



SAINT JOHN'S MALONE



Jesus unrolls the book in the synagogue. 1886-1894

Artist: Tissot, James, 1836-1902, New York

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome to Saint John's especially all who are visiting today.

An audio *loop system* is in operation for those with hearing aids. The order of service is available to download from the website and the 10.30am is livestreamed on St John's Malone YouTube channel. Those baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and are communicant members of their own church are welcome to receive Holy Communion, according to conscience.

Today: Sunday 26th January 2025

9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

6.30p.m. Choral Evensong

The Eucharist ~See service booklet for 10:30am if available or below for page references in the BCP 2004

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Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
Renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading **Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

⁸all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a**

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not

an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading *Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Luke chapter four beginning at verse one. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

Luke 4: 14-21 (22-30)

14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the

place where it was written:

¹⁸ 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' [²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' ²³He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." ' ²⁴And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.]

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father,
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
May your people,
illumined by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped,
and obeyed to the ends of the earth;

for he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Services this week

Wednesday 29th

7:30pm Zoom Compline

Thursday 30th 10.30am St Brigid (tr) with prayer for those in need will take place in the Side Chapel. The prayer list is in the Side Chapel.

A cup of tea/coffee is now available after this service.

Next Sunday: Presentation of Christ in the Temple 2.02.25

9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel

10.30 a.m. Sunday First for Candlemas with a Christingle Celebration

Coffee/tea follows this service and all are welcome.



Notices: | Sign up for the regular email Update at secstjohns@btconnect.com

Contactless Payments The Select Vestry has made a new contactless payment device available in the parish from today and may be used for any donations you'd like to make at social time after the service in the hall.

Giving and Stewardship in St Johns' much of our income received is through the Free Will Offering Scheme using either envelopes or increasingly, by Standing Order. Standing order forms are available by asking the Churchwardens or contacting the Office or secstjohns@btconnect.com. Alternatively if you wish to make a donation then the account details for St John's are also available from the Wardens. Your donations help us maintain our buildings and support ministry and outreach here in St John's and more widely.

Organising your wedding in St John's

Weddings are special occasions in the life of any family and of the Church. We'd be delighted to talk to anyone contemplating their wedding in St John's. When considering getting married please check possible dates with the Rector before confirming any other arrangements. It is expected that couples will make a regular commitment to the life of the Church in preparation for marriage.

Hospital Visiting

The Rector would appreciate knowing if parishioners are going into or are in hospital or discharged and is pleased to offer pastoral support.

Safeguarding

The Rector, select vestry and parish leaders are committed to uphold the good practice to the parish's ministry with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Should you have any concern or suspicion regarding child welfare in the parish please contact a member of the

Parish panel.

Rev Canon Stephen Fielding 9066 6644

Mrs Patricia Armstrong 07854005699

Dr Anthony Stevens 07710647080

The readings this week offer a range of options for themes. There is the word of God, revealed in creation and through the book of the law. There is the mission of Christ proclaimed in his reading of the scroll from Isaiah. And there is the call for us to be the body of Christ, working together with each part taking his or her place. All of these ideas come together in the theme of purpose and call. We are all recipients of God's calling word, and we are all called to participate in Christ's mission. To do this work, we need to collaborate and each take our place in the body.

May our worship this week reignite our sense of call, and teach us to find our place in God's called community.

READINGS:

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10: Ezra reads the book of the law to the people. They respond in remorse, but Nehemiah encourages them to be joyful and to celebrate.

Psalms 19: A celebration of God's word, proclaimed and revealed in creation, which makes naive people wise, which gladdens the heart, which gives light to see by, and which is a valuable treasure.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a: Paul teaches that the Christian community is like a body with many parts. Each has a gift, and each must use their unique gift for the benefit of the "Body of Christ".

Luke 4:14-21: Jesus reads from Isaiah's scroll about God's anointing for ministry, and God's liberating work through God's anointed. Then, he claims this prophecy for himself.

REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

In a world that can sometimes seem so random, this week in Epiphany gives us a vision of purpose. God's purpose – God's message – was read from the book of the law by Ezra to God's people. It is proclaimed, as the Psalmist declares, through all of creation. And it was the guiding force in Jesus' life and ministry. As he began his work, he proclaimed as his mandate the words of Isaiah's prophecy – God's saving and liberating "Jubilee" purpose. Now, as those who follow Christ, we are called, individually and together, to fulfil Christ's purpose, in our world and in our time. To do this, God has gifted each of us, and called us to work together as one Body, as Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12. Hearing God's word, allowing it to call and direct us, and working together as a body, a called community – these are the elements of this week's theme.



South Belfast
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Urgently needed food items - in order of priority.

Long Life Juice UHT Milk Oats Jams/Honey/Spreads Tinned potato/Instant Mash
Pulses (chickpeas/kidney beans/lentils) Coffee/Tea Tinned Fruit Custard/Rice
Pudding Shampoo/Shower Gel | Household cleaning items - Fairy liquid / anti-bac
spray/ washing powder etc

Donations to the Foodbank can either be placed directly into the basket at Tesco
Newtownbreda or donate directly to the Foodbank. Or please place items in the
baskets in the church entrance vestibule/porch.

Open for donations every Wednesday 1-3pm and every Thursday 10am-12pm. Our
warehouse is Unit 4, 23 Sunwich Street, Belfast, BT6 8HR Any questions regarding
donating please call us on 07743332489 or email us on
info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk

www.malone.connor.anglican.org



@malonestjohns

Thank you for your generosity | We depend on your gifts of time treasure and talent to keep ministry in St John's running. To make an offering in support of the parish please give at the welcome table near the church door or by scanning this QR code. Please use Gift Aid if you can. To set up regular giving, which helps our ministry planning, please contact Joanne Macartney at treasurer.stjohns@hotmail.com

<https://givealittle.co/c/stjohnsdonate>



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The Rector, Rev. Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters (90666644)

e-mail : malone@connor.anglican.org

Please take this booklet home with you for the readings, notices and reference during the week and recycle.