

Advent Service

Jesuit Refugee Service UK



Tuesday 20th December 2022

7pm

Led by Fr Michael Holman SJ

Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception

Farm Street

About JRS UK

The **Jesuit Refugee Service** is an international Catholic organisation with a mission to **accompany, serve** as companions, and **advocate** alongside and for the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced people. JRS in the UK has always had a special ministry to support destitute asylum seekers and those who are held in immigration detention, who are amongst the most excluded of groups in the UK today.

A note about Photography

JRS UK will be taking photos and videos at tonight's event to support other aspects of JRS UK's work, such as our Annual Reports, on our website and social media, fundraising leaflets and information leaflets.

JRS UK promises to always use any photos, video footage or testimonies responsibly, taking into account your experience, protection concerns and possible consequences.

Please speak to a member of the JRS team if you have any concerns, or to let us know if you don't want to be included in images we use publicly.

Please stand and sing

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny,
From depths of Hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here,
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

5th verse overleaf

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times did'st give the Law,
In cloud, and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Please be seated

Welcome

Fr Michael Holman SJ

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-6

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on the inhabitants of a country in shadow dark as death light has blazed forth. You have enlarged the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest time, as they exult when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that weighed on it, the bar across its shoulders, the rod of its oppressor, these you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear clanking over the ground and all the clothing rolled in blood, will be burnt, will be food for the flames. For a son has been born for us, a son has been given to us, and dominion has been laid on his shoulders; and this is the name he has been given, 'Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace' to extend his dominion in boundless peace, over the throne of David and over his kingdom to

make it secure and sustain it in fair judgement and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of Yahweh Sabaoth will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand and sing

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

4th verse overleaf

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Please be seated

Second Reading

Refugee

by Malcolm Guite

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,
Or cosy in a crib beside the font,
But he is with a million displaced people
On the long road of weariness and want.
For even as we sing our final carol
His family is up and on that road,
Fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,
Glancing behind and shouldering their load.
Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,
The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,
And death squads spread their curse across the world.
But every Herod dies, and comes alone
To stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

Please stand and sing

Silent Night

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Please be seated

Third Reading

Luke 1:39-56

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could into the hill country to a town in Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now it happened that as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said,

'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? Look, the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said,

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; because he has looked upon the humiliation of his servant. Yes, from now onwards all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his faithful love extends age after age to those who fear him. He has used the power of his arm, he has routed the arrogant of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and raised high the lowly. He has filled the starving with good things, sent the rich away empty. He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his faithful love, according to the promise he made to our ancestors – of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with her some three months and then went home.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand and sing

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom Cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom Angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

4th verse overleaf

Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But only His Mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss. What can I give Him,

Poor as I am?
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.

Please be seated

JRS UK Creative Writing and Drama Group

Directed by Beth Organ

This year, for the first time, we chose to combine the poetry and drama workshops to create a very special and personal performance piece for tonight's service.

The poems you will see and hear performed this evening were written by our refugee friends, with the guidance of our Poetry Coordinator, Laila Sumpton, and then developed and dramatised for this performance, directed by our Drama Coordinator, Beth Organ. Our refugee friends were encouraged to write from the perspective of another character, someone they would come to create and build over the weeks of this term.

One thread binds them all together: **they are all waiting for something**. Whether it's waiting for freedom, waiting for a letter, waiting to be recognised, waiting for a friend to call, or waiting for lottery numbers to come up, every one of the characters you'll meet have this in common. A sense of expectation. We hope you enjoy tonight's performance:

Waiting In Hope

Please stand and sing

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby,
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For He is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day, like us, He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles, like us He knew;
And He cares when we are sad,
And he shares when we are glad.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above:
And He leads His children on,
To the place where He is gone.

Please be seated

Fourth Reading

The reading will be read in French.

Luke 2:1-19

Now it happened that at this time Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be made of the whole inhabited world. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee for Judaea, to David's town called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. Now it happened that, while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the living-space. In the countryside close by there were shepherds out in the fields keeping guard over their sheep during the watches of the night. An angel of the Lord stood over them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger'. And all at once with the angel there was a great throng of the hosts of heaven, praising God with the words:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours'.

