



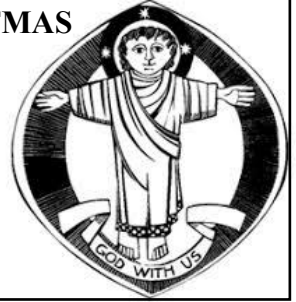
Ordinariate and Parish Church MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

*a Catholic Parish in the Archdiocese of Southwark
in the Pastoral Care of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham*



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

3rd January 2021



In the gospel reading today, we hear that God chose us in Christ. Christ, God's only Son was made flesh and lived among us so that we who believe in him might become the adopted sons of the Father. Before the world was made God chose us in Christ and for this we give thanks to the Father.

Sunday Mass will be at 9.30am & 11am. The 11am Mass will be on-line. Take part fully.

Mass times are fluid atm. We might need to re-think our regular schedule. Which is better, Sunday 8.30 or 9.30? Weekday 13.05, 12.05 or 10.00?

Sunday Mass attendance requires registration to ensure no-one is turned away if we reach capacity. Register on the website.

Daily Mass in Christmastide is at 10am.

Mass with a Congregation. Please be aware we are far from being out-of-the-water and things cannot be thought to be back to normal. Hands, face, space. They are not for you, but for others. Face coverings should include mouth *and* nose!

Do not come to Mass (this is a really odd thing to read on a Catholic newsletter!). Please take part on-line if you have Covid19 or symptoms, are in a bubble with anyone as such, or have to come by public transport. We are in this together.

Mass Stewards needed. All by self-sign-up. Open the App/select 'Menu'/My rotas/choose rota (NOT 'all rotas')/See dates (drop down menu)/ Change from 'my dates' to 'all dates'/ use + sign to 'sign up'. If you get really *really* stuck, speak to Michael.

Pray for Paddy Lynn, who died last week. His funeral will be 22nd Jan, 10am

Mention must be made with gratitude to those who set up, maintain and indeed paid for the live-stream. It's not without expense and skill, so from all who take part on-line, a huge *thank you!*

The Archbishop sent a pastoral letter last week, it's available on the website.

The Archbishop also sent a Covid19 update message yesterday, see overleaf.

Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated on the 12th night, which is Wednesday this week.

Christmastide next Sunday with the Baptism of the Lord. Help with removing decorations in Church would be appreciated. The Christmas Season ends on 2nd February.

Candle Intentions can be made from today. The list is on website. Indicate which set you would like and give an intention. /candles

Lectors, those who read at Mass, will be commissioned on *Word of God Sunday*. If you would like to be a Lector contact Leslie. Training available.

Crib Offerings are for the *Catholic Children's Society*. A QR code is by the crib for your donations or this can be done on-line.

FrC thanks all those who were kind enough to send gifts and cards for Christmas. It is very much appreciated - *thank you!*



Caspar, Balthasar, Melchior. These “three kings of Orient are” found, complete with crowns and camels, in every nativity scene. Yet if we look closely at the gospel account of the Magi, we don’t find these names. Indeed, there is no mention of how many Magi there were or that they were kings. This is a testimony to something some Bible Christians would like to deny: that all who read a text of Scripture do so in the light of some tradition, through some lens. If it is the right lens, it magnifies the text and allows us to get at its true meaning. If it is the wrong lens, we get a distorted image.

It just so happens that the lens the Catholic tradition uses to read the story flows from Scripture itself—to be precise, it flows from the connection between holy words written hundreds of years apart. But despite the many years and different human authors, the texts were inspired by the same Divine Author, the Holy Spirit. In chapter 60 of Isaiah (Is 60:1-6), it is predicted that at a time of darkness, the glory of the Lord will shine over Jerusalem. The heavenly light will be a beacon to the pagan nations and even to their kings. Here we find mention of camels whose job it will be to bring the wealth of these nations, including frankincense and gold, to the city of the Lord. Psalm 72 agrees that far off kings will bring gifts to the Son of David.

The tradition of the Church has always seen the story of the Magi as a fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy and Psalm 72. Hence the crowns and camels.

But hold on. Isaiah 60 mentions only two of the gifts mentioned by Matthew: gold, fit for a king, and frankincense, for the worship of God. So

what about the myrrh - where does that come from and what does it mean?

Myrrh, an aromatic resin, was used in preparing the dead for burial. Gold reveals that the babe in the manger is actually a king; frankincense tells us that he is God incarnate; myrrh tells us that he has come to die. That someone would redeem God’s people through suffering and death was foretold by Isaiah a few chapters earlier (Is 53). This was the really hard thing for those living in Jesus’ time to comprehend—that the same person who fulfilled all those prophecies about a glorious new king also fulfilled the prophecies about a suffering servant.

All three gifts of the Magi are necessary to convey the true revelation, the true epiphany of who this child is and what he is destined to do. That’s why for hundred’s of years we’ve sung of three kings, not two or four.

OK, so where did the names of the three come from?

The ancient feast of the Epiphany actually celebrates three events, tied together by the meaning of the word epiphany as “appearance” or “manifestation.” Jesus suddenly appears as who He really is - messiah and Go - to the Magi, at Cana when he works his first miracle, and when he is baptized in the Jordan. In the early Church, Epiphany was therefore second only to Easter vigil as the time to celebrate the sacrament of baptism. Blessed water from those baptisms were used to bless the dwellings of the faithful, and it became customary to write over the doorposts of blessed homes “C+M+B” meaning “Christ blesses this house *Christus mansion benedicat* .” Since the three kings were also remembered at the same time, someone decided to give them names, and to use CMB as their initials—Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The names stuck.

