

ENGLISH MARTYRS, Alvaston. Tel: 01332 574474 and St GEORGE's Derby . Tel: 01332 767038

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Brentnall

Assistant: Canon Alan Burbidge Emeritus

Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Company Number 7151646 Charity Number 1134449 Registered Office: Willson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham. NG1 5AW

5th January 2025

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 04 Jan	5.30 pm	SG	Nuala O'Riordan RIP
Sun 05 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Joe McCabe RIP
	11.15 am	HS	Eugene Doolan and family
Mon 06 Jan	NO MASS		
Tues 07 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Donor's intention, St Anthony
Wed 08 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Sp. Intention, the McCartney family
Thu 09 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Sp. Intention, B.G. for M
Fri 10 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Catherine Dillane RIP
Sat 11 Jan	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish
	5.30 pm	SG	Mark Crosbie RIP, birthday memoriam
Sun 12 Jan	9.30 am	SG	Jim Murphy RIP
	11.15 am	HS	Rose Gilligan, Birthday

SG St George's HS Holy Spirit

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Today's Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the unveiling of the lights of Christ to the Gentiles. The backdrop; the reign of that brutal king Herod who had been appointed king by the roman Senate in 40 BC. He was a despot with a penchant for parricide (he murdered his wife, three sons, uncle and mother-in-law). His taste for blood, as we shall see, extended far beyond the family circle.

The Magi, astrologers from Persia or southern Arabia, followed a star (some scholars suggest it was a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn). They followed the star to worship; Herod to kill. Saint Pope John Paul II saw in the Magi's search a parallel to the human journey: 'Whatever the age, culture, civilisation or nation, people are always searching for God. Like the wise men; they glimpse him through the eyes of faith, then set forth in faith in the desire to draw closer to him in whom they believe and come to him in the eternal Bethlehem. However, if they have not found him through faith, in looking for the truth they seek this faith, and so seek God.'

St Augustine echoed this: 'I would not have sought you, if I had not already found you.' When we search for God, we have in fact found him, for this desire for purpose, meaning and an attraction toward Jesus is a gift of the Holy Spirit. The light of Christ illuminates the darkness and leads out of the shadows into his glorious light. The joy of the gospel is proclaimed to everyone – for there is no other name under heaven who can save us. The light of Christ is also a flame which is like a lamp burning in our heart. We each play a role in making Christ known – his love, mercy and compassion extinguish the darkness.

Lord Jesus, on this most holy feast I proclaim that you are the light of the world, I dedicate my life to being a city on a hilltop and a lamp to radiate your life and light.

CHRISTMAS THANKS

from Frs. Mark Brentnall and Alan Burbidge

Sincere thanks to all who helped to make our Christmas Masses go so well and so joyfully. May all of us be well blessed through these celebrations and be renewed in spirit as we journey into the New Year. Thanks for your ongoing support for your parishes and thank you for your generous Christmas offerings and gifts and cards. A happy and prosperous New Year to you all as we move into 2025, the Jubilee Year.

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY ONLY: 10:15 – 10:45

ADORATION before the Blessed Sacrament daily before the 9.30 am Mass and then other times as announced.

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend is for the Sick & retired Priest's Fund.

RECENT DEATHS:

Please pray for Vanessa Kadon Paris of Caxton Street and Rose McCann of Allenton, who have died recently. The funeral service for Vanessa Kadon Paris will be at Markeaton Crematorium on Monday, 6th January at 10 am.

Also, please pray for John East of Chesterfield, Hazel Taylor's brother-in-law, whose funeral is on 6th January in Chesterfield.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. RIP.

Follow God's Plan

And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. Matthew 1:44

God has a purpose for you. He has a plan for you and is calling you right now. Through prayer and discernment, you come to understand where God is leading you.

Our celebration of Epiphany centres around the three kings. Imagine these kings or magi. They are living their lives, and suddenly, they see something in the night sky. They see a star. Upon study and consultation, they determine it is a rare star, signalling the birth of a king. They begin to follow the star and set out for where it will lead them. Imagine the joy and delight once they arrive at the crib, seeing the Christ Child and conversing with Joseph and Mary. They found the one for whom they searched.

The magi were meant to find Jesus. They discovered what God wanted them to do. God has a plan for you. Ask him to reveal it to you, and when he does, follow wherever it leads you.

THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025 officially opened in the Dioceses of Nottingham on Sunday, 29th December, the Feast of the Holy Family.

Bishop Patrick celebrated Mass at 10 am in our Cathedral in Nottingham and open the Jubilee in the Diocese of Nottingham. A special prayer will be prayed in each of the other Jubilee churches in the Diocese and the Jubilee Prayer should be prayed at each Mass in the Diocese from 29th December onwards. Cards are available at Church.

Copies of LIVING FAITH available for January.

Please get your copy and place a donation to cover cost in the wall box.