

Reflection—

We imagine ourselves in the presence of baby Jesus and Mary and Joseph. We are surprised to see men of eastern appearance come. They see baby Jesus and fall on their knees. They offer him homage and give him presents of gold, frankincense and myrrh; gold because Jesus is king, frankincense since Jesus is divine and myrrh prefiguring his Passion.

They tell us about the star and about Herod who knew nothing about Jesus' birth. After their stay they set out on their return journey eastwards, but not via Jerusalem, since they want to avoid Herod. After their departure we spend time with baby Jesus. Baby Jesus, we do not have gold, frankincense and myrrh to give you but we can give you our love. Let our love be your manger. For a moment now let us love baby Jesus.....

Baby Jesus, even while you were only a little baby you experienced both acceptance from the wise men and rejection from Herod. The wise men and Herod had two opposing attitudes, searching for God and being closed to God. Baby Jesus, we see that the wise men were blessed in their search for you by finding you. We are searching for you too, we want to come ever closer to you. Help us to draw ever closer to you and if we are closed to you like Herod, help us to open up so that we can find you. Let us ask Jesus to help us in drawing closer to him.....

The magi were blessed. They were given the guidance of a star. In the darkness of this world we have all been given help on our journey to God; the beauty of nature, the Word of God in Sacred Scripture, Spirit-filled witnessing and preaching, the faith of others and our own faith. For a moment let us thank God for giving us stars to lead us to him.....



*We have come to worship him.
Matthew 2:2*



SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SATURDAY 4th January

Vigil Mass 4.00 pm

SUNDAY 5th January

Saturday	4h	Solemnity of	Vigil Mass 4 pm Parishioners
Sunday	5th	the Epiphany of the Lord	Mass 9.30 am Tony Bevin RIP
Monday	6th	Christmas Feria	NO MASS
Tuesday	7th	Christmas Feria	Mass 10 am Sick of Parish
Wednesday	8th	Christmas Feria	NO MASS
Thursday	9th	Christmas Feria	Mass 10 am Private Intention
Friday	10th	Christmas Feria	Mass 10 am The unemployed
Saturday	11th	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	Vigil Mass 4 pm

Next Week : THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD:

Saturday 11th January 2020 Vigil Mass 4 pm

and Sunday 12th January Mass at 9.30am



MASS ATTENDANCE IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2019

30/1	88	7/8	112
14/15	99	21/22	114
24/25	241	28/29	78

MEN'S BREAKFAST ON MONDAY A.M. & LADIES AFTERNOON TEA ON MONDAY P.M.



ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Owen Street, Atherstone
Warwickshire, CV9 1DG
Parish Priest: Fr. Paul R. Lomas
E mail: Stbenedict.atherstone@rcaob.org.uk
Tel No: 01827 736286
www.saintbenedictsratherstone.com



Archdiocese of Birmingham is a Registered Charity 234216

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION :

Fr. Paul will be in the confessional on Saturday 4th January 11.30-12noon and **between 3.30 and 3.50pm** before the Vigil Mass. **OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT.**



EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION ON FRIDAYS EACH WEEK.

After Mass on Friday morning the Blessed Sacrament will be Exposed on the Altar for adoration, prayer & reflection. Benediction at 11.15am

It was well supported in Advent we will see if people wish to continue.

Take this time to be before the Lord in his Blessed Sacrament.

NEXT PARISH MEETING IN HALL ON SUNDAY 12TH. JANUARY AFTER THE MASS. WHY NOT JOIN IN WITH THE ORGANISATION OF YOUR PARISH?

The beauty of our Church shows what we are capable of together. We all played our part in making St. Benedict's look ready to welcome our Lord at his Nativity. The Church was deep cleaned the week before, the tree and church were decorated ready for Christmas Eve, The flowers were festive and colourful. The crib was erected and decorated and looked splendid. The readers, servers and Eucharistic Ministers all played their part in making our Christmas Celebrations special. Thank you to all concerned. This is what we can achieve when we all play our part and work together.

Together we can make 2020 a wonderful year. May we all have 2020 Vison as we begin another year together .



As Twelfth night comes nearer what are we going to do with our Christmas cards as we take them down?

Obviously recycle them but why not bring them to St. Benedict's so that the Chintowa Charity can use them to make cards for next Christmas?

Fr. Paul and Andrea are giving their cards to Margaret so they can be re-used. Please bring your cards and we will make sure they are used again.

Welcome to St. Benedict's as we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord.



PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

May the Communion we share today with the members of our parish family who are at home or in hospital, remind us to live for one another and give them a sense of belonging to our family and to this celebration.

Please don't forget to hand in your Mass requests in an envelope with the name and date on and with your donation inside. Fr. Paul has no outstanding Masses.

What is Epiphany? Forget Brexit, the one thing guaranteed to elicit the strongest opinions during the first week of January is the debate over which day to take down your Christmas tree and decorations. Is it Sunday 5 January, or Monday 6 January? One thing's for sure - everyone does it differently, and everyone has their own ideas. In Britain, tradition has it that Christmas decorations stay up until **Twelfth Night**. And this is where the confusion lies. Twelfth Night is a festival in some branches of Christianity which marks the beginning of Epiphany. A count of exactly 12 days from 25 December arrives at 5 January. According to the Church of England, this day is Twelfth Night. The day of Epiphany – when the three wise men came – is the day after, on 6 January.

Not everyone agrees however. Many other Christian groups count the 12 days of Christmas as starting the day *after* Christmas Day – making 6 January the Twelfth Night. Countries which also follow the January 6 tradition include Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. „Festivities for the ancient Christian feast day vary around the world, from swimming in icy waters to exchanging presents, fireworks and parades. In many countries the day is a public holiday. In the Spanish speaking world, Epiphany is known as Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings' Day). In Mexico, crowds gather to taste the Rosca de Reyes - Kings' bread. In other countries, a Jesus figurine is hidden in the bread.

As recently as the 1950s, Twelfth Night in Britain was a night for wassailing. Wassailers, like carol singers, go from house to house singing and wishing their neighbours good health. The Drury Lane Theatre in London has had a tradition since 1795 of providing a Twelfth Night cake. The will of Robert Baddeley made a bequest of £100 to provide cake and punch every year for the company in residence at the theatre on 6 January. The tradition still continues.