

Mass Text for The Epiphany of the Lord

Entrance Antiphon: (Vigil Mass)

Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun.

(Mass during Day)

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Response:

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Communion Antiphon (Vigil Mass):

The brightness of God illumined the holy city of Jerusalem, and the nations will walk by its light.

(Mass during Day)

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

MASS TIMES for the coming week

SATURDAY 6th January

Vigil Masses for the Epiphany of the Lord

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-4:50pm

St John's: 5:00pm Anne-Marie Aubrier RIP

English Martyrs: Michael-Luke Jones and family's intentions (A Jones)

(Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at English Martyrs 5:50-6:20pm)

SUNDAY 7th January

The Epiphany of the Lord

English Martyrs: 9:00am Ted Fisher RIP (C Wheatley)

St John's: 11:00am Pro Populo

Mass times for the coming week

(English Martyrs is open mornings, Tuesday to Friday 9.15am-1pm, for private prayer)

MONDAY 8th January 2018

Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am

TUESDAY 9th January

St John's: 9.30am Anthony and Gina Scott (R and L Eaton)

WEDNESDAY 10th January

English Martyrs: 9.30am Daisy Stebbing's welfare (Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction)

English Martyrs: 7:30pm Extraordinary Form Latin Mass—Anthony Higgins RIP

THURSDAY 11th January

St John's: 9:30am John Bromley's Intentions (A-M Bromley)

FRIDAY 12th January

English Martyrs: 9:30am Eithne Naughton's Intentions (A Furlong)

SATURDAY 13th January

English Martyrs: 9.30am Canon Richard Hind RIP

Followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation and reciting of the rosary

Weekend Mass times as usual



**PARISHES OF
THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Didcot
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Wallingford**

www.thamesisis.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Phillip Harris, 15 Manor Crescent, Didcot OX11 7AJ
Telephone: 01235 812338
Office e-mail: didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

(Parish Office in Presbytery open Tuesday to Friday mornings for all enquiries)
Fr Phillip's e-mail: ppharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

7th January 2018
The Epiphany of the Lord

Today the child born on Christmas Day is revealed to be the long-awaited king of the Jews.

As the priests and scribes interpret the prophecies in today's Gospel, he is the ruler expected from the line of King David, whose greatness is to reach to the ends of the earth (see [Micah 5:1-3](#); [2 Samuel 5:2](#)).

Jesus is found with His mother, as David's son, Solomon, was enthroned alongside his Queen Mother (see [1 Kings 2:19](#)). And the magi come to pay Him tribute, as once kings and queens came to Solomon (see [1 Kings 10:2,25](#)).

His coming evokes promises that extend back to Israel's beginnings.

Centuries before, an evil king seeking to destroy Moses and the Israelites had summoned Balaam, who came from the East with two servants. But Balaam refused to curse Israel, and instead prophesied that a star and royal staff would arise out of Israel and be exalted above all the nations (see [Numbers 22:21](#); [23:7](#); [24:7,17](#)).

This is the star the three magi follow. And like Balaam, they too, refuse to be tangled in an evil king's scheme. Their pilgrimage is a sign—that the prophecies in today's First Reading and Psalm are being fulfilled. They come from afar, guided by God's light, bearing the wealth of nations, to praise Israel's God.

We celebrate today our own entrance into the family of God, and the fulfillment of God's plan that all nations be united with Israel as co-heirs to His Fatherly blessings, as Paul reveals in today's Epistle.

We too, must be guided by the root of David, the bright morning star (see [Revelation 22:16](#)), and the light of the world (see [Isaiah 42:6](#); [John 8:12](#)).

As the magi adored Him in the manger, let us renew our vow to serve Him, placing our gifts—our intentions and talents—on the altar in this Eucharist. We must offer to Him our very lives in thanksgiving. No lesser gift will suffice for this newborn King.

Scott Hahn



In your prayers, please remember:

Jenny Evans, Amanda Gender, Christopher Almeida, Anna Pearce, Mary Guinan, Maureen Logan, Mary McCrystal, Margaret Goldsworthy, Sophia Farmer, Janina Krokowska, Ann Tomline, Terry Appleyard, Val Claridge, Joan Russell, Audrey Edwards, Martin Connolly, Rosa Maria Santos and all the sick and housebound of the parish.

The personal project is a course aimed at men and women aged 22-33. It is designed to help young people as they enter into adulthood to reassess key aspects of their lives in order to make better decisions which will allow them to lead more fulfilling lives and grow as individuals. The course is due to start in the new year at a cost of £60 per person.

