



ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH
41/42 LANGDALE GARDENS, PERIVALE, UB6 8DQ

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SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY - B

Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12 Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18 John 1:1-18

3rd January 2021

Parish Mass Book p112

THE EPIPHANY

The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated every year in Spain with great expectation and joy. Children and adults have been writing their letters to the Magi for the past few weeks. In their letters they try to convince the Magi of how well they have behaved during 2020 (some might exaggerate their good works and achievements just a bit!) and how much they deserve the gifts they are asking for in the often long letters some of us write to their Majesties. The Magi came from the far East to worship the new born baby and offered him the gifts of Gold, Myrrh and Frankincense and continue to visit the homes of the Spanish people to deliver their presents. The Magi ask all the children to go to bed early on that night and leave water for their camels!

Sadly, I will not be able to be in Spain this year but I hear the Magi will be allowed to enter Spain despite COVID as they are magical and will not be spreading the virus! The children are delighted with the news, they are the centre of attention on this day and so they look forward to it more than anyone. The magical night of the 5th of January will not be cancelled!

The Feast of the Epiphany is the feast of light. Images of light surround us in the church and also in the readings that we will hear at the Vigil Mass on Tuesday and then on Wednesday. In fact the meaning of the word Epiphany means 'revelation' or 'illumination'. What was once darkness is now light; what was once hidden is now revealed.

Christ is the light of God, who has come into the world. "The darkness has not overcome the light". Indeed, that is what the feast of the Epiphany celebrates; that God's Light has come into the world and has overpowered the darkness, that God, through Christ, has literally transformed the darkness into light!

The celebration of the Epiphany fills our hearts with hope. The darkness that exists in the world is all too real: COVID, war, terrorism, the darkness of an increasing disregard for human life, darkness of oppression, poverty and violence. Sometimes the darkness is strong and it threatens to actually overcome the Light that is Christ, the Light that is his Gospel, the Light that is God's love. But we have a promise from God and on the feast of the Epiphany we remember that promise; The darkness will never overcome the Light! We proclaim that God shines upon us and, in his love, his glory will always appear over us.

May the Magi bring us all the gifts of peace, generosity and love in this New Year 2021.

Places are still available for the two Masses to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany:

Tuesday 5th January 7.30pm Vigil Mass

and

Wednesday 6th January 10.00am Mass

Please ensure you book a place if you would like to attend either of these Masses.



CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2021

Registration is now open for the next Confirmation programme. **Young people in Year 8 or above**, who feel ready to prepare for this Sacrament, can apply. The programme will start during the spring term with Masses later in the year, in October 2021.

If you would like to apply, please contact the parish office email: perivale@rcdow.org.uk or telephone: **0208 997 3164**

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Following on from my message last week, it is thanks to our great team of volunteers that we have been able to safely open our church each week. The same group of volunteers has been working tirelessly for months and we need to bolster that team and lessen their load.

We are looking for more volunteers to become Stewards, Cleaners, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers.

If you would like to support the parish by becoming a new volunteer, or perhaps you were previously a volunteer and would now like to help again, please contact the parish office. Thank you

If you were vol

CHARITY 3 - MARY'S MEALS

There is still time to donate to the Mary's Meals appeal - 'Our Big Family Christmas Dinner'. By donating towards a place at their virtual table for just £15.90 you can help feed a child at a place of education in some of the world's poorest communities for an entire school year. And it gets even better! **Give until 31 January 2021 and your donation will be doubled by the UK government**, meaning Mary's Meals can reach even more hungry children with life-changing school meals.

To donate please visit [Big Family Christmas | Mary's Meals](#)

If you are unable to donate online, please place your donation in an envelope and we will donate on your behalf.

CHARITY 4 - CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

You are invited to make a 'Crib Offering' again this year, which will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society to **support their work with disadvantaged children and families in the UK**. Your donations will help bring hope and change to children and families living in poverty, as well as those experiencing emotional and psychological distress. Through their services, the Catholic Children's Society aim to help children overcome disadvantage, achieve their full potential and have better chances in life. **(A separate collection box is available in the lobby for your donations)**

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil.
Amen.*

Pope Francis has declared a special Year of St Joseph to mark the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. The Year of St Joseph which started on Tuesday, 8 December 2020 will run until Wednesday, 8 December 2021.

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled 'Patris corde' (With a father's heart), Pope Francis describes the guardian of Our Lord as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. "Our world today needs fathers," he said. "It has no use for tyrants who would domineer others as a means of compensating for their own needs," and "rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction."

Pope Francis wrote this letter "against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic" and in it he seeks to articulate some of the manifold ways in which this global emergency has laid bare to us our interdependence and our common humanity. "Each of us," Pope Francis wrote, "can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation." "A word of recognition and of gratitude, is due to them all."

The Letter concludes with a prayer to St Joseph

(extract from The Catholic Herald)

LITURGY TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday	2	Mass	6.30pm	Margaret Cuffe (Seriously Ill)
Sunday	3	Mass	9.30am	Wellbeing and success during exams
			11.30am	Alcinda Ramos RIP
Monday	4	Mass	10.00am	Charlie Shiring
Tuesday	5	Mass	10.00am	Clarete Ramos Espinosa RIP
		Vigil Mass	7.30pm	People of the Parish

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Wednesday	6	Mass	10.00am	Anthony Fernandes RIP
Thursday	7	Mass	10.00am	Kerry Alex D'Silva RIP
Friday	8	Mass	10.00am	Mercy Paul D' Souza RIP
Saturday	9	Mass	6.30pm	Alcinda Ramos RIP

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - B

Sunday	10	Mass	9.30am	Patrick Vesey RIP (Anniv)
			11.30am	Margaret Power RIP (Anniv)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Mondays after Mass from 10.30am-11.00am

Confession: Saturdays 5.15pm - 6.00pm or by appointment.

CANDLELIGHT

This week in memory of
PUSHPA FERNANDO RIP

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

Please pray for: Gigi Reale, Jo Dearlove, Malgorzata Myrkwa, Terril Park, George Brum, Chris Keeffe, David Newbert, Teresa Oatway, Stephen Connellan, Stanley Cummins, Avit Castillo, Avelina Pelaez Siddiqi, Marlene Lock, Michael Delaney, Maria Wales, Suzanne Acton, Carl Bryan, **for those who died recently:** Breda Connellan, William Talbutt, Philomena Feighery and Michael Garrett **and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time:** Nicholas Fardey, Bridget Markey, Michael O'Neill, Monica Strabel, Nora Keigher, Pushpa Fernando, James Mulcahy, Johnny Leung, Kate Quinn, Sean Healy, Patrick Mahon, George Burns, Sydney Tai, Margaret Power, John Boyle and Michael McDonagh

THANK YOU FOR LAST WEEK'S DONATIONS

Envelopes £ 441.60 Loose Plate £ 427.50 Standing Orders £ 365.00 Christmas Offerings £ 807.00 Total £ 2,041.10