

St Margaret Mary Parish



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Safeguarding Team: Please see notice in the Porch

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 6th January, 2019

THE EPIPHANY

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Sunday	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
8.00am	Elsie Joel, (Wall)
10.15am	People of the Parish
6.30pm	Special Intention
Monday	<i>Monday after Epiphany</i>
9.30am	Joe Francis (Welch)
Tuesday	<i>Tuesday after Epiphany</i>
9.30am	People of the Parish
Wednesday	<i>Wednesday after Epiphany</i>
9.30am	Prayer Tree Intentions
Thursday	<i>Thursday after Epiphany</i>
9.30am	No intention
Friday	<i>Friday after the Epiphany</i>
9.30am	No intention
Saturday	<i>Saturday after the Epiphany</i>
9.30am	No intention
Sunday	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
8.00am	John Forer, RIP (Inwards)
10.15am	Eric Farrugia, RIP (Heathfield)
6.30pm	M. Maccariello, (Maccariello)

Confessions: After Saturday Morning Mass.
By request or appointment at any time.

Epiphany

Entrance Antiphon;

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Responsorial Psalm;

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation;

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

Communion Antiphon:

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts
to adore the Lord.

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS:

Monday, 1 John 3:22-4:6; **Tuesday**, 1 John 4:7-10;
Wednesday, 1 John 4:11-18; **Thursday**, 1 John 4:19-5:4;
Friday, 1 John 5:5-13; **Saturday**, 1 John 5:14-21;

A POPE'S REFLECTION

Today we are celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord, his real manifestation to the nations, while many Eastern Churches, according to the Julian Calendar, celebrate his Birthday. This slight difference that makes these two events overlap highlights that that Child, born in the humility of a grotto in Bethlehem, is the light of the world, who orients the path of all peoples.



THE EPIPHANY

6th January, 2019

In the Eastern Church, this Season of Christmas is called the "Time of Manifestation", or Showing. Today is the "Feast of the Manifestation", or the Showing of the Saviour to the whole world, to all nations. In the wise men who travel from the East, we see all

the nations other than the people of Israel being welcomed at the New Temple of the New Covenant - the new born child in the manger. A look at the Psalm response shows this: *"All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord"*. The same is true of the key word in the second reading: "Revelation". Remember that for the people of Israel this was to be their Messiah, come to restore their fortunes. By this feast, we proclaim God's plan was to extend his salvation to men and women of every nation, of every time and every place - including us. In many ways this is our Christmas Feast, when we celebrate the Good News of the Saviour's birth revealed at last to us, *"by the guidance of a star"*.

**"We saw his star as it rose
and have come to do him homage"**

Marian Antiphon for Christmastide

Loving mother of the Redeemer,
gate of heaven, star of the sea,
assist your people who have fallen,
yet strive to rise again.
To the wonderment of nature
you bore your Creator,
Yet remained a virgin, after, as before.
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
have pity on us poor sinners.
V. After childbirth, O Virgin, you remained inviolate.
R. O Mother of God, plead for us.
V. Let us pray
O God, Who by the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary
has given to mankind the rewards of eternal salvation:
grant, we beseech You, that we may experience
her intercession for us, by whom we have been
made worthy to receive the Author of Life,
our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, One God, world without end.
R. Amen.

It is a juxtaposition which also makes us reflect also from the viewpoint of faith: moreover, at Christmas in front of Jesus, we see the faith of Mary, of Joseph and of the shepherds; and today on the Epiphany the faith of the three Magi, come from the East to worship the King of the Jews.

The Virgin Mary, together with her husband, represents the "stump" of Israel, the "remnant" foretold by the prophets, from which the Messiah was to spring. Instead the Magi represent the peoples, and we can say even civilizations, cultures, religions that are — so to speak — on their way to God, searching for his kingdom of peace, justice, truth and freedom. There was first a nucleus, embodied above all by Mary, the "daughter of Zion": a nucleus of Israel, the people that know and have faith in that God who revealed himself to the Patriarchs and on the path of history. This faith is fulfilled in Mary, in the fullness of time; in her, "blessed because she believed", the Word was made flesh, God "appeared" in the world.



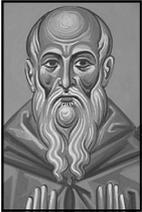
Mary's faith becomes the first fruits and the model of the faith of the Church, the People of the New Covenant. But from the beginning this people is universal and we can see this today in the figures of the Magi who arrive in Bethlehem, following the light of a star and the instructions of Sacred Scripture.

St Leo the Great says: "A promise had been made to the holy Patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith". Mary's faith can be compared to Abraham's. It is a new beginning of the same promise, of the same immutable plan of God which now finds fulfilment in Jesus Christ. And the light of Christ is so clear and strong that it makes both the language of the cosmos and of the Scriptures intelligible, so that all those who, like the Magi, are open to the truth can recognize it and come to contemplate the Saviour of the world. St Leo continues: "Let the full number of the nations now take their place in the family of the patriarchs... let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not only in Judaea, but in the whole world".

