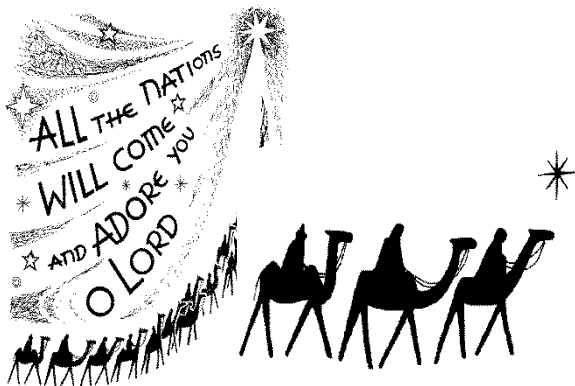




# Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016  
**THE EPIPHANY**



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**(Retired)**

The Psalm explains why they are called Kings, and two of the gifts, gold and incense, are anticipated in Isaiah. The third, myrrh, was prized as a perfume and is mentioned several times in the Hebrew scriptures. In the Gospels the only other mentions are in connection with Jesus's death. St. Mark says he was offered wine and myrrh to drink on the cross; in St. John Nicodemus brings myrrh and aloes to Jesus in the tomb. So Jesus even as an infant is acknowledged by the whole world, symbolised by the Magi, as King of the Jews; and there is surely an anticipation of his destiny. There is a greater meaning to this than the picturesque Crib figures and the splendid costumes for the children in the nativity play. What makes it easier to appreciate this feast is the fact that it is already psychologically distant from Christmas. We are looking ahead to the new year and not backward to last school term.

## SMILE LINES

### Up and down

A psychiatrist was training some young clergy who were interested in doing counselling. They had been discussing various forms of depression. Deciding to test them, she asked: “How would you diagnose someone who visits your church, walks back and forth, screaming at the top of his lungs one minute, and then collapsing in a pew to weep uncontrollably the next?” A young man at the back of the room raised his hand and ventured: “a football coach?”

\* \* \* \* \*

*This is the year of the American presidential election. With that in mind:*

### Political leaders

“Don’t worry about your son, he is set to become a great politician,” the teacher said. The parents were delighted and asked how she could tell. “Well, he can say more things that sound well and mean nothing at all than anyone else in the class.”

\* \* \* \* \*

What did the raspberry say to the blueberry? Breathe, breathe!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CONFESSIONS

**Saturday: 10.30am - 11.00am and after the 6.00pm Mass.**

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

10.00 Mary Rafferty (RIP) .  
6.00pm Frank McConnachie (RIP)

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. THE EPIPHANY

08.30 Intention of Marion Savage  
09.45 Ian Swanson (RIP) Anniv.  
11.30 Intention of Paul .Hayes

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January

09.15 Private Intention

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

09.15 Geraldine Mather (RIP)

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

09.15 Frank & Dorothy Pritchard (RIP)  
Anniv.

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January

09.15 Evelyn Deighan (RIP)

### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January

6.00pm Lisa King (RIP) & Maurice  
Purtill (RIP) Anniv.

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January

08.30 Margaret Foulds (RIP)  
09.45 Veronica Lee (RIP) Anniv.  
11.30 Maria Wielgut

## QUOTE - POPE FRANCIS

Let us not forget that God forgives and God forgives always. Let us never tire of asking for forgiveness.

I am convinced that the whole Church — which has much need to receive mercy, because we are sinners — will find in this jubilee the joy to rediscover and render fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time.