

*Mass of Thanksgiving
for our staff who are leaving:*

*Katie Lowe
Lexi Hopwood
Mia Rigby*

and all who have been part of our school community this year



*Thursday 19 July 2025
Celebrant: Fr Francis Ball*

Entrance hymn: *Be Still (David J Evans)*

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found; we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire; with splendour he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;
be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Sign of the Cross and Greeting

P/ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

R/ **Amen.**

P/ The Lord be with you.

R/ **And with your spirit.**

Penitential Rite

P/ You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy.

R/ **Lord, have mercy.**

P/ You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy.

R/ **Christ, have mercy.**

P/ You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:
Lord, have mercy.

R/ **Lord, have mercy.**

P/ May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R/ **Amen.**

Opening Prayer

P/ Let us pray:
Father of love,
hear our prayers.
Help us to do your will and to do it with courage and faith.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

R/ **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the third letter of St John (3John 2-6, 15)

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you. It gave me great joy to have some brothers come to tell me about your faithfulness and how you continue to walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

My friend, you are so faithful in the work you do for your fellow Christians, even when they are strangers. They have spoken to the church here about your love. Please help them to continue their journey in a way that will please God. Peace be with you. All your friends here send their greetings; greet all your friends there by name.

The word of the Lord

R/ Thanks be to God

Response: Psalm 138:1-3, 4-6

Response: I thank you who wonderfully made me.

- 1 O Lord, you search me and know me.
You yourself know my resting and my rising;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You mark when I walk or lie down;
you know my ways through and through.
- 2 For it was you who formed my inmost being,
knit me together in my mother's womb.
I thank you who wonderfully made me;
how wonderful are your works, which my soul knows well.
- 3 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being fashioned in secret
and moulded in the depths of the earth.

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**The Son of Man came to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.**

Alleluia!

The Gospel (*Luke 9:46-48*)

P/ The Lord be with you.

R/ **And with your spirit.**

P/ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

R/ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thought, took a little child and made him stand beside him, and he said to them,

‘Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all, he is the greatest.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

R/ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer of the faithful

Let us give thanks for the contributions Lexi and Katie have made to our school over the last five years; for their hard work and for their friendship. We pray that they will continue to inspire young people as they progress in their careers.
Lord, in your mercy

R/ Hear our prayer

Let us thank God for sending Mia back to Holy Cross to nurture and support some of our most vulnerable and challenging pupils. We pray that she will always remember the impact she has had on the young people she has helped this year and the staff she has worked alongside. We wish her every success in her career.

Lord, in your mercy

R/ Hear our prayer

Let us pray for our colleagues who have found this year challenging, for whatever reason. We acknowledge that our lives can be difficult at times and we pray that we will always be a community where each member of staff feels valued, loved and supported.

Lord, in your mercy

R/ Hear our prayer

Let us pray for our families, giving thanks for the support we receive from them. We pray that we will all find time over the summer to enjoy the company of the people we love.

Lord, in your mercy

R/ Hear our prayer

We ask Mary, Mother of God, to join her prayers to ours as we say together,

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.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist
The Preparation of the Gifts

P/ Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you:
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
it will become for us the bread of life.

R/ **Blessed be God for ever.**

P/ Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you:
fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

R/ **Blessed be God for ever.**

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

R/ **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.**

P/ Let us pray:
Lord, accept our offering.
Make us grow in holiness
and grant what we ask you in faith.
Through Christ our Lord.

R/ **Amen.**

The Preface

P/ The Lord be with you.

R/ **And with your spirit.**

P/ Lift up your hearts

R/ **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P/ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R/ **It is right and just.**

P/ It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

In him you have been pleased to renew all things,
giving us a share in his fulness.
For though he was in the form of God, he emptied himself
and by the blood of his Cross brought peace to all creation.
Therefore he has been exalted above all things,
and to all who obey him,
has become the source of eternal salvation.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
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.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

P/ You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
the fount of all holiness.
Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,
so that they may become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his passion,
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice
and, once more giving thanks,
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

P/ The mystery of faith:

R/ When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

P/ Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,
we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,
giving thanks that you have held us worthy
to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world,
and bring her to the fulness of charity,
together with Leo, our Pope,
John, our Archbishop,
Tom, his Assistant Bishop,
and all the clergy.

Remember also our brothers and sisters
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,
and all who have died in your mercy:
welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray,
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, here Spouse,
with the blessed Apostles
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages,
we may merit to be co-heirs to eternal life
and may praise and glorify you through you Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him,
and with him,
and in him,
O God almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.

R/ Amen.

The Communion Rite

P/ At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

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.

P/ Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

R/ For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

P/ Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

R/ Amen.

P/ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R/ And with your spirit.

P/ Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The Breaking of Bread

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.

P/ 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.

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

Communion

Communion hymn: *I Watch the Sunrise* (Keith Getty / Stuart Townend)

Prayer after Communion

P/ Let us pray:

All-powerful God,

you renew us with your sacraments.

Help us to thank you by lives of faithful service.

Through Christ our Lord.

R/ **Amen.**

The Concluding Rite

P/ The Lord be with you

R/ **And with your spirit.**

P/ May almighty God bless you,

the Father,

the Son

and the Holy Spirit.

R/ **Amen.**

P/ Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R/ **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional: *In Christ Alone* (Keith Getty/Stuart Townend)

In Christ alone, my hope is found;
he is my light, my strength, my song.
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all;
here in the love of Christ I stand.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry, to final breath.
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man
can ever pluck me from his hand.
'Til he returns, or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.