



28th December 2025
The Holy Innocents

St James' Church
www.stjamesexeter.org
Exeter

Rector

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297
Off duty: Mon 29th Dec – Sat 3rd Jan

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Charity register number: 1128877

Morning Prayer This Week

We will have morning prayer in the church
on Tuesday and Friday.

Next Sunday: 4th January

Epiphany

Matthew 2: 1 – 12

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Parish Eucharist
6.00 pm Evening Prayer & Benediction

This Week

Morning Prayer is said at 8.30 am

Online: Mon, Wed

In the church: Tue, Fri

Mon 29th December Luke 2: 22 – 35
7.00 pm Choir practice

Tue 30th December Luke 2: 36 – 40

Wed 31st December John 1: 1 – 18
12 noon Eucharist

Thu 1st January Luke 2: 15 – 21
9.30 am St Mary's JSOC service

Fri 2nd January John 1: 19 – 28
2.00 pm Craft group

Sat 3rd January John 1: 29 – 34



10.00 am Music

Processional hymn 687 **Unto Us a Boy is Born**

Offertory hymn 318 **In the Bleak Mid-Winter**

Recessional hymn 364 **Joy to the World!**

Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

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.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31: 15-17

Thus 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. Thus 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; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.

Psalm 124

If the Lord himself had not been on our side, now may Israel say; If the Lord had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us; Then would they have swallowed us alive when their anger burned against us; Then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over our soul; over our soul would have swept the raging waters. But blessed be the Lord who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth. Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken and we are delivered. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who has made heaven and earth.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 26-29

Consider 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. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 13-18

After the wise men 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.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and 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.' When 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. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: '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.'

Post-Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, in your humility you have stooped to share our human life with the most defenceless of your children: may we who have received these gifts of your passion rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents to the purity of your sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.