

1875



2025

# Christ Church

St Leonards on Sea



**The Third Sunday of Lent**  
**Sung Mass with Holy Baptism**  
*With Sunday School*  
**1030am**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> March**

## Welcome to Christ Church!

Whoever you are and wherever you are from, know you are very welcome to join us for our worship as we mark the beginning of Lent. Please join us afterwards for refreshments.

Today we welcome the friends & family of Juno, who will be baptised this morning and enter into new life with Jesus Christ. Please keep her in your prayers, especially today.

This evening, all are welcome to a service of Taizé at 6pm – a time of contemplative prayer.

### Children & families

Children and families are very welcome here: our Sunday School meets at the back of Church and there is also a 'Children's Chapel' space with books and toys in the South Aisle, for young children and their parents to use at any point during Mass. Toilets are available at the back of church and in the crypt, accessed via the stairs at the end of the South Aisle.

### During the Mass

*'Talk to God before Mass, and each other afterwards!'*

Please follow the directions to *sit, stand or kneel in italics* and join with the words in bold. Please remember that people are trying to pray before Mass, so keep silence as much as possible and don't disturb those at prayer.

Please also remember that the time after receiving Holy Communion is for quiet prayer and contemplation – not to have conversations.

## Holy Communion

At the Giving of Holy Communion, if you are confirmed and wish to receive the Sacrament, please come forward to receive Communion via the main aisle following the directions of the sidesmen.

Everyone is very welcome to come forward for a blessing: if you would like one, please bow your head.

Holy Communion is offered at the communion rail in both forms. Please kneel, unless you are unable. The Host is received on the tongue, (or if preferred on the hands)

**Stay in touch:**

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Please stand when the bell rings for the entrance of the sanctuary party

## Entrance Hymn

1. Disposer supreme, and judge  
of the earth,  
Who choosest for thine the weak  
and the poor,  
To frail earthen vessels, and things  
of no worth,  
Entrusting thy riches which ay  
shall endure;

2. Throughout the wide world  
their message is heard,  
And swift as the wind it circles  
the earth;  
It echoes the voice of the heavenly  
Word,  
And brings unto mortals the hope  
of new birth.

3. Their cry thunders forth,  
'Christ Jesus is Lord',  
Then Satan doth fear, his citadels  
fall:  
As when those shrill trumpets were  
raised at thy word,  
And one long blast shattered  
proud Jericho's wall.

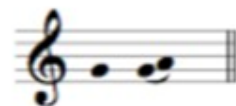
4. O loud be the call, and  
stirring the sound,  
To rouse us, O Lord, from sin's  
deadly sleep;  
May lights which thou kindlest in  
darkness around,  
The dull soul awaken, her vigil to  
keep.

5. All honour and praise, dominion and might,  
To thee, Three in One, eternally be,  
Who pouring around us thy glorious light,  
Dost call us from darkness thy glory to see.

*The Lent Prose is sung as the altar is censed*

## The Greeting

In the name of the Father ✠ and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit



A-men.

The Lord be with you.



And also with you.

*The Priest introduces the Mass & the Sunday School come forward to receive their scriptures, blessing & items for their altar.*

## **The Penitential Rite: The Asperges**

Dear brothers and sisters let us humbly beseech the Lord our God to bless this water he has created, which will be sprinkled on us as a memorial of our Baptism. May he help us by his grace to remain faithful to the Spirit we have received.

*All pray in silence briefly. The Priest then continues:*

Almighty ever-living God, who willed that through water, the fountain of life and the source of purification, even souls should be cleansed and receive the gift of eternal life; be pleased, we pray, to bless this water, by which we seek protection on this your day, O Lord. Renew the living spring of your grace within us and grant that by this water we may be defended from all ills of spirit and body, and so approach you with hearts made clean and worthily receive salvation. Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*While the Choir sings the chant, the Priest sprinkles himself and the people.*

**Antiphon: Thou shalt purge me, O Lord, with hyssop, and I shall be clean: thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Have mercy upon me, O God: after thy great goodness.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Antiphon: Thou shalt purge me, O Lord, with hyssop, and I shall be clean: thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

*The Priest pronounces the absolution:*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you, ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*The Priest sings the **Collect**:*

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,  
who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving  
have shown us a remedy for sin,  
look graciously on this confession of our lowliness,  
that we, who are bowed down by our conscience,  
may always be lifted up by your mercy.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Exodus 17.3-7; Romans 5.1-2, 5-8; John 4.5-42*

*Please sit for the readings*

**First Reading** A reading from the Book of Exodus

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

**Psalm 63 (R My soul is a thirst or you as in a dry and thirsty land)**

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly  
I seek you; my soul is athirst for  
you.

