Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph McLoughlin

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Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Year B 6-7 January 2024

We saw the star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage.



Fr Joe would like to thank everybody who contributed to preparation for celebration of a wonderful parish Christmas.

He would also like to thank everybody for their kindness and generosity to him personally over the festive period.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

A reminder for those at the meeting before Christmas - the first for First Holy communion session preparation will be in the Cenacle on Wednesday 10th January, starting at 4.15pm and lasting for an hour.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Details of the dates for the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be announced in the near future.



FLOWERS

Thank you for your generosity in giving £497.40 to the flower fund during Advent both on the machine and in cash.

Remaining funds will be spent on weekly flowers.

WEEKLY INCOME 23-24/12/23

Contactless	$\overline{\mathfrak{L}}$	258.00	
Loose plate	$\mathfrak L$	237.49	
Candles	£	9.00	
Building Fund	$\mathfrak L$	35.00	
200 club	$\mathfrak L$	60.00	
Weekly S Orders:	$\mathfrak L$	829.00	

WEEKLY INCOME 30-31/12/23

C'less:	£	165.00
Loose plate	$\mathfrak L$	445.45
Candles	$\mathfrak L$	79.54
Weekly S Orders:	$\mathfrak L$	829.00

WELCOMING OR TAKING UP THE GIFTS AT 5.30PM **MASS**



Saturday evening Mass is looking to build a team of warm welcomers and people who bring up the bread and wine in the offertory procession.

Support and guidance will be provided. If you think you could do this occasionally, speak to Julia about when you might be available.



GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW

Thank you to those who put together the

hamper for the Grand Christmas Draw and everybody who participated.

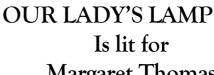
In total, £375.00 was donated and will go into the building fund.

Maria was the lucky winner.

DEC 200 CLUB WINNERS

1st Prize – R Porter 2nd Prize – P Naxton 3rd Prize – B O'Hare





Is lit for Margaret Thomas Please hold her in your prayers.

Background on the Gospel Reading

"Epiphany" means manifestation. And the "Epiphany of the Lord" is Jesus' manifestation not only to these three Magi from the East, but it's also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, traveling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him.

These Magi were "wise men" who studied the stars and were aware of the Jewish belief that a Messiah was coming. They would have been versed in much of the wisdom of the day and would have been intrigued by the Jewish belief in the Messiah.

God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore the Christ. He used a star. They understood the stars and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem they realized that something special was happening. So the first lesson we take from this for our own lives is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the "star" that God is using to call you. It's closer than you may think.

A second thing to note is that the Magi fell prostrate before the Christ Child. They laid their lives down before Him in complete surrender and adoration. They set a perfect example for us. If these astrologers from a foreign land could come and adore Christ in such a profound way, we must do the same. Perhaps you could try literally lying down prostrate in prayer this day, in imitation of the Magi, or at least do so in your heart through prayer. Adore Him with a complete surrender of your life.

Lastly, the Magi bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These three gifts, presented to our Lord, show that they acknowledged this Child as the Divine King who would die to save us from sin. Gold is for a King, frankincense is a burnt offering to God, and myrrh is used for one who would die. Thus, their adoration is grounded in the truths of who this Child is. If we are to adore Christ properly, we must also honour Him in this threefold way.

Reflect, today, upon these Magi and see them as a symbol of what you are called to do. You are called from the foreign place of this world to seek out the Messiah. What is God using to call you to Himself? When you discover Him, do not hesitate to acknowledge the full truth of who He is, lying prostrate before Him in complete and humble submission.

Mass intentions for First Week in Ordinary Time

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Year B

Saturday Sunday	6 th January 7 th January	5.30pm 10.00am	People of the parish Private intention
Monday Feast of the Bat	8 th January otism of the Lord	9.15am	Roland Williams RIP
Tuesday Tuesday of the f	9 th January first week in Ordinary Time	No Mass	
Wednesday Wednesday of ti	10 th January he first week in Ordinary Ti	6.30pm me	Int of Martin & Geraldine Baxter
Thursday Thursday of the	11 th January first week in Ordinary Time	9.15am e	Private intention
Friday Memorial of St	12 th January Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot	9.15am [school Mass]	Private intention
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time			Year B



Saturday

Sunday

13th January

14th January

The rosary is prayed before Saturday evening Mass. Everybody is welcome, come down to the space in front of the Shrine.

5.30pm

10.00am

12 noon

People of the parish

Baptism

Zygmunt Powiecki RIP

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Julia Feeney**. They can be contacted at: sg.ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.