



St Thomas More RC Church



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06.01.2019

The Epiphany of the Lord

Monday	07.01.19	9.00am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday	10.01.19	12.30pm	Eucharistic Service
Friday	11.01.19	9.00am	Eucharistic Service
Saturday	12.01.19	6.00pm	Vigil Mass

NEXT SUNDAY 13th January 2019

The Baptism of the Lord

Mass at 10.00am & 12noon and Mass in Portuguese at 5.00pm

1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11 followed by Psalm 103 (104)

2nd Reading: Titus 2: 11-14, 3: 4-7

Gospel: Luke 3: 15-15, 21-22

Rest in Peace

Jean Warr and Brandon Murphy

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace Amen.

Last week's collection

- Envelopes £181.50
- Loose Plate £172.72
- TOTAL £354.22
- Average weekly Standing Order income £309.00
- Crib £116.42
- Collection for the Passage at Manor House £331.89

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Fr Clive and Deacon Kassa express their sincere thanks for all your Christmas cards and gifts. Each and every one is greatly valued. Thank you too for all your kindness and constant hard work throughout the year. This supports and builds our community and can never be taken for granted. God bless, Fr Clive.

The Western Church began celebrating **the Epiphany** in the 4th century when it was, and still is, associated with the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. Traditionally the Epiphany is celebrated in the West on January 6th, the twelfth day of Christmas. The Magi are the wise men, sometimes called kings, traditionally named Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. The Magi found Jesus by following a star to Bethlehem. They brought gifts of gold (representing his royal standing), frankincense (his divinity) and myrrh (his mortality).

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek word 'epiphainein' meaning 'reveal'. At the Epiphany, God revealed himself to the world through the incarnation of Jesus.

A tradition associated with the Epiphany is to ask God's blessing on homes by marking the door post with chalks blessed for that purpose. The door is chalked with the initials of the three Magi together with the numerals of the new year, connected with a series of crosses. This year, the door of a house would be marked with **20+C+M+B+19**. The initials C, M and B commemorate the Magi, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, but also stand for the Latin prayer-request *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* "May Christ bless this house". 'Chalking the door' is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart.

The answers to the Christmas Quiz sold at the Christmas Fair are available now, please see Geraldine. The 20 questions were all enquiring about patron saints – who is the patron saint of butchers, postmen, authors, children, students and many others. Let's see what you found out ! There is a small prize for all correct answers.