5 I will bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your  
name.

2 My flesh also faints for you, as  
in a dry and thirsty land where  
there is no water.

6 My soul shall be satisfied, as  
with marrow and fatness, and my  
mouth shall praise you with  
joyful lips,

3 So would I gaze upon you in  
your holy place, that I might  
behold your power and your  
glory.

7 When I remember you upon my  
bed and meditate on you in the  
watches of the night.

4 Your loving-kindness is better  
than life itself and so my lips shall  
praise you.

8 For you have been my helper  
and under the shadow of your  
wings will I rejoice.

9 My soul clings to you; your right hand shall hold me fast.

**Second Reading** A reading from the Letter to the Romans

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.*

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory**



Please turn to face the Gospel, proclaimed from the midst of the people

The Lord be with you **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel (✠) of Our Lord Jesus Christ (✠) according to St John (✠)  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Please sit for the **Homily**

*The homily is followed by a time of silent reflection.*

## **THE LITURGY OF BAPTISM**

*The Priest invites the child, parents and godparents to the altar steps:*

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit, and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth. Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. Here we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life.

*Addressing the whole congregation, he says:*

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome Juno and uphold her in her new life in Christ? **With the help of God, we will.**

*He then addresses the parents and godparents:*

Parents and godparents, the Church receives this child with joy. Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith. Will you pray for her, draw her by your example into the community of faith and walk with her in the way of Christ? **With the help of God, we will.**



In baptism this child begins her journey in faith. You speak for her today. Will you care for her, and help her to take her place within the life and worship of Christ's Church? **With the help of God, we will.**

*The Priest addresses Juno through her parents and godparents who answer the questions put to them:*

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with Him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

**I come to Christ.**

*The Priest makes the sign of the cross with the Oil of Baptism (Catechumens) on the forehead of the candidate:*

Christ claims you for His own. Receive the sign of His cross. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

All say: **Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

*The baptism party move to the font; all are welcome to join us at a suitable distance, or to turn and face the font.*

### **Blessing of the Font & Baptismal Water**

*The priest extends his hands over the font as he blesses the baptismal water, concluding: who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.***

You have called your child Juno to this cleansing water that she may share in the faith of your Church and have eternal life. By the mystery of this consecrated water lead her to a new and spiritual birth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The Priest addresses the congregation:*

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with this candidate the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The Priest pours water over the head of the candidate saying,*

I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

You have been clothed with Christ. As many as are baptised into Christ have put on Christ.

*The Priest anoints the head of the candidate with the Oil of Chrism, saying:*

May God, who has received you by baptism into His Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by His anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

**Amen.**

*The Priest gives a candle lit from the Paschal (Easter) Candle, saying:*

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life. Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.

All say: **We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; Juno, we welcome you.**

*All return to their places, as we prepare to offer up prayers and then bring the gifts to the altar.*

*Please remain standing* for the **Intercessions**

*After each petition: Lord, in your mercy* **Hear our prayer.**

*As we pray for the dead: Rest eternal, grant unto them O Lord,*  
**and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*After the final petition we entrust all our prayer and petitions to the unceasing prayers of the Saints in heaven, especially to the Blessed Virgin Mary who we greet saying:* **Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.**

*The Priest concludes the prayer, and all respond:* **Amen**

## **The Peace**

*The Priest introduces the peace, then shares it with the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

*All share a sign of peace with those near them*

*Please then sit* for the offertory hymn as bread and wine are brought forward for the preparation of the altar, as we sing the **Offertory Hymn.**

*During this hymn a collection is taken  
towards the costs of Christ Church's  
ministries – if you don't have cash, there is a  
contactless reader by the entrance or you can  
donate online here:*

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# THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand when the congregation is censed by the thurifer.

## Offertory Hymn

1. Firmly I believe and truly  
God is Three, and God is One;  
And I next acknowledge duly  
Manhood taken by the Son.

2. And I trust and hope most  
fully  
In that Manhood crucified;  
And each thought and deed  
unruly  
Do to death, as he has died.

3. Simply to his grace and  
wholly  
Light and life and strength  
belong,  
And I love supremely, solely,  
Him the holy, him the strong.

