

# Sacred Heart Catholic Church

31 Vicarage Road, Henley on Thames  
Oxfordshire, RG9 1HT  
Tel: [01491] 573 258

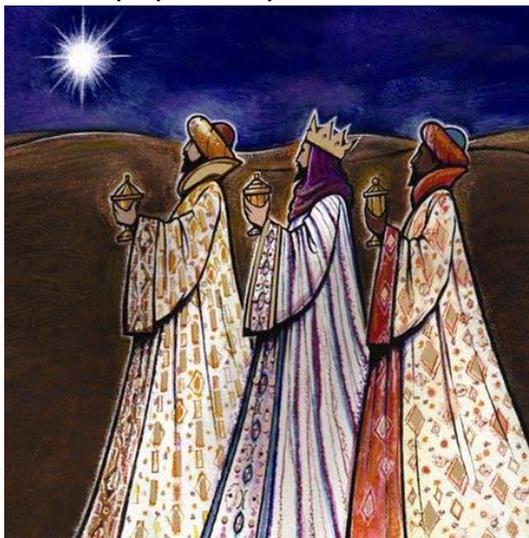


Parish Priest: Fr Paul Fitzpatrick MA. STL  
Permanent Deacon: Rev Michael Walker  
Safeguarding Rep: Jill Allen  
Parish Secretary: Gail Barlow  
Website: [www.sacredhearthenley.co.uk](http://www.sacredhearthenley.co.uk)  @catholichenley  
Parish Office: [sacredheart@sacredhearthenley.co.uk](mailto:sacredheart@sacredhearthenley.co.uk)  
Hall Bookings: [parishhall@sacredhearthenley.co.uk](mailto:parishhall@sacredhearthenley.co.uk)

Newsletter no: 2601

This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.  
Registered as a Charity. No 234216.

## The Epiphany of the Lord.



5<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Mass Book Page 115 (Preface: page 67)

### Readings:

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 *resp cf v 11*  
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12

## Mass Times

Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	6:00 pm	Mass	Dec'd Ireson Family
Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	8:30 am	Mass	People of the Parish
		10:30 am	Mass	Bridget & Cyril Willcox
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	NO MASS		
Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9:15 am	Morning Prayer	
		9:30 am	Mass	
Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9:15 am	Morning Prayer	
		9:30 am	Mass	
Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9:15 am	Morning Prayer	
		9:30 am	Mass	
Friday	10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9:15 am	Morning Prayer	
		9:30 am	Mass	Graham & Eijkenboam Families.
Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	6:00 pm	Mass	Gother & Hannah Hardman
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	8:30 am	Mass	People of the Parish
		10:30 am	Mass	Special Intention

**Offertory Collection:** *Thank you for your generous support.*

Envelopes (Gift Aid) £ 27.00 (NGA) £ 5.00

Loose £ 248.89 **Contactless £ 30.00**

R&R Appeal (GA) £ 36.50 (NGA) £ 17.00 Loose £ 0.00

*If you would like to take out a standing order, it is very straightforward.*

**Contactless Payments:** You can now use your Debit/Credit Card. *Just ask!*

**Please pray for:** *The Sick & Housebound of our Parish Community:*

Agnes Boggis, Melene Clifford, Rosemary Daniel, Jane de Souza, Jean Marie D'Souza, Margaret Evans, Rita Good, Gill Harrison, Evelyn Lochrin, Tom Mannion, Joan McDonald, Diana Newbury, Halina Seligman, Jackie Tidbury and Fr Antony Conlon.

*If you know of anyone who is sick, do let us know.*

*Those who have died:* **Peter Sherman, Caroline Mieczkowska**

*Anniversaries that occur at this time:*

Sandra Torlonia, Jonathan Evans, Paula Haberstich, Wilma Kench, Jack Mulhall.

