



PRAYING TOGETHER FOR THE CHURCH, THE WORLD, THE PARISH & ONE ANOTHER

SICK & HOUSEBOUND: Richeldis Paxton, Wilma Primmer, PC, Yee Wing, CPO, Gillian Gibb, Bridie Burns, Phyllis Coffey, Ann Hull, Margaret O'Hanlon, Chris, RC, Theresa Mulvaney, Jodie Clarke, Kieran Maher, Rose Knights, Mary Honey, Peggy & John Cox, Diego Campigotto, Edel Rickard, Polly Thompson, Jean McGrath, Antonio Rodrigues, Julie & Lawrence Hayes, Margaret O'Brien, Michael Rynne, Mary Geaghan, Annemarie Dax, Special Intention, Terry Highland, Colleen Thomas, Joe Nemeth, Helen Faria,, Margaret Callighne, Frank Hunt, Maggie Kिरrane, Vera Hylton, Monica Wisniewicz, Geraldine O'Toole, Eileen Harrison, Billy Brennan, Patsy Kenny, Ian Measham, David Colville, Josephine Smullen, Edward Reilly, , Betty Cain, James McHugh, Callum Stewart-Robert, Betty Hickey, Bernie Marren, Sadie Burgess, Shayanayaki Kaithampillai, Richard Howes, Mia Harrison, Special Intention, Ann Nemeth, Marjorie Hoareau, Max Perera, Nick Holmes, Michael Howard, George McDermott, Josie Redmond., Michael Fahy, Victor Jude Booth, Mary E. Malone, Manal Francis Luca, Antonio Dilieto Snr, Androulla Koutsoumbi, Michael Griffin Snr.

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Jim Bonner, John Donovan, Josie Lewis, Vivienne Pentack.

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: Josephine Usher, Peter Golden, Mary Griffin, Josephine Byrne.
Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.

INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR JANUARY

Universal: Interreligious Dialogue

That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.

Evangelization: Christian Unity

That by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

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4. Fr. Shaun 5. Pastoral Assistant

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SALVE REGINA

Hail, holy Queen,
Mother of Mercy,
Hail, our life,

our sweetness and our hope.

To thee do we cry,

Poor banished children of Eve;

To thee do we send up
our sighs,

Mourning and weeping
in this vale of tears.

Turn then, most gracious
advocate,

Thine eyes of mercy toward us;

And after this our exile,
Show unto us the blessed
fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.

SANCTUARY LAMP THIS WEEK
Sponsored in Thanksgiving by
The Perera Family.

**LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF
WALSINGHAM** is sponsored for the
Intentions of Hari Rami



Sunday cycle
readings Year C
Weekday readings
Christmastide
Divine Office
Week 2

The Catholic Parish
of St George, Sudbury



Sunday 3rd January 2016 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Welcome to all at Mass today, especially to any visitors and particularly those who are here for the first time. Please take this sheet home with you which will tell you about this week's celebration and the activities during the week and also to remind you of our Liturgy today.



TODAY'S MASS

**"God is revealed to all
peoples"**

Wise men from the east guided by a star came to worship Christ. In them we see the homage of all the nations to Christ who is for ever the light of the world. We too can become an epiphany - a revealing - of God if we lead full Christian lives.

First Reading: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

God's people hear words of encouragement. God is going to "shine on them" again and give them a new opportunity to keep their covenant and be faithful. If they do that, they will be filled with joy. The writer also hints of an even more joyous time when the Messiah, Jesus Christ, will come into the world and persons will come from afar "bearing gold and frankincense"

Second Reading: *Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6*

The people of Ephesus are told that the Good News of Jesus is meant not just for the Jews but for all people. We are called to be "co-heirs" in the promise of Jesus Christ. That means we share in his work of salvation by caring for others, by reaching out to those in need, and by being peacemakers.

