

St German's Church

5 January 2020 - The Epiphany of the Lord



The subtitle of today's feast in the *Book of Common Prayer* is 'The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles'. This emphasises that, from the moment of the Incarnation, the good news of Jesus Christ is for all: Jew and Gentile, the wise and the simple, male and female. Nothing in the Greek text of the gospels indicates that the Magi were all male and even the number three and making them Kings is a much later, non-scriptural tradition. Western Christianity adopted 'the twelve days of Christmas' climaxing on the eve of Epiphany, or 'Twelfth Night'. The implication by the fifth century was that this was the night on which the Magi arrived. The complications of dating became even more confused with the changing in the West from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar, the eastern church refusing to play any part in such a radical change. So this day remains the chief day of celebrating the Incarnation in Orthodox Churches.

Parish Notes:

Nightshelter - Has now begun and we thank all those who helped last night and this morning. Rota for January 2020 has now been sent out. If you would like to help in any way please contact Fr Phelim. Please pray for our guests and helpers.

Faith QI - next begins in St Saviour's at 7pm on Wednesday 8 Jan at 7pm. This is a faith discussion group in which we look at questions surrounding different topics of faith and spirituality. It is ideal for those new to faith and Christianity or those who would like to reflect and learn more about faith. Next topic: Ecumenism & Unity.

Foodbank - Current urgent items: Tinned Fruit, Long life fruit juice, UHT milk, Rice Pudding, Sponge Puddings. Tinned potatoes. (Most food banks reopen from 6 Jan)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020 - this year's theme was prepared by Christians Together in Malta and Gozo and focuses on the hospitality of God 'Unusual Kindness'. This year we hope to have a nightshelter based joint service. The week of prayer is from 18-25 January 2020. The joint service will be in St German's on Wednesday 22 January at 6:30pm.

I Ffordd Tangnefedd - (Into the Way of Peace from Luke 1:79) - A new contemplative service to begin in St German's later this month on Sunday evenings. Services will begin with coffee at 6pm followed by a time of reflective prayer and then, hopefully, involve a visit to a local pub.

Recently Departed: Ted Griffiths, Joan Irene Grady *RIP*.

This week:

Sun 5: Epiphany of the Lord

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

8am Nightshelter Mass

11:00 am Sung Mass

Mon 6:

6pm Mass (St G)

Tues 7:

10am Mass (St S)

Wed 8:

10am Mass (St G)

Thur 9:

5:45pm Mass (St S)

Fri 10:

No Mass

Sat 11:

11am Mass (St S)

Sun 12: Baptism of the Lord

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

8am Nightshelter Mass

11:00 am Sung Mass

Parish Priest:

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READINGS THIS WEEK

Isa 60:1-6

Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11,
12-13

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matt 2:1-12

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Isa 42:1-4, 6-7

Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3b+9b-10

Acts 10:34-38

Matt 3:13-17

PSALM RESPONSE

All nations shall fall
prostrate before you, O
Lord. (vv.4)

Today's hymns: 49 As with gladness; 552 O worship the Lord; 724 We three kings; 609 Songs of thankfulness and praise Mass Setting: Rizza.

COLLECT

Gracious God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Isa 60

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R/**

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R/**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **R/**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R/**
Psalm 72

SECOND READING

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

This is the word of the Lord.

Eph 3

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Matt 2

RESPONSORIAL PSALM