



ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL  
MUMBAI  
Since 1718



*The Church of North India*  
*A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion*

Sundays 7 am Eucharist (*said*) † 8.45 am Eucharist (*sung*)  
Weekdays 7 am to 6 pm for a time of quiet prayer and reflection

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# The First Sunday of Advent



Each of the four Sundays of Advent reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. The first week in Advent focuses on **'The Patriarchs'** – Abraham, our father in faith, and David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born. But let's not forget the matriarchs either – Sarah, Rachael and Leah, and Ruth. 'The Prophets' gives an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was 'foretold'. John, who proclaimed the Saviour, and Mary (also a matriarch of a kind), who bore him in her womb, complete the picture.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025 • 8.45 am

*Choral Eucharist*

## Welcome to St Thomas' Cathedral for this service

We are the mother church of the Diocese of Bombay in the Church of North India, a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion. For over 300 years, the people of St. Thomas' Cathedral have sought to be a body through which the light of Christ is seen, his life is shared, and his work is done.

The basis for our worship is the *Book of Common Prayer*, our common liturgical heritage with Anglicans across the world (all churches descended from the Church of England). We are rooted in tradition but celebrate the richness and diversity of the Communion. Music and hymnody represent the best of the Anglican choral tradition.

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Follow the readings and the Order of Service for the Lord's Supper from *The Book of Common Prayer* (refer page numbers).  
The hymns can be found in *Hymns Ancient & Modern New Standard*

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We kindly request that you do not take photographs,  
or video or sound recording in the cathedral at any time during services.  
You are welcome to take photographs at any other time.

***Please take this order of service away with you.***

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*Name:* Society of St Thomas' Cathedral  
*Account no.:* 917010054452406 *Bank:* Axis Bank Ltd  
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Society of St. Thomas Cathedral

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## THE PURPOSE OF ADVENT

The season of Advent is a time of watchful expectation of Christ's coming (*adventus*, in Latin, means 'coming'). We prepare to celebrate the incarnation, when Christ was born of the Virgin in humility, but we also expect the Second Coming, when Christ will come in triumph to judge the world.

This morning we light the candle of hope symbolizing the anticipation of the coming Messiah and the hope that He brings to the world. The Scripture readings and prayers during this week often focus on the prophecies in the Old Testament about the promised Saviour and the expectation of His arrival.

# Order of Service

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The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.

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## *The Gathering*

Voluntary

Meditation on 'Veni Emmanuel' - Philip Moore (b. 1943)  
(O come, O come Emmanuel)

Songs of Praise

*Led by the Cathedral's Youth Fellowship*

Welcome

*All keep silence and prepare for worship*

*All stand and join in singing the hymn*

**O come, O come Emmanuel**

Entry Hymn | **# 26**

*Tune: VENI EMMANUEL*

*All sit*

*The Presbyter says*

May the grace and peace of God be with you.

**All And also with you.**

## The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*As the candle is lit, the choir sings*

O Jesus, with Thy advent quiet my restless soul and anxious mind.

In true humility I welcome Thee, Jesus Christ, my Joy divine.

My thoughts, desires, and all my longing, I dedicate, O Christ, to Thee.

O come, Thou precious Sun most radiant, Thy beams illumine my heart, my soul.

Words: W. Osterwald (1820 - 1887)

Music: Johann Wolfgang Franck (1644 - 1710)

**Reader**

God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old,  
you are our Father too.

Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and  
Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth,  
to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you.

*All*      **Help us to do your will by sharing your hope with others.  
We ask this in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem.  
Amen.**

*All say together*

## The Collect for Purity | **page 260**

*During the Advent Season we sing the Kyrie instead of the Summary of the Law*

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ have mercy.  
Lord have mercy.

