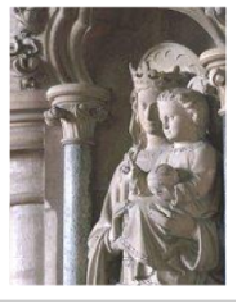


THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (i)

THE POSITION of the Gospel according to Matthew as the first of the four gospels in the New Testament reflects both the view that it was the first to be written, a view that goes back to the late second century A.D., and the esteem in which it was held by the church; no other was so frequently quoted in the non-canonical literature of earliest Christianity. Although the majority of scholars now reject the opinion about the time of its composition, the high estimation of this work remains. The reason for that becomes clear upon study of the way in which Matthew presents his story of Jesus, the demands of Christian discipleship, and the breaking-in of the new and final age through the ministry but particularly through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The gospel begins with a narrative prologue (Mt 1:1–2:23), the first part of which is a genealogy of Jesus starting with Abraham, the father of Israel (Mt 1:1–17). Yet at the beginning of that genealogy Jesus is designated as “the son of David, the son of Abraham” (Mt 1:1). The kingly ancestor who lived about a thousand years after Abraham is named first, for this is the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the royal anointed one (Mt 1:16). In the first of the episodes of the infancy narrative that follow the genealogy, the mystery of Jesus’ person is declared. He is conceived of a virgin by the power of the Spirit of God (Mt 1:18–25). The first of the gospel’s fulfilment citations, whose purpose it is to show that he was the one to whom the prophecies of Israel were pointing, occurs here (Mt 1:23): he shall be named Emmanuel, for in him God is with us.

The announcement of the birth of this new-born king of the Jews greatly troubles not only King Herod but all Jerusalem (Mt 2:1–3), yet the Gentile magi are overjoyed to find him and offer him their homage and their gifts (Mt 2:10–11). Thus his ultimate rejection by the mass of his own people and his acceptance by the Gentile nations is foreshadowed. He must be taken to Egypt to escape the murderous plan of Herod. By his sojourn there and his subsequent return after the king’s death he relives the Exodus experience of Israel. The words of the Lord spoken through the prophet Hosea, “Out of Egypt I called my son,” are fulfilled in him (Mt 2:15); if Israel was God’s son, Jesus is so in a way far surpassing the dignity of that nation, as his marvellous birth and the unfolding of his story show (see Mt 3:17; 4:1–11; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16; 27:54). Back in the land of Israel, he must be taken to Nazareth in Galilee because of the danger to his life in Judea, where Herod’s son Archelaus is now ruling (Mt 2:22–23). The sufferings of Jesus in the infancy narrative anticipate those of his passion, and if his life is spared in spite of the dangers, it is because his destiny is finally to give it on the cross as “a ransom for many” (20:28). Thus the word of the angel will be fulfilled, “...he will save his people from their sins” (Mt 1:21; cf. Mt 26:28).



St Edmund Campion Deanery, Old Berkshire-
Thames ISIS Pastoral Area

www.thamesisis.org.uk

EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH

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aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sunday 8th January	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD [WHITE] Sung Mass: 9.30am St Mary’s, East Hendred <i>FM Charles Eyston 1917</i> Mass: 11.15am St Patrick’s, East Ilsley <i>Pro populo</i> Baptism: 12.30pm St Mary’s, East Hendred
Monday 9th January	The Baptism of the Lord [white] Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s <i>Private Intention</i>
Tuesday 10th January	Weekday Lectionary: Year 1; Divine Office Week 1 [green] <i>Feria</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s <i>FM Rachel Hunt 1884</i>
Wednesday 11th January	<i>Feria</i> [green] Adoration: 11.45am St Mary’s Mass: 12.15pm St Mary’s <i>FM Cecilia Hunt 1884</i>
Thursday 12th January	<i>St Ælred, Abbot</i> [white] Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s <i>FM Thomas Hunt 1884</i>
Friday 13th January	<i>St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church</i> [white] Mass: 8.30am Hendred House <i>Holy Souls</i> <i>Adoration: 3pm at Hendred House</i>
Saturday 14th January	<i>Our Lady St Mary on Saturday</i> [white] <i>No Mass at St Mary’s. 9.30am Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot</i>
Sunday 15th January	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [GREEN] Sung Mass: 9.30am St Mary’s, East Hendred <i>Pro populo</i> Mass: 11.15am St Patrick’s, East Ilsley <i>Pro populo</i> Baptism: 12.30pm St Mary’s, East Hendred

