

The Catholic Parish of Carpenders Park & South Oxhey
 St Joseph's Church, Oxhey Drive, Watford WD19 7SW
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 www.carpenderspark.org.uk



Epiphany

The Epiphany of the Lord (Year B) 7th January 2024

Fr John Warnaby Parish Priest Tel: 0208 428 0088
 Linda Grimes Parish Administrator Tel: 0208 428 0088
 Office hours: Tuesday & Friday 9am-3pm

MASS INTENTIONS

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|------------------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday 6th January | Vigil: Epiphany | 6.00pm | People of the Parish |
| Sunday 7th January | The Epiphany of the Lord | 8.30am | Maurice Rodrigo & John Crowle RIP |
| | | 10.30am | Primitivo Arano & Candido Baisac RIP |
| Tuesday 9th January | Feria | 7.00pm | No Mass |
| Wednesday 10th January | Feria | 9.15am | No Mass |
| Thursday 11th January | Feria | 9.15am | Clare Doherty Intentions |
| Friday 12th January | Feria | 9.15am | Pat Griffin & family |
| | | | followed by Holy Hour |
| Saturday 13th January | Vigil: 2nd Sunday in OT | 6.00pm | Bebe Ryan |

CONFESSIONS Saturday 5.30pm or see Fr John

When booking a Mass Intention please leave plenty of time if you want a special date.

Liturgy of the Word: 7th January 2024

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
 and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.
Responsorial Psalm: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
 We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage.
 Alleluia!

Next week's Readings: I Samuel 3: 3-10, 19 Psalm 39 I Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20 John 1:35-42

"They saw the child with his mother Mary and falling to their knees they did him homage." The Gospel for today's feast of the Epiphany tells us that the three wise men from the East, as soon as they see the child Jesus in the arms of Our Lady, understand something of who He is, and offer Him worship. This act of recognizing the Lord and bowing down before Him represents the heart of the Epiphany celebration. The wise men see Jesus for who He really is.

Christmas Day was almost two weeks ago and the glow of the Christmas season may have already begun to fade for us. Certainly, the secular world has begun to move on, and the brief space left for quiet and peace begins to close. But Christmas is not complete in any one of us until, like the wise men we recognize the Lord for who He is, we meet Him face to face and bow down in worship.

This moment of loving recognition and adoration happened immediately for Mary and St. Joseph, and that same Christmas night for the shepherds keeping watch in their fields. For the the wise men, however, true Christmas awaits until they arrive in Bethlehem and offer their gifts.

When was our Epiphany? When did we truly recognize who Jesus was? Maybe it took place in a quiet way early on, in our childhood experience of receiving the Sacraments. Maybe it was at Mass, or during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Maybe we recognized Jesus in a new born child or in caring for a loved one, or being loved. Perhaps we still waiting for the reality of Christ's loving presence to manifest itself to us. His star is love: follow it and we will find him.

"What can I give him poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would give a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can, I give him: give my heart."

Change to Masses

There will be NO MASS next Tuesday 9th January or Wednesday 10th January as Fr John is on holiday. Normal schedule will resume from Thursday 11th January with 9.15am Mass.

This weekend we welcome back Canon Michael Munnely who will be celebrating Masses for us on 6/7 January whilst Fr John is taking a break.

Job opportunity in Garston

A vacancy has arisen for a parish cleaner/housekeeper in Garston WD25. It is for 6 hours per week on a permanent contract. If you know of someone who may be interested, you need to act fast as the closing date is 12pm on Monday 15th January, with interviews on w/c 22nd January. The job description is on the side wall. For further details, please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>



First Holy Communion 2024

Registration is open for those children in Year 3 and above who would like to make their First Holy Communion next May/June 2024. The course will commence in January 2024. Please collect a registration form from our catechist Donna, or Fr John after Mass. ***There will be a meeting for all parents of children in the First Holy Communion programme on Thursday 18th January at 7pm in the Parish Hall (parents only) ***

Confirmation 2024

Registration is open for students in Year 9 and above who would like to make their Confirmation next Summer 2024. The course will commence in January 2024. Please would candidates collect in person, a registration form from Donna, or Fr John after Mass. ***There will be a meeting for all Confirmation candidates and parents in the Confirmation programme on Thursday 25th January at 7pm in the Parish Hall ***



The most important preparation for both Sacraments is attendance at Mass. By applying for these courses it is expected that those participating express their commitment by joining the Parish community as we pray

100 Club

The intention is to start a parish 100 Club in 2024 to raise funds for the upkeep of the Church. Each entry/number will be **£5 per month** (minimum of 3 months) and you can purchase more than 1 entry! Perhaps an entry might be a 'good cause' gift for a family member or friend. 3 monthly prizes of £100/£50/ £25 and a **yearly Christmas bonus prize of £500**. Thanks to all those who have expressed interest. Please contact the parish office if you wish to participate and have not as yet let us know.

Parish Hall for Rent

The parish hall is available for groups who are interested in renting on a regular, weekly basis. Please speak with Fr John or contact Linda in the parish office (carpenderspark@rcdow.org.uk) should this be of interest.

Please remember all our sick parishioners in your prayers especially Bebe Ryan, Dawn Tannian, Phil Carey, Alice Sheppard, Christine Kempster, Kathleen Andrews, Dave Jessop and Michael O'Brien.

Holy Land Collection (30/31 December)

We had a great response to last weekend's collection for this worthy cause and a total of £323.77 was raised. Many thanks to those who were able to contribute.

Offertory for 31 December

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| Loose | £ 329.37 |
| Envelopes | £ 225.51 |
| Total | £ 554.88 |

Offertory for 24 December

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|--------------|-----------------|
| Loose | £ 391.93 |
| Envelopes | £ 166.57 |
| Total | £ 558.50 |

Many thanks