But the fact that Matthew gives them no names is telling. They may be kings, but in this story they are merely supporting actors. They follow the true Star, the King of Kings. Only His name is important. Epiphany is not about the Magi - it’s all about Jesus

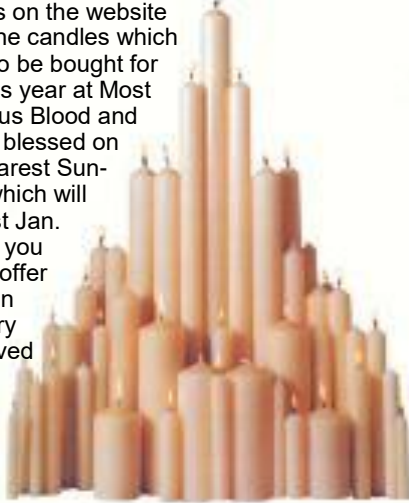
We celebrate the Epiphany on Wednesday this week.

Candlemas (2nd Feb) is the when we celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple which closes the Nativity Season. Traditionally it's the day when all candles to be used during the year in Church are blessed.

A list is on the website of all the candles which need to be bought for use this year at Most Precious Blood and will be blessed on the nearest Sunday, which will be 31st Jan.

Would you like to offer some in memory of a loved one?

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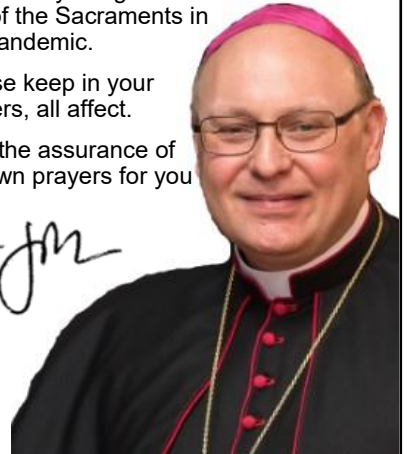
May I, first of all, wish you every blessing for the New Year and all 2021 will bring in faith, hope, and love.

We are now at a point where, across our Archdiocese, the levels of Covid 19 infection have risen significantly. A number of priests and layfolk have tested positive. This has meant the temporary closure of churches. Given all that we face, and for as long as we remain in Tier 4, each parish priest should determine the Mass schedule. Tier 4 allows places of worship to remain open so wherever possible, please enable Mass and visits for prayer, with all necessary stewarding and sanitisation measures in place. If, however, it is not possible to ensure the church buildings are properly stewarded and sanitised, or the risks are too great, priests may take whatever temporary action is judged necessary.

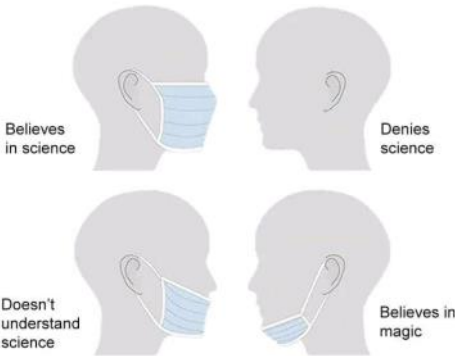
It is crucial that, if possible, churches remain open for the celebration of Mass and personal prayer. With the correct measures in place, our churches are safe places. It is, however, paramount that clergy and laity alike follow the requirements for distance, stewarding, and sanitisation, as specified in the guidance sent out previously. The instructions concerning the liturgy must also be followed in full. Failure to implement these measures is an extremely serious matter, and potentially jeopardises peoples' health. The laity have the right to the reassurance provided by the guidelines for the celebration of the Sacraments in the pandemic.

Please keep in your prayers, all affect.

With the assurance of my own prayers for you



The Four COVID Personality Types



CORONAVIRUS
is still out there



Wash
HANDS



Cover
FACE



Make
SPACE

This Week: Mass & intentions

Day	Time	Intention
This Sunday <i>Second Sunday of Christmas</i>	09.30 11.00	FrC's intention Parishioners
Mon 4th <i>of Christmastide</i>	10.00	Kathleen Cawley ✕ <i>recently</i>
Tues 5th <i>of Christmastide</i>	10.00	PEBG <i>priest</i> ✕
Wed 6th EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	10.00	
Thur 7th <i>of Christmastide</i>	10.00	DG for OOLW
Fri 8th <i>of Christmastide</i>	10.00	
Sat 9th <i>of Christmastide</i>	10.00	
Next Sunday <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	09.30 11.00	Ian Lovell <i>priest</i> ✕ Parishioners

Next Week's Readings Isiah 42:1-7 1 John 5:1-9 Mark 1:7-11

Sacrament of Confession. Mon - Fri 12.30 - 13.00 or By appointment

Evensong 4.00pm, & Benediction, 1st Sunday *on-line only*
6.00pm, Thursday *term-time on-line only*

Last week: £ -.- Standing Orders and On-line payments

Safeguarding. The parish is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Safeguarding Officers: Kate Pope, Richard Hughes, Justina Onuorah. 0800 0935063

Holy Father's Intention for January: *Human Fraternity.* May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all. .

For your prayers:

In formation: for Ministry, Br Philip OP (Jeff Gerlomes)

Those who are Sick: Mary, David, Elizabeth

See FrC is any of the sick are your friends or relatives

And for all those with Coronavirus

Coronavirus: The medical profession, doctors, nurses, first responders, support-staff, research scientists, those who make big-impact decision,

Recently Departed: Hugh Arnold, Paddy Lynn, David Moss *deacon*, Alan Boxall *deacon*, Franck O'Sullivan *priest*, Michael Gwinnell *priest*

Find us on: *Facebook:* "preciousbloodSE1" *Twitter:* @preciousblood1

YouTube: youtube.com/preciousbloodlondonbridge

Fr Christopher Pearson *OLW Parish Priest*

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