

SUNDAY 5TH JANUARY 2020

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The First Reading: The light of heaven shines. Camels and dromedaries carry the bearers of gifts. The Gospel story of the wise men visiting the new-born Christ has deep roots in this ancient prophecy of Isaiah. In those mysterious visitors, the world is thronging to the Saviour.

The Second Reading: St Paul tells us that the inheritance of the Chosen People is now for all the peoples. Christ is for all; his light is to shine in every corner of the world, in every corner of our lives.

The Gospel: 'Where is the King?' The wisdom of the wise men lies not only in the fact that they are seekers and searchers, but in the fact that having found, they adore. Filled with delight, they offer their gifts and their homage.

BAPTISM: The **January** classes start on Tuesday 7th & 14th in the Parish Office, No5 Berrymead Gardens, at 7pm. The welcoming ceremony on Sunday 19th, and the Baptisms on Sunday 26th at 1.15pm. Please register your attendance with the office in advance.

CONFIRMATION 2020: Confirmation application forms are available from the back of the church, next to the newsletters. Please read over, complete and return the forms to the Parish Office before Monday 13th January.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES start Saturday 18th January, all children must attend the Sunday 10:30 mass on 19th January. Parents are expected to attend one of the two parents' meetings on Tuesday 14th or Thursday 16th January at 7:30pm in the Hall.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: Many thanks for your generosity towards the priests of the parish and the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

As you may know, as members of a religious order we do not receive a salary from the Diocese, so the Christmas and Easter collections are our only means of support. We are yet again extremely grateful for your kindness and generosity. The Christmas collection through your generous giving came to £4,900.51!

Thank you for your cards, good wishes, gifts, and prayers over the Christmas and New Year season.

On behalf of all the priests of the parish we wish you all a very Happy and Holy New Year.

JOY - THE INFALLIBLE SIGN OF GOD'S PRESENCE: The London Jesuit Centre has invited internationally-known speaker David Wells to give a talk on the liberating virtue of joy, which is much needed in our world today. Do come along and let's learn about it, reflect upon it, and pray for it. The talk is on Friday 17th January from 7-9pm, at 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH. The event is free. To book please go to www.eventbrite.co.uk and search 'London Jesuit Centre'.

THE ITALIAN COURSE have donated £213.44 to Emmaus House. The tutor would like to thank the students for their attendance and generosity.

THURSDAY TEA & COFFEE: Managed to raise £159.75 for the Sacred Heart Missions.

FAIRTRADE PARISH: We have been a Fairtrade Parish since summer 2019, trying to support our global family. When donating tea, coffee and refreshments, please consider buying Fairtrade items. These can be purchased at reasonable prices from Coop, Waitrose, M&S and other supermarkets. Many thanks.

GIVING TREE: Thank you to everyone who is contributed to the giving tree this Christmas.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Following the parish stewardship campaign, if you requested new offertory envelopes these will be available for collection from the Sacristy from the weekend of 21 December. Please ask one of the priests if you would like to collect your new box of envelopes. Due to GDPR regulations it's not possible to leave the boxes in the side chapel for collection. Thank you and Happy Christmas from the Gift Aid Team.

WALK IN CLINIC: A qualified therapist will help ease your pain every Friday 9 – 12pm at No.3 Berrymead Gardens. Free of charge.

TEA AND COFFEE: Tea and coffee will be served in the hall after the 9am and 10.30am Masses.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.
Amen.