

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### Sunday 8 January 2017: The Epiphany of the Lord

6.30pm (Saturday)	Pious Union
9.00am	Willie Cotter anniversary
11.00am	Parishioners
5.30pm	OFS

### Monday 9 January *The Baptism of The Lord*

7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
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### Tuesday 10 January

7.30am	Billie Cotter anniversary: (also) Mr Hughes RIP
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### Wednesday 11 January

7.30am	Oliver Reynolds RIP
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### Thursday 12 January

7.30am	Vocations
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### Friday 13 January

7.30am	Bernadette & Rosheen's intentions
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### Saturday 14 January

8.00am	Jodie & Nellie's intentions
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**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 11.30am-12 noon; 5.30-6.25pm**

**Please pray for those members of our community who are sick.**

**Please pray, too, for those whose anniversaries occur about this time, including:**  
 Violet Shields, Domenico Rosato, Liboria Salamone, Mary Guckian, Giovanni Diliberto,  
 Michael Flaherty, Hannah Chittenden, Francis Brannigan, Richard O'Brien, Michael  
 Reeghill, Beatrice Bennett, William Zelly and Antoinette Barry.  
*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

## COLLECTIONS

**Second Collection today: Diocesan Schools Fund**

**Last week's collection:**

<i>Offertory</i>	£477.83	<i>Gift Aid</i>	£196.00
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## *SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church*

*Iffley Road, Oxford OX4 1SB*

*Parish Priest:*

*Fr Gordon Pesterfield, OFM Cap.*

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## The Epiphany of the Lord

About those camels—we're not too sure about them. Yes, almost every Nativity scene shows the Magi seated on stately dromedaries, or leading their beasts of burden by bit and rein. But, honestly, the story of the Magi never tells us how they got there. They could have travelled on foot, in a chariot, by camel, on horseback, even on elephants—we just don't know.

The reason we keep putting them on camels in our art is Isaiah's prophecy. He said that caravans of camels would fill Jerusalem, and that people from the East would come bearing gold and frankincense. 'Rise up in splendour, Jerusalem!' he proclaims. 'Your light has come.'

In Matthew's story, the Magi realize that Jerusalem's light has come. They follow the star and bring their gifts of gold and frankincense—myrrh, too. By telling of these gifts, Matthew turns our attention back to Isaiah. We Christians recognize that the light Isaiah mentioned is the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

When we see the Magi seated on camels, we are remembering Isaiah. When we remember Isaiah, we remember the light that came to shatter the darkness of our world. Those camels carry hope.



1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Response: **All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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

**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..

**Sunday 8 January 2017: The Epiphany of the Lord**

**Today, 8 January,** we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord.

Early Christians considered the gifts of the Magi to be highly symbolic. Gold is the 'king of metals' and is therefore symbolic of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is used in worship and is therefore symbolic of Jesus' divinity. Lastly, myrrh is used in burials and is therefore symbolic of Jesus' humanity.

If I were to give Jesus one gift to symbolize the role I'd like to give him to play in my life—what might that gift be?

What keeps me from letting Jesus play that role more fully than he is now?

*Today's second collection is for the Diocesan Schools Fund.*



## Thinking about the New Year

'A New Year moves each Christian to ask fundamental questions:

What have I done with my baptism?

How do I answer my vocation?

What have I done with my confirmation?

Have I used the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit to bear fruit?'

(Pope St John Paul II)

RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT TO CHRIST!

*This Week:*

### Monday 9 January: The Baptism of the Lord. Feast.

Routine establishes itself, school re-opens, people will chirp up, 'How did you get over/survive Christmas?', making it sound like some sort of assault course to be negotiated. True! In it all, we may forget today that there is one more holiday worth observing: the Baptism of the Lord. It's strange, but understandable, how we can readily recall dates of birth, but never of baptism. It wasn't always that way. In Scripture, only Matthew and Luke record anything about Jesus' birth, but all four Gospels narrate the Baptism. Baptism says loud and clear, 'I am somebody.' The world may seek to ignore you and say they have no interest in or need of you. But baptism says of you, as it did of Jesus, 'You are God's beloved son/daughter; his favour rests on you.'

At Christmas we celebrate His Birth. Today we realize the work of Christmas truly begins.

### Friday 13 January: Holy Rosary at 7pm

Each Friday evening at 7pm, the Holy Rosary is recited in the church. All are welcome.

*Looking Ahead:*

**Next Sunday, 15 January:** The second Collection will be for Pax Christi.

### First Holy Communion Classes

*Please note* that the First Holy Communion classes start on Sunday 22 January at 10am. They will be held in the Friary Chapel. Please be on time.

Registration forms can be found at the back of the church.

*First Holy Communion Mass will be celebrated on 4 June at 11am.*

### Confirmation Classes

These classes start on Sunday 29 January at 10am and will meet in the parish hall. Registration forms are available in the church porch. Confirmation candidates must have finished primary school and be entering, or already in, secondary school.

*Confirmation Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 21 May at 5.30pm.*

### Weddings 2017

If you are planning to get married this year (2017), please contact Br Gordon as soon as possible to make the necessary arrangements.

The Diocese requires at least six months notice, which is essential in cases where the marriage is taking place abroad, when a good deal of administrative work has to be completed. Marriage preparation is also a requirement, whether or not both partners are Catholic.

### New Year's resolution: Make a difference with CAFOD

Make 2017 the year you meet new friends, inspire others to act for social justice, and use your skills to help those working to overcome poverty around the globe. CAFOD is looking for people who would like to support the two Fast Days a year in the parish. All training is provided and travel cost reimbursed. If you enjoy social media and writing you could contribute to our blog and e-news. We would love to hear from you: [dpurfield@cafod.org.uk](mailto:dpurfield@cafod.org.uk) or 01844 274723.



### Tea/Coffee after the 11am Sunday Mass

Please note that after the 11am Sunday Mass tea and coffee are served in the Hall—a time to relax and take the chance to get to know each other.

### What Jesus Wants

'Jesus wants to be your friend, brother, a teacher of truth and life who reveals to you the route to follow in order to reach happiness, the fulfilment of yourselves in accordance with God's plan for each one of you. And Jesus' friendship, which brings us the mercy and love of God, is *free*, a pure gift. He asks nothing of you in exchange except that you welcome him. Jesus wants to love you for what you are, even in your frailty and weakness, so that, moved by his love, you may be renewed.' (Pope Francis)



### Thomas Patrick O'Boyle RIP

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Thomas Patrick O'Boyle. His body will be received into church on Monday 9 January at 6pm. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> at 11am.

*May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.*