



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

**SICK & HOUSEBOUND:** Ann Hull, Michael Griffin Snr., Titus Fernandes, Mary Malone, Margaret Courname, Annie Phillips, Sadie & Tony Burgess, Mavis Hinton, Tom Fernandes, Cath Kervill, John Flynn, All in Copland Nursing Home, Gerard Perera, Gillian Gibb, Noel Gill, Joe Nemeth, Ann Nemeth, Ken Fernandes, Michael Fahey, Marie Rego, Peter Bell, Antonio DiLieto Snr., Alan Woods, David Musgrave, Maria Nellie De Lima.

**RECENTLY DEPARTED:** Margaret Macdonald, James Flavius, Elizabeth Murphy (twin sister to Mike Murphy).

**ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED:** Fr. Clement Russell (our first Parish Priest), Peter Golden Snr (3rd Ann), Joseph and Lorraine Wright, Michael Hartnett.

### INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR JANUARY

**Evangelization:** Religious Minorities in Asia. That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

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



## AN EPIPHANY PRAYER

Lord Jesus  
may your light shine our way,  
as once it guided the steps of  
the Magi:  
that we too may be led into  
your presence  
and worship you,  
the Child of Mary,  
the Word of the Father,  
the King of nations,  
the Saviour of mankind;  
to whom be glory for ever.  
Amen.

### SANCTUARY LAMP

has been sponsored this week for  
SPECIAL INTENTIONS

### LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM

has been sponsored this week for  
the INTENTIONS OF ANNE SPENCER



**TURN OFF  
ALL MOBILE  
PHONES**

### MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead  
Assistant Priest: Fr. Tony Thomas  
Catechetical Coordinator: Mr. Peter Kingsley  
Secretary: Mrs. Toni Miles  
Director of Music: Mr. Scott Price  
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Tel: 020 8904 2552. Phone Options: 1. Mass Times; 2. Parish Office 3. Mgr Jeremy;  
4. Fr. Tony; 5. Pastoral Assistant. Charity No: 233699  
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Sunday cycle  
Readings Year B

Weekday Readings  
Year 2 Ordinary  
Time

Divine Office Week 1

The Catholic Parish  
of St George, Sudbury



## Sunday 7th January 2018 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



We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In

Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a saviour. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

### First Reading: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

### Second Reading: *Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6*

Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

### Gospel Reading: *Matthew 2:1-12*

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

### SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body."*

St. Peter Chrysologus

# Sunday Reflection

In today's gospel reading, Matthew tells us that when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem looking for the new-born king of the Jews. When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and asked the magi to bring him word of the child's whereabouts so that he too could honour him. When the magi found the child with Mary, his mother, they offered their gifts in homage. Warned in a dream not to return to King Herod, they departed for their own country by another way.

The good news of Epiphany is that Jesus reveals the mystery of God to be self-giving love. Jesus is the epiphany of the invisible God in all the events of his life: as a helpless child lying in a manger, as a young man dying on a cross--the ultimate revelation that God's glory is love. This feast reminds us that each Sunday's liturgy with its gospel reading is an epiphany of the Lord to be reflected upon in prayerful study.

As in every offering of love, the Lord awaits the response of our hearts. Will it be that of King Herod who perceives it as a threat to his own autonomy and power? Will it be that of the magi who perceive the Lord's offering of love as the fulfilment of the human quest for the ultimate meaning

of life? The Christmas Carol "In the Bleak Mid-Winter" shows us the response that brings joy to the sacred heart of Jesus:

*"What can I give him poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb  
If I were a wise man I would do my part  
Yet what I can I give him Give my heart."*

The meaning of Epiphany would be incomplete if we focus our attention solely upon God's self-revelation in the



past as described in Sacred Scripture. God's Epiphany is a present event—in the wonders of the universe and nature; in the events of our personal history and world history; in the works of science and technology, music, art and architecture; in the sacraments; in people. In our liturgy today we pray for the vision to recognize God's epiphanies, and the grace to extend a grateful welcome.

Every person is also called upon to be an Epiphany of God just as Jesus in his humanity was an Epiphany of the divine mystery. Every person in the unique particularity of his or her life can reveal an aspect of God's truth, goodness and beauty that otherwise would forever remain unknown. Today we also pray for the grace to be totally transparent so that God's glory may be made visible through us, and that people might discover peace and joy in that glory.

**HELPERS AT 9.45AM FAMILY MASS** - We are extremely grateful to all who help the children read at the 9.45am Family Mass. We are **urgently looking for new volunteers** to help on a monthly basis. If you might be open to help or would like further information please speak to Marcia Taylor at the 9.45am Family Mass or email [bumbleletaylor@btinternet.com](mailto:bumbleletaylor@btinternet.com). Thank you.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** - Might you be open to help with the Children's Liturgy at the 9.45am Family Mass? If you might consider joining our team of Catechists/Helpers please contact Una Moran on 07932 620 504. Thank you.

