

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 7 January 2018



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!

REFLECTION

Christmas cards and carols, nativity plays and paintings, all have three kings coming to worship the Lord. But in Matthew's Gospel they are not called kings but wise men. Although tradition tells us that there were three of them, the Gospel never states that this is the case. The traditional number of wise men, three, comes from the three gifts that Matthew tells us were given to Jesus at his birth: "gold, frankincense and myrrh." So who were these mysterious visitors from the east? And why did they come? They are sometimes referred to as the "Magi", from a Greek word which is the origin of our word "magic". They were pagans, magicians, astrologers, readers of the stars, rather than crowned monarchs. But they, along with other faiths, were part of God's plan too. They sought the light that was the Son of God. As they followed the star they went off in search of a greater light, the uncreated light and the very source of all light that is Jesus. Their reading of the stars succeeded on this occasion, as they were led by God to Bethlehem. Yet when they reached their destination, the magi left behind their worship of the stars, and fell down to worship the one who made the stars and the sun and life itself.

Matthew had his reasons for describing, so near to the beginning of the Gospel, the coming of the magi from pagan and Gentile lands. For at the end of the Gospel he tells us of Jesus sending out the apostles to the Gentiles, instructing them to "Go make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all the commands I gave you." The magi from the east represented all the Gentile nations coming to Christ, and the homage of their kings and people, as the light of the Gospel began to spread all over the world. The magi may have been magicians when they went in search of Christ, but were wise men when they returned home, wise enough not to go back to Herod, after being warned in a dream to avoid him. Full of excitement and joy at what they had seen, they went back and shared their story.

Two thousand years have passed since the magi travelled to Bethlehem searching for the light. Their journey could not have been easy. The journey to Christ for all of us very often isn't easy. They no doubt had to give up a great deal to find him, but nothing was more important to them than their spiritual quest. Moreover, they grasped the truth that, while they were searching, God had been leading them. It was God who lit the star, and God who encouraged them to set out on their journey, because God loved them, and God wanted to be found by them. One of the things that the wise men's journey gave them was time. They reflected, they thought, perhaps they prayed. This is one of the great blessings of a spiritual journey or pilgrimage. Whether we are Catholics or not, Christians of different denominations, members of different faiths, or people who are still searching to find faith, we need time to think about our lives and our search for God. It was a very significant moment when the magi fell down to worship Jesus and give him their gifts. It is a similar moment when a person is baptized, or comes into Church for the first time, or takes a new step in faith. At least once, Matthew tells us, the magi were lost on their journey, first arriving in Jerusalem rather than Bethlehem, but then they were wise enough to ask the way. May our Parish Community always be ready to welcome, encourage, provide opportunities, and show the way to those who are seeking, so that, like the magi, they may find Christ, the light of the world. He is not far from all those who seek him for, as he himself has told us, "the one who searches always finds."

LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA

www.leighdeanery.co.uk

St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish

St. Joseph,
Sacred Heart,
Twelve Apostles,
and
Our Lady of the
Rosary
churches

"We saw his star in the east
and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:2



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST JOSEPH'S

MASSES

Lily Ashworth, Sylvia Davey, Mary Ellis, Louisa Farrington, Joe Fox, John Griffin, Ellen & Joseph Joyce, Dr Claude Lalge, Jack McWilliam, Pauline Oddie, Kathleen Roberts, Helen Searer

RED BOXES

Will collectors please empty the Red Mission Boxes and bring the contents to the presbytery on Monday 22nd January. Thank you.

LITTLE CHURCH

Once again this year we are having our copper collection for CAFOD, to stand in solidarity with children from poor communities across the world.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

There will be a Mothers' Prayers Meeting on Tuesday 9th January at 2.00pm in St Joseph's presbytery. All mothers and grandmothers welcome.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Tea & Coffee will be served after Mass to-day everyone welcome.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

402 (green), 366 (green), 289 (orange) 207 (orange) 145 (green) 339 (green) 486 (orange)

TWELVE APOSTLES

RED BOXES

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Reflect:

This weekend is a great feast for both the Latin Church and the Eastern Churches. "Epiphany" is a Greek word and it indicates a 'showing', a manifestation – usually of Divine Glory, what we might today call a 'Revelation'.

We are invited to become part of this story. Perhaps we can accompany the wise men and ask to share in the manifestation that they experienced in Bethlehem. Their journey, like our own lives, involved highs and lows, times of insight and doubt, a dream calling them forward and the deception of worldly values. But at the end they were enlightened in the presence of the child Jesus and "they knelt down and paid him homage". Will we do likewise?

Pray:

Lord, I ask for the grace
to let go of my own concerns
and be open to what You are asking of me,
to let myself be guided and formed by my loving Creator.