Charles Velu

## *The Liturgy of the Word*

### The Collect for the First Sunday of Advent | **page 296**

*Read by the Presbyter*

### The Collect for St. Andrew, Apostle & Martyr

Almighty God,  
who gave such grace to your apostle Saint Andrew  
that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ and brought his brother  
with him:  
call us by your holy word,  
and give us grace to follow you without delay and to tell the good news of your  
kingdom;  
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.**

### Old Testament Reading | **page 296**

*Micah 4. 1 - 7*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah

*At the conclusion of the reading the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*Remain seated while, the choir  
sings the Psalm to a chant by Monk*

**Psalm |page 107**  
*Deus deorum 50: 1 - 6, 14, 15 & 23*

*After the last verse, all stand for the Gloria Patri*

*Please be seated*

**The Epistle |page 297**  
*Romans 13.8 - 14*

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

*At the conclusion of the reading the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*All stand and join in singing the gradual hymn*

**Gradual Hymn | # 24**

*Tune: MERTON*

**Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding**

*Remain standing for the Gospel  
as the cantor sings the Alleluia and we respond*

**The Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. *cf Isaiah 40.3-5*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**The Gospel of Christ |page 298**  
*St Matthew 21. 1 – 13*

*The Gospeller* The Lord be with you  
**All** and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew

**All Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the reading*

*The Gospeller* This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
**All** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

*Remain standing for the Creed and all recite together*

## The Nicene Creed | **page 265**

*All sit*

**Sermon**

The Revd Avinash Rangayya, *Cathedral Presbyter*

### Promotion of Chorister

*After successfully completing his period of probation,  
the chorister is presented with his surplice.*

*Presbyter*

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord,

*All*

**And to sing praises unto thy Name, O thou most highest.**

Almighty God, we beseech thee to send thy blessing on all thy servants who minister before thee in the choir of this Cathedral. Give to them the spirit of faith, reverence and joy, and lift their lives to thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*

**Amen.**

## *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

*All stand*

**The Peace**

*The Celebrant offers a greeting of peace*

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *cf Luke 1.78,79*

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Members of the congregation greet one another.  
Remain standing to sing the offertory hymn.*

*At this time the altar is set with the gifts of bread and wine and the  
gifts of the people are gathered and presented. Thank you for your generosity.*

All join in singing

## Hymn at the Offertory | # 177

**Thy kingdom come, O God**

Tune: ST. CECILIA

See inside front cover for bank details to make your offering.

All say

## Offertory Prayer | page 270

All sit

## Advent Prose

Cantor

Pour down, O heavens, from above

Refrain (all)

**and let the skies rain down righteousness.**

Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord, and remember not our sins forever. Your holy cities have become a desert, Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation; our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised you.

Kneel as able or remain seated

## The Prayers of the People

Intercessor

Watchful at all times,

let us pray for strength to stand with confidence  
before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in His Kingdom with justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord:

All

**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations

His sceptre of righteousness,

Let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures

and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That God will guide and lead Paritosh, our Moderator;

Reuben the Moderator of the *Church of South India*;

Theodosius Mar Thoma the Metropolitan of the *Mar Thoma Church*; Prabhu our Bishop and Avinash our Presbyter, that

by their life and doctrine they may set forth your true and  
life-giving Word, and rightly and duly administer your Holy  
Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Continued*



*Intercessor*      That God may bind up the brokenhearted,  
restore the sick  
and raise up all who have fallen,  
let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**  
That the light of God's coming may dawn  
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,  
let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**  
That, with all the saints in light,  
we may shine forth as lights for the world,  
let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**  
We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray  
to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
as your blessed Son Jesus Christ  
first came to seek and to save the lost;  
so may he come again to find in us  
the completion of his redeeming work;  
for he is now alive  
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The General Confession & Absolution | **pages 275, 276**

The Consecration | **page 277**

The Communion | **page 284**

*Proceed to the High Altar for receiving Communion.*

*During the administration of Communion, the choir sings*

*Advent Adoration* (a medley of "Let all mortal flesh keep silence", "O come, O come Emmanuel" and "Of the Father's love begotten") by Chuck Bridwell

*All stand and say*

Post Communion Prayer

**O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*All sing*

**Lord the light of your love is shining.  
In the midst of the darkness shining.  
Jesus light of the world, shine upon us.  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me. Shine on me.**

**Shine Jesus shine,  
Fill this land with the Fathers Glory  
Blaze Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow river flow  
Flood the nation with grace and mercy.  
Send forth your word.  
Lord and let there be light.**

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

*The Presbyter*

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
† the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

Hymn at the Closing |# 143

***Jesus shall reign***

*Tune: TRURO*

*From the West Door, the Presbyter says:*

The Dismissal

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All reply*    **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Postlude