**CONFIRMATION 2018** - If you are in Year 10 or above and are interested in being confirmed at St. George's in 2018 please join us in the Parish Centre with your Parent/Carer for the **Confirmation Information Evening** this coming **Monday 8th January 2018 at 7.30pm**. Thank you.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** - Part 2 of the First Holy Communion Programme begins on **Tuesday 16th January**. Please note that the first session is for **Parents & Carers ONLY** so please make the necessary childcare arrangements in good time. Thank you.

**FRIENDS OF JESUS** - The Friends of Jesus Programme take place on Fridays from 5.30-6.30pm providing a little Religious Education for children of primary-school age not attending a Catholic school. An information leaflet is available in the porch. Classes resume on **Friday 12th January**. Thank you.

**EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** - Might you be open to serve the Parish as an Extra-Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion? We are always grateful to those people who assist the Priest with administering the Sacrament at Mass and taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. If you are interested and like to be considered please speak to Fr. Tony .

**CALLING BAPTISM PREPARATION CATECHISTS** -Might you consider helping to prepare Parents/Carers for the Baptism of their Infants. If you are interested or would like further information please speak to Fr. Tony.

**BEFRIENDING SERVICE** - If you know of anyone in the Parish who might like to be befriended please let us know as we have a small group of befrienders who would be only too happy to help.

**VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED** to help with the **CHURCH FLOWERS**. You do not have to be professional just committed to coming to help on Fridays and at major celebrations. If you can help please contact the parish team.

**CHURCH LAMPS:** 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. We now have cards (akin to Mass Cards) for the sponsoring of the Sacrament lamp or Walsingham Lamp if you'd like to use these if you are sponsoring a lamp in memory of someone. They can be obtained from the parish office. PLEASE REMEMBER to book your anniversary Masses early. We are now booked up until July 2018.

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION EVENING:** One raffle prize remain uncollected. If you have a yellow ticket numbered 181-185 please call at the parish office to collect your prize.

**ANNUAL MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES** will be held at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 10th February at 2pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during Mass. If you will be attending in a wheelchair, please let the parish office know by 28th January 2018.

**HARROW SUPPORT GROUP** for divorced and separated Catholics.. The next meeting will be on Monday 8 January in the hall at St Bernard's Church, Northolt (not far from Northolt Station). All are welcome, whatever your situation.

**NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS** at Sudbury Neighbourhood Centre on Tuesday 9th January 12.15-3.30pm. Two course lunch followed by Pantomime. £10 per person. Telephone 020 8909 1220 for more details.

**LOCAL CHARITY** urgently needs someone competent with IT skills. Please contact 020 8904 2318.

**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

RETOUVAILLE—a lifeline for married couples.

WIDOWED YOUNG—support events.

CALIX CENTRE—A Catholic ministry to addicts.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION COURSES. —new information

**VACANCIES:**

Latest diocesan vacancies in folder in porch or go to website.

**FOLDERS in the church porch:** look for pilgrimages & retreats, job opportunities, schools & colleges.

# NEWS & VIEWS

**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 Café-Bar of the Parish Centre.

**THE TUCK SHOP** will be open this Sunday 7th January in the Parish Centre after the 9.45am Mass.

**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.

**PLEASE LEAVE THE PEW NEAT AND TIDY AS YOU DEPART CHURCH TODAY.**

## PARISH DIARY FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday 7 January 2018:

Teas and coffees after 9.45am and 11.15am Masses –

### Monday 8 January:

Keep Fit 2.30pm  
Confirmation Information Evening 7.30pm

### Tuesday 9 January:

Over 60's Group 1.00pm

### Wednesday 10 January:

Knights of St. Columba 8.00pm

### Thursday 11 January:

Church Cleaning Group B 10.30am  
Prayer Group 8.00pm

### Friday 12 January:

Art Class 2.00pm  
Friends of Jesus 5.30pm

## THANK YOU:

- To all who helped get everything ready for Christmas: Flower arrangers, cleaners, decorators;
- To Eucharistic Ministers, Servers and choir members;
- To all who helped behind the scenes: stewards, welcomers etc.;
- To all those who helped and performed in the children's nativity tableau;
- To all who helped give out our Christmas books;
- To all who cleared up after Christmas services— all the debris left behind!

**A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU** from Mgr Jeremy, Fr Tony and Peter for the huge amount of cards, enclosures and gifts. Your generosity was immense. We cannot thank you enough and it is good for us to know that we are so well supported.

**WELL DONE** to those who worked so hard making our Christmas celebration evening so enjoyable. We also

raised **£1122.00** which will go towards automating our bells so we have the angelus ringing each day.