Confessions: Sunday 8.45am or by appointment

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

FORMATION FOR MISSION - NEW COURSE WEBINAR

A webinar is an online meeting to which anyone can register and participate through the internet. You need to have a good internet connection in order to participate. You can log on to our webinars from your computer, tablet or phone, wherever you are. Starting on **11th January 2017**, we offer a weekly 'Wednesday Gospel Webinar'. These will take place every Wednesday from 7 to 8 pm. Please register through the link in the diocese website under "Webinar".

MUMS ON THE RUN

The next meeting is on **Monday 16th January at 8.00pm** in the Holy Family Room. If you are a mum raising children, who would like a bit of time to chat and reflect with other mothers, please come along to these meetings. Contact Gillian Groeger for more information gilliangroeger@hotmail.com

GATHERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Our next two meetings are at 7.30pm on Tuesdays, **February 7th** and **March 7th** in the parish rooms. At our February meeting we will be using the gospel of Luke, chapter 24, - the last chapter - to read, discuss and pray together. All welcome.

DIOCESAN INTENTIONS - PLEASE PRAY FOR

Archbishop Cornelius and the clergy and people of our twin diocese of Bamenda following recent outbreak of violence and unrest and the City of Bamenda and for all who have been killed or injured.

Peace in the world and for those who govern the nations that they may do so wisely and justly.

All those suffering in the world through hunger and disease and natural disaster.

For Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious Life and for all currently discerning their vocation. Sick clergy and lay faithful of the Diocese.

All the faithful departed, for deceased clergy and people of the Diocese, for those recently departed, especially as a result warfare, violence, terrorism and persecution.

The work of all Evangelisation Strategy Teams across our Diocese.

The success of the Convocation of Clergy to be held next Summer.

All the faithful of the Diocese that they may share their time and talents for the good of the Church and discern how God is calling them in a particular way to be more intentional disciples.

FUTURE COLLECTIONS

Sunday 12th February: Catholic Education Service

Sunday 26th March: Clergy Assistance Fund



NEWSLETTER | Please send all notices for next week's Newsletter to Maria at hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by **Wednesday 10 am**



BAPTISM AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

We remember in our prayers those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

We remember in our prayers *Kathleen Doyle, Sr Catherine, Diana Tuson, Mary Wallace, Des McNicol, Brenda Paddon, Alfie Bartlam and Jenny Ayres.* Names remain for four weeks. Please request further inclusion.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

We remember in our prayers those who have died recently and those with anniversaries at this time: *Fr Bob Jennings, John O'Hara, Harriet Champ, Robert Purcell, Helen Horgan, Alice Harper, Margaret Mary Dubig, Charlotte Hunt and Joseph Anns.*

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES WITH BISHOP PHILIP

Why not consider joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage with Bishop Philip in August 2017? It will be from **Friday 18th to Friday 25th August 2017**. If you would like more information, please contact Fr John Cooke or Mrs Clare Ryan on 01489 572797 or email parkgate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would ever like prayer for your own intention, for your parish or for any need, do go to the home page of the diocese website, scroll down to the "prayer request" button, where you can leave an anonymous request which will go to 40 intercessors throughout the diocese.

ARE YOU NEW TO OUR PARISH?

First of all a warm welcome! If you have recently joined our parish, please complete the registration form (yellow or green sheets at the back of the church). The information you provide is strictly confidential and is of great help for Fr Andrew's ministry.

CAFOD AND AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

During 2017 we will restrict our corporate giving to CAFOD to the two fast days, Lent and Autumn. In addition to this vital work of feeding the hungry and tackling poverty, we shall be supporting Aid to the Church in Need, whose work includes helping the beleaguered Christian community in the Middle East. More details as to how we shall support Aid to the Church in Need will be announced.

ST AMAND'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Do you have a child starting primary school in September 2017? Your local Catholic Primary School, in East Hendred village, would love to welcome you for an Open Visit. The recent 2016 OFSTED judged the school to be GOOD with Outstanding for children's behaviour and safety. St Amand's School offers an early morning Breakfast Club and after school club providing care from 8am-5.30pm if needed. Please make an appointment at 01235 833342 or email office.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk