



6 January 2019

Epiphany of the Lord



Catholic Parish of The Sacred Heart – Our Mission
 Through the power of the Holy Spirit we will be a parish renewed in our knowledge and understanding of the love of Jesus Christ, to enable each of us to fulfil our Christian mission



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Thank you for your contribution to the parish. For 30 December the offertory was £379.60 and standing orders were £623.00. With thanks, the Finance Committee.

GLOBAL RECONCILIATION AND GLOBAL HEALING

The Feast of the Epiphany is the commemoration of the revelation of our Saviour to the whole human race, reaching beyond the people of Israel. Through this 'manifestation' Jesus comes as the healer of the rift between humankind and God that existed since the Fall in the Garden of Eden. In this reconciliation we are also reminded that in the creation God made all that exists and placed humankind as stewards of the abundance of the Earth.

The operative word here is 'stewards'. We do not own the world, we are simply the custodians of its gift for a few generations, before we hand it on to our grandchildren and their children.

Pope Francis has committed his pontificate to the care of our common home – the earth. He has written about our moral and Christian duty, especially in his 2015 document *Laudato Si*. Yet responding to this challenge not easy, it calls for us to make a fundamental conversion in our life style and relationships.



Our own bishops have made a DVD which prompts reflection on the state of our world and the impact on the poor and disadvantaged. Called 'Global Healing' it was the centrepiece of the parish's Advent Conversation. Its final session called those present to create an action plan for themselves and their parish. The outcome can be found on the parish website for you to consider taking part, with a link to view the DVD.

Our plan is to follow up on the themes of 'Global Healing' and our action plan by having a monthly point to ponder in our newsletter, beginning with the suggestion of re-engaging with a grace before all meals.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers		
Mass	This Sunday, 6 January	Next Sunday, 13 January
1 st Reading	Catherine Davies	Martin Brennan
2 nd Reading	Dee Brady	Una McAlinden
Eucharistic	Chris Till	Myriam Rincon
Eucharistic	Noreen Weighell	Carlos Rincon
Driver	William Doyle	Louis Chadwick

Grace Before Meals for this week
 Thanks, Father, that we are your daily concern. We eat this meal simply, and trust you for what tomorrow will bring. Amen

The Christmas Collection for Fr. John was £1900. Thank you for your generosity.

Mass Times at Sacred Heart			
Sunday	6 January	9.00 am	Private Intentions and Intentions of Emily Richardson and Family
Tuesday	8 January	9.30 am	Peter Miller, Recently Deceased, RIP and Ian Heathron, Recently Deceased, RIP
Wednesday	9 January	9.30 am	Service of the Word and Communion
Friday	11 January	10.00 am	Greg Gallagher, Recently Deceased, RIP and Intentions of Nora Proctor and Special Intentions

CIRCLE OF PRAYER FOR JANUARY PEACE ON EARTH
 O Almighty God, turn, we pray, the hearts of all peoples and their rulers, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, peace may be established among all nations on the foundation of justice, righteousness and truth, through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME – JANUARY

Pope Francis suggests that for January we say grace before meals so we can begin to connect ourselves to God's creation.



Blessing Your Home

There is an ancient tradition of blessing Christian homes at Epiphany, asking God's blessing on all who live in the home in the coming year. We mark above the door in chalk



'**20+C+M+B+19**'. This includes the year (2017) and the initials of the names given to the three wise people who brought gifts to Jesus in his first home: **C** for Caspar, **M** for Melchior, **B** for Balthasar. If you cannot write above your door you might display this sheet somewhere in your home.

The three initials, C-M-B, also stand for the three words of a Latin prayer

**Christus Mansionem Benedicat
May Christ bless this home**

Please take a sheet home with all the prayers and remember to bless your home for 2019.

USING HOLY WATER IN THE HOME

Many Catholic homes place a **holy water font at the front door**. We bless ourselves each time we leave, asking that the Holy Trinity guide our thoughts, words and deeds as we go out into the world. When we return, we bless ourselves again, calling to mind the sanctity of the home. In time, it becomes a deeply ingrained habit, and if one of your family rushes out without the blessing, another will inevitably call out, 'Don't forget to bless yourself!'



