

ST. MARK'S PARISH

PARISH NEWS

7th January 2024 – Solemnity of the Epiphany Year B

Parish Clergy: Rev Seán Bradley & Rev Nicholas Hodgson

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MASS DATES TIMES INTENTIONS

Saturday 6th January	Vigil	5:00pm	Tommy Douthart (RIP)
Sunday 7th January		10:00am	People of the Parish
Monday 8th January		10:00am	Eric Hoare (RIP)
Tuesday 9th January		10:00am	Mary Gillieo (Thanksgiving)
Thursday 11th January		10:00am	Connie Boyle & Sarah Sweeney(Ann)
Friday 12th January		10:00am	Gordon (Sp Int)
<i>Saturday 13th January</i>	<i>Vigil</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<i>Sunday 14th January</i>		<i>10:00am</i>	<i>Genoveffa Alonzi (RIP)</i>
CONFESSIONS available before Sat Vigil 4.15-4.45pm and before Sun Mass 9.15-9.45am or upon request after any of the weekday Masses.			
EUCARISTIC ADORATION: Every Tuesday & Friday Morning 09.15am – 09.45am 1 st Thursday of Every Month 7pm-8pm			

EPIPHANY PEOPLE

To follow the star and become Epiphany people we have to be aware of three important challenges. Epiphany people have first to be people of faith. Imagine setting out on a journey like the wise men and not actually knowing where you are going, following only where a star leads you. Yet this is what faith demands. To be a person of faith means that we trust in God so much that we are prepared to be led, wherever God decides to take us. Being people of faith doesn't mean having all the answers; it simply requires us to be open to God's promptings and prepared to act when others think we are mad to do so. Faith and trust cannot be prised apart. A second characteristic of Epiphany people is that their faith makes them want to worship. The wise men brought their gifts and worshipped the Lord. Just knowing our God should be reason enough for worship. We bring our gold (the best we can be), our frankincense (our contribution to making the world a more beautiful place) and our myrrh (our pains and our tears as well as the comforting presence we extend to others), and with these gifts of our lives we fall on our knees before the God that our faith journey leads us ever closer to. And finally Epiphany people are people of change. The wise men didn't simply spend the rest of their lives fawning at the crib. They left enriched by what they had seen and heard and they headed off to tell others what they had experienced. But they heeded the warning of their dream and decided to change their plans and go back home by a different route. Every encounter with our God-made-man challenges us to change. God never wants us to stay where we are; our job is to follow the star. Epiphany reveals Jesus to all nations. His glory is seen by people from all over the known world. And these Epiphany people are people of faith, people of worship and people of change.



WELCOME If you are just visiting our parish today or if this is the first time you have been to Mass for a while, welcome back! We hope our time together unites us in God's love.

SCHOOL RETURN: please pray for all those involved in our schools. May God bless their efforts as they start a new term.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS Fr. Sean & Fr. Nick would like to express their sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to make our celebration of Christmas such a holy, sacred and special occasion. Your efforts are very much appreciated by everyone. Thank you also for the many lovely cards, gifts and the great kindness expressed to us both this Christmas. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated. May God bless you all and a very happy New Year.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2023/2024 for children who are not attending a catholic school and would like to enrol for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation in 2024, please contact the Parish Office via email or phone and request an application form.

REMINDER to parents of all children making **First Confessions**, **First Holy Communions** or **Confirmations** - the Rite of Enrolment will be held on Sunday 4th February during 10am Mass. All application forms must be received prior to this. A meeting of parents of children making their first Confession is set for January 15th @7pm in the church hall. A meeting of parents of children making their First Holy Communion is set for January 22nd @7pm in the church hall and for parents of children making their Confirmation February 5th @7pm in the church hall. I look forward to seeing you all over these coming weeks.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER SUNDAY MASS: Everyone is welcome to come into the hall after Mass on Sundays for a friendly cuppa tea/coffee, a munch and a chat. Thank you to all the hosts and hostesses of this Post Sunday Mass Refreshment Group, you are doing a great job and your efforts are appreciated by many a parishioner. Best wishes for 2024.

COPPERS WEIGHING YOU DOWN? You can put them in a jar at the back of the church in aid of the building fund. All donations are gratefully received.

SECOND COLLECTION: in aid of St. Mark's Building Fund will be held this weekend 6/7 Jan. Your support for our Parish is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you.

<i>St. Mark's</i>	ATTENDANCE	OFFERTORY	<i>Thank you, without your contributions the work of God's church would not be possible</i>
VIGIL	<i>57</i>	<i>£265</i>	
SUNDAY	<i>128</i>	<i>£473</i>	

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah [60:1-6]

Above you the glory of the Lord appears.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

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Responsorial Psalm [Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13]

Response: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay
him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor



Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians [3:2-3.5-6]

It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

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Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star as it rose

and have come to do the Lord homage

Alleluia!

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew [2:1-12]

We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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