



St Mary's Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 5th January 2020

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Psalter Week 2

All the Earth Must Bow Down Before Him

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the **Epiphany**, when **Wise Men** from the East were led by a star to the new born Christ Child to offer Him homage. They came bearing gifts of **gold, frankincense** and **myrrh**. They knelt before Him and worshipped Him.

The first people to worship Our Lord after His birth, Mary, Joseph and the shepherds were all Jews. And this was very fitting since the Jews were God's **chosen people**. But then immediately after, Our Lord was worshipped by the **Magi** who were pagan kings and astrologers. Their worship makes the very important point that the Gospel is intended for everyone, Jews and Gentiles alike. The Prophet *Isaiah* in the First Reading foretells that **Jerusalem** would become the **light for all nations**, and in the Second Reading **St Paul** writes to the Ephesians that salvation is not only for the Jews. Rather it would be through the Jews that redemption would come to the whole of humanity.

JESUS Christ is the true Light of the world (John 8:12) and the light to lighten the Gentiles (Luke 2:32). Without Him, the world is in darkness and there is no other name by which we can be saved (Acts 4:12). So our most urgent task as Catholics is to bring this truth to those who do not yet know it. It cannot be claimed that all religions are equal or it doesn't matter which faith you confess. This is 'indifferentism' which the Church can never approve of. In the words of Pope St John Paul II, *"It is based on incorrect theological perspectives and is characterised by a religious relativism which leads to the belief that "one religion is as good as another"* (Redemptoris missio #36). So the missionary activity of the Church remains a necessity today and always. Let us pray on this great Feast that God will use us and our parish to spread the Good News of salvation to all those whom we encounter. Be active in seeking and praying for genuine converts to the Faith. The vast changes we are experiencing in the world and society make this call all the more urgent. *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"* (Matthew 28:19). Each one of us has a God given mission. Happy New Year and happy evangelising!

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

FROM THE SAINTS: "We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelising all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church" (*St Pope Paul VI, 1963-78*).

MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S

Sat	4 th	5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	5 th	<u>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (SOLEMNITY)</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
Mon	6 th	9.15am	Monday after Epiphany
Tues	7 th	9.15am	Tuesday after Epiphany
Weds	8 th	9.15am	Wednesday after Epiphany
		7.00pm	Latin Mass (old rite)
Thurs	9 th	9.15am	Thursday after Epiphany
Fri	10 th	9.15am	Friday after Epiphany
			<i>Attended by St Mary's School</i>
		12 noon	<i>Requiem Mass for Salvatore Corbinzolu RIP</i>
Sat	11 th	9.15am	Saturday after Epiphany
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions</i>
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	12 th	<u>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (FEAST)</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Tues	7 th	6.45-7.15pm	Holy Rosary – Church
Weds	8 th	2.00-4.00pm	Senior Citizens - Hall
		7.30pm	UCM - Library
Thurs	9 th	7.00pm	RCIA - Library

NB: Due to the government regulations regarding personal data (GDPR), we are only able to publicise the Mass intentions in the printed edition of the newsletter.

THANK YOU to all of you for your generosity to the clergy of St Mary's during this Christmas time and indeed throughout the whole year. The Christmas Offering of £3,341 was much appreciated as well as all your cards and gifts. Thank you so much.

Fr Paul, Fr Simon, Fr David

THE CRIB (as we have done in previous years) will remain in the church until **2nd February**, the feast of Candlemas which this year falls on a Sunday. This is the traditional end of Christmastide. Did you notice that the figures which had been looking the worse for wear have been repainted? These forty days of Christmastide correspond to the forty days of Eastertide, after which we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord, paralleled at this time of year by the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, or Candlemas.

Fr Paul

NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS: Participation at the Te Deum and Benediction on New Year's Eve and at Mass on New Year's Day was truly wonderful. These were the best numbers I have seen in my time here on these occasions. May God bless you and your families throughout the coming year.

Fr Paul

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF CHALK: This weekend, chalk will be blessed at all Masses. You can use it to inscribe a blessing either above the lintel or on the step of your homes. This is a good Catholic custom, and over the past three years many in our parish have taken up the practice. Please take some chalk and ask for God's blessing on your homes and families. A sheet with the text and instructions is available with this newsletter.

Fr Paul

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA EPIPHANY LITURGY: 4.00pm, **Sunday 5th January 2020** at Sacred Heart Church, led by the young adults of the two Loughborough parishes.

FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS: It would be an excellent resolution for the New Year to make *at least once* the devotion of the Five First Saturdays as requested by Our Lady of Fatima. She asked that on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, we go to confession, receive Holy Communion in a state of grace, recite five decades of the Rosary and meditate on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary for fifteen minutes, all with the intention of making reparation to her Immaculate Heart. This is Heaven's remedy for the evils of our time. Our Lady does not lie! We need more people to be doing this. Join us next month on **Saturday 1st February** for Mass at 9.15am followed by the other devotions.

Fr Paul

Please pray for those who have recently died: Salvatore Corbinzolu, Giuseppe Sacchetta and Giuseppe Calardo. **May they rest in peace**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Carlo Cutillo, Sabine Sienko, Joe Guarasci, Frank Savage, Roy Dakin, Carlos Barcia, Frank Barraclough, Margaret Tickle, Rosemary Pearson, Robert Milnes, Juozos Petrenas, Marie Paporozzi, Cedric Spencer, Tony Kennedy, Frederico Buccheri, Helly Claydon, May Hollingsworth and John Merwick Jr

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

LEADER: Please kneel for our prayer for vocations. Let us ask God to give worthy Priests to His Holy Church and Brothers and Sisters to Religious Orders.

ALL: O God, we earnestly beseech You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will gladly spend their entire lives serving Your Church and making You known and loved.

LEADER: Bless our families. Bless our children.

ALL: Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.

LEADER: Mary, Queen of the Clergy!

ALL: Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. *Amen.*

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL: Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. *Amen.*

BAPTISM OF THE LORD: Next weekend is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Therefore, we will have the Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water at all Masses.

ROSMINI CENTRE: Saturday 11th January, 3.00-4.30pm – St John Henry Newman “Lead kindly light” Newman’s conversion, presented by Rev Bill Myers.



We have seen His star in the East, and are come with gifts to adore the Lord (Mt. 2:2)

FINANCE

First Collection - 22/12: £ 895
29/12: £ 965

Christmas Offering to our Priests:
£ 3,341 of which £985 was Gift Aided

Standing Orders: £ 635 @ 30/11

Thank you