

St German's Church

6 January 2019 - Epiphany



The feast of the Epiphany is a story of how the infant Jesus was presented to three eastern gentile Kings. In a role reversal we have the Messiah of Israel, one of the smallest of nations, having tribute being paid to him instead of the usual order where a small kingdom is obliged to honour, in money or in treasure, the great powers of the time. Behind this of course is the intention of God to fulfil promises made long ago that this child would be the light of the whole world and bring the possibility of salvation to everyone regardless of their religious or ethnic background. We have, in other words, the beginning of Christ's universal reaching out to ALL the peoples of the world to invite them to join him in 'the heavenly country bright'.

Parish Notes:

Epiphany - We continue to celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord today with a special service in St German's this evening at 6pm, led by Geraint. It is also a tradition to mark the entrance to a house, home or church with the initials of the three wise men and we ask people to stay for this blessing of chalk and marking the entrance to the church at the end of mass.

Nightshelter - We still need help with the nightshelter and especially with those able to cook for 15-20. Please keep our guests and volunteers in your prayers. The 8:00 am mass is open to all but is focused mainly on provision for our night shelter guests and helpers.

Week of prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 Jan. There will be prayer resources for individual use during the 8 days and also laminated copies in each church for people to pray when visiting the church. The joint service this year will be in St Saviour's at 6pm on Sunday 20th Jan 2018. The theme this year is 'Only Justice' organised by Christians from Indonesia. All are welcome.

Fr John Griffiths RIP - His funeral will be at the Shrine of Julian of Norwich in Norwich on Wed 10 Jan 2019. May he rest forever in the peace of Christ.

PCC Meeting - the Parish Council next meets on Mon 4 Feb 2019 at 6pm for mass with the business items at 6.45 pm.

Recently Departed: Fr John Griffiths, Arthur Humphries, Bert Hopkins RIP

This week:

Sun 6 Epiphany

8am Said Mass (St G)

9:30 Sung Mass (St S)

11am Sung Mass (St G)

6pm Epiphany Liturgy (St G)

Mon 7:

6pm Mass (St G)

St Raymond

Tues 8:

10am Mass (St S)

Wed 9:

10am Mass (St G)

Thur 10:

5:45pm Mass (St S)

Fri 11:

6pm mass (St S)

Sat 12:

11am Mass (St S)

Sun 13: Baptism of the Lord

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass

St German's:

8am Said Mass

11am Sung Mass

Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,

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(Day off - Friday)

Churchwardens:

Peter Lovitt

02920 763754

Richard Hill

07519 352840

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 60:1-6

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

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matt 2:1-12

PSALM:

**They are happy who
dwell in your house, O
Lord. (3vv)**

Hymns Today: 49 As with gladness; 552 O worship the Lord; 67 Be still for the presence; 724 We three kings; (Mass setting: Rizza 955)

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

The First reading is from the book of 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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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 the letter of Paul 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