



## ST MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST NORWOOD

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West Norwood

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London SE27 9JU

5 Jan 2025

### Parish Newsletter

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (C)

**TODAY'S MASS READINGS:** Parish Mass Book, from page 105

**1st Reading (Isaiah 60:1-6). 2nd Reading (Eph. 3:2-3a, 5-6). Gospel (Matt. 2:1-12).**

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, a feast that reminds us of the revelation of Christ to the world. The word "epiphany" means "manifestation" or "revelation," and in this feast, we reflect on how Jesus, the Saviour of the world, was revealed not only to the Jewish people but to the Gentiles as well, symbolized by the visit of the Magi from the East. The Gospel today (Matthew 2:1-12) recounts the journey of the wise men, or Magi, who follow a star to find the new-born King of the Jews. These men, likely astrologers or scholars from Persia, were not Jews. Yet, they recognized the star as a sign of the birth of a king and travelled great distances to worship Him. This journey of the Magi is a powerful reminder that the message of Christ is for all people, regardless of background, nationality, or status. God's love knows no boundaries, and His invitation to encounter Him is extended to all, even those who might seem far from the faith. The Magi's journey is a model for our own spiritual journey. Their search for truth, guided by the star, mirrors our own search for meaning and purpose in life. Like the Magi, we must be open to God's guidance and willing to follow the path He sets before us, even if it leads us through unfamiliar or challenging terrain. Their response to the birth of Christ is one of humility and adoration. They offer Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh—gifts that symbolize His kingship, His divinity, and His future sacrifice. This act of adoration teaches us that worship of Christ is not just an acknowledgment of His greatness but also a response of our hearts, offering ourselves as gifts to Him in gratitude for His love and salvation. The Epiphany also teaches us something about God's presence in the world. The star that led the Magi was not a simple phenomenon—it was a sign of God breaking into human history, leading the wise men to encounter the Light of the World. In the same way, Jesus is the light that dispels the darkness of our lives and our world. Through Christ, God's love is made visible, and He calls us to share that light with others. Today, as we reflect on this beautiful feast, we are invited to consider how we, like the Magi, can seek Christ more fully in our lives. Are we open to the signs that God places before us? Are we willing to offer Him our hearts, our time, and our talents as a gift in response to His love? Finally, let us not forget that the Magi did not return to their homes the same way they came. They left, changed by the encounter with Christ. So too, each time we encounter Jesus—through prayer, the Sacraments, or in the lives of others—we are called to return to the world transformed, sharing the light of Christ wherever we go. In this season of Epiphany, let us strive to seek the Lord with an open heart, offer our lives as a gift to Him, and allow His light to guide us as we make our way through the world, leading others to Him. May the peace and joy of the Lord, revealed in the Epiphany, fill our hearts this day and always. Amen.

**Next Sunday's Reading:** 1st Reading (Isaiah. 42:1-4, 6-7). 2nd Reading (Acts. 10:34-38) Gospel (Lk. 3:15-16, 21-22)



**Parish Priest: Fr Celestine Ekwueme**

**Email: [celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:celestineekwueme@rcaos.org.uk)**

## PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

### PRAY WITH THE POPE

**Pope's January Prayer Intention :** For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a bet-

### Prayer For Month of January

God of new beginnings, we bless you in the month of January, it is the time of new beginnings, the time of promises, the time of hope. We place our hopes and dreams in the care of our loving God that we may become better people when our hopes and dreams come true. Amen

### PARISH NOTICES

**Thank You! As we approach the end of the year, let me use this opportunity to say a big thank you to our Parish Volunteers. You are the real 'MVPs' of our parish community. From our young and committed altar servers, to our devoted church cleaners, ushers, florals, our selfless eucharistic/communion ministers, readers, sacristans, catechists, finance rep, counters, our choir members, welfare committee, finance committee, parish pastoral members and many more others who do different things at different times for the good of our parish. You re very important to us. We so much appreciate what you do. You are the engine of our parish. You are the reason we pulled through the year. On behalf of the parish I say, THANK YOU SO MUCH,. May God in his love and mercy reward you abundantly for all you do to support the parish. May he provide for you in abundance. May he give you health of mind and bode. May he strengthen you all in your faith.**

**Christmas Crib and Decorations:** Next Sunday, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas Season. After the 11am mass, we will need the help of our volunteers to dismantle crib and Christmas decoration. We look forward to seeing you next Sunday after the mass. Thank you.

**First Holy Communion 2025:** Forms for First Holy Communion Class 2025 is available at the narthex. Please pickup a form and complete , following the instructions. Hand it to any of the ushers or submit at the parish office. Deadline for submission is stipulated in the form.

**Mass Offerings:** Diary for mass bookings 2025 is available now. If you would want a date reserved for anniversary mass for the dead, or for birthdays or other intentions, you are welcome to come and have the masses booked

**Lambeth Deanery Young Adult Retreat:** This is a good opportunity for young adults of our parish, ages 18—35 to signup and attend this spiritual event. It will start from 14th February to 16th February, at Walsingham Shrine. The cost is £99. the parish will pay a half of the cost for anyone going from our parish.. See the poster at the parish notice board for more details about this retreat.

