



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

**8th January 2017
The Epiphany of the Lord**

**Parish Priest:
Canon Anthony Dwyer**

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Parish Office

**Open Mon, Tues,
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9.30am – 12.30pm
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**Also in Residence
Bishop John Crowley
(Retired)**

As we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany today so our celebration of Christmas comes to an end. Hopefully for each of you it has been a happy time, a time to relax and to be with family and friends. Alongside that I'd like to think that there will be for you many memories to keep, and to cherish, of this special time.

Our celebrations in the parish were certainly special, and memorable. So many people contributing in so many ways to making this feast such a special time. Many people worked very hard some we saw, and heard, the Readers, Ministers of Holy Communion, the Altar Servers and the Stewards, and of course the choirs providing uplifting music at each of the Masses. As well as those there were the 'unseen' people who clean the church, arrange the flowers, and build the crib. Everything came together so well to make for a prayerful, dignified and uplifting celebration of Christmas. So a big 'thank you' to everyone who helped in any way, and who gave their time so generously, your efforts are very much appreciated.

Thank you too for your generous offerings for the collection on Christmas Day, your support and kindness are much appreciated.

Bishop John and I wish you all a very happy 2017, and pray that it will be a time of many blessings for you and your family.

EPIPHANY

The journey of the wise men or magi is one of the favourite stories of the gospel. It's a story of the journey of life, of guidance on the way, of delight in finding faith and God. We like the end of the story when the wise men outwitted Herod.

The star started them on the journey and then guided them to the end. Like our faith, the star which shone at our baptism is the promise of God to guide us through life. Faith grows through the ordinary events of life. What can seem ordinary happenings can be extraordinary grace – the birth of a child in your family, the first time you fall in love, the people you meet who make a big difference in your life, success in a job, becoming a grandparent, an aunt, an uncle, anything creative in your life is a gift of grace from God.

The presence of your star may have struck when you learned to pray, a time you felt you really helped others, or really listening and talking with someone and you realise you're not the only one in life with problems.

Each of us has our own personal star guiding us – the star of prayer, love, friendship, support...the star has a

different name at different times. Be grateful for your star – and be grateful that you have been a star for others.

In the book of God, each of us is a star.

Donal Neary sj

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK
Saturday 7th January 10.00am Helen Sweeney Intentions 6.00pm Peter MacConnell (RIP) Anniv
Sunday 8th January 8.30am Ann Kealy Intentions 9.45am Robert Zinkula (RIP) rec.dec. 11.30am Kathleen Porter (RIP) Anniv
Monday 9th January 9.15am Service of the Word
Tuesday 10th January 9.15am Margaret Foulds (RIP)
Wednesday 11th January 9.15am Seamus McConville (RIP) Anniv. 5yrs.
Thursday 12th January 11.00am Gerald Woodruff (RIP) Anniv
Friday 13th January 9.15am Trisia & Gordon Lewis Ints.
Saturday 14th January 10.00am 6.00pm Frank Lawson (RIP) Anniv
Sunday 15th January 8.30am The People of the Parish 9.45am Peadar Hyland (RIP) 11.30am Nancy Byrne (RIP)
<u>CONFESSIONS</u> Saturday 10.30-11.00am and after the 6.00pm Mass.