

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Regular Services

St Mary's: Sundays at 8am and 9.30am, Wednesdays at 10.30am

St Paul's: Sundays at 11.15am, Thursdays at 9.30am

Notices

Today: The Revd Ian Pankhurst is at St Paul's at 11.15. The Intergenerational Growing Together Group meets at 11am in St Mary's Hall. Today is Day One of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, January 18-25. The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 is taken from Ephesians 4:4, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling."

St Paul's Patronal Festival will be NEXT SUNDAY (January 25th) at 4pm when Bishop Rob Wickham will lead us as a Team Ministry in the celebration of St Paul. That means that if you still want to contribute to the farewell present for Norma Howie and Sheila Neep you will need to do so TODAY via the envelopes in church or bank transfer marked 'office farewell'.

Secret Supper Club, Burns Night Supper, will take place inside St Mary's on Friday (23rd January) at 7pm.

Three course traditional menu, piping in of the haggis, ode to the haggis, haggis, neeps and tatties (veggie option available), flambé of whisky, film. £35/head, details from Canon John, Penny or Sheila, bookings and payment via hotsecretsupperclub@gmail.com FINAL bookings now being taken.

Tuesday 27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day. Special Civic Service with the Worshipful Mayor and other dignitaries at 6pm at St Mary's. Theme for HMD 2026 is 'Bridging Generations'

New Team Administrator. Ali Smith who joined us as our new Hemel Team Administrator this month is working mostly from home but will also be in the Team Office for a couple of hours on Friday mornings, her contact details are below.

Diary

Thursday 7.30pm: Bell Ringing practice, St Mary's.

Next Sunday: The Feast of the Conversion of St Paul: 4pm St Paul's Patronal Festival Service.

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Team Office:

Ali Smith Tel: 07901 359117 admin@stmaryandstpaulhemel.org.uk

Newsletter: News to the Team Rector by last thing on Wednesday.

Payments: Cheques should be made payable to "St Mary and St Paul PCC".

The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary and St Paul, Hemel Hempstead, Reg. Charity 1130644

READINGS & PRAYERS

COLLECT

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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

A reading from the First letter of Paul to the Corinthians

(1. 1-9)

From Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord.

Whoever follows me, will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. (1. 29-42)

Glory to you, O Lord

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.'

And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church,
the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving,
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIphon

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

POST COMMUNION

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**