<p><b>Main Liturgical Feasts in Month of January:</b>  January 1. <a href="#">MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS</a>, Solemnity  January 2. <a href="#">Basil the Great; Gregory Nazianzen</a>, Memorial  January 5. <a href="#">EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</a>, Solemnity  January 4. <a href="#">Elizabeth Ann Seton (USA and CAN)</a>, Memorial  January 5. <a href="#">John Neumann</a>, Memorial  January 6. <a href="#">André Bessette (USA)</a>, Opt. Mem.  January 7. <a href="#">Raymond of Penyafort</a>, Opt. Mem.  January 10. <a href="#">Baptism of the Lord</a>, Feast  January 13. <a href="#">Hilary</a>, Opt. Mem.  January 20. <a href="#">Fabian; Sebastian</a>, Opt. Mem.  January 21. <a href="#">Agnes</a>, Memorial  January 22. <a href="#">Day of Prayer for Unborn (USA)</a>, Opt. Mem.  January 23. <a href="#">Vincent of Saragossa (US), Marianne Cope (US)</a>, Opt. Mem.  January 25. <a href="#">Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle</a>, Feast  January 26. <a href="#">Timothy and Titus</a>, Memorial  January 27. <a href="#">Angela Merici</a>, Opt. Mem.  January 28. <a href="#">Thomas Aquinas</a>, Memorial</p> <p><b>PARISH MINISTRY</b></p> <p><b>READERS:</b></p> <p><b>6:30pm:</b></p> <p><b>9am:</b></p> <p><b>11am:</b></p> <p><b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b></p> <p><b>6:30PM</b></p> <p><b>9AM</b></p> <p><b>11AM</b></p> <p><b>CLEANING</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK</b></p> <p><b>Saturday 4 January</b>                      Vigil of Holy Family  6:30pm    wellbeing of Paddy, Karen and Jason</p> <p><b>Sunday 5 January</b>                              FO Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.  9am    Wellbeing of Anna Hannah  11am    Wellbeing of Alan Blanquiere</p> <p><b>Monday 6 January</b>                              Feria of Christmas  9:30am    No Mass</p> <p><b>Tuesday 7 January</b>                              Feria of Christmas  6:30pm    No Mass</p> <p><b>Wednesday 8 January</b>                              Feria of Christmas  9:30am    No Mass</p> <p><b>Thursday 9 January</b>                              Feria of Christmas  11am @ BH    Holy Souls</p> <p><b>Friday 10 January</b>                              Feria of Christmas  9:30 am    No Mass</p> <p><b>Saturday 11 January</b>                              Vigil of Baptism of the Lord  6:30pm    Private Intention</p> <p><b>Sunday 12 January</b>                              The Baptism of the Lord  9am    Holy Souls  11am    Pro Populo</p>
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**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**WEEKDAY MASSES ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT THE PARISH FROM 2ND JANUARY TO 5TH FEBRUARY. ALL THE WEEKEND MASSES ARE AVAILABLE AS USUAL.**

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY , AND THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OCCUR AROUND THIS TIME, MAY THEY REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

**HOSPITAL CONTACTS:** If you or a member of your family are admitted to our local hospitals, do please let the hospital's Catholic chaplain know.

**St George's Hospital:** 02087253069 / 02086721255)

**Kings Hospital:** If outside hospital—02032993522. inside the hospital call extension 33522

**Croydon University Hospital:** 02084013105

**St Thomas' Hospital:** 02071881187/02071881186

**Guy's Hospital:** 02071881185/02071889576

"The Magi teach us to fix our sight on high, to lift our eyes to the heavens, to the hills, from which our help will come, for our help is from the Lord." "We need to let ourselves walk in friendship with the Lord, we need his love to sustain us, and the light of his word to guide us, like a star in the night."

## PARISH SCHEDULES

### Sunday Mass Times :

6:30pm (Sat), 9am and 11am

### Week Day Mass Times:

Tuesday ; 7pm

Wednesday & Friday; 9:30am

Thursday; 11am @ British Home

First Fridays; 12noon.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Tuesdays; 6:30pm

**Baptisms, Marriage, Funerals:** Contact the Parish Office.

### Youth Club:

4:30pm Every 3rd Saturday

**RCIA:** Contact Parish Office

### RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 5:30pm to 6:15pm and on call.

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**Open Office:** Fridays 10am to 12:30pm and 2:30pm to 4:30pm.

***Other days with appointment, please.***

### UCM:

12noon Every First Friday

### CHOIR REHEARSALS:

Wednesdays; 7:30pm @ the Church.

### DIVINE MERCY GROUP

Sundays; after 11am mass @ the Divine Mercy Altar

We are grateful for all you do to support the parish.

Setting up a Standing Order is the most efficient way to make a donation to the parish without incurring fees. You can use the following details for one-off donation or to set up a Standing Order or Direct Debit. NatWest Bank: Account Name: RCAS Norwood West, Sort Code: 60-23-19; Account Number: 44115369. Thank You!