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The Epiphany of the Lord 7 January 2024 Rev Fr Mark McManus *Parish Priest* Rev Mr Simon Hegarty *Deacon* stjosephsdcn@outlook.com

Please remember in your prayers all the sick and housebound, especially: Harley Bond, Eileen McManus, Pauline Sheppard, Jackie & Brian Whelan, Ann Parkinson, Joanne Marklew, Lol Hodges, Margaret Dakin, Madge Wolstenholme, Tom & Joyce McGowan, Heidi Howson, Audrey Rodgers, Sylvia Hayden, Janette Taylor, Sonia Prince, Reece Wilson, Jason Barron, Liz Moran, Elizabeth Dodson, Pat Collett, Eunice Mannion, Sue & Frank Rodgers, Andy Mitchell, Marie Montgomery, Rita & Vin Todd, Georgina Shirt, Maria Tarnowski, Elizabeth Barron, Martin Humphreys, Susan De Couto, Jacqueline Wagland, Sr. Teresa Paschal, Tom Bryant. If you would like anyone included on this list, and the individual concerned or a family member has consented to it, simply write the person's name down and hand it in. Thank you.

Help in taking down the Christmas decorations after the 10.00am Mass this Sunday would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Our beautiful church has looked splendid over the Christmas season. **We thank** all who help to prepare, decorate, and clean it and we particularly thank our flower arrangers for their skill and dedication.

We thank St Joseph's Choir for their singing at the Christmas liturgies and our organist and choirmaster, Christopher Edge. Should you wish to know more and be interested in joining the choir then please speak with Christopher (those under 18 years must have a letter of parental consent, the details of which can be obtained from Christopher). As always, additions to our Tenor and Bass voices would be particularly welcome. The next Choir practice will be on Monday, 15 January at 7.00pm. The preparation for Easter begins and Easter is early this year!

First Holy Communion preparation

There is an introductory meeting for parents and children after the **10.00am Mass Sunday, 14 January**, in the undercroft (this should only take about 30 minutes).

The first class will take place on Saturday, 27 January, from 09.30am until 12 noon in the undercroft and it will be followed by classes on the following dates:

Saturday, 24 February, Saturday, 23 March, Saturday, 20 April & Saturday, 27 April (final class).

Dates for your diary:

14 February, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting & Abstinence: our annual observance of Lent begins with Masses at 10.00am and 7.00pm.

Tuesday, 19 March, the **Solemnity of St Joseph** and our patronal feast day. Mass at 10.00am with St Joseph's School

Sunday, 24 March, Palm Sunday, Holy Week begins.

Sunday, 31 March, Easter Sunday

In **The Bible in a Year** podcast Fr. Mike Schmitz walks you through the entire Bible providing commentary, reflection, and prayer along the way. Each 20-25 minute episode includes: two to three scripture readings, a reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz and a guided prayer.

A Prayer for The Epiphany of the Lord

Bless, O Lord, this household and family, and allow all of us who live in this home to find in it a shelter of peace and health. Inspire each of us to develop our individual talents and to contribute wisdom and good works for the benefit of the whole family. Make our house a haven for us all, and a place of warmth and caring for all our friends who come to visit us. Enlighten us with the brilliance of your Epiphany star, so that, as we go into the world, we might clearly see our way to You and discover You in our work and play. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Holy Baptism I

As he that sees a dark and shady grove,
Stays not, but looks beyond it on the sky;
So when I view my sins, mine eyes remove
More backward still, and to that water fly,
Which is above the heav'ns, whose spring and vent
Is in my dear Redeemer's piercéd side.
O blessed streams! either you do prevent
And stop our sins from growing thick and wide,
Or else give tears to drown them, as they grow.
In you Redemption measures all my time,
And spreads the plaster equal to the crime.
You taught the Book of Life my name, that so
What ever future sins should me miscall,
Your first acquaintance might discredit all.

Holy Baptism II

Since, Lord, to thee

A narrow way and little gate

Is all the passage, on my infancie

Thou didst lay hold, and antedate

My faith in me.

O let me still

Write thee great God, and me a childe:

Let me be soft and supple to thy will,

Small to my self, to others milde,

Behither ill.

Although by stealth

My flesh get on, yet let her sister

My soul bid nothing, but preserve her wealth:

The growth of flesh is but a blister;

Childhood is health.

from The Temple (1633) by George Herbert

THE SACRED LITURGY	
Sunday 7 January	8.45am
The Epiphany of the Lord	Roy Dyson
	10.00am
	Intentions of Patrick Clarke
Monday 8 January	10.00am
Solemnity of The Baptism	Pope Benedict XVI
of the Lord	
Tuesday 9 January	10.00am
Ordinary Time weekday	Jenkinson & Ebbs Families
Wednesday 10 January	November Memorial Dead List
Ordinary Time weekday	
Thursday 11 January	10.00am
Ordinary Time weekday	
Friday 12 January	9.00 – 9.55am
Ordinary Time weekday	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.00am
Saturday 13 January	
Ordinary Time weekday	4.00 – 4.30pm Confessions
Vigil Mass of Sunday	5.00pm
Ç ,	The Cahill Family
Sunday 14 January	8.45am
Second Sunday	Jeff Mason
in Ordinary Time	10.00am
	For the People

Please pray for Mariamma Scaria *RIP*, for all who have died recently & for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Last week's collection was £696.35 (£360.50 in offertory envelopes, £335.85 in loose). Many thanks for your continuing support.

There is a retiring collection this weekend, 6 & 7 January, for Aid to the Church in Need in Gaza & Israel.

Our **Childrens' Liturgy** resumes, at the 10.00am Mass today, Sunday, 9 January. **Thank you** to all those who help support our children in this important way. If you would be interested in helping please speak to Fr M.