Now it happened that when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us'. So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds said to them. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Homily

Fr Michael Holman SJ

Please stand

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for our refugee friends living in limbo and destitution, navigating a growing atmosphere of hostility. We ask that in this time of waiting that they may receive positive news on their asylum cases. We pray for all those who hunger, who thirst, for those who are homeless or sick. We ask that our society may be hospitable to them.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our friends in detention, and for those who have been released and are still affected by their experiences. We ask that might know your closeness to them in this difficult period.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all JRS staff and volunteers, here and around the world. We ask that they may be given the graces needed to be true to the mission to accompany, serve and advocate on behalf of refugees. We express gratitude for JRS donors and supporters who walk alongside our refugee friends through giving.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the work of the Jesuits in Britain. We ask that their commitment to strengthening the faith of Christians, to social justice, to promoting reconciliation and to engaging in dialogue with those of other faiths and cultures, may help build a fairer and more compassionate society for our nation.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace around the world and an end to the violence, fear and persecution that causes so many to flee their homes. We pray for our society, that all peoples may seek to build communities based on fraternity and social friendship.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray in a moment of silence for all those other things we hold in our heart.

A moment of silent prayer and reflection

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We offer all these prayers to Mary, the Mother of God, and ask for her intercessions as we say:

**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.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

We invite you to say the Lord's Prayer in your own language.

**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.**

Amen

Sign of Peace

Please offer one another a sign of peace, in whatever way feels comfortable.

Please be seated

Fifth Reading

A Blessing for Travelling in the Dark

Jan Richardson

Go slow
if you can.
Slower.
More slowly still.
Friendly dark
or fearsome,
this is no place
to break your neck
by rushing,
by running,
by crashing into
what you cannot see.

Then again,
it is true:
different darks
have different tasks,
and if you
have arrived here
unawares,
if you have come
in peril
or in pain,
this might be no place
you should dawdle.

I do not know
what these shadows
ask of you,
what they might hold
that means you good
or ill.
It is not for me
to reckon
whether you should
linger
or you should leave.

But this is what
I can ask for you:

That in the darkness
there be a blessing.
That in the shadows
there be a welcome.
That in the night
you be encompassed
by the Love that knows
your name.

Closing words and blessings

Michael Holman SJ

Please stand and sing

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

3rd verse overleaf

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King.

With our grateful thanks to:

Our refugee friends

Beth Organ

Laila Sumpton

Fr Michael Holman SJ

David Graham

Fr Dominic Robinson SJ and all at Farm Street
Church

and

all who have read or volunteered behind the
scenes to make tonight possible.

**Please do join us for festive
refreshments in the Arrupe Hall.**

Advent Appeal 2022

For many who seek sanctuary in the UK, the route to a secure stable life free of fear, is neither quick, nor straight-forward. It can be a complex, and prolonged, legal limbo, where the focus is on ***surviving, rather than living.***

With your generosity and help, the JRS Hardship Fund responds to refugee friends immediate practical needs and creates an environment where refugee friends are truly ***Living in Limbo.***

Every fortnight we top-up over 300 refugee friends pre-paid contactless MasterCards with a £15 hardship grant – a real lifeline for many refugee friends, who have no other form of financial support:

Our practical support also provides refugee friends regular access to food, toiletries, warm clothes and phone top-ups.

There will be a retiring collection for the work of JRS UK after this evening's service.

Please consider a donation so that destitute refugees get the help and support they need, and are to *Live* in their Limbo.

“Receiving the £15 bi-weekly payment has been extremely valuable. With the bi-weekly payments, I am able to use the money to do my laundry and travel to places and appointments without the need of asking others for funds. I have no other financial recourse and it gives me a sense of financial empowerment.”

A refugee friend shares the impact of the regular bi-weekly hardship money

Thank you for your generous and kind support this evening.



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JRS UK is a work of the Jesuits in Britain, registered as a charity in England and Wales 230165 and in Scotland SCO40490.

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