

WELCOME TO THE
PARISH OF ST MARY IMMACULATE & THE HOLY ARCHANGELS KELVEDON
ST. BERNARD COGGESHALL & ST JOHN HOUGHTON TIPTREE
(Twinned with St Joseph's Mission, Besters, KwaZulu-Natal)

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

7th January 2018

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

*We saw his star and have come
to do the king homage*

First Reading
Responsorial Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel

Is 60:1-6
Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13
Eph 3:2-3. 5-6
Mt 2:1-12



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD: The earliest reference to Epiphany as a Christian feast was in A.D. 361, by Ammianus Marcellinus. The word 'Epiphany' means 'showing forth', but the 'showing forth' of the Son of God is quite unlike the manifestations of God's power to Moses in the Old Testament. It is more like a game of 'hide and seek'. Herod wants to find the Lord for reasons of his own and cannot. The wise men come from afar to seek him, and must follow a mysterious star. When they find him there is nothing spectacular about the baby. They must make an act of faith that this is the right child and demonstrate this by presenting their gifts. God has shown himself – but only to those with eyes of faith. From now on we will hear how the Lord manifests himself through his public ministry but again Jesus does not compel belief by signs and wonders. Even his miracles are done for the benefit of individuals, not as crowd-pullers. God shows himself to us in ways that leave unanswered questions so that we may respond with faith. Epiphany, though, is not just about the Magi. It celebrates in a general way the manifestation of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, including the commemoration of his birth; the visit of the Magi; all of Jesus' childhood events, up to and including his baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist; and even the miracle at the wedding at Cana in Galilee. In the Eastern Churches the emphasis is mainly on the baptism with the blessing of fonts and outdoor areas of water. In the West these elements became the theme of the Octave (13th January) with 6th focusing on the Magi. Now the Baptism of Christ is kept as a separate Feast on the Sunday after the Epiphany or the Monday when Epiphany is kept on the Sunday. After this the calendar returns to 'Ordinary Time' - the setting out in order the events of his life and ministry – this year from St Mark's Gospel.

PRAYER NEEDS: Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially *Sean O'Leary, Rona Roberts, Ann Ross, Rosemary Tuite, Michelle Bryant, Samantha Upton, Margaret Britain, Paul Britain, Vanessa Dann, Mrs Van Stolk Senior, Denis Wood, Hayley Hetzel, Julie Trueman, Deborah Lee, Bill Sullivan, Pam Loath, Karen Kelly, Sheila Faulkner, Mike Gibson, Donovan Bushing, Rebecca Dillon, Brian Harper, Anne Entwistle, Audrey Hopwood* and any unknown to us.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember *Pat Brady, Richard Bowen, Arthur Waite, Sr. Mary Jude OP, Susan Kiff, Joan Moran, Margaret Whitty, Stella Bushell, Canon Francis Dobson* and *Richard Baldock* whose anniversaries occur at this time.

SPUC WHITE FLOWER COLLECTION: The annual collection to support the work of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child will be taken up after Mass this weekend. Cards and stickers are available at the back of the Church.

ANGELINA BARBER RIP: Angelina died on Christmas morning after a long battle with cancer. Her funeral will take place at **St Mary's, Tollesbury** on **Friday 12th** at **12.00 noon**. RIP.

FINANCE: Offertory collection for **Sunday 24th December - £888.26** and **Sunday 31st December - £612.85**.