*May they rest in peace*

✝ Please remember in your prayers **Caroline Mieczkowska** who has died.  
Please remember in your prayers **Peter Sherman** who has died -  
(the brother of Libby Meachim)  
*Lord, grant to our brother and sister, peace and joy in your kingdom.  
May they rest in peace. ✝*

**I would like to thank** all those who helped to prepare the Church for Christmas; it is so clean, and I am sure you agree our flowers are beautiful. To those who polished the candlesticks, our organists, our singers and servers, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers and all those who participated in the Christmas liturgies. Thank you for your service at Christmas and throughout the year.

### **First Holy Communion**

First Holy Communion sessions restarts next Sunday, 12 January at 9:15am. The next meeting for First Communion parents at 7:45 pm on Thursday, 30 January.

**Baptism:** We welcome *Esmay Ella Dowling & Lucas Simon Forchin* into the family of the Church.

**Thank you** for your support and generosity for the Christians of the Holy Land, by supporting our Wine from the Holy Land appeal. This has already raised £255.00

**Cash ...** the old saying '*Cash is King*' no longer seems to be true; as the Bank doesn't seem to want it, and have just increased the bank charges up for handling coins. This is an opportunity to remind you about **Standing Orders or Contactless Payments.**

### **Sunday of the Word of God. 25/26 January 2020**

Pope Francis has sought to highlight the importance of the Word of God for the whole Church, by declaring that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time will be the *Sunday of the Word of God.*

I would ask **our readers** to put 25/26 January 2020 in your diary, and we will commission and pray for you over that weekend.

**If anyone would like to join the reading team, this is just the time to begin.**

Just before Christmas, Fr Anthony and I watched, '*The Two Popes*' on Netflix. It is an excellent film, and we would recommend it, with a slice of Pizza.

*Wishing you and your family a very happy New Year. Fr Paul & Deacon Mike.*

# The Epiphany of the Lord

Today we reflect on this wonderful celebration.

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. My Oxford dictionary defines *Epiphany*, as a manifestation, to reveal, or to show. This feast marks the moment when Jesus is revealed to the nations, represented by the Magi or wise men or kings. These strangers from the East, help us to understand the universal nature of salvation, and that God is made manifest through the presence of a child, born in a manger.

This is a story of contradictions and misunderstandings. The Magi know when the Infant King of the Jews will be born, but not where – so naturally, they go to the Palace in Jerusalem. The Jewish scribes know where – the city of David: Bethlehem; but not when. Each holds separate pieces of the puzzle, but put together, the Magi are enabled to find the King, in a manger.

The gifts – Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh – are mystic gifts with mystic meaning. Gold represents Kingship, Frankincense represents priesthood, Myrrh is used to anoint a corpse – the women bring myrrh to the tomb – and represents that our salvation will be achieved by Jesus' death on the Cross. These gifts reveal Jesus to be our King, Priest and Saviour. Finally, having followed the Star, the Magi return home by a different route, frustrating Herod's attempt to kill the child. This can also represent how an encounter with Jesus can change lives and how it marks a new way of life.

Throughout Europe, and in the Orthodox Calendar, the Epiphany is a significant celebration, the time when presents are given and the birth of Jesus is celebrated. It can remind us that while we may have already put away our crib and a tree; the continuing revelation and manifestation of the Lord is ongoing. The readings chosen for the following weeks continue this theme and help us to understand that this revelation of Jesus does not close with the Christmas season. At his Baptism, Jesus is revealed to be the Son of God, on whom the Holy Spirit rests. At the Wedding of Cana, he reveals his glory and his disciples believe in him. Next Sunday's readings focus on John the Baptist, who reveals Jesus to be the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

The Feast of the Epiphany helps us to understand that Christmas is a season and not a day. The birth of Jesus has such meaning, that we cannot tell it all in one day. We visit the crib, through the eyes of the Shepherds; through the loving embrace and prayerful reflection of Mary, through the caring protection of Joseph, and through the journey of the magi, and in our crib, with a wise camel. It takes time to fully realise, that he who existed before time, enters into time; Jesus, the word of God has pitched his tent amongst us, and speaks to us through the Scriptures. The divinity of God shares our humanity and draws us up to heaven with him. That by our Baptism we are priests, prophets and kings; children of God; as Jesus was born as a child for us.