, hosted by Alison George, Director of Fundraising, reflecting on the impact of gifts in wills. The event will include updates from the Dean, the premiere of a new music video from the Cathedral Choir, and guidance on legacy planning from experts at Irwin Mitchell Solicitors and will conclude with tea, cake and conversation. Tickets are free and can be booked through the website or from the Trust on 01243 812991.

Friends' Epiphany Lunch with The Revd Canon Dr Earl Collins, Chancellor, Wed 21 January 2026 at 12.30pm, The Assembly Rooms, North Street, Chichester. Wrap up the Festive Season with the Cathedral Friends at our Epiphany Lunch. The Friends are delighted to welcome the new Canon Chancellor, The Revd Dr Earl Collins, as our guest speaker. Earl was installed as Chancellor on 12 October and we look forward to welcoming him on this special occasion. Tickets cost £35 including a welcome drink. You can book online, via the Cathedral's website (chichestercathedral.org.uk/friends), or you can call the Friends desk on 01243 812980 on Tuesday or Friday mornings.

Help us reach our Match Funding for Music goal

2025 has been a landmark year for Chichester Cathedral as we have celebrated our 950th anniversary with inspiring music, community events and moments of deep reflection. At the heart of these celebrations has been our shared commitment to the Cathedral's music, which continues to enrich worship, draw people through our doors and witness to the beauty of faith. As we approach the end of December, we are on tenterhooks awaiting the figures for the third quarter of our Match Funding for Music campaign. At the end of the second quarter we had reached an extraordinary £825,000 of our £950,000 target, thanks to the generosity of so many supporters. With the campaign running until the end of March and every donation matched pound for pound by four anonymous donors, every penny truly counts. Reaching the full £950,000 would be an amazing achievement and a fitting culmination of our anniversary year.

We invite you to consider whether you might help us make this final push. Achieving the match funding target will significantly strengthen our music endowment, helping to sustain the Cathedral's choral tradition and musical life for generations to come. Whether your support comes through a donation, attending services and concerts, volunteering or sharing our mission with others, it all makes a difference.

Thank you for all you have already given and for holding this work in your prayers as we seek to cross the finish line together.

How to donate

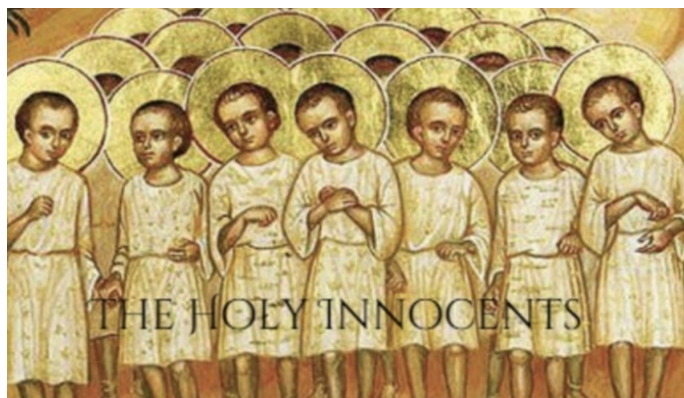
Send a cheque/charity voucher made payable to 'Chichester Cathedral Restoration and Development Trust CIO' to Chichester Cathedral Trust, The Royal Chantry, Cathedral Cloisters, Canon Lane, Chichester, PO19 1PX

Via BACs (Bank Transfer) to Chichester Cathedral Restoration & Development Trust CIO bank account: Barclays Bank, Account number: 53716384, Sort code: 20-20-62. Please provide your name as the reference so that we can thank you. Alternatively please call 01243 812991 to make a donation using a credit or debit card. Note: limited office hours over the Christmas/New Year period. Do leave a message.



Bishop Richard Moth

We send congratulations and the assurance of prayers to Bishop Richard Moth, Roman Catholic Bishop of Arundel and Brighton on his appointment by Pope Leo XIV as Archbishop of Westminster in succession to Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Bishop Richard has been bishop of our sister diocese since 2015 and was formerly Bishop of the Forces. As Archbishop of Westminster, Bishop Richard will become the most senior Roman Catholic bishop in England and Wales. Bishop Richard is also an ecumenical canon of Chichester Cathedral.



If you are able to make a donation to the Cathedral...

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a secure and simple way of giving to the Cathedral by Direct Debit on a regular monthly, quarterly or annual basis. If eligible, you can opt to add Gift Aid and PGS claims this on our behalf, passing it directly back to the Cathedral.

- **Online** Visit www.parishgiving.org.uk and search for 'Chichester Cathedral'; **By phone** 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday, 9.00 to 5.00; **By post** Using the PGS application form. A copy is available to collect from the Visitors' Desk or the Vergers' Office.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have a **notice relevant to the ministry and mission of the Cathedral** that you would like to submit for this notice sheet, please contact: chris.george@chichestercathedral.org.uk by 5pm on Tuesday.

If you have any **safeguarding concerns** in relation to the Cathedral, please contact safeguarding@chichestercathedral.org.uk or speak to a member of our Safeguarding team [please see the website or our Safeguarding posters for more details].