

The Gospel
John 1:1-18

Lord Jesus, you were in the beginning as the Word, with God, as God. All things came into being through your mighty power, and without your presence not one thing came into being. We praise you for you are life and the light of all people. Your light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. In your mercy, you became flesh and lived among us; and we offer our lives to you, for by your power we have become children of God.

We thank you, Father, for you have visited your people in one like us in all things but sin, and in human fragility you have revealed the face of divinity. Gather into your arms all the peoples of the world, so that in your embrace we may find blessing, peace, and the fullness of our inheritance as your daughters and sons. Amen.

We extend our warmest wishes to all for a happy, holy, peaceful and healthy new year.

If we are not able to be with the ones we love, let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

With best wishes from the Parish Team

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Under the pastoral care of the Pallottines, Society of the Catholic Apostolate.
Registered Charity No. 252929

358 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 9AN
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greenford@rcdow.org.uk

COMMUNITY
Fr. Liam O'Donovan SCA,
Fr. Joe McLoughlin SCA, Fr. Tom Daly SCA,
Reverend Deacon Jayson Wingrove

OFFICE HOURS

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Monday - Saturday | 9.00 am – 4.00 pm |
| Sunday | 10.00 am – 1.30 pm |

MASS TIMES

From Monday to Saturday Mass at 12.00 noon will be streamed online, and on Sundays both the 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm Masses.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/greenford/>

Saturday – 12.00 noon and 7.00 pm
Sunday – 8.00 am, 10.00 am, 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm.

Confessions – Saturdays 11.00 am to 12.00 noon.
and 6.15 pm to 6.45 pm

ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT
will be in the Church
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm,
and First Friday of the month from 5.00 pm to 9.00 pm.

**The Second Sunday After the Nativity
(Year C)**

2nd JANUARY 2022

Reflection on the Feast of the Epiphany



*Thursday 6th January
The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord
A Holy Day of Obligation
Masses at 12.00 noon and 7.30 pm*

***We are sad to say that Fr. Eugene died at 8.30 pm
on Friday 31st December 2021.
May he rest in the peace of Christ.
Funeral arrangements to be announced.***

Funeral Arrangements Advance Notice

Margaret Barry

Mass 10.00 am, Monday 10th January, Visitation Church, to be followed by burial in Greenford Park Cemetery.

Peter McNicholas

Mass 1.00 pm, Friday 14th January, more details to follow.

First Friday Devotions

The First Friday Devotions for January will take place on Friday 7th January, beginning at 5.00 pm with Rosary, Mass and Adoration, Mass will be at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

In the Western Church, the feast commemorates the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. In the Eastern Church, the feast also commemorates the Baptism of Christ. The angels revealed Jesus to the shepherds, and the star revealed him to the Magi, who had already received hints of Him from the Jewish Scriptures.

Later, God the Father revealed Jesus' identity to Israel at his Baptism in the Jordan. In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus revealed himself as the promised Messiah. Finally, Jesus revealed himself as a miracle worker at the wedding of Cana, thus revealing his Divinity. These multiple revelations are all suggested by the Feast of the Epiphany.

The *Magi* were not Kings, but a caste of Persian priests who served Kings, using their skills in interpreting dreams and watching movements of stars. The sixth century Italian tradition, that there were three Magi, Casper, Balthazar, and Melchior, is based on the fact that three gifts are mentioned in Matthew's Gospel: gold, frankincense and myrrh. All of these gifts were expensive. It has been suggested that perhaps Joseph had to sell the gifts to finance the Holy Family's trip to Egypt, and Mary kept the myrrh in her medicine chest. Myrrh was used as an oriental remedy for intestinal problems in infants, a useful gift for a new baby. The gifts might have been God's way of providing for the journey that lay ahead.

The Magi may actually have been Persian priests, Babylonian astronomers or Nabataean spice-traders. Eventually, however, they were pictured as representatives of different peoples and races. In the Book of Numbers (24:17), the prophet Balaam speaks of "*a star that shall come out of Jacob.*" Stars were believed to be signs from God, announcing important events. Thus, the brightness of the Light to which the kings were drawn was made visible in the star they followed. They were led by God's power to Christ and brought gifts to him and his family—to Mary and Joseph—as Isaiah and the psalmist foresaw.

Source: *Vatican News*