

4TH JANUARY 2015 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.



In the East, this Season of Christmas is called the Time of Manifestation, or Showing. Today is the Feast of the Manifestation, or the Showing of the Saviour to the whole world, to all nations. In the wise men who travel from the East, we see all the nations other than the people of Israel being welcomed at the New Temple of the New Covenant - the new born child in the manger. A look at the Psalm response shows this: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord. The same is true of the key word in the second reading: Revelation. Remember that for the people of Israel this was to be their Messiah, come to restore their fortunes. By this feast, we proclaim God's plan was to extend his salvation to men and women of every nation, of every time and every place - including us. In many ways this is our Christmas Feast, when we celebrate the Good News of the Saviour's birth revealed at last to us.

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle B Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 2</i> Sunday Missal: page 166 Preface: page 37		Prayers Please
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children's Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) - with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - with Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SB)	<p>Sick: Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Tony Winstanley, Eunice Brierley, Cecilia Guest, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Maureen Kennedy, Joan Pearce, Peter Cranmer, Anthony Axford, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Mary Long, Dylan Crosby, Pat Hall, Linda Southern, Mary Joan Tornai, Bernard Neyland, Rosemary Davies, Rita Brooks and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Emma Turner, Josephine Hodgson, Kathleen Hopwood, Mary Elisabeth Koab, Paul Cunliffe, Teresa Coughlan, Margaret Airey, Austie Heffernan, Fr Peter Knowles</p> <p>Anniversaries: Eileen Mason, Bernadette Croft, Thomas Gaskell, Roy Connolly, Sheila Smith, Eileen Croft, Marian Kosecki</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Joyce Knight, Rosemary Davies, Deceased members of the Royle & Kilcoyne families, Pat Allen, Virginia Dias, To the Holy Family for the Harris & Smith families, David Edward Walton (Birthday Remembrance), Eileen Mason, Emma Turner, Josephine Hodgson, Bernadette Croft, Sarah Cranshaw, George Cranshaw, Annie Gaskell, Thomas Gaskell, Roy Connolly, In memory of Mark & Norah Maher, Alan & Marie Brooks and Cath Roxburgh, Special Intention, Sheila Smith, Kathleen Hopwood, Smith family, Deceased members of the Cambridge & Carter families, Mary Elisabeth Koab, Eileen Wakes, The Blackburn family, The Dunleavy family, Eileen Croft, Paul Cunliffe, Teresa Coughlan, Rosemary Perry (seriously ill), Margaret Airey, Austie Heffernan, Marian Kosecki, For the intercession of St Peregrine, Barbara Grimes</p>
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	9.15am School Mass in Church (SC) 7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Thursday	10am Requiem Mass for Mark Taylor (SB) 7.30pm CAFOD Meeting (Patmos Room)	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday	10.30am-12noon Baptism Preparation (Patmos Room) 2pm Baptism (SJ) 5pm Mass (SC) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children's Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) - with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - with Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SJ)	
<i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>		

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL – FROM THE PARISH CLERGY & FROM BISHOP JOHN

Parish Priest and Rural Dean: Rev Canon Michael Cooke

Assistant Priests: Rev Joseph Gee & Rev Francis Parkinson

Parish Office: St John's Presbytery, The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9JP

Tel: 01204 301927 E-mail: office@sbsj.org.uk Website: www.sbsj.org.uk

Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity – 250037 Diocesan website: www.salforddiocese.net

Congratulations: To Harvey Jack Johnson who was baptised at St John's on Saturday 20 December and to James Aidan Michael Kearns who was baptised at St Brendan's last Sunday. We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

Go Christmas Crackers: Thank you to all who organised, supported and took part in the afternoon of folk music and festive fun last Sunday. It was most enjoyable!

Thank You: To all who sent us cards, gave us gifts or wished us well for Christmas. *Frs Cooke, Gee & Parkinson*

Think Vocation

The Wise Men travelled far in order to bear witness to Christ as the Saviour of the whole world. Our basic vocation, through baptism, is to make Christ known in the world around us. Some have a more specific vocation but each one of us, at the end of Mass, is invited to manifest Christ as we "Go and announce the gospel of the Lord."

Marriage Matters

(www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

At this joyful time of the year, let us look with delight at one another, remembering that we have each been entrusted, by God, with the grace he meant for each other when we got married. God's gift has made us one body and the gift of our children is this grace made flesh bringing joy into our hearts.

CAMEO: Thank you to all who supported CAMEO in 2014 and a Happy New Year to all. Our first event of 2015 is on Wednesday 14th January (1pm - 3pm) in St Brendan's Harbour Room: *After Christmas Fun and Games*. Join us for a fun afternoon of games and a chat. Please bring a wrapped gift to the value of £1. All will be made clear on the day as we blow away post Christmas blues. Our second event will be on Wednesday 11th Feb: Peter Watson on "the origin of surnames". A very interesting speaker.

Holocaust Memorial Concert: St Osmund's Church, Long Lane, Bolton on Sunday 25 January at 7.30pm. Bolton's Brixii Singers are commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day by performing Donald McCullough's Holocaust Cantata, a work in 13 short movements based on research of original music sung by incarcerated inmates in Holocaust concentration camps. What emerges from the insanity of one of history's worst examples of man's inhumanity to man is a sense of music's life-affirming powers. The work is in 13 movements that alternate between music and readings. They will also perform excerpts from *The Armed Man*, a Mass by Welsh composer Karl Jenkins, subtitled "A Mass for Peace", dedicated to victims of the Kosovo crisis. Tickets £8 on the door (Concessions £7, Under 18s Free).

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HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel House
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
BL1 7AL
01204 309609



Marriage and Family Life – Bishop John's Invitation

"As part of the work of the Synod on the family, you may know that Pope Francis has asked us to take time to reflect on marriage and family life, and our own experience. It is all too evident that both marriage and family life have been challenged and, in our generation, they have seen unprecedented breakdown. Despite its many struggles, we know that without the gift of family our society would have lost something fundamentally important and good. Marriage is such a noble vocation and family life must be strengthened and assisted, especially in times of difficulty."

"The Bishops of England and Wales have prepared some simple reflections on the Call, the Journey and the Mission of marriage and family life. I am asking that these reflections be made available to all parishes and religious communities as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. I ask you to invite your congregations and communities to read these reflections and to share your thoughts with one another, especially in your families. If you would like to share those reflections with me then I would be happy for you to write to me. I cannot promise to answer every reply but I will certainly consider what you write, and will use it as part of my submission to Cardinal Vincent Nichols and to Bishop Peter Doyle, who are to be the representatives from England and Wales at the second Synod on the family next October." (+John, Bishop of Salford)

The reflections from the Bishops' Conference are available on their website (www.catholic-ew.org.uk) and include the following questions:

- What are your joys and hopes of marriage and family life today?
- What are your struggles and fears of marriage and family life today?
- How can we better understand marriage as a vocation?
- How does your marriage enrich you?
- How does your family life enrich those around you?
- In what way, through the abiding presence of God, is your family "salt of the earth and light to the world," and a place of and for handing on our faith?

If you do not have access to the internet and would like a printed copy of the reflection material, please let one of the priests know.

Prayer: O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*