

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

Reading Cycle C
Page 115 in the New Mass Book
Psalter Week 2
Sunday 5TH JANUARY 2025
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MASSES AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SAT	4 TH JAN	SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY	6.30pm	Eddie Hall R.I.P
SUN	5 TH JAN		10.00am	Emilio Forte R.I.P Lu and Pat Mooney + R.I.P
MON		NO MASS		
TUES	7 TH JAN	Tuesday after Epiphany Sunday	6.30pm	Deceased Members of the Curthoys and Howells Families
WED	8 TH JAN	Wednesday after Epiphany Sunday	10.00am	People of the Parish
THURS	9 TH JAN	Thursday after Epiphany Sunday	10.00am	Patricia Mooney + R.I.P
FRI	10 TH JAN	Friday after Epiphany Sunday	10.00am	Sick of the Parish
SAT	11 TH JAN	BAPTISM OF THE LORD	6.30pm	Olwen Hall R.I.P
SUN	12 TH JAN		10.00am	Brunon Klos R.I.P

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, ANNIVERSARIES AND THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED:

We pray for those in our families or in our Parish Community who may be sick, housebound, worried or in need. We ask that the love of the Lord be with them during the coming week. To all our parishioners who are indisposed we ask that they may receive every grace and blessing.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margret Jilks. May she rest in peace

We also pray for Emilio Forte, Carole Hoddinott, John McCluskey, Joan Smith, Raymond Howells, John Thompson, Jeannette Paxton, Raymond Aviles, Carmelo Scavaglieri, Eugene Leonard, Eileen Union, Daisy Mooney, Maureen Howells, Philip Crean, Pat Mooney, Irena Tutka, Eugene Sheridan, Kathleen Cockwill, Bernard Stafford, Margaret O'Sullivan (Vera Bulpin), Margaret Spriggs, Fr Andrew Maggs, Olwen Hall, John Collins, Joan Daly, Joseph Malfatti, Rosemary Healey, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

CANDLES You can buy a 7 day candle (£5.00) which will be left at the Sacred Heart or Our Lady's Altar for the duration of a week. **This week's candles will be lit for Deceased members of the Hall Family, and Eileen Davies**

PIETY STALL SALE: Large Boxes of Christmas Cards reduced to £1.99 and small boxes/packs 99p. Stock up for next Christmas.

CRIB COLLECTION: There will be retiring crib collection this weekend and it will go towards the following causes:
Abroad: Aid to the Holy Land, through the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre and Friends of the Holy Land
Home: Youth Ministry in the Archdiocese.

VISIT TO ROME: 10 children in Year 6 in St Patrick's School have been offered an exciting opportunity to visit Rome in March. The school would like to raise £1000 towards their fares. To help them with this, on the day of the Family Mass 12th January which is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord we will have a retiring collection. There are also 3 other schools in the Diocese also going on the trip.

STABLE SCENE: This year we will be following the ancient tradition of leaving the Crib Scene until February 2nd which is the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus and the Purification of Mary in the Temple. This Feast is also known as Candlemas and we will have the blessing of candles.

UNCLAIMED RAFFLE PRIZES: Chris and Wendy – Nos 231-235 also 831-835

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON'S 'THE MASS' videos well worth watching. Links are on the Parish Website.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES: Candidates please meet after Mass by the Our Lady Altar so you can have your attendance sheet signed. If you have any queries please e-mail Chris German Cge7618946@aol.com or through the Parish Website

OLD SPECTACLES/ GLASSES: **THE KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA** are collecting any old prescription spectacles/glasses (no cases) to be sent overseas to Third World Countries. There is a box at the back of the Church to put your old items in. Also the Knights are going to be meeting on the fourth Sunday of every month. Please see Patrick McCarthy for more information. This is an all male organisation and they are looking for new members. The next meeting will be in January.