**THE CHRISTMAS CRIB.** Do you remember last year the child and the manger disappeared and sadly never to be returned. During the months prior to Christmas a wood-carver and restorer recurred the child and the manger. We are sure that you will agree that he has really done an excellent job!

**CLOSURE OF REPOSITORY** - The Repository will be closed until further notice for a general stocktake and reappraisal. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** -Please note that the next session, for **Parents & Carers Only**, is on **Tuesday 16th January at 7.30pm**. Thank you.

**SAFEGUARDING TRAINING** - Would you like to help contribute to making your Parish community safer for all? Until the summer of 2018 **free online training** is available through the Diocese. To register your interest please see the poster in the Porch for further details or email: safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk

**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. The next baptism preparation evening will be on **Friday 26th January 2018 at 7.30pm** in the parish centre.

**THE LIST OF THE SICK** has now been renewed. If you know someone who needs to be included please let the office know.

**RECOMMISSIONING OF EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:** As you know, we ask all of our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to be re-commissioned for this important service to the parish on an annual basis. The last re-commissioning took place during our recent Advent Day of Recollection. If you are an Extraordinary Minister but were unable to attend this event, there will be a further re-commissioning at the end of the 9.30am Mass on Saturday 20th January. Please do make every effort to be present.

**FR JOHN HEMER:** A number of parishioners have enquired about obtaining copies of the talks given by Fr John Hemer at our Advent Day of Recollection. Fr John has now kindly provided copies electronically. If you would like to obtain copies, please email Fr Tony and he will send them on to you.

## THOSE THREE MYSTERIOUS GIFTS OF THE WISE MEN

The Magi presented Jesus with gold, frankincense and myrrh. These gifts were very prophetic for they spoke of our Lord's offices of **King, Priest, and Saviour**.

**GOLD:** This carries obvious significance. It's precious and worthy across all cultures and times. It's a gift fit for royalty. It says to the Christ child, You will be a **King**.

**FRANKINCENSE:** The name for this resin likely comes from incense of Franks since it was reintroduced to Europe by Frankish Crusaders. Although it is better known as frankincense" to westerners the resin is also known as olibanum, which is derived from the Arabic al-lub ("the milk") a reference to the milky sap tapped from the Boswellia tree. Frankincense has been touted for its medicinal and soothing properties. Herbalists say it is calming, restorative, gently clarifying, and meditative. Frankincense oil is thought to have stimulating, toning, and warming properties. The ancient world used it for treating depression. We recognize the word incense in its name. Ancient people burned frankincense, believing it to carry their prayers to heaven. Its use as incense illustrates His role as our **Priest**.

**MYRRH:** This is perhaps the most mysterious of the Gifts. It is a resin produced by a small, tough, scraggly tree that grows in semi-desert regions of North Africa and the Red Sea. Myrrh is an Arabic word for bitter, and it is considered a wound healer because of its strong antiseptic and anti-inflammatory properties. Calling it *mo yao*, the Chinese used it for centuries to treat wounds, bruises and bleeding and to relieve painful swelling. The Egyptians made it famous in Biblical times, having acquired myrrh about the fifteenth century B.C. from Africa where commiphora trees were abundant. It was used in incense, perfumes and holy ointments and also medicinally as recorded in the Ebers Papyrus. But its most notable use to them was that of an embalming material, used in Egyptian mummies. As an embalming ointment it signified that He was born to **Die** for the world. In fact, Myrrh was one of the burial spices of Jesus (see John 19:39).

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS

**SUNDAY MASS:** 6.15pm (Saturday Vigil), 8.30am, 9.45am (Family) & 11.15am (Solemn), 5.30pm.

**WEEKDAY MASS:** Monday – Saturday 9.30am.

**HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION:** 9.30am, 8.00pm.

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Saturday 5.15-6.00pm.

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturday 5.15pm - 6.00pm. *and any time by appointment.*

**DIVINE MERCY:** Tuesday 10.30am.

**ROSARY:** Daily after Mass.

Sunday 7 Jan	<b>THE EPIPHANY</b>
6.15pm ( <i>Sat. Vigil</i> )	Tommy Browne RIP
8.30am	Ned McCormack RIP
9.45am	Thanksgiving
11.15am	Peter Golden Snr RIP (3rd Ann)
5.30pm	PRO POPULO

Mon 8 Jan	<b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>
9.30am	Ned McCormack RIP

Tues 9 Jan	<i>feria</i>
9.30am	Mary Fitzpatrick RIP

Weds 10 Jan	<i>feria</i>
9.30am	Catherine Scannell Ints

Thur 11 Jan	<i>feria</i>
9.30am	Michael Hartnett RIP

Fri 12 Jan	<i>feria</i>
9.30am	Thanksgiving McCormack Family

Sat 13 Jan	<i>S.Hilary</i>
9.30am	Maura Duffy RIP

# 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.

## 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.

## Gospel Acclamation: Mt:2:2

### 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.