The course uses case-study methodology where participants are invited to examine and discuss case studies describing key challenges faced by young people in their situation. The case studies cover a range of important aspects from Friendship and Work to Affective Life and Emotional Intelligence as well as Freedom and Responsibility. The goal is for participants to see elements of themselves reflected in these case studies, and by exploring them with others, arrive at a better understanding of how to make better choices in each of the topics addressed.

The course is organised by the Federation for Family Development whose mission it is to provide families with the means and support to ensure that they raise their children in the best possible way, enriching their lives and providing a solid grounding to enable them to lead happy and meaningful lives. This is one of the key goals of the Personal Project course, by equipping young people to make the right choices which will allow them to create loving and united families. The FFD is an organisation which espouses and promotes Christian values, and traces its origins in Catholic Social Teaching.

Further information is on the noticeboard. www.personalproject.london

ADORE (Alton Day Of REnewal) – Saturday 27th January 11.00-4.00

You are warmly welcome to a mini-retreat day (or morning/afternoon) of spiritual refreshment and renewal, focussing on Renewal and Mission. At Alton School, Anstey Lane, Alton GU34 2NG. 11.00am *Rosary*; 11.30am *Mass*; 12.15 *Adoration* of the Blessed Sacrament; 1.00pm Shared lunch; 2.00pm *Praise & Worship*; 2.30 *Talk* “The Good News of Jesus Christ” by Charles Whitehead; 3.30 *Prayer for healing*. We end about 4pm.

There is no need to register in advance, and no charge (though a collection will be taken to cover costs). For more information and directions, see poster or website:

www.altonrenewal.com

Or telephone Deacon John Foley on 07769 251747.

Next month’s meeting is on 24th February: “The Spirit has anointed me” - guest speaker Fr Anthony Meredith

Parish Safeguarding Rep

Stefanie Harford
Tel: 07846559700

CWTA Prayer Cycle

Please pray for
The Free Church, Brightwell

Senior’s Lunch—Thursday 8th February. Please sign up on the list in the church porch at English Martyrs if you would like to attend. This month is a special Vietnamese lunch!

Interested in joining a Men’s group? A space to talk about male spirituality, and meet others with an interest in sharing their Faith. Why not come along and try it out. The group will meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at English Martyrs immediately after the Extraordinary Form Latin Mass at about 8 p.m. The first meeting will be on the 24th January, and it would be really helpful if you could let graham_urquhart@hotmail.co.uk (or 07876 242511) know if you intend on coming along. Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) - Do you know someone who wants to become a Catholic? Why not ask them if they would like to attend our RCIA course to find out more about the Catholic faith. Please email the parish office or Fr Phillip if you would like details.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th—25th January)— We will be hosting the following lunchtime sessions during this week: English Martyrs, Thursday 25th January at 12.30pm. St John’s Tuesday 23rd January at 12.30pm. All welcome.

The **Alpha Course** is starting again at St. Edmund’s Catholic Church, Abingdon on Sunday 21st January, between 6pm and 8.30pm. The evening starts with a hot supper, followed by a talk and then discussion in small groups about anything to do with the Christian faith. The course is fantastic for both those curious about the Christian faith, and those who have been Catholics for many years and want to develop their relationship with the Lord. It covers subjects such as “why did Jesus die for us”, “who is the Holy Spirit”, “how do I read the bible”. Why not come and see for the first week - you will receive a warm welcome! Please ring Clare via the parish office on 01235 520375.

On Friday 12th January, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed, and it really does save lives. **Please also pray that buffer zones around abortion centres won’t be introduced.**

WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTION? Why not help to make a difference in the fight against poverty and injustice by volunteering for CAFOD?

CAFOD, The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are currently looking for volunteers to help them in their work. There are many ways to get involved such as in local schools, in your Parish, or raising issues with your MP.. To find out more about our work please come to one of our Lent Fast Day briefings on 27th Jan from 10am to 12pm at Our Lady of Sorrows Fordingbridge, or 30th Jan from 7:15pm to 9:15pm at Sacred Heart Church Fareham, or 3rd Feb from 10:30am to 1pm at St Bede’s Church Basingstoke, or 8th Feb from 7:15pm to 9pm at English Martyrs Church Reading. For more information and to book your place please call Jo Lewry on 01252 329385 or email portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

Telephone Number for SVP

If you know of anyone in need please call
07580539765.

Last week’s Collection:

£1474

Second Collection this week:

Thank you for your donations