Sadly, those who pass through the church doors, hastily dipping their fingers into the water to perform a gesture more reminiscent of swatting flies than of performing a solemn blessing, rob themselves of a great grace. Choose, instead, to bless yourself with great care, perhaps adding the prayer, '**By this holy water and by your precious blood, wash away all my sins, O Lord!**'

Use only a new, clean receptacle for holy water, and take care not put it to any other use afterwards. Dispose of old holy water by pouring it into the ground in an area where it will not be underfoot.

Holy water is available in the foyer.

As is the case with any sacramental, holy water should be used piously, without superstitious notions attached to its use, but rather with the recognition that the benefits derived come directly through the power of the Blessed Trinity and our Saviour. Objects that have been blessed should never be used for any profane purpose.

Adapted from <http://www.catholichomeandgarden.com>

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY 6 JANUARY

Today's Gospel is taken from Matthew and his narratives about the infancy of Jesus are to be studied in light of the two readings before it.



The birth of Jesus is such a momentous occasion that even non-Jews are intent on paying homage. The Gentiles are symbolised by the Magi (wise men) from the East.

That the newborn child is to be king is not in any doubt: 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' Bethlehem is designated as the birthplace of the Messiah, as the quotation from the prophet Micah indicates.

The wise men go to Bethlehem, find Jesus and pay him homage, presenting their gifts. The gold represents kingship, frankincense, holiness; these are related to the prophesy of Isaiah. The myrrh represents the moment of Jesus's death and is the first hint that the joy of this new birth is tempered by the shadow of the death that will be the outcome of his messiahship.

So, on this feast of Epiphany, Jesus is shown to be the Christ for all nations. All may share in the salvation that is offered by the newborn king.

Taken from *The Word of God, Year C Luke's Gospel* by Robin Cooper



**RETIRING COLLECTION FOR
JUST ONE HOUSE
NEXT SUNDAY 13 JANUARY**

Next Sunday we have a retiring collection to add to the funds we have raised for Just One House.



Everyone has been very generous so far and we have another opportunity next Sunday to show our generosity again. Please give as you can.

SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Quiet Day will be held on **Saturday 9 February 11.30 am to 3.30 pm.**

Newsletter copy deadline – Thursday midday.
Newsletter contact: Suzanne Yates; 01525 840 661;
suz_yates@btinternet.com

INFORMATION

CONFESSION

Confession will be at 8.40 am on Sunday and at 9.45 am on Friday.

PRAYER LINE

Please ring for intercessory prayer on 01525 634 186. We have some wonderful answers to prayers. Be assured of full confidentiality.

CARDS, GIFTS, etc.

Are available for sale in Sacred Heart church after Mass. All are priced. Please put money in the repository box at the back of the church.

SAFEGUARDING

For information contact Paula Bates at safeguarding@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

CHURCH NEWSLETTER ONLINE

<http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk>

IN HOSPITAL, SICK OR HOUSE-BOUND?

Please let us know of anyone who needs a visit or requires Holy Communion at home.

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL GROUP

meet in the church every Monday at 7.30 pm. Members provide help, support and friendship to anyone in need. They offer this support through befriending visits. Call Brendan Spillane, 01525 861 949 to find out more about their work.

LITTLE 'UNS

Meet every Friday 10.30 am to 11.45 am in term time, in the church hall. This is a group for babies and pre-schoolers. For further information please contact Deacon Philip at deaconphilip@sacredheartflitwick.co.uk

MASS INTENTIONS

For Mass Intentions, contact Suzanne Yates who will arrange for Fr. John or another local priest to say a Mass.

Everyone is welcome to come for tea and coffee after Sunday Mass.



Mothers' Prayers will next meet on **Monday 7 January**. We meet fortnightly to pray for our children and have had many answers to our prayers. Ring Sue Barley on 01525 634186 for details.



The sewing group will meet on **14 January** from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. For information contact Clare Bevan 01525 403 589.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

This group will meet again on **16 January**. Please contact Nicky Paterson on 01525 750 654.

