

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

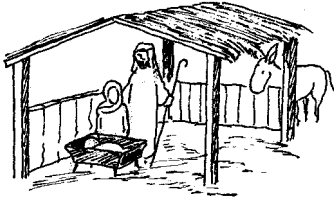
The Epiphany of the Lord
4th January 2009



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EPIPHANY PEOPLE



To follow the star and become Epiphany people we have to be aware of three important challenges.

Epiphany people have first to be people of faith. Imagine setting out on a journey like the wise men and not actually knowing where you are going, following only where a star leads you. Yet this is what faith demands. To be a person of faith means that we trust in God so much that we are prepared to be led, wherever God decides to take us. Being people of faith doesn't mean having all the answers; it simply requires us to be open to God's promptings and prepared to act when others think we are mad to do so. Faith and trust cannot be prised apart.

A second characteristic of Epiphany people is that their faith makes them want to worship. The wise men brought their gifts and worshipped the Lord. Just knowing our God should be reason enough for worship. We bring our gold (the best we can be), our

frankincense (our contribution to making the world a more beautiful place) and our myrrh (our pains and our tears as well as the comforting presence we extend to others), and with these gifts of our lives we fall on our knees before the God that our faith journey leads us ever closer to.

And finally Epiphany people are people of change. The wise men didn't simply spend the rest of their lives fawning at the crib. They left enriched by what they had seen and heard and they headed off to tell others what they had experienced. But they heeded the warning of their dream and decided to change their plans and go back home by a different route. Every encounter with our God-made-man challenges us to change. God never wants us to stay where we are; our job is to follow the star.

Epiphany reveals Jesus to all nations. His glory is seen by people from all over the known world. And these Epiphany people are people of faith, people of worship and people of change.

THE ST. JOSEPH'S 100 (OR MORE) CLUB 2009

We would like to thank everyone who supported the 100+ Club during 2008. It is a great way to both support the Parish Centre Building Fund and have the chance to win cash prizes every month.

Last year the 100+ Club raised £920 for the Parish Centre Fund and £920 was given out in prizes.

You will find more details on the application forms available at the entrances to the Church. Building on this success, the Club will continue in 2009 with an unchanged subscription of £12 per number per year. Again, one half of the total contributions will go to the New Parish Centre fund and the other half will be paid out in prizes in the monthly draw. There is no limit to the number of members – The more members, the greater the Prize Fund, and the greater the amount raised for the New Parish Centre.



Many thanks to everyone who volunteered their help on the recent events and activities questionnaire. Two brief meetings are planned for Sunday 25th January 2009 after 10.45am Mass and Tuesday 27th January at 8.00pm. It would be most helpful if you could attend either one of these meetings.

SOME NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Stop living as if the purpose of life is to arrive safely at death.

1. Keep asking questions. Keep making mistakes. Keep seeking God.
2. Stop pointing out problems and become part of the solution. Stop repeating the past and start creating the future that Christ has promised you. Stop playing it safe and start taking risks.
3. Expand your horizons. Consider the lilies. Seek God's Spirit and enjoy the journey. Find every excuse you can to celebrate everything you can. Live like today is the first and last day of your life.
4. Don't let what's wrong with you keep you from worshipping what's right with God. Burn sinful bridges. Criticise by creating. Worry less about what people think and more about what God thinks. Don't try to be who you're not. Laugh at yourself!

CYCLE OF PRAYER - CHRISTMAS

During this time of the year, we are asked to pray for these intentions: Openness to the Word of God; Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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.

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.

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.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

TODAY'S READINGS: NEXT WEEKS' READINGS:

Isaiah 60:1-6 Isaiah 55:1-11
Psalm 71 Isaiah 12:2-6
Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6 1 John 5:1-9
Matthew 2:1-12 Mark 1:7-11

Mass Times

SUNDAY	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm
Monday		10.00am
Tuesday		10.00am
Wednesday		10.00am
Thursday		10.00am
Friday		10.00am
Saturday		6.30pm
SUNDAY	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation –
Saturday 10.30 - 11.00am & 5.45 – 6.15pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church each Friday morning from 9.15 to 9.45.

Offertory Last Week: £1,254.56
Crib: £177.79
plus the regular Standing Orders. Thank You!

ST PAUL'S SUNDAY MISSAL

St Paul's 2009 Sunday Missal is now on sale in the shop, price £4.50. Please note that the Missals are free to those who are on the Reader's Rota.

SVP

The SVP Group meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in the Sacristy.

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary meets in the Sacristy at 10.45 on Tuesday mornings.

RCIA

The RCIA Group will meet on Tuesday evening at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

The Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet in the Church at 8.00pm on this Friday, 9th January. All are welcome to attend.

PARISH MASS DIARY

The Mass Book for celebrating Masses here in the Parish is now open again.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION MEETINGS

There will be a meeting for the First Communion Catechists on Tuesday 6th January at 7.00pm.
There will be a meeting for the parents whose children are being prepared for their First Communion on Thursday 8th January at 8.00pm in Eleanor Hall.
The First Communion children will meet on Saturday 10th January at 10.00am in Eleanor Hall

BAPTISM THIS WEEK

Saturday 10th January at 1.30pm - Joseph Lynch

MASS AT ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

The Beginning of Term Mass at St Joseph's School will be celebrated at 9.15am on Friday 9th January. All are welcome to attend.

THE GHANA CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

The Chaplaincy will be celebrating a New year Mass at St Chad's RC Church, Whitworth Road, South Norwood SE23 6XN. It will be at 1.00pm on Sunday 11th January. All Ghanaian Catholics are invited to attend.

CATHOLIC LIFE

The January Edition of Catholic Life is available from the back of the Church. It is priced at £3.00.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!

To become one of the Altar Servers in the Parish, you must have received your First Communion, and be attending Mass here. If you celebrated your First Communion last year, or have recently moved into the Parish, and would like to join the Altar Servers, please see Fr John.