Pope Benedict XVI

Saint of the week

January 9th, Saint Adrian of Canterbury



Though Saint Adrian turned down a papal request to become Archbishop of Canterbury, Pope Saint Vitalian accepted the rejection on the condition that Adrian serve as the Holy Father's assistant and adviser. Adrian accepted, but ended up spending most of his life and doing most of his work in Canterbury.

Born in Africa, Adrian was serving as an abbot in Italy when the new Archbishop of Canterbury appointed him abbot of the monastery of Saints Peter and Paul in Canterbury. Thanks to his leadership skills, the facility became one of the most important centers of learning. The school attracted many outstanding scholars from far and wide and produced numerous future bishops and archbishops. Students reportedly learned Greek and Latin and spoke Latin as well as their own native languages. Adrian taught at the school for 40 years. He died there, probably in the year 710, and was buried in the monastery.

Several hundred years later, when reconstruction was being done, Adrian's body was discovered in an incorrupt state. As word spread, people flocked to his tomb, which became famous for miracles. Rumor had it that young schoolboys in trouble with their masters made regular visits there.

Reflection: Saint Adrian spent most of his time in Canterbury not as bishop, but as abbot and teacher. Often the Lord has plans for us that are obvious only on hindsight. How often have we said no to something or someone only to end up in much the same place anyway. The Lord knows what's good for us. Can we trust him?

GIFT AID DONATIONS—A REMINDER

Gift Aid forms a large part of our income.

A considerable percentage of the weekly collection is loose plate donations. If you are a tax payer and have not yet signed a Gift Aid Declaration form then please complete and return one of the forms available in the Church or from the Office. By doing so, we can claim back 25p for every £1 given.

This has no effect on your income.

If you are using the Gift Aid Envelopes provided at the back of the Church please remember to

enter either your Gift Aid Number or name in the box provided. We are unable to make claims on anonymous donations. Thank you.

COME HOLY SPIRIT AND LIGHT IN
OUR MINDS AND FILL OUR HEARTS
WITH THY FIRE OF DIVINE LOVE

The Holy Father's Intentions (January)

Evangelization – Young People

That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

MEETING FOR READERS

The meeting for **Readers** will be held on **Thursday 10th January, 7-8pm** in the church.

BE FOCUSED ON THE LORD IN 2019

Lord, help me to abide by Your words and keep my focus on You. May I be obedient to Your ways and Your will in my life. By this I know You will be with me in all my joys and pain, till the end of time.

Philippians 2:1-3 "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves"

May my focus be on love, peace and unity within my family and friends, and foster this peace and unity too with my Christian brethren. May I be guided by Your Holy Spirit as I read Your Word and practice the principles of it in my daily life. As we could be different from one another, may we always learn to look at our own failings and the depth of our faith before we rebuke another of their faith in You.

May we be slow to anger and condemnation but be swift to respond in love, peace and forgiveness. May unity be our motto and love for one another be our utmost desire in this new year.

The **SVP** would like to thank all those who sponsored the Doves and Angels. The total raised was £240 which will be split between the Handicapped Pilgrimage Trust HCPT and the Genesis centre.

Craft Group meets every two weeks starting Thursday 10th January in the Paray Room, 2pm to 4pm, everyone welcome.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2019

25th - 29th July 2019 4 nights £649 per person sharing
Return flights from Southampton Airport to Bordeaux
Staying at the Hotel La Solitude,
Breakfast, lunch and dinner served daily

DIOCESAN YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2019

24th - 30th July 2019 7 days £475 per person sharing
Private coach travel to Lourdes and return
Staying at the Hotel La Solitude 4 nights,
Breakfast, lunch and dinner served daily
Guided walking tour of Lourdes visiting places associated to St. Bernadette.

To Book: Please contact Fr PJ Smith; T: 07780221686

E: lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Brochures available in the porch.

Please remember in your prayers

Mary Salter, Helen Worstmann, Aileen Hopkins, Pam Hale, Jim Brown, Oliver Russell, Irene Hollywood, Pat Juke, Joseph Dolan, Siobhan Jefferies, Irene Otter, Marion Celan, Samantha Donohoe, Pat & Hugh Cooke, Josie Cutcliffe, Eileen Parsons, Maria & John Marvao, Michelle Gray, Kol Thelis, Thomas McCartney, Pat Elward, Mamie Allen, Netta Tracy, June Paris, John Kinneavy, Susan Bolton, Natalie Mahon, Jeanne Key, Kazzy Madeley, Joseph Chisholm, Anne-Marie Mooney, Joyce Redding.
MARY, HEALTH OF THE SICK, PRAY FOR THEM