

OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

Liturgy

The Epiphany of the Lord

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Above you the glory of the Lord appears.

PSALM: Ps 71:1-2.7-8.10-13.R.cf.v11

R) All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **(R)**

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R)**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **(R)**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **(R)**

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6

It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Mt 2:2

We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

Matthew 2:1-12

We saw his star and have come to do the king homage..

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Cf. Mt 2:2

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



"The wise (prudent) man's path leads upwards to life," so reads Proverbs 15: 24. This is certainly true of the "wise men ... from the east" who came to Jerusalem seeking the "infant king of the Jews". That infant king is indeed life, eternal life. The "way" too, because he IS wisdom. And if the translation should be 'prudence', prudence is a wisdom with regard to action, to decisions. These wise men wisely sought him who IS wisdom, journeyed many miles to find him. They also found her who is Wisdom's greatest

disciple; she who is the "seat of Wisdom", his Mother, whose wisdom in believing and obeying overshadowed even theirs. Mary is, of all human beings, the most perfect 'image' of the wisdom of her Son. She, a woman, has of all mankind the greatest dignity and importance after her Son. She is queen of angels, of prophets, of patriarchs, of apostles, of martyrs, of confessors, of virgins, of ALL saints! She is God's triumph in fallen human nature of grace and wisdom, love and beauty.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



II. THE HOMILY

Words which set hearts on fire

142 (Cont'd). In the homily, truth goes hand in hand with beauty and goodness. Far from dealing with abstract truths or cold syllogisms, it communicates the beauty of the images used by the Lord to encourage the practise of good. The memory of the faithful, like that of Mary, should overflow with the wondrous things done by God. Their hearts, growing in hope from the joyful and practical exercise of the love which they have received, will sense that each word of Scripture is a gift before it is a demand.

Day by Day with St Francis*

UBERTINO DA CASALE, THE TREE OF THE CRUCIFIED LIFE OF JESUS

Francis, ever growing in likeness to Jesus, realized that while he was at home in the body he was exiled from the Lord, that he had become, through the charity of Christ Jesus, altogether unaffected by external things and earthly desires. This made him strive, by means of unremitting prayer, to keep his spirit ever in the presence of God. Prayer was a solace to this contemplative who, going the rounds of the mansions above, had already become a fellow citizen of the angels, gazing upon their secrets. With burning desire he was seeking his Beloved, from whom the only partition separating him was his flesh. Prayer was likewise a safeguard to this man of action who, rather than rely on his own efforts in everything he undertook, would ask in persevering prayer to be guided by the blessed Jesus. By every possible means he would urge his brothers to be earnest in prayer.

He was so constant himself in giving time to prayer that, whether walking, sitting down, working or resting, indoors or outside, he seemed to be always praying. It was as though he had dedicated to holy prayer, not only heart and body, but every piece of his activity and time.

**Excerpts from *Day by Day with St Francis: a Franciscan Breviary* Published by New City ISBN: 9781905039166 These writings by or about Francis of Assisi are from the time of Francis which means that the language is sometimes rather archaic but it reflects the true spirit of Francis.



ST. JOHN FISHER, REDBOURN with FLAMSTEAD AND MARKYATE.

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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – 6TH JANUARY 2019

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Saturday) 5.30pm Mary & Family (Ints.)
Sunday 9.00am Franklyn & Virginia Dsouza (RIP)

Monday 7th January 11.45am Christmas feria – Louis Kayum (RIP) & Family (Ints.)

Friday 11th January 11.45am **NO MASS**

Sunday 13th January **The Baptism of the Lord**
(Saturday) 5.30pm Deceased Members of the Prall Family
9.00am Kishore Goojha (Ints.)

Please remember in you prayers : Sick: Nigel Clark, Ivor Hopla, Judy Atkins, Sofia Mayorga, Una Hewitt, Mary Jones, Breda Iommi, Baby David Ruth, Maria Maynard, Liz Mevin and Lucy Swift.

Please remember in your prayers this week in The Churches Together List the Residents of:
Tassell Hall, Nichols Close, Hilltop, Rainbow Close, Ridgedown, The Terrace, Albert Street, Christina Court, George Street, Luton Road, Pipers Lane, The Ridings, Flamsteadbury, Parsons Close and Trowley Hill Road.

St Dominic School –Admissions Policy The Governors are consulting on a proposed change to the Admission Policy for September 2020. The consultation will run for 6 weeks from Monday 26th November 2018 to Monday 7th January 2019.

Any responses should be sent to the Governing Body by the closing date.

Please see the school website for further details – www.stdominic.herts.sch.uk/Our-Schools/Admissions

An Invitation from The Mothers union of St Mary's Church, Redbourn, to the women of St. John Fisher to attend the Ecumenical Carol Service to be held at St. Mary's Church on **Tuesday 8th January at 10.00am**

Childrens Christmas Party will take place on 6th January after 9.00am Mass.

Thank You to all who have decorated and cleaned the Church for us at Christmas

A Personal **Thank You** for your generosity for all the cards and gifts.
I wish you all a good and peaceful New Year. God bless you.

FR. Michael.

First Holy Communion Preparation.

Parents meeting takes place in the porch on Wednesday 16th January at 7.00pm.

We will arrange the day and times for the preparation sessions.

The Holy Communion Day is set for Saturday 8th June. (Time to be arranged)

An evening with The Bella Mamas singers in aid of The Freddie Goodchild Fund & Woodfield School, Leverstock Green, will take place on Saturday January 19th 2019 at 7.30pm

This event will raise money for the two worthy causes through the sale of tickets and a raffle on the night.

Tickets are priced at £10 (including a welcome drink).

If you would like one please contact Angela Connery at theconnerys@ntlworld.com

There are flyers on the table at the back of the Church for more information.

Church Cleaning Rota for 2019 in on the notice board in the porch. Please sign your name against one of the free months. Ideally two parishioners are required each month and you can do the cleaning at a time to suit yourself.

Kitchen area on Parish Room. Two pictures are on the notice board giving an idea of the redevelopment of the kitchen area. We are reminded that the money to pay for this is our parish money from the Giving in Faith project. Please do look at the pictures and the letter which gives details of the ongoing work in the Church. Any comments can be written on the back of the letter, copies of which are on the table in the porch.