4. And I hold in veneration,  
For the love of him alone,  
Holy Church as his creation,  
And her teachings as his own.

5. Adoration ay be given,  
With and through the angelic host,  
To the God of earth and heaven,  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God our almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

*The Priest offers the Prayer over the Gifts, and all respond. Amen.*

## Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you	And also with you
Lift up your hearts	We lift them up to the Lord
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God	
It is right to give Him thanks and praise	

*The Priest continues with the Opening (Preface) of the Prayer of Thanksgiving at the end of which the choir leads the **Sanctus***

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please kneel as the Priest continues the Prayer of Thanksgiving.*

*He first invokes the Holy Spirit to sanctify the offerings of bread and wine.*

*He then recalls the Lord's actions the night before he died. A bell is rung as the Priest elevates the consecrated Host and Chalice.*

*He then says:*

**Great is the mystery of faith.**

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*The Priest continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.*

*At the end, all respond:*



## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*As the Priest breaks the bread, he says:*

**We break this bread, to share in the Body of Christ**

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**



*As the bread is broken, the choir lead the Agnus Dei*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace**

**Giving of Communion - Please remaining kneeling as the Priest shows the Body of Christ**

Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

*Before coming forward to receive Holy Communion, all pray together:*

**We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

*As the Priest receives Holy Communion, a bell is rung & the people begin to come forward. If you are confirmed and wish to receive Holy Communion, please come forward via the main aisle, following the directions of the stewards.*

*All are welcome to come forward for a blessing: if you would like one, please bow your head.*

*Holy Communion is offered in both forms at the Communion Rail. Please kneel, unless you are unable. The Host is received on the tongue (or, if preferred, on the hands.) If you don't wish to receive from the Chalice, you can return to your seat after receiving the Host.*

*Intinction (dipping the Host in the Chalice) is not permitted.*

*During the receiving of Holy Communion, the Choir sing an Anthem*  
**Like as the hart – Howells**

*All then join in the Communion Hymn*

**1. My God, I love thee; not  
because  
I hope for heaven thereby,  
Nor yet because who love thee  
not  
Are lost eternally.**

**2. Thou, O my Jesus, thou  
didst me  
Upon the Cross embrace;  
For me didst bear the nails and  
spear,  
And manifold disgrace,**

**3. And griefs and torments  
numberless,  
And sweat of agony;  
E'en death itself, and all for one  
Who was thine enemy.**

**4. Then why, O blessed Jesu  
Christ,  
Should I not love thee well,  
Not for the sake of winning  
heaven,  
Or of escaping hell;**

**5. Not with the hope of  
gaining aught,  
Not seeking a reward;  
But as thyself hast loved me,  
O ever-loving Lord!**

**6. E'en so I love thee, and will  
love,  
And in thy praise will sing,  
Solely because thou art my God.  
And my eternal King.**

*Once the Sacred Vessels have been cleansed, Please stand to give thanks together  
with the Prayer of Thanksgiving after Holy Communion*

**Almighty God, we thank thee for feeding us with the body and blood  
of thy Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer thee our souls and  
bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of thy Spirit to  
live and work to thy praise and glory. Amen.**

*The Priest sings the **Prayer after Communion***

As we receive the pledge  
of things yet hidden in heaven  
and are nourished while still on earth  
with the Bread that comes from on high,  
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,  
that what is being brought about in us in mystery  
may come to true completion.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Please sit for* **The Notices**

*Please stand for* **The Blessing and Dismissal**

The Lord be with you.    **And also with you**

*All bow for the Solemn Blessing*

Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful,  
and in your kindness grant your servants this grace:  
that, abiding in the love of you and their neighbour,  
they may fulfil the whole of your commands.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the  
Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

The Mass is ended, let us go in the peace of Christ! **Thanks be to God!**

*As the Sanctuary party departs, all sing the* **Recessional Hymn**

**1. In the Cross of Christ I glory,  
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.**

**2. When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
Hopes deceive and fears annoy,  
Never shall the Cross forsake me:  
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.**

**3. When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the Cross the radiance streaming,  
Adds more lustre to the day.**

**4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
By the Cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.**

*As the procession approaches the Image of Our Lady, all turn to focus on the Blessed Virgin as the Priest leads the singing of **the Angelus***

The angel of the Lord brought glad tidings to Mary

**And she conceived by the Holy Ghost**

**Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.**

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord **Be it unto me according to thy word**

**Hail Mary...**

And the Word was made flesh **And dwelt among us. Hail Mary....**

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God

**That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ**

*The Priest sings the collect, and all respond **Amen.***

**Please join us after the Mass for refreshments.**

**This evening all are welcome to our Taizé Service, a time of contemplative prayer starting at 6pm.**

*Make sure to take a copy of the 'Week Ahead' booklet which gives details of the times of worship this week at Christ Church, as well as upcoming events.*