Act:

The great movement of this Christmas season reshapes and reforms our lives and opens us not only to the 'epiphany' of Christ but to the 'epiphany' of humanity in Christ – a new way of being and acting, of living and loving and hoping. Make efforts this week to encounter Christ in others. Be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in your encounters with others.

Challenge:

The wise men brought gifts to honour Jesus. What gifts do we have to share with others and in doing so gift ourselves to God?



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Jan 4 - God became a child to be closer to the men and women of every time, and to show us His infinite tenderness.

Jan 3 - In the name of Jesus, with our witness, we can prove that peace is possible.

Jan 2 - In the simplicity of the nativity scene we encounter and contemplate the tenderness of God which reveals itself in the Baby Jesus.

Jan 1 - Let us nurture the seeds of peace as they grow and let us transform our cities into workshops of peace.

Dec 31 - The Family is the harmonious union of differences between a man and a woman. When it's open to life and to others it's even more authentic.

Dec 30 - During these days let us give space to attitudes and gestures that favour peace.

Dec 29 - Modesty is a virtue that is essential for anyone who wants to be like Jesus, who is meek and humble of heart.

RCIA

RCIA Classes will be starting early in January, for anyone wanting to be received into the Catholic Church at Easter. Please speak to Fr Colin as soon as possible if you are interested. Please keep all the Candidates in your prayers.

THANK YOU

A very BIG THANK YOU to Mosses Garden centre for the beautiful trees they have kindly donated to all our churches and for their generous support and donations of plants for the Christmas Fair and for the church throughout the year.

VISIT TO ROME - JUNE 2018

St Ambrose Barlow Hall Tuesday 9th January, 8.00pm

We have received enough interest to arrange for a group to visit Rome from 18th - 22nd June, hopefully attending the Papal Audience. Please note we would be using public transport in the city so travellers will need to be fairly agile and able to walk long distances. Four nights - bed and breakfast in a Religious House close to Vatican City.

If you are interested and want more information come along with your cheque books on Tuesday or please contact Des on 07973 114365

BURNS NIGHT 2018

Friday 19th January at St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall at 7.45 pm. Including "HAGGIS" supper and a "wee" dram or soft drink – £7.00. As this is a popular night please contact Des 07973 114365 for reservations.

ORDINARY TIME WINTER

Until Lent begins we are asked to pray for these intentions:- Peace on Earth, Christian Unity, Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Sick and Those who Care for Them; The Unemployed.

Peace Day	14 January
Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	18-25 January
Racial Justice Day	28 January
Day for Victims of Trafficking	8 February
World Day for the Sick	11 February
Day of the Unemployed	11 February
(Ash Wednesday is on	14 February 2018)

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL	24/12/17	£1,828.72
	Christmas Day	£3,784.29
	31/12/17	£1,581.16

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

SICK

Winifred Beattie, David Belshaw, Eileen Boardman, Marie Fletcher, Sr. Teresa Frost, Sr. Megan Haisley, Alan & Doreen Lowe.

DECEASED

Catherine Mary Ellis, Margaret Moran, Thomas Grainey, Frances Brenda Catterall, Albert Keith Wall

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

NUGENT CARE CRIB APPEAL

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If He gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it" **Pope Francis**

Nugent works at the heart of some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, supporting children, adults and families.

There are over 125,000 homeless children living in Britain today.

150 families are made homeless in Britain every day.

Over 4,100 people are estimated to be sleeping rough on any one night across the UK.

People who are homeless or are facing being homeless find themselves particularly vulnerable as winter settles in and life on the streets become harder to bear.

Nugent's New Beginnings project aims to provide support and accommodation to help those who are single, homeless and over the age of 18 and have support needs including mental health, those recovering from addiction, those who have been granted asylum and those who experience domestic abuse, amongst other issues.

Being a small provider the team are able to focus on really 'getting to know' our service users resulting in a unique tailored package of support and as a result demand for places always outstrips our supply.

The service has achieved very positive outcomes in addition to move on to secure tenancies for example Service Users have obtained employment and re-established contact with their children.

The impact of recent and continued changes to the benefits system has put greater pressure on our funds and our ability to support people, and left some of our most vulnerable clients in extreme hardship and in crisis.

Peter Boylan, one of the Project support team, works with clients to help them claim benefits, and has witnessed first-hand the impact the changes have had.

"One of our clients, a 64 year old man, had been living in a 2 bed bungalow for over 30 years with his wife, when she died he was told he'd have to pay bedroom tax, as a result he struggled to pay the rent and lost the property.

He was also looking for work, and having to claim JSA but as he doesn't have very good literacy or numeracy skills and little IT knowledge he was finding it difficult to negotiate the system. When he was referred to us he was clinically depressed and had other illnesses. We helped him sort out his benefits, and find his way through the system.