The Advent of our God is nigh - Besançon tune, arr. Richard Warner

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| Please stay back after the service for a time of fellowship over a cup of coffee.<br>Introduce yourself to the Presbyter if you are worshipping with us for the first time. |
|---|

## Birthdays this week

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:1

Mrs. Alfreda Ohol (2), Nathanael Suganth (3),  
Mr. Dhanasekaran Chempaka (4), Captain Kenneth Khan (5),  
Ms. Tanya Gladston (5), Ms. Danika Ponpandian (6)

## Notices

- This is the second announcement of the banns of marriage between Sahiesh Ravichandran (son of Mrs. Latha & Mr. T Ravichandran) and Suganya Jeba Sarojini (daughter of Mrs. Vennila & Mr. D Christopher Jagadeesan) of the Assembly of God Church, Anna Nagar, Chennai.

### Nativity Play

by the children of the Sunday School  
followed by visit of Santa Claus  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 • 10:45 a.m.



### Sharing the Joy of Christmas

Give generously to share Christmas joy with clergy, missionaries and their families of churches in the various CNI dioceses in Maharashtra (Bombay, Pune, Kolhapur, Marathwada, Nagpur and Nasik.)

You can contribute Rs. 4,000/- for a box of provisions to a family. Cheques in favour of *Bombay Diocesan Council Clergy Fund*. Make your donation before 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

Bank name - Bank of Baroda, Ballard Estate

A/c no.: 03830100018681

IFSC: BARB0BALBOM (5<sup>th</sup> letter is zero)



## A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Nativity in scripture, carol and verse  
with the Cathedral choir

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

6:30 p.m.

All are welcome

### C.N.I. Day Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 5.30pm  
at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Parel.

All are warmly invited to attend.

The merger, which had been in discussions since 1929, came eventually between the Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon (Anglican), the Methodist Church (British & Australian), Disciples of Christ, and some congregations from the United Church of Northern India. The Church of North India was formed on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1970.



## Pray with us

- † **THE WORLD** Pray for the relief and rehabilitation work in Sri Lanka in the wake of torrential rains and floods triggered by Cyclone Ditwah.
- † **OUR COUNTRY** Cyclone Ditwah is also expected to bring heavy rainfall to Tamil Nadu and South coastal Andhra Pradesh. We pray for the safety of all.
- † **THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH** Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. Help us, O Lord, to prepare ourselves for the coming of Thy Son • Today the Church commemorates Andrew, Apostle and Martyr. We give thanksgiving for Andrew's call and witness to Jesus • Clement of Alexandria c. 215 AD (theologian) is commemorated on 4<sup>th</sup> December. In the *Anglican Communion* - The Anglican Church of Australia and Archbishop Mark Short.
- † **THE CHURCH IN INDIA** We give thanks to God for the life and tremendous contribution of John Wilson of Bombay (a Christian missionary and educator in Maharashtra). He established Wilson College and a University for the people of Mumbai. John Wilson was the president of the Asiatic Society from 1835 to 1842; and later was elected Moderator of the Church of Scotland. John Wilson is commemorated on 1<sup>st</sup> December • The 16<sup>th</sup> century Evangelist and co-founder of the Society of Jesus, Francis Xavier, is commemorated on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. He was a student of Ignatius of Loyola. Francis led an extensive mission to Asia. He is notably remembered in India for his mission work in Goa • For the Diocese of Phulbani and Bishop Violet Nayak • For the Diocese of Jaffna (CSI) and Bishop Veluppillai Pathmathyalan.
- † **THE DIOCESE OF BOMBAY** This week for St. Peter's Church, Palghar and the Revd. Sanjay Salvi.
- † **OUR CATHEDRAL** All senior citizens and those who are unwell. Pray for all care providers • This week for the Cathedral Presbyter and his family • For Sahiesh Ravichandran and Suganya Jeba as they prepare for their marriage.

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are  
in loving memory of Mrs. Chandramathi Moses  
(beloved mother of Dr. Kamal Jadhav)  
on the occasion of her birth anniversary today. She was a member of  
this Cathedral for many years.*

### ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

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Presbyter-In-Charge: The Revd. Avinash T. Rangayya

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Contact the Presbyter for pastoral visits and administering Communion to the house-bound.

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