

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

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, 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: 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.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 7th January 2024

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Welcome to all at Mass today and especially anyone who is new. Please take this Newsletter home with you. You may wish to share it with family and friends. This newsletter can also be found via our website. We ask God's blessing on you and your loved ones this week and know that we pray for you all each day.

**Sunday Cycle
Readings Year B**

**Weekday Mass Readings
Year 2 Week 1**

**Divine Office
Week 1**

For children,
download a weekly sheet:
<http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/>

THIS WEEK

Sun 7 Jan
6.15pm (vigil)
8.30am
9.45am
11.15am
5.30pm
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Teresa Hukowski RIP
THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Paul Dias RIP (11th)
Delany & Dempsey Family RIP
Holy Souls in purgatory

Mon 8 Jan
9.30am
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
Peter Golden Snr RIP

Tues 9 Jan
9.30am
feria
Thanksgiving

Weds 10 Jan
9.30am
feria
Thanksgiving

Thurs 11 Jan
9.30am
feria
Thanksgiving

Fri 12 Jan
9.30am
feria
Fr Clement Russell RIP
(First Parist Priest of St George's)

Sat 13 Jan
9.30am
Of Our Lady
Coomarewel family intentions

Sun 14 Jan
6.15pm (vigil)
8.30am
9.45am
11.15am
5.30pm
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
Seamus O'Donoghue RIP
Eileen & Tom Haugh RIP
Joel Christian Ints.
Michael Griffin RIP (4th)
THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

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

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk
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Charity No: 233699
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GOSPEL REFLECTION

DAILY MASS TIMES

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

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday – Saturday 9.30am.

HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION: 9.30am, 8.00pm.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Friday 9.00-9.30am, 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.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

SICK & HOUSEBOUND: Marie Rego, Eileen Kidd, SMR, Christopher Browne, Noel Gill, Dee Auriol, Allan Noronha, Fiona Power, Aaran Thayaparan, John, Shaun Scoon and Helen Jordan, Sean Marren, George Beel, Anne McShine-Jones, Marian Lynch, Shane & Paul, Martha Conway, Jean Lurshay, Patrick, Gerry & Corrine Gilbert, Edward Granger, Chris Sweeney, Marjorie Hoareau, Catherine Corcoran, Barbara Gill,

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Elisah Anucha

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Richard Szyeolo, Patrick Frize John Regan

ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED: Peter Golden snr., Fr Clement Russell, Funnell Family, Baron Very.

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP

Thanksgiving health of Joselyn Soares De Almeida

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Milroy Travasso (health)

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS for January 2024

FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.



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.

NEWS UPDATE



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.

Confirmation 2024 Information Evening



Are you in Year 10 or above, regularly attend Mass at our Parish and wish to be confirmed in 2024?

If so, please join us, with your Parent/Carer, in the Parish Centre for the

Confirmation Information Evening
Monday 8th January at 7.30pm.



WELCOME to all at Mass today and a big welcome to anyone who is new or a visitor.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH? It always helps us to get to know you and also your family if you register with us. We can then send you information about the parish and opportunities. Registration forms can be found at the back of Church (underneath the picture of Pope Francis).

WHAT A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS at St George's! Everything we could have wanted. So many people came to Mass and of course we have to thank especially those who came to help beforehand: cleaning, flower arranging, decorating--doing very ordinary tasks to make sure everything ran smoothly,, behind the scenes and in the sacristy and beyond. And then there were lots of people who helped during the services: our children's nativity play, welcomers, those who gave out mince pies, musicians, servers, cleaners up afterwards(!).

MGR JEREMY, FR MIKE & PETER THANK ALL OF YOU in the parish for your cards and gifts this Christmas. It really makes us feel appreciated and loved by you all.

PRESENTS UNDER THE TREE is something we do every year for the **Catholic Children's Society**. We ask you to wrap the present up, indicate if is for a boy or girl and then the age group. Then put it under the tree! All of these are incredibly gratefully

received. **Thank you to all those who have already delivered presents.**

THANK YOU FROM OUR FLOWER TEAM to all of you who gave so generously to our Christmas flowers. It will keep us in bloom for several months. Thank you above all for all your hard work over Christmas!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - Parents & Carers should now all have a copy of the dates for Part 2 of the FHC Programme. This begins with the Part 2 Video for Parents/Carers Only in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 16th January at 7pm. Thank you for ensuring you make childcare arrangements well in advance of this meeting.

FRIENDS OF JESUS - This Parish Programme offers a little **Religious Education to children of primary-school age who are not attending a Catholic school** and have not yet received their First Holy Communion. For further details please contact our Catechetical Coordinator, Mr. Peter Kingsley, at peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk

CONFIRMATION 2024 - Those in Year 10 & above, who are registered & regularly attend Mass at this Parish will be welcome to attend the **Confirmation Information Evening** with a Parent/Carer in the Parish Centre on **Monday 8th January at 7.30pm** when registration documents will be provided to those wishing to be confirmed. Please note that a copy of one's **Baptism Certificate** (and a translation if it is not in English) is also required for registration.

SIGNING OF CERTIFICATES OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE: If you missed this date and for a **good reason** please contact us ASAP. There are a few days left before these have to be returned to Primary Schools.

MINIBUS TO MASS since the advent of Covid we have not been able to continue this wonderful service to our elderly at the 11.15am Mass. This is largely because the 2 minibuses were stolen from the day centre and which has sadly now closed. We now have the possibility of the use of a new bus but quite naturally we need a team of drivers and helpers. Could you help? It may be a simple commitment just once a month. At this stage just speak to one of the parish team or even better, email us and let see if we can get this up and running again.

CHILDRENS LITURGY on Sunday at the 9.45am Mass. This is only during term time so this weekend is the last until it resumes in January.

MUSIC at the 9.45am Mass and the 11.15am. Could you help with the singing or even playing a musical instrument at 9.45am We need your help...don't sit or stand on the side-lines in 2024!

ROSARY AT HOME If you'd like to be part of our prayer network, or know more please simply contact Cheryl on 07941002161.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES in various parishes and jobs working centrally for the Diocese are

advertised weekly. You can view the current vacancies via this link: <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> For further details:

CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL: Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers."

ONE BEDROOM FLAT desired by devout parishioner. Can you help. See Fr Jeremy.

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB: Offerings made at the Christmas Crib this year will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society, who help families in need. Thank you for your kindness. The main crib traditionally stays in place until Candlemas (2nd February)

APF "Missio" Red Boxes--do you remember these? They were some of the first before every charity developed boxes and envelopes. Do you have one that needs emptying? Above all is there anyone who would like to promote and co-ordinate these within the parish.

2024 WORKS IN THE PARISH. Now that Christmas is over it is time to attend to some works needing doing around the parish. A great deal of water has revealed some leaks particularly in the flat roof over the hall and office. We'll have to wait for this to dry out before anything can be done. There is work that needs doing to replace dry plaster in the church and to repaint so don't be surprised if you see scaffolding going up and sorry for the inconvenience. Some electrical work has already been done in the last few days and we hope for some improvement in the lighting round the far end of the Church. The presbytery windows also need attention (one fell out during the heavy winds in the autumn = nothing has much been done since they were installed in 1927). Generally the whole "plant" - church, presbytery and hall are in a good condition but they need attention to keep them up to standard.

WE ARE ON THE LOOKOUT for anyone who might be a good counter of money. Each week our collection needs counting and bagging up. It takes time and a good deal of attention to make sure there are no discrepancies. Could you help? Let us know.

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	N	H	H	E	S	T	E	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