

The Week Ahead

Mon 7th	<i>Christmas feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Tues 8th	<i>Christmas feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Wed 9th	<i>Christmas feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Thur 10th	<i>Christmas feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Fri 11th	<i>Christmas feria</i>	7.15am, 12.30pm, 6.00pm
Sat 12th	<i>Christmas feria</i>	10.00am

		6.00pm (<i>1st of Sun</i>)
Sun 13th	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	8.30am
		9.30am [<i>Extraordinary Form</i>]
		10.30am [<i>Solemn Latin</i>]
	Kleine Orgelmesse <i>Haydn</i> ; Surge illuminare Ierusalem <i>palestrina</i> ; Alma Redemptoris mater a 5 <i>Victoria</i> Prelude and Fugue in C (BWV 545) <i>Bach</i>	
		12.00, 4.00pm, 7.00pm

Sunday Collections £ 3,252-00
(Includes Envelopes but not Bankers' Orders etc.)

Next weekend 12th/13th January the ***White Flower collection*** will be made. This is the annual appeal by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children in support of their pro-life work.

St Vincent's School returns in the week beginning 14th January – and that means that our ***sacramental programmes*** start up for 2019. The children preparing for First Holy Communion should have the details of their sessions. Confirmation Group meets on Sunday 13th at 5pm. A reminder that the 11+ group meet next on 20th January.

The total raised for Mary's Meals at the carol service was **£1,335**

Prayer of St Basil the Great

O Lord our God, we beseech you, to ask for the gift we need. Steer the ship of our life to yourself, the quiet harbour of all storm stressed souls. Show us the course we are to take. Renew in us the spirit of docility. Let your Spirit curb our fickleness; guide and strengthen us to perform what is for our own good, to keep your commandments and ever to rejoice in your glorious and vivifying presence. Yours is the glory and praise for all eternity. **Amen.**

Holy Hour and Benediction

Saturday 4.45pm-5.45pm

Confessions

Weekdays 12.00-1.00pm

Saturday

10.30am-Noon & 5.00-5.45pm

St James's Roman Catholic Church, Spanish Place
22 George Street, London W1U 3QY



The Epiphany of The Lord

6th
January
2019

TODAY'S LITURGY [Parish Mass Book - page 115]

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3:5-6; St Matthew 2:1-12

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

10.30am Missa Dies sanctificatus *Palestrina*;
Omnes de Saba *Lassus*; Magi veniunt ab oriente *Clemens*
Finale (Sonata No. 5) *Rheinberger*

*Refreshments are served in the Social Centre after
the 9.30am & 10.30am Masses. Everyone (especially our
visitors) are warmly invited to join us.*

The Reverend Christopher G. Colven (Rector)

The Reverend David J Irwin
The Reverend Hugh MacKenzie

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The Rector writes

Many beautiful stories have grown up around the Epiphany. The fact that three gifts were presented to Jesus has led to the idea that there must have been three mysterious visitors, and a sort of early political correctness has identified them as coming from different continents – Africa, Asia and Europe. Some legends have gone further and named the Wise Men and explored their subsequent histories. According to one tradition going back to the 12th century their remains are preserved in Cologne Cathedral and an obituary there says: *“Having undergone many trials and fatigues for the Gospel, the three Wise Men met at Sebaste in Armenia in AD 54 to celebrate the feast of Christmas. Thereupon, after the celebration of Mass they died: Saint Melchior on January 1st aged 116, Saint Balthasar on January 6th aged 112, and Saint Gaspar on January 11th aged 109”*.

It is important, though, that we do not get so hung up on the details that we miss the point of what is happening. The Epiphany is a major celebration of the Christian calendar – truly a holy day – not because of the ethnic diversity of the Magi, or the symbolism of the gifts they carried with them, or what happened to them subsequently, whatever their number – but simply because, whoever they were, or whatever their background, they found their way to the manger. *“On Epiphany humanity finds that God really can be found by humankind”* (Aidan Nichols OP)

The point of these particular visitors to the Infant Christ is that, unlike those who have already come to kneel and adore, these new worshippers were not people formed in the traditions of the Old Testament – they are Gentiles, strangers, people from outside the ancient Covenant, people like ourselves. Their arrival demonstrates that Christ is born, not just to fulfil the promises made to one particular nation. The Incarnation is a truly catholic event, embracing everyone and excluding no-one. *“In the three Magi let all the nations worship the Author of the universe; and let God be known, not in Judaea alone but throughout the whole world”* (Saint Leo the great)

As Melchior, Balthasar and Gaspar (or whoever they may have been) push open the stable door they allow the light to shine out from within – a light which is intended to illuminate the rest of the world. Saint Maximus of Turin offers this thought: *“The mother cherishes her offspring on her soft lap; the Father attends on the Son with*

affectionate witness. The mother presents him to the Magi for adoration: the Father manifests him to the nations for worship.

In a very real sense, the Epiphany of Jesus is the birthday of the Church. From this moment on, Christianity is inclusive, dedicated to breaking down the barriers which separate human beings from one another. Through Baptism, we are part of a universal reality which sees difference as enrichment and not as a cause for further fracture. The complexities of culture, gender, race, ethnicity, education or ability somehow find their resolution within the single Body. The gifts of one are for all – the experience of the whole is there to be drawn upon by the individual. And all this begins in those mysterious figures following a star and allowing it to lead them to Christ. *“Come, come, come to the manger; children come to the children’s King. Sing, sing, chorus of angels, stars of morning o’er Bethlehem sing”*.

Christopher Colven

NOTICES

The priests who serve the parish send you their best wishes for the New Year. They are grateful for all your kindness to them in the Christmas season – your greetings and gifts have been much appreciated.

Crib offerings are again being given to the Westminster Catholic Children’s Society which does so much to support vulnerable children and their families. There is a marked slot near the main door for your donations. The amount given thus far is **£765**

On Saturday (12th January) to mark the close of the Christmas period, there will be an ***Epiphany Carol Service*** with Solemn Benediction at 4.30pm. This will be followed by a drinks and canapes party in the Rectory. Tickets for the party will be on sale at £10 per person in the social centre each Sunday after the 10.30am Mass until 6th January. For further details call Lisa Proctor on 07740 7984.

Prayer for Divine Assistance

We beg you, Lord, to help and defend us. Deliver the oppressed, pity the insignificant, raise the fallen, show yourself to the needy, heal the sick, bring back those of your people who have gone astray, feed the hungry, lift up the weak, take off the prisoners chains. May every nation come to know that you alone are God, that Jesus Christ is your Child, that we are your people, the sheep that you pasture. **Amen.**