

3rd January, 2021

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM
Epiphany of Our Lord

This Week: Divine office - Psalter Week 2

Mon: 9.30am Mass (1 John 3 v22-4v6; Matt 4 v12-17, 23-25)

Int:Ministry of Healing

Tues: 9.30am Mass (1 John 4 v7-10; Mark 6 v34-44)

Int: Christian Aid

Wed: 9.30am Mass (1 John 4 v11-18; Mark 6 v 45-52)

Int: All imprisoned in fear

Thurs: 9.30am Mass (1 John 4 v19-5v4; Luke 4 v 14-22)

Int: The homeless

Fri: 9.30am Mass (1 John 5 v5-13; Luke 5 v12-16)

Int: The Sick

Sat: 2.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)

3.00pm 1st Mass of Sunday Int: Farmers/agricultural workers

Next Sunday : BAPTISM OF OUR LORD Plough Sunday

9.30am Parish Mass and Blessing of Crib offerings

Is.42v.1-4,6-7. Acts 10v.34-38. Mark 1v.7-11

Notices:

1.Christmass tide ends next Sunday. Crib and decorations remain until Mass is over.

2. Crib appeal for St. Martin's Norwich and Christian Aid conclude next Sunday.

3. There is a list in church for endowing our Shrines that are kept lit during daylight hours

4. Blessing of House with Chalk: The three wise men Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar followed the star of God's Son who became man 2021 years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us through the new year.

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Theme : Today we celebrate the fact that the birth of Christ brings the Light of God's revelation to all peoples of the earth. We are all called to discover the presence of God.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, when we have not acknowledged you as the Star which lights up our way. Lord have mercy.

People : **LORD HAVE MERCY**

Celebrant : Forgive us, Lord, for failing to acknowledge you as truly Son of God and Son of Mary. Christ have mercy.

People : **CHRIST HAVE MERCY**

Celebrant : Forgive us, Lord, when we have not offered you our talents and our lives. Lord have mercy.

People : **LORD HAVE MERCY**

Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness

GLORIA

OPENING PRAYER : Let us pray that we will be guided by the light of faith. Father you revealed your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Lead us to your glory in heaven by the light of faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

1st Reading: Isaiah 60 v 1-6. This reading contains the great promise that one day God's dwelling among His chosen people would bring a great in-gathering from among all the nations of the earth.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:- Psalm 71

© All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God give your judgement to the king, To a king's son your justice,
That he may judge your people in justice And your poor in right judgement

Ⓜ **All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.**

In his days justice shall flourish And peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from the sea, From the Great River to earth's bounds. Ⓜ

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts Shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba Shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, All nations shall serve him. Ⓜ

For he shall save the poor when they cry And the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak And save the lives of the poor. Ⓜ

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3 v 2-3a & 5-6. Here we have the vision that all barriers between the peoples of the earth are overcome since they all share the same promise in the body of Christ.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

ALL: Alleluia! alleluia! We saw His star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 2 v 1-12. Matthew tell us the story of how the wise men from the East followed their star and found God.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant : Today we celebrate the revelation of the Son of God to the whole world. Let us pray that people everywhere will come to recognize Him.

Reader: Let us pray for all travellers: may God guide and protect them on their way.

Let us pray for ourselves as we journey towards God: may we be open to His word and have the courage to follow where He directs us.

Let us pray for all who are called to leadership in our local community, at national or international level. May those who lead others have the wisdom to value each person as God values them.

Let us pray for all Christians involved in the study of natural sciences. As they grow in knowledge of the universe may they grow in wonder at God who creates it.

Gold, frankincense and myrrh were the gifts of the wise men. Let us pray that we may offer God the gift of our daily lives and work.

Let us pray for kings and queens and all who rule over nations, that they may be guided by the Star who is King of kings. We pray especially for Elizabeth our Queen.

Let us pray for those who begin this year in sadness because of sickness or bereavement. May they come to know the peace of Christ in their hearts; especially Michael Denny, Billy Carter, Margaret Carter and all prayed for at Shrine prayers

King of Heaven, hope of all who trust in you; give to the departed the wonders of your salvation especially: Fr Brian Lay, Edward Knock, Bertie Taylor, Fr. Bruce Murray, Ruth Hardy, Robert Thorpe, Chester Smith, Thelma Thorpe, William Fletcher, Fr. Charles Searr, Muriel Jones, William Webb, Reginald Jackaman, Lorna Giles, Eva Jackaman, Frank Ward whose anniversaries of death fall this week.

Let us ask Mary, the Mother of Jesus, to pray for us: **Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen**

SILENCE

All: **God our Father, we thank you for the guidance you give us. May the worship we give you be not only in words but in generous use of all the gifts that you have given us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SANCTUS: Lord's Prayer

AGNUS DEI:

Post Communion Prayer and Angelus