Gospel: *Matthew 2:1-12*

The story of the Magi, following the light of a distant star is full of surprises. These astrologers, who were Gentiles, were the first to worship Jesus as the new-born King of the Jews. They found him, not in a palace surrounded by signs of wealth and might, but as a helpless baby in the arms of Mary, his mother. Yet the Magi believed and worshiped him, offering him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, Matthew tells us, full of joy and wonder, they returned to their distant homes. The Magi had the faith and wisdom to see in this baby the promised Messiah.

Sunday reflection by Mgr. Jeremy

The feast of Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Jesus to the Gentile world. The miraculous birth of Jesus through the special intervention of God is a unique event in the history of humanity. Such an initiative from God cannot be limited to the Jewish people alone but should include the Gentiles who for no fault of their own, have not come to the knowledge of the true God. The plan of bringing Gentiles to the community of believers in the true God turns a new chapter with the birth of Jesus.

The term "Magi" originally referred to a clan of Persian priests with special claims to interpret dreams. Here they appear as astrologers or astronomers who observed the movements of the stars as a guide to major events. The Magi or wise men seeing a sign in the heavens learnt that some important event has taken place in the west, in Palestine. They follow the sign and reach the palace of king Herod and ask, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?"

The evangelist is borrowing an idea from the oracles of Balaam in the book of Numbers 24:17 which says, "A star shall come forth from Jacob, a sceptre shall rise from Israel," because even in antiquity nobody would believe that the star actually went ahead of them or stopped over the place to guide them on their short journey. Clearly the language is poetic rather than literal.

Herod is bewildered. Going through Scripture the experts find out that the child is to be born in Bethlehem. He lets the wise men go and worship the child, but his



intention is to destroy the child. The king knows that the new-born child may not be a pretender to his throne but can cause unrest in Judea. Therefore the best thing would be to eliminate him.

On arriving at Bethlehem, the Magi whose names are, according to some tradition, Balthazar, Melchior and Gaspar offer gold symbolizing virtue, incense symbolizing prayer and myrrh symbolizing suffering. Here we see a paradox: The Jews who have the Scriptures and can plainly see what the prophets have said are not willing to worship the new-born king, whereas the wise men of the Gentiles – perhaps representing the future community of believers – accept and pay homage.

In fact, when Matthew was writing the Gospel around 85 AD the major part of the Jewish people had rejected Jesus as the Messiah, though the proclamation had first been made to them. The Christian preachers were being delivered up to Sanhedrins, flogged in the synagogues, and dragged before kings for bearing testimony to Jesus. Meanwhile, the Gentiles were flocking to the Christian communities, and thus the apostolate had become one of going and making disciples of the Gentiles (Mt 28:19).

The feast of the Epiphany challenges us to open our hearts and minds to the mystery of God's love and His revelations. We are fortunate and blessed to receive the light of faith – to know Christ. We shall open the treasures of our hearts and share them with others, and thus we shall pay our homage to Jesus our Saviour and King.

FR SHAUN'S last Sunday with us will be the 24th January before he moves to Watford.

SACRISTY. Parishioners are reminded that the Sacristy is a special area and not to be used as a short cut during Mass. Please try to respect this.

ST. GEORGE'S PLAYERS will be performing *Dick Whittington and his Cat* on Friday, 22nd, Saturday, 23rd, and Sunday, 24th January. Tickets may be obtained from the Repository Hut this weekend or by ringing Greg Birch on 07990 566929. Special offer - all tickets for Friday evening's performance are £3.'

THE WHITE SANCTUARY LAMP BY THE TABERNACLE has been sponsored this week in Thanksgiving by the Perera Family.

THE LAMP BY THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM is sponsored this week for the Intentions of Hari Rami.

If you would like to sponsor the blessed sacrament lamp or the lamp by the altar of Our Lady of Walsingham with a particular intention, the cost is £10 for the week - Please see Toni in the Parish Office.

ANNUAL MASS in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes in this Year of Mercy will take place in the Cathedral on Saturday 6th February at 2.00pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass. If you wish to attend and need a wheelchair space please contact the parish office.

ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL - Admissions Arrangements: The Governors are consulting on its proposed admission arrangements for entry to Reception in September 2017. The consultation will close on Friday 29 January 2016. If you would like to read the arrangements or comment on them, the admissions link is <http://www.stgeorgesprimary.org/index.php/en/admissions>

THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH for anyone otherwise alone at Christmas was a massive success and the planning group would like to sincerely thank the parishioners of St. George's for all the donations of beautiful gifts under the Christmas tree.

HARROW SUPPORT GROUP for separated & divorced Catholics. The next meeting of the Harrow Support Group will be on Monday 4 January at 8 pm in St Bernard's Church Hall, Mandeville Road, Northolt. All divorced or separated Catholics, whatever their situation, are welcome. For further information please contact Jill 0208 204 3714 or Eileen 0208 756 1284.

SUDBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (809 Harrow Rd., Wembley, HA0 2 LP) will be hosting their annual New Year's Party on Thursday 14th January. Two course lunch at 12.15pm followed by music with Seamus. All welcome! £6 per person to be paid at the door. To reserve a place please ring 020 8908 1220.

SUDBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE will be holding a fundraising event in aid of the Centre on Saturday 30th January at 2pm at Sudbury Methodist Church followed by Tea/coffee/cake at the Centre at 3:30pm until 5pm. Light opera and songs from musicals with opera singer Tracy King. £5 per person paid at the door.

WHITE/YELLOW FOLDER INFORMATION FOR THE FOLLOWING: (See in church porch)

- ◆ **BEGINNING EXPERIENCE** helps separated, divorced or widowed Catholics.
- ◆ **SMART LOVING SEMINAR** for married couples.
- ◆ **CATHOLIC SINGLES** information
- ◆ **RETROUVILLE**—a lifeline for married couples.
- ◆ **WIDOWED YOUNG**—support events.
- ◆ **CALIX CENTRE**—A Catholic ministry to addicts.
- ◆ **ADULT FAITH FORMATION COURSES.**

FOLDERS in the church porch: look for pilgrimages and retreats, job opportunities, schools and

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C	H	L	K	I	D	E	T	S	E	EAST
H	T	I	I	N	I	H	A	A	G	INFANT
I	N	H	N	H	H	E	S	T	E	KING
T	A	R	G	F	C	L	O	R	A	STAR
A	F	R	O	I	E	H	A	A	M	HOMAGE
D	N	Y	L	A	L	T	A	S	O	LEADER
E	I	M	D	R	S	E	R	R	H	DATE
S	K	E	T	A	D	B	D	Y	I	CHILD
A	R	B	E	T	L	E	M	E	M	DELIGHT
										GOLD
										MYRRH

NEWS & VIEWS



Mgr. Jeremy, Fr. Shaun and Peter thank everyone in the parish for their kind gifts and messages and cards of good wishes this Christmas. Your generosity is much appreciated and is of great encouragement in our ministries.

WELCOME to all who have come to Mass today. Please stay on if you are able, for TEA & COFFEE after the 9.45am and 11.15am Masses, in the Parish Centre.

NEW TO THE PARISH? if you are, please know you are very welcome. Please fill in one of the new parishioners forms at the back of church and we'll get back to you ASAP.

PARISH DIARY FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 3 January:

Tea & Coffee after the 9.45am & 11.15am Masses
Panto 3.00pm

Monday 4 January:

Confirmation 8.00pm

Tuesday 5 January:

Panto Rehearsal 7.30pm
Ladies' Social Guild 8.00pm

Thursday 7 January:

Church Cleaning Group A 7.00pm
Prayer Group 8.00pm

Friday 8 January:

Teas after morning Mass
Art Class 2.00pm
Friends of Jesus 5.30pm

Saturday 9 January:

Panto 3.00pm

FUNERAL MASS for **JOSIE LEWIS RIP** on Friday 8th January at 11.00am followed by burial at Greenford.

