



Christmas



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St John the Baptist, Catford & Downham Team Ministry

The feast of the Holy Innocents

28th December 2025



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



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Hymns:

♫	Processional-	403
♫	Gradual-	526
♫	Offertory-	253
♫	Communion-	263
♫	Recessional-	199

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.**

1st reading: Jeremiah 31.15-17

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

¹⁵Thus 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.

¹⁶Thus 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;

¹⁷there is hope for your future, says the LORD: your children shall come back to their own country.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalms: 124

Refrain: ⁷Our help standeth in the Name of the Lord :

who hath made heaven and earth.

¹If the Lord himself had not been on our side, now may Israel say : if the Lord himself had not been on our side, when men rose up against us;

² They had swallowed us up quick : when they were so wrathfully displeased at us. **R**

³ Yea, the waters had drowned us : and the stream had gone over our soul.

⁴ The deep waters of the proud : had gone even over our soul. **R**

⁵ But praised be the Lord : who hath not given us over for a prey unto their teeth.

⁶ Our soul is escaped even as a bird out of the snare of the fowler : the snare is broken, and we are delivered. **R**

2nd reading: 1 Corinthians 1.26-29

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

²⁶Consider 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.

²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are,

²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 2.13-18

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.
Glory to you O, Lord.

¹³Now 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.'

¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,

¹⁵and 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.'

¹⁶When 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.

¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸'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.'

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



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Prayers

For healing and protection for:
Alison Marrett, Alison Blessing,
Barry Langridge, Eric, Carolyn
Lindo, Joshua, Annie, Dwayne,
Beverley, Glyn, Drew Spikes, Ruth
Bennett, Bilki, Marcel, Leila,
Theresa, Valerie Stevenson, Trishia
Reed.

For those departed this life,
including Evelyn Colville, Ellie, and
those with an anniversary of a death
at this time including Rita Amos Eka,
Violet Brick.

Church Diary

Prayer Chapel open:
9.30am-5.30pm

No MP or ES until 5th January.
Clergy hibernating.

Holy Innocents (28th)
10.30am Sung Mass

Wednesday 31st
John Wyclif, reformer, 1384
10am Said Mass.
11pm Watch Night service at St
Barnabas.

Friday 2nd Basil & Gregory,
theologians, 379, 389
1-3pm First Friday Club

The 2nd Sunday of Christmas
(4th) 10.30am Sung Mass

Any queries contact:

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