

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY
SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY 2022

Glory of God shines on All People

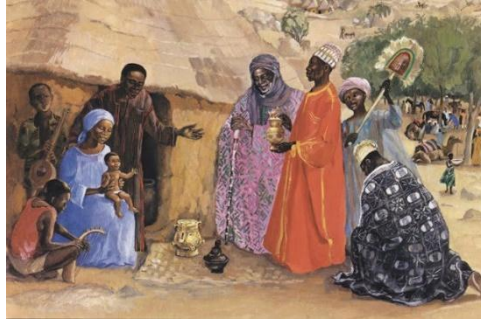
On Thursday 6th January the church solemnly celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany. We therefore have chosen to comment on the Feast of the Epiphany here rather than on the present second Sunday after the Nativity.

While the word *epiphany* means “manifestation” or “showing forth,” Isaiah reminds us that this solemnity is all about light, for without light, nothing can be made manifest or revealed.

The prophet proclaimed this word of the Lord as Judah’s exile in Babylon was ending. In the darkness of captivity, from the promised land, the people wondered if they would ever again enjoy the radiance of God’s powerful presence. The glory of God’s light shines upon his chosen people, offering the possibility of new life.

The second reading and Gospel make manifest the new life available to God’s people in Christ. In him, God unveils a mystery only suggested in Israel’s past: the widening of the concept of “God’s people.” We do see “nations” walking by the light of Jerusalem in the first reading (Is 60:3), and the theme expands in the two New Testament readings: through Christ the glory of God shines on all people, Jew and Gentile alike.

To the surprise of Israel of old, it was a foreigner, the Persian King Cyrus, who released God’s people from captivity. With the coming of Christ, God creates a new Israel, revealing that divine mercy and compassion embrace all, inviting all. Thus Matthew presents foreigners “from the east” (2:1), who receive the revelation of Christ by a shining star. With steadfast response, these co-partners in the promise undertake a long, arduous journey to discover the source of light. Having reached their goal, they did him “homage” (Mt 2:2), the first to recognize the mystery made manifest. In Christ, old boundaries and exclusions fall away and all are “members of the same body” (Eph 3:6).



Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday 2nd January 2022

Liturgical Calendar

Sunday 2nd January	Second Sunday After the Nativity
Thursday 6th January	The Epiphany of the Lord – Solemnity
Sunday 9th January	The Baptism of the Lord (C) Feast

New Year Mass Timetable

2022

Saturday 1st January: (Octave of Christmas) Mass:	Mary, Mother of God 10.00 am
Sunday 2nd January of the Lord Mass:	Second Sunday after the Nativity 10.00 am and 6.30pm
Thursday 6th January: Mass:	The Epiphany of the Lord 9.30 am and 7.30 pm
Sunday 9th January Feast Mass:	The Baptism of the Lord (C) 10.00am and 6.30pm

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 2nd January	10.00 am	Jane O’Halloran – RIP (donor – Maria Harris)
	6.30 pm	
Monday 3rd January	9.00 am	The Sheridan Family
Tuesday 4th January	9.00 am	
Wednesday 5th January	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 6th January	9.30 am	
	7.30pm	
Friday 7th January	9.00 am	

Saturday 8th January 9.00 am
Sunday 9th January 10.00 am Kate Sharma – Intentions
(donor – English Martyrs)
6.30 pm

Parish Notice Board

Parish Finance

TBC

Anniversaries

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:

Kathleen Clifford, Anna Heneghan, Pat Lark, George Malaj, Sheila McCurdy, Sheila Murphy, Rachel, Mary Scully, Mary Thurgood, Mary Wright, Rose Yates, Claire Ryan in Emerson Court and John Buckley.

Communication Desk

Faith Talk on The Christmas Gospels:

As Christmas draws closer, we shall be reading the sections of the gospels commonly known as 'infancy narratives' with their stories of the births of John the Baptist and of Jesus. The three parts of this talk consider Matthew chapters 1-2, Luke chapters 1-2 and John chapter 1. The videos are available free of charge on www.whatgoodnews.org They are given by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest, Scripture scholar and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

Gidea Park Study Day: The Evolution Of The Mass

On Saturday 15th January 2022 Professor John Morrill will lead a Study Day on 'The Evolution of the Mass', tracing the development of the Eucharistic liturgy from the earliest centuries to the present day. He will explore in particular the teaching of Trent and Vatican II, and the latest papal instructions on the celebration of Mass. To access this free live stream event simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org The event begins at 11.00 GMT and ends by 13.30. No prior registration is needed. To be added to our mailing list simply follow the instructions on the home page of the website.

Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran, (01708 507020)
Parish Administrator: Daphne Thomas, Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri (10am-1pm) (01708 507020)
Pastoral Team Leader: Graham Daniels (07542 588763)
Steward of the Gospel: Mandy Meadway (07801 470516)
Parish Finance: Mrs Stephanie Mallen (07983 962465)
Diocesan Safeguarding Representative: Katie Nash (07825 293308)
Hall & Lounge Bookings: English Martyrs Parish Office (01708 507020)
Church & Hall Caretaker; Mike Dineen (07415 727926)

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Founded 1955

Diocese of Brentwood

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