



Ordinate 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*



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7th January 2024

In the gospel reading today, we hear that Christ is revealed to all people. Wise men from the east guided by a star come to worship Christ. In them we see the homage of all the nations to Christ who is forever the light of the world. We too can become an epiphany – a revealing – of God if we lead full Christian lives.



The Epiphany of the Lord is today, when we celebrate the arrival of the Magi, the wise men, By bringing their gifts they reveal who Jesus is: the Christ who was to come.

An Epiphany Quiz - take a look at the on-line teaser, test how well you know this Feast of the Lord.

Eleven years ago today this parish was put into the Pastoral Care of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. By way of celebration come through to the Long Room after the Solemn Mass for a glass of Champagne.

Epiphany Chalk will be blessed and can be taken today to mark your homes for this new year. 20+C+M+B+24 If your home has not been blessed and you would like it to be, see FrC today to make a date.

Christmastide ends tomorrow, with the Baptism of the Lord. Although decorations can be removed tomorrow evening, if you're keen, your Crib can stay for the Christmas Season which ends at Candlesmas, 2nd Feb.

Candle Intentions can be made from today. The list is on the website. Indicate which you would like and give the intention. They prove to be very popular, so don't delay!

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

Julaine is extended a very warm welcome today. Although she has been a member of MPB with her husband for a while, today she becomes a Catholic by reception. Keep her in your prayers: may she be a faithful disciple.

Lectors, those who read and lead the universal prayers at Mass, will be commissioned next week, *Word of God Sunday*. Please let May or Leslie know today if you would like to be involved. There will be a brief meeting after Mass next week.

Thank you again to everyone who made, and is making, Christmas celebrations so special.

Cash Collections are going out of fashion! As well as the machines at the back of Church, there's a QR code on the Mass sheet which takes Apple & Android Pay (you will need to authorise your device the first time of use). We will still have the basket for those who prefer cash! Thank you for your continued generosity.

The Catholic Childrens Society is the Christmas Crib Charity again this year.

The Pastoral Council members are reminded there's an important meeting on Tuesday this week, 7pm.

Word of God Sunday -21 Jan- is when we commission Lectors. If you would like to, see May today.



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?

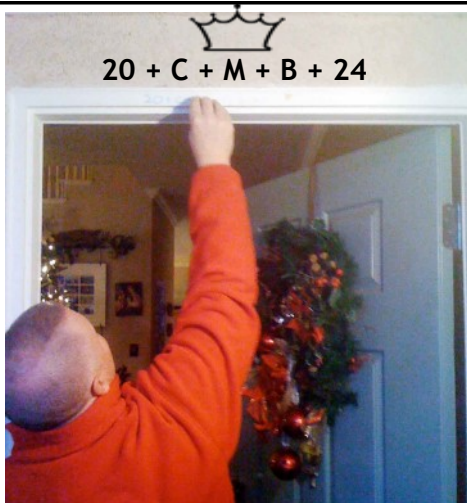
Myrrh, an aromatic resin, was used in preparing the dead for burial. Gold reveals that the babe in the manger is actually a king; frankincense tells us that is he God incarnate; myrrh tells us that he has come to die. That someone would redeem God’s people through suffering and death was foretold by 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 bendicat*.” 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



Epiphany Chalk will be available today for you to take and mark the lintel or door post of your home. It's a traditional House Blessing for the New Year. Has your home been blessed? Invite Fr Christopher to come and bless your home, if it hasn't already been blessed. Invite Christ into your home (again) this New Year.

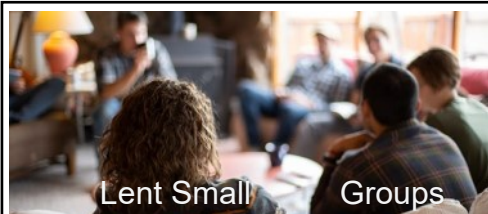


The Anniversary of MPB being in the Pastoral Care of The Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham is today, 7 January 2013

Mgr Newton invites everyone for champagne after the 11am Mass.

Southwark Marriage and Family Team,

as part of the preparation for the 2025 Jubilee year, will be running a *Building a Better Marriage Course* throughout the Archdiocese from February. A one day course is for married couples married for one year to 60 years. To help couples make their marriage better. (No group sharing and privacy guaranteed). All who attended have found it enjoyable, informative, and uplifting. More information: www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/marriage-and-family-life



Lent Small Groups

During Lent we are planning Small Groups. A weekly gathering of 6-12 people for the five weeks of Lent. Can you Host? See FrC



Votive Candle Intentions are now available for 2024. A 9-day candle burn continually, day and night, 24-7 in all the holy places at MPB. You can offer an intention for a month to be attached to that light. All the candles used at MPB during 2024 will be blessed on the nearest Sunday to Candlemas, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple - the fortieth day of Christmas - which closes the Nativity Season. Traditionally it's the day when all candles to be used during the year in Church are blessed. This year it will be 4th Feb.

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

Sign up on line.



This Week: Mass & intentions

Day	Time	Intention
This Sunday EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	09.30 11.00	Brian Gill <i>priest</i> ✕ <i>recently</i> Parishioners
<i>Mon 8th</i> Baptism of the Lord		
<i>Tue 9th feria</i>	13.05	Marcjanna & Antoni Wagrodzki ✕
<i>Wed 10th feria</i>	13.05	Alma Bird ✕ <i>funeral today</i>
<i>Thurs 11th feria</i>	13.05	Holy Souls ✕
<i>Fri 12th (St Aelred Rievaux)</i>	13.05	Ian O'Hara ✕ <i>recently</i>
<i>Sat 13th of Our Lady</i>	10.30†	The Ordinariate OLW
Next Sunday 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	09.30 11.00	Peter Peterken <i>priest</i> ✕ <i>recently</i> Parishioners

Next Week's Readings 1Samuel 3:3-10.19 1Cor 6:13-15.17-20 John 1:35-42

Sacrament of Confession. Tuesday - Friday 12.30-12.55

† **Mass in the Ordinariate Use** of the Roman Rite

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: Richard Hughes, Justina Onuorah. 03330 509296

Holy Father's Intention for January 2024: *For the gift of diversity in the Church.*

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church. .

For your prayers:

Becoming Catholic Stephen, Jules, Penelope

In priestly formation: Br Philip OP (Jeff Gerlomes), Dn Timothy Ezat

Peace: In Ukraine, in the Holy Land

Those who are Sick: Mary, Monica, Chi Chi, Anne Marie, Rita, Chris, Richard, Hermon, Alastair, Amaogechi Martina, Fr John

Recently Departed: Brian Gill *priest*, John Lungley *priest*, Arkadiusz Dawidziak, Ian O'Hara, Peter Peterken *priest*

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

YouTube: youtube.com/preciousbloodlondonbridge

Fr Christopher Pearson OLW *Parish Priest*

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