MASS INTENTIONS At the back of the Church there are envelopes for you to put your donation and the details of when you would like a Mass and for whom. Please indicate if the person is deceased. Please put your envelope in the Offertory Bag or the Brown Box at the back of the Church.

NEW TO THE PARISH? If you have been coming to St Patricks for some weeks and would like to be listed as a new Parishioner please complete the proforma at the back of the Church and give it to one of the priests.

SAFEGUARDING: Helplines and Information on the Parish Website Homepage. A First Aid Box is kept in the Sacristy.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL? Please let the Hospital know that you are a Catholic and would like a visit from the Chaplain. If you are a relative and would like the Catholic Hospital Chaplain to make a visit please leave the name of the person you want them to see and the Ward details if possible. When you ring the Chaplaincy 02921 843230 please leave your contact details so that they can contact you.

HOUSEBOUND COMMUNIONS: If you know of a parishioner wishing to receive Holy Communion please contact Frs Valentine

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: 28th/29th DEC £ 562.72

WEEKLY MESSAGE

One of the great inventions of the last few years has been the GPS...those magical little boxes (built in or standing free) that guide us as we try to navigate to some unknown address or location. For those, who are geographically challenged, this little invention can save more time and anxiety than anyone could imagine. But God, who out does us in everything, creates the original and never-to-be outdone guidance system. It isn't a machine...it is a star. And this star leads a group of Magi in their search for the child of Christmas who is the saviour of the world.

We might want to spend a moment thinking about these Magi, these travellers from the East. They weren't Kings so much as scholars. They were astrologers who studied star charts and discerned fates in the night sky. A strange choice of characters for the Christmas story considering that the Church and wider society have always been suspect of astrology. God however, is never limited by our own prejudices but rather is revealed in and through the strangest corners of the earth. Now these Magi, who spend their lives studying and reading, researching and speculating, want to know where this star is leading them.

They have checked the prophecies of the past. They know the rumours of a saviour. Their study convinces them that this star announces the birth of this long-expected deliverer. The story becomes more interesting when, in the court of King Herod, one set of scholars is pitted against the other. Herod turns to his own set of wise men who, in the end, aren't much help. The only hint is that perhaps in Bethlehem one might find this new-born King. And so Herod sends them on their way...giving them instructions to "stop back" on their way home and let him know where he might go to worship this king. Indeed the star leads them where they want to go. It brings them to their destination. And then this becomes even more interesting. For these scholars, these Magi, these astrologers who study everything, go into the presence of this child and they do not study. Instead, they adore. They worship this new-born king. They give to this child all that they have and all they possess. And rather than return home by-way-of Herod, their journey is changed and they return home "by another way."

Each one of us journeys through life. And as God provided guidance for the Magi from the East, so God provides us with guidance. But our guidance is not a star. Rather, our guide is Jesus Christ who is light itself. This light of Jesus we received when we were Baptised and is with us forever. In a world and a culture that has sadly lost its way and often becomes wrapped up in itself, Christ, our light and guide, reaches out to us and says...journey by another way. Learn to travel a different path. Learn to go home to God by letting God lead us home. May we who reflect on the story of the Magi allow them to become our models. May we follow them to Bethlehem and worship Christ. May we give to Christ all that we have and all that we are. Let the wisdom of these travellers become the wisdom that guides our own lives. Let us learn to travel another way...the way of Christ who is our Savior and our Lord.

Epiphany (e-piph-a-ny)

is a noun that means a moment of sudden revelation or a poignant, sudden, profound understanding of something.

Happy New Year

2025



New Year Resolutions from Pope Francis

1. Volunteer for a local charity.
2. Stop judging others
3. Take Scripture to heart
4. Be more environmentally conscious
5. Pray every day— even when it's hard
6. Let go of a grudge or two.
7. Use Social Media less — talk face-face
8. Speak to loved ones regularly and really listen to them.

“Don't leave Jesus in the manger; don't remember Him only at Christmas. Instead, learn to walk with Him every day, as you pray and read His Word and ask Him to help you.”

Billy Graham



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