



# Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

THE EPIPHANY 4th January 2014



**Parish Priest:**  
Monsignor Canon  
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## Parish Office

Open Mon, Tues,  
Wed & Friday  
9.30am – 12.30pm

Office Administrator  
Jane Rose  
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Also in Residence  
Bishop John Crowley  
– Retired.

Today we celebrate the wise men (not in fact themselves kings) who come to adore the infant King of the Jews. In the Psalm we have 'the king' and the 'king's son.' who will be drawn to the brightness of the Lord in Jerusalem. Last but not least there is King Herod. Kings have, at best, a mixed press in the scriptures. Stripping away, therefore, most of what we think about the Epiphany (Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar, crowns and camels), what does the liturgy teach us? The nations of the world, their rulers and their great men, will be drawn by the light of God to pay homage to Jesus Christ and acknowledge him as their ruler. A mystery has only now been revealed; that God is God of all the earth, pagans as well as Jews. That God has appeared on earth in this child. Here is the most poignant image in Matthew's whole nativity story: venerable wise men doing homage to a baby. Christmas is 'so last year' by now but this is the last visit to Bethlehem, the last sight of a baby. Next week we see Jesus the man.

## SMILE LINES

### Giving up smoking

A congregation was disappointed when one of its number, who had quit smoking a few weeks before, suddenly began again, and just before the beginning of Lent, at that.

Taking him to one side, the minister explained that the point of Lent was to give something up, not start something. 'Oh yes, I know,' said the man. 'But you see, I decided to give up my New Year's resolution.'

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### What's wrong with the car?

"The car won't start," said a wife to her husband. "I think there's water in the carburetor."

Her husband laughed and pointed out that she did not even know what the carburetor was.

"I'm telling you," repeated the wife, "I'm sure there's water in the carburetor."

The husband was very dubious.

"We'll see. Where's the car?"

"In the swimming pool."

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In 2012, the population of Facebook passed 1 billion. If it were a country, it would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the world.

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## CONFESSIONS

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

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

10.00am Joe Forshaw RIP

6.00pm Paul Murphy RIP

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

8.30am Private Intention (RB)

9.45am People of the Parish

11.30am Kathleen Porter RIP Anniv.

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

9.15am Dorothy Pritchard RIP Anniv.

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

9.15am Margaret Hodd RIP

### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

9.15am Private Intention (JD)

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

11.am Private Intention (CW)

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

9.15am Frank Jones RIP

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

10.00am Willietta Nasmyth Miller RIP  
Anniv.

6.00pm Maurice Purtill & Lisa King RIP  
Anniv.

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January

8.30am Percy Holland RIP Anniv.

9.45am Paul Fisher RIP

11.30am Paul Murphy RIP

## QUOTE

**"The perfect family doesn't exist, nor is there a perfect husband or a perfect wife, and let's not talk about the perfect mother-in-law! It's just us sinners. A healthy family life requires frequent use of three phrases: "May I? Thank you, and I'm sorry" and "never, never, never end the day without making peace." "**  
**Pope Francis**