As the pressure on our services increase, we need more support for those who are vulnerable and living in crisis. With your help we will be able to support more people to access funds for their new tenancy including removal and furniture – giving an essential and secure start to their new life.

During winter we need to be conscious of the homeless shivering in doorways and the families living in a cramped hostel room with their children.

Please support the Nugent Crib Appeal. You will be making a difference to so many people living in poverty across the Archdiocese. Thank you.



New Year's resolutions with a difference

Help us to transform the lives of our brothers and sisters living in poverty overseas by choosing a different sort of challenge in 2018.

Make a lasting difference with your will

One eighth of all CAFOD's work is funded by the gifts that people leave us in their wills. By choosing to include CAFOD in your will, this New Year's resolution is a simple promise that will ensure your love for our world and everyone in it will live on.

Speak up to your MP

In 2018, use the power of your pen (or your keyboard). Resolve to write three letters a year to your MP, with our support and briefing, and you will help to bring about real, political change that can tackle poverty and injustice worldwide. It really works. MP correspondents have helped secure tough laws to tackle climate change, and protected UK spending on life-saving overseas aid.

Join our MP Correspondents team

Volunteer with CAFOD

Our 2,500 volunteers are at the centre of our work in England and Wales. Whether you have a few hours a month or a few days a week, there are hundreds of ways to get involved with our work and you can sign up now to make a difference on Family Fast Day.

Take time to pray and reflect

Our busy lives leave little time for contemplation. Follow our daily prayer tweets or receive our weekly reflection emails on the Sunday gospels, as a chance to pause and reflect.

Fundraise for a World Gift

Choose a World Gift now from our brilliant range of virtual gifts and you can fundraise towards it throughout 2018! You can make a big difference by fundraising with your parish, school or group towards one of our larger, life-changing gifts. Visit cafod.org.uk for more information

St Joseph's Players
Present Their 2018 Pantomime

Cinderella

Directed by Doreen Johnson & Pauline Nevell

Wednesday 24th January to 3rd February

Tickets £5 on the 24th, 25th & 31st January
Matinees & evening performances £10 adults £5
under 16 years. Box Office Spectrum Blinds
(inside Stones Carpets) Chapel St, Leigh



MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

12A = Twelve Apostles, StJ = Saint Joseph, SH = Sacred Heart, OLR = Our Lady of the Rosary

Sat 6 January

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Kathleen McArt

Sun 7 January

StJ 8.30am

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SH 9.30am

MASS Fred Cooper R.I.P.

StJ 10.30am

MASS Brian Wilfred Ogden L.D.

OLR 11.00am

MASS Robert & Lily Farrimond

MASS People of the Pastoral Area

Mon 8 January

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

StJ 9.00am

MASS Alan & Alicia Cox (nee Porter)

StJ 11.00am

FUNERAL SERVICE Albert Keith Wall

Tue 9 January

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year II, Week 1)

NO MASS

Wed 10 January

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 12.00noon

FUNERAL MASS Frances Brenda Catterall

Thu 11 January

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 9.00am

MASS Norman Hewitt

StJ 10.00am

FUNERAL SERVICE Catherine Morgan

Fri 12 January

Weekday in Ordinary Time

(OLR) 10.00am

MASS at Moss Bank Court Roy Ellis L.D.

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Ashton & Moylan Families

Sat 13 January

Weekday in Ordinary Time

OLR 11.00am

Exposition & Reconciliation

OLR 12.00noon

MASS a Sick Person

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Allen & Agnes Newton

Sun 14 January

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

Day of Prayer for Peace

StJ 8.30am

MASS Ellen Heaton L.D.

SH 9.30am

MASS Philomena Gaughan L.D.

StJ 10.30am

MASS Carolyn Andrea Burke R.I.P.

OLR 11.00am

MASS Susan Twist L.D.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club 24 December £50 No. 249 N Flynn, £10 No. 397 B Jones, £5 No. 290 M Roach, £3 No. 363 M Roach, £2 No. 203 J Causby **Bonus Ball** No. 41 M Flannery.

£10 No. 305 N Jones, £5 No. 230 A Simpson, £3 No. 138 R Ellis, £2 No. 006 Lydia **Bonus Ball** 34 J Evans



ST. EDMUND ARROWSMITH PARISH OFFICE

The office for the administration of our parish is based in St. Joseph's presbytery, Mather Lane. Email stjosephs@live.com or telephone 01942 673517 weekdays 8.30 - 4.00pm and speak to the parish secretary. In case of pastoral emergency only at other times you may contact any available member of the pastoral area team, if necessary even Fr Paul Seddon or Fr Paul Grady who are based in St. Margaret Clitherow parish.

PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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