

Epiphany of the Lord - 7 January 2024

Thought for the Week

God revealed himself to the Jews through the Scriptures, and to the Gentiles through nature. Since the Magi were Gentiles, Matthew shows them receiving a revelation through astrology. The story highlights the paradox of how the Jews, who have the Scriptures, reject Jesus, while Gentiles come and, with help of the Scriptures, find and adore Him. For Matthew, the story of the Magi becomes an anticipation of the future of the Good News of salvation, a future that he knew in the aftermath of the Resurrection.

There is little to be gained in speculating where the Magi came from and what the star was. The star was only the means by which a great mystery, the revelation of Christ as the Saviour of the Gentiles as well as the Jews was revealed.

The Second Reading expresses the theology of the feast: God invites Jew and Gentile to share on an equal footing the salvation brought by Christ. The feast shows that the belief and understanding of God is not a privilege for some but hope for all.

As we journey, we must expect to encounter difficulties and doubts. Some people think they are losing their faith when they experience doubt. We must not be surprised when this happens, we must imitate the Magi, and not be too proud or fearful to ask for guidance. We must believe that the darkness will pass, and once again we will see the initial star beckoning to us.

Having worshipped Christ, the Magi returned to their own country by another route. This suggests not just a new geographical route, but a new mentality. Having met Christ and heard his Gospel, perhaps we too will travel through life by a different route with different values and goals. It is impossible to encounter Christ without Him affecting the way we live our lives.

Deacon George

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each Friday from 10:00 - 16:00. All welcome.

The Rosary

The Rosary is prayed after the 12:00 Mass each Friday, please join us.

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at St Edward's:
Saturdays: 11:00 - 11:30 and 17:30 - 18:00
Tuesdays: 18:00 - 18:30

Mass Times & Intentions 6 - 14 Jan

Sat 06	18:00	Siobhan Palluel - RIP
Sun 07	09:30	Jock Cooper - RIP
	11:00	Rosanna Pediconi - RIP
Mon 08	10:00	Eucharistic Service
Tue 09	10:30	Pat Brooke - RIP - Funeral
	18:30	John Burbridge - RIP
Wed 10	10:00	Mandy (Mary) Rogers - RIP - Funeral
Thur 11	10:00	Carmel Hammond - St Mark's
Fri 12	12:00	John Conway - INT
Sat 13	18:00	People of the Parish
Sun 14	09:30	Agnieszka Trabszk - RIP - St Mark's
	11:00	Kathleen Mangan - RIP

Parish Diary 6 - 14 Jan

Sat 06	10:00	POSTPONED - Talk - St Mark's Gospel Fr Kevin Hughes - St Mark's
	10:45	World Youth Day reunion P/C followed by Mass at 15:15
	16:00	Leaders of Groups - Ministries, Meeting - P/C
Sun 07	12:00	Tea & Coffee - P/C
	12:15	Baptism Preparation - St Brigid's Room
Mon 08	18:30	Catenians Meeting - P/C
	19:00	HCPT Meeting - St Brigid's Room
Tue 09	10:00	UCM Committee Meeting - off site
	19:15	RCIA Meeting - St Brigid's Room
Wed 10	18:30	Men's Group - St Brigid's Room
Thur 11	18:30	Mass Readings Explained - St Brigid's Room
Sat 13	10:00	First Holy Communion - Reconciliation 3
	12:00	Baptism - Lucy Oldfield, Rose & Elia Mae Phillipov
Sun 14	12:00	Tea and Coffee - P/C

Morning & Evening Prayer

Tue 09 18:00 Evening Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's

Offertory

24 Dec - S/O - D/D £1,848.08 Envelopes £ 221.64 Loose £700.29
31Dec - S/O - D/D £1,848.08 Envelopes £254.00 Loose £780.22

Sacrament of the Sick

This will take place during the 12 noon Mass on **Friday 12 January**.

Tea & Coffee

Tea and coffee after the 11:00 Mass in the Parish Centre will start again on 7 January 2024.

Catholic Windsor - website www.catholicwindsor.org

Parish Office

Patricia Brown: Parish Secretary

office@catholicwindsor.org

Richard Flisher: Finance Manager

finance@catholicwindsor.org

Sharon Cole-Blows: Youth Ministry Worker/Coordinator

YouthCoordinator@catholicwindsor.org

Pat Burke: Safeguarding Representative

safeguarding@catholicwindsor.org

Pastoral Team

Canon David Hopgood: Parish Priest

canondavid@catholicwindsor.org

Rev George Young: Deacon

revgeorgeyoung@hotmail.com

Sr Teresina Fingleton CSB: Parish Sister

Presbytery: 44 Alma Road, Windsor Berkshire, SL4 3HJ

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth – Charity No. 1199568

Ministries in the Parish

In January there will be a gathering of the leaders of all our groups, to plan a 'Ministries Month' to draw more people into the life of the parish. This will take place on **Saturday 6 January in the Parish Centre at 16:00.**

Communion to Sick and Housebound

If you, or you know someone who is unable to come to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the Parish Office

World Youth Day Update

Our first youth event of 2024 will be a celebration to say farewell to our main event of 2023.

