

Served by the Little
Flower Congregation
(CST Fathers)
Fr. John Mundackal
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The Epiphany of The Lord - Year B - 4 January 2009

Sunday Mass at 11 a.m.
With Children's Liturgy of the Word

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday at 9 a.m.
Tuesday at 9 a.m.
Wednesday at 9 a.m.
Thursday at 9 a.m.
Friday at 9 a.m.
Saturday at 10 a.m.

MORNING PRAYER

Monday to Friday at 8.45 a.m.
Saturday at 9.45 a.m.

CONFESSION

Sunday before Mass; on request.

EXPOSITION

Tuesday after Mass until 10.30 a.m.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS

Offertory: £497.79
Christmas Offering: £1096.92
Many thanks for your generosity!

Response to the Psalm:

*All nations shall fall prostrate before
you, O Lord.*

Please remember in your prayers all those in our parish community who are sick especially: Jean McLaughlin, Charles McLaughlin, Donna Small, Joe Kingdom, Norman Fyffe, Buntly Ward, Ina Carlin, Theresa McCabe, Carol Vaughan, Vicki Wood, Aileen Low, Peter Hutchison, Fr. David Ward, Rachel Findlay, Margaret Reid, Sunil Joseph (Fr. John's nephew), Cathie Cochrane, Gertrude Dignan. *Our Lady of Lourdes pray for them.*

Please pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of those who recently entered eternal life: Jimmy Ballantyne, Cathie Yates, Vicky Wood *May they be raised to new and everlasting life in Christ.*

Please remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Annie Rooney, Charles Rooney Snr, Jane Devlin, Elizabeth Mauchlin, Bella Flynn, Sister Paule, LSP.

Next Sunday is the Solemnity of The Baptism of the Lord, and is the end of the Christmastide.

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, primary significance is the closing of the Christmas season with the celebration of the visit of the Magi to the manger (Matthew 2:1-12). The Messiah is thus shown to have come to all people, not just the Jews. The three kings represent the three major races:

Melchior, an old white man with a long white beard, bearing the gift of gold for Christ's royalty;

Caspar, young and of darker hue, carrying incenses for Christ's divinity;

Balthasar, a black man, offering myrrh for Christ's suffering and death.

The names of the wise men are not given in the Bible, but were supplied by later story tellers to enrich the meaning and celebration of the Epiphany

Vocations Box: Please remember that we are still looking for volunteers to take the Vocations Box and pray for vocations for a week at a time. Please speak to Fr. John for more details.

Floral Donations: If you would like to make a donation for flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please speak to one of the priests.

Ministries Rotas: The new rotas for readers and eucharistic ministers are available in the sacristy.

From the Catechism...

33. What are the symbols of faith?

The symbols of faith are composite formulas, also called "professions of faith" or "Creeds", with which the Church from her very beginning has set forth synthetically and handed on her own faith in a language that is normative and common to all the faithful.

Sunday Soundbite

If one phenomenon marks our modern world, it's instant communication. I still marvel at all the ways we can communicate today.

Today's feast of the Epiphany of the Lord is a feast that celebrates communication. The Gospel we read today portrays Jesus, the Word Made Flesh, revealed to the nations, as the wise men arrive to pay him homage. Whatever the historical facts behind the story, the message of faith is that God is reaching out to us, communicating to us the Word Made Flesh. That's communication that has transformed human history.

God's revelation in Jesus has a power surpassing all our modern technological "miracles," because it speaks to our hearts. Are we listening? Are we open to the Word?

Let's become modern channels of God's communication to the world, in this new year, using our gifts—whatever they may be—to pass on the message of Good News, that Love is born in our midst.

Father Greg Friedman, O.F.M.

Today we celebrate Justice and Peace Sunday, the theme this year is Combating Poverty: Building Peace. and there will be a special second collection to support the promotion of justice and peace in Scotland.

A New Year's Prayer

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises, thank you for the gift of a new year. May it be a time of grace for me, a time to grow in faith and love, a time to renew my commitment to following Your Son, Jesus. May it be a year of blessing for me, a time to cherish my family and friends, a time to renew my efforts at work, a time to embrace my faith more fully. Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour of this new year, that the light of Christ might shine through me, in spite of my weaknesses and failings. Above all, may I remember this year that I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to You. Amen.