FUNERAL MASS for **JIM BONNER RIP** will take place on Friday 15th January at 11.00am followed by burial at Greenford Cemetery. The Reception will take place on Thursday at 6.00pm

A TREMENDOUS THANK YOU to all who helped in any way to prepare the church for Christmas-tide, and who helped during the festivities. Special thanks to our flower arrangers, servers, mulled wine makers, welcomers and readers. Thanks also to Scott Price and our choir (especially the boys) who worked hard for the Carol Service. Your commitment to St. George's and to the clergy is much appreciated.

CONFIRMATION programme will begin on Monday 4th January, 2016. at 8pm.

PRAYER GROUP will resume on Thursday 7th January at 8pm.

FRIENDS OF JESUS will resume on Friday 8th January 2016.

OVER 60'S CLUB will resume on Tuesday 12th January at 1pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION programme will resume on Tuesday 9th February 2016 (parents/guardians only).

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION: Please collect your new rota from the back of the church.

HOLY BAPTISM: Information packs are available from the parish office. You can sign up there for the preparation evening. Parents to be, i.e. before birth, are welcome to attend. Please note that our next baptism preparation evening will be on **Friday 29th January 2016.**

CHURCH CLEANERS: New volunteers are needed now. If you are able to help please call Julia on 8904 5324 or contact the parish team.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY MASS: 6.15pm (Saturday Vigil), 8.30am, 9.45am (Family) & 11.15 noon (Solemn), 5.30pm, **WEEKDAY MASS:** Monday – Saturday 9.30am, **HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION:** 9.30am, 8.00pm, **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Saturday 5.15-6.00pm **RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS:** Saturday 5.15pm - 6.00pm and any time by appointment, **DIVINE MERCY:** Tuesday 10.30am, **PRAYER GROUP:** Thursday 8.00pm **FRIENDS OF JESUS:** Friday 5.30pm.

Gd	Sun	3 January	THE EPIPHANY <i>Sat. Vigil</i>	6.15pm 8.30am 9.45am 11.15am 5.30pm	Josephine Usher RIP PRO POPULO Nick Stavrakakis Intentions Peter Golden (Snr) RIP (1st) Maureen Bell RIP
W	Mon	4 January	Christmas feria	9.30am	Ron & Sheila Dyer RIP
W	Tues	5 January	Christmas feria	9.30am	Jacqueline Waddington RIP
W	Wed	6 January	Christmas feria	9.30am	Hugh Masterson RIP
W	Thur	7 January	Christmas feria	9.30am	Rosina Russell RIP
W	Fri	8 January	Christmas feria	9.30am	Mary O'Mahoney RIP
			FUNERAL MASS	11.00am	JOSIE LEWIS RIP
W	Sat	9 January	Christmas feria	9.30am	Maureen Bell RIP



On the feast of the Epiphany, as we recall Jesus' manifestation to humanity in the face of a Child, may we sense the Magi at our side, as wise companions on the way. Their example helps us to lift our gaze towards the star and to follow the great desires of our heart. They teach us not to be content with a life of mediocrity, of "playing it safe", but to

let ourselves be attracted always by what is good, true and beautiful... by God, who is all of this, and so much more! And they teach us not to be deceived by appearances, by what the world considers great, wise and powerful. We must not stop at that. It is necessary to guard the faith. Today this is of vital importance: to keep the faith. We must press on further, beyond the darkness, beyond the voices that raise alarm, beyond worldliness, beyond so many forms of modernity that exist today. We must press on towards Bethlehem, where, in the simplicity of a dwelling on the outskirts, beside a mother and father full of love and of faith, there shines forth the Sun from on high, the King of the universe. By the example of the Magi, with our little lights, may we seek the Light and keep the faith. May it be so.

Pope Francis

TODAY'S MASS

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.

Collect

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;

everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 71:1-2,7-8,10-13

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

1. 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/.**
2. 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/.**
3. 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/.**
4. 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

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same

promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: Mt2:2

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

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'*

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child

was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of your Church, in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Mt 2: 2

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

Prayer after Communion

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and everywhere, that we may perceive with clear sight and revere with true affection the mystery in which you have willed us to participate. Through Christ our Lord.