On Saturday 6 January 2024 the Windsor Youth Team have been asked to host the WYD reunion. The event will take place in the Parish Centre and will run from 10:45. We will be providing lunch for the group and the day will end with a youth Mass at 15:30. We are expecting around 25 to 30 of the original 50 pilgrims who attended the WYD Lisbon 2023.

December Family Fun Night

We would thank you to all those who attended our family evening and craft/Christingle events in December.

We were truly overwhelmed by the final number that attended on the night and a massive thank you to those that made donations and purchased raffle tickets. All money raised went towards funding the evening.

Please keep looking out for further updates and events. Thank you again to all those that supported our events last year and helped raise the funds required to send our young people to Lisbon 2023, we couldn't have done it without you all behind us!

Vocations - The Epiphany

"For out of you shall come forth a ruler who will shepherd my people." Is Christ calling you forth out of your comfort zone to serve Him and others as a sister, brother, or priest?

Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke.

vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

CAFOD School Volunteers needed

Do you enjoy working with children and young people? Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in your local Catholic schools by delivering an assembly or a workshop? Supported by CAFOD with training and all resources provided please consider the role of CAFOD school volunteer.

For more information contact Jo Lewry jlewy@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447

What does it mean to be Human?

Hosted by David Wells and Bishop Philip Egan on **Saturday 16 March from 10:00 – 16:15.** The Arc, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8SB. Tickets £20 (includes light refreshments). Keynote speakers; Mgr Michael Nazir Ali and Ryan Christopher

<https://what-does-it-mean-to-be-human-symposium.eenbrite.co.uk>

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Age Concern

... are running a six-week course for 'Cooking for One' from 11 Jan - 15 Feb, at The Spencer Denney Centre, Park Corner, Windsor SL4 4EB from 15:00-18:00. £8 per session and includes tuition, ingredients and recipes. More info 01753 860685 (9:30-15:30) or email: info@ageconcernwindsor.org.uk

Pastoral Area - Come and Join us

Prayer is essential in our relationship with Jesus Christ and belief in the power of prayer will help us to listen to God's will as our parishes join together. Let us all take this Pastoral Area Prayer into our ministries, our schools and our private prayer over the coming months.

Heavenly Father,

We come before you with hearts full of faith and hope as we pray for the successful joining of our two parishes in this pastoral area.

Lord, we seek your guidance and blessings for this journey as we strengthen our faith community and fulfil your mission to evangelise and bring people closer to Jesus Christ.

May your wisdom enlighten our journey as we join together in faith, love, and unity.

In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we offer this prayer.

Amen.

Please take a copy of the Pastoral Prayer from the back of the Church and pray it as often as you can.

St Francis of Assisi - Ascot

You can log on to their website for a copy of the newsletter:

www.stfrancisascot.co.uk

Christmas Offertory

Our Christmas Offertory is an opportunity for Parishioners to acknowledge the dedication, service, and witness our Parish Priest offers all year long. You will be able to contribute by way of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day offertory as usual (any cheques should be payable to **CDP Windsor St Edwards** for tax purposes) but in addition, we have set up an online giving page. Please do use it as an alternative by logging on to:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/windsor-st-edwards-r-c-church-christmas-collection-2023>

For any questions please contact: finance@catholicwindsor.org

Accommodation Request

A gentleman returning to the UK from New Zealand with his family is looking for accommodation for himself for 4 nights a week. He is working at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Windsor for 3-4 months starting late January or February. He is only looking for a bed and bathroom as he will have his meals at the hospital. If you think you can help, please contact the Parish Office.

Deceased

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the following who have recently died:

Pat Brooke: Her funeral will take place on **Tuesday 9 January** at 10:30 at St Edward's.

Mandy (Mary) Rogers: Her funeral will take place on **Wednesday 10 January** at 10:00 at St Edward's.

Tom Costello: His funeral will take place on **Thursday 18 January** at St Mark's Church at 10:00.

Tim O'Riordan: His funeral will take place on **Friday 19 January** at St Mark's Church at 10:00.

Sheila Clare: Funeral details to be announced.

Frank Holland: Funeral details to be announced.