

The Epiphany of the Lord

Our celebrations of the solemnity of Christmas are made joyful thanks to the celebration of this weekend's feast day, the **Epiphany**. This episode is recorded in the **Gospel of Matthew**. Some Wise Men from the East have an encounter with the new born child who is God. This meeting of the Divine with human beings is called an **Epiphany** (from the Greek **epiphaneia** meaning a **revelation**, a **vision**, a **life changing experience**, a **bombshell**). On this day many people will bless their homes by marking their doors with the date of the new year and the initials of the Magi (Casper, Melchior and Balthazar) **20+C+M+B+19**. These initials also represent the words **Christus Mansionem Benedicat**, may Christ bless our home. Many people dismantle their Christmas decorations on this 'twelfth night'. However, keep in mind that the season of Christmas carries on for another week until the feast of the **Baptism of the Lord** next Sunday. Three manifestations of the Divine Presence are called to mind: the revelation of Jesus to Shepherds, the revelation of Jesus to the Magi, the revelation of Jesus to those at the river Jordan.

In many parts of the world **Epiphany** is a day for presenting gifts. **We will take in backpacks for children and present them to Mary's Meals.**

At the request of the Bishop there is a second collection this weekend for **Justice and Peace**.

Last week our newsletter contained an interesting interpretation of the carol the **12 Days of Christmas**. It is said it was used in England as a means of teaching Catechism to children during the era of anti Catholic persecution which ran from 1538 until the Emancipation Act in 1829. **Eight maids a milking** represent the eight Beatitudes: Blessed are the poor in spirit, the meek, those who mourn, those who hunger and thirst after justice, the merciful, the clean of heart, the peacemakers, those who suffer persecution for justice' sake. **Nine ladies dancing** represent the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control. **Twelve Drummers Drumming** represent the twelve points of the Apostles Creed. Next time we use this Creed at Mass examine the wording for the twelve points of this Apostles' Creed.

Did you manage to pick up a prayer card at the back of Church? This will assist an ongoing suggestion for prayer in support of the Unborn Child.

Thank you to everyone for the good attendances and the generous giving during these Christmas celebrations. Do you remember the ancient advice handed down from the early days of the Church: **Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi**. This basically means the way we pray and particularly the way we pray our liturgy will have a bearing on the way we believe and in turn this will have an effect upon the way we live our lives. Let us continue during the months to come to celebrate our liturgy with enthusiastic involvement and participation. Such inspiration affects our children. In our current age the need has never been greater. The encouragement to attend on a regular basis has been consistently given to parents whose children have recently received **Sacraments** and in particular to those intending to receive Sacraments in the near future. Those children who participated during Advent and Christmas have brought great joy to all of us. **We thank each of them and their parents for their encouragement and good example.**

Response to the Psalm:

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Attendance: 193, Collection: £726

New Year Attendance: 100

Special Collection for the Hospice: £563

Thank you to the parish for this generosity.

Lately Dead: Charles Victory Johnston

Months Minds: Pearl Corrigan,

Anniversary of: Teddy Clarke, Elizabeth Coyle,

Anne Kane, Stephen Kimminis

Christmas and New Years Remembrances:

The Langton Family, Frank & Anne Millar,

Cathie Kelly and Helen Clark

*Prayer For The Week
of the Epiphany: House Blessing*

20+C+M+B+19

God of Heaven and Earth,
you revealed your only begotten Son
to the wise men who travelled by the light of a star.

On this feast of the Epiphany
we ask you to pour your abundant blessing
upon our homes as we travel through 2019.

We invoke the names of:
Casper, Melchior and Balthazar whose initials
symbolise the Latin blessing
Christus Mansionem Benedicat,
May Christ Bless Our Home.

May our homes be places of welcome,
hospitality and good stories,
where prayers are said and virtues praised.
May our homes be places where Jesus and Mary are
found, where children are safe and secure, parents
are loved and respected, grandparents honoured and
friends welcomed.

We ask this blessing in your name, O Lord our God.
Amen.



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Weekly Schedule	Time	Intention
Sunday 6th Jan. <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	10:00am 4:00pm	Bill & Patricia Perkins Devotions and Benediction
Monday 7th Jan.	9:05am 9:30am 1:30pm	Short Morning Prayer Elizabeth Coyle and Helen Clark Mass in Carstairs Hospital
Tues 8th Jan.	9:05am 9:30am	Short Morning Prayer Martin Barus and Annie Kane
Wed 9th Jan.	9:30am 9:30am	Short Morning Prayer Teddy Clarke and Cathie Kelly
Thurs 10th Jan.	9:30am	Requiem Mass Charles Victory Johnston
Friday 11th Jan.	8:30am 9:30am	Mass in Shorts Prison Service of the Word with Holy Communion
Saturday 12th Jan.	4:00pm 4:30pm	Holy Rosary Special Intention

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday 12th Jan.	C Scullion	M Connor, I Connor, C Morrissey
Sunday 13th Jan.	F Carroll	P Mackle, F Carroll, M Nugent