



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

THE EPIPHANY
5th Jan 2025



"A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long
journey:
The ways deep and the weather
sharp,
The very dead of winter."
And the camels galled, sore-
footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow."

*Journey of the Magi : TS Eliot
(extract)*

O Come let us adore him!

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OUR SCHOOLS

St Charles Primary Hadfield SK13 7PQ
Head : Mrs B Quirke
Tel : 852692

St Margaret's & All Saints Federation
Gamesley SK13 6HB
Head : Mrs G Beaumont
Tel : 855818

St Philip Howard Secondary
SK13 8DR
Head : Mr J Kayes
Tel : 853611/861022

DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 5th	THE EPIPHANY 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Ken Pover RIP	
Mon 6th to Sat 11th : no parish Masses		
Sun 12th	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) J&D Killeen's welfare (AH)	
Mon 13th to Thurs 16th : no parish Masses		
Fri 17th	9.30 (BB) Ellen P Storey RIP (fam)	
Sat 18th	9.30 (HAD) R&A O'Connor	
Sun 19th	Sunday II in ordinary time 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) E Hockey RIP	

THE EPIPHANY

Psalter week 2

Introduction to the Readings : We celebrate the arrival of the Magi bearing their gifts;
as we come to Mass, we offer our gifts of our worship and love.

First Reading: Is 60 : Above you, the Glory of the Lord appears.

Responsorial Psalm: *All nations shall fall prostrate before you O Lord.*

Second Reading: Eph 3 : It has now been revealed that the pagans share the same inheritance.

Gospel : Mt 2 : "We saw his star and have come to pay the new-born King homage."

Comm ant: **WE HAVE SEEN HIS STAR IN THE EAST, AND HAVE COME WITH GIFTS TO ADORE THE LORD.**



SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and

housebound in our parish: Peter James, Pauline Anderson, Isabella Phillips, Joe Singleton, Maura Farrell, Joan Killeen, Winifred Cook, Rita Dwyer, Una Wilkinson, Christine Wild, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Jean Ashton, Bro Philip Revell, Beatrice Eaton, Keith Winston.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose

anniversaries occur about this time; Revv Hugh Atkinson, Paddy Snee, Bernard Shaw, Joe Phelan, Peter Tierney; *Sister Catherine Keogh, Colleen Whittham, Kevin Cannon, Ken Pover, Florence Walton, Michael Deary, George Simpson, Margery Revell, Brian Derbyshire, Maria Fenton, Paul Farnsworth, Fr Dennis Higgins, Clare Hussell, Eileen Blomeley, Christine Clayton, Margart Dunk, May Booth, Brenda Shaw, Meg Brickell, Anne-Marie Percy: May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen*

PARISH NOTES

THIS SUNDAY Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power." With these words, the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfilment all the purposes of Advent. Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season. The feast of the Epiphany, which was kept in the East and in certain Western Churches before being observed in Rome, seems to have been originally a feast of the nativity; January 6, for those churches where it was kept, was the equivalent of Christmas (December 25) in the Roman Church. The feast was introduced at Rome in the second half of the sixth century and became the complement and, so to say, the crown of the Christmas festival. Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. St. Leo brings out this point admirably in a sermon, read at Matins, in which he shows in the adoration of the Magi the beginnings of Christian faith, the time when the great mass of the heathen sets off to follow the star which summons it to seek its Saviour.

THE GOSPEL The contrast is overwhelming: Herod, the King of the Jews, the nation prepared since all ages to welcome the coming of God to set all things right, fails to recognise the coming of the Lord. He is so blind as even to make every attempt to liquidate this herald of the completion of history and of Jewish hopes. By contrast the trio of wise men from the East, the traditional home of natural wisdom, show their conviction of the turning-point of history by journeying over desert and mountain to welcome and pay homage to the Lord. The evangelist is clear that this is the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy of the coming of peoples from the East to pay homage to the Lord. Especially in eastern Christianity is the festival of the Epiphany rather than the birthday of Jesus seen as the manifestation of Christ to the world. This is the meaning of the Greek word 'Epiphany': it was first used of the manifest coming of the Roman emperor on a state visit, for he was regarded as a deity to whom worship and adoration were due.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE We note the recent death of **Patrick Joseph Gogarty (79)** late of Woodlands Close, Broadbottom. His funeral rites are indicated for Weds 22nd Jan at noon at Immaculate Conception. May he rest in peace, and his widow and family be comforted.

ST CHARLES PARISH COUNCIL plans to meet after today's Sunday's 11am Mass.

HOSPICE KINDNESS I paid a visit to Willow wood Hospice during the week in order to hand over your great kindness in the mid-November collection for hospices. They were happy to acknowledge receipt of £500. Well over £300 was from the church collections that day. A benefactor topped it up to £500. The kind ladies who received the cheques were full of thanks and praise for you all.

LOOKING AHEAD I hope to take a break possibly somewhere a bit warmer and sunnier (weather-permitting!) from Sunday evening. As you know a missionary society is given permission by the Bishop to appeal in the parishes of the diocese during a particular year. 2025 is the year for Saint Patrick's missionary society. Next weekend when we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord Fr Stephen Kimani will come to say Mass and preach an appeal for that Society. I know that you will make him very welcome and support his appeal with your customary generosity.

THE SECOND COLLECTION for the sick and retired priests fund which is indicated for next Sunday, will be taken on Sunday the 26th of January.

USED STAMPS Used stamps are being collected in supported Reuben's Retreat, a local charity. Doubtless many people are receiving Christmas messages by post these days. Please remember to keep those used stamps to church.

RECENT TOTE WINNERS *St Charles* 1st, (£40) : L Hockey; 2nd, (£20) S Wynne.

CRIB DONATIONS When you visit our cribs here and there, please note that donations will be sent to the Holy Childhood mission charity, to help needy children in Catholic parishes in the developing world.

CHRISTMAS CARDS Last chance to pick up those parishioner-to-parishioner cards from the back of church.

MASS INTENTIONS During my break I hope to offer Mass for J&D Killeen's welfare (AH); Margery Revell (fam); George Simpson RIP (AM); Fr Rufus and community (EF); Paul Farnsworth RIP (EF); K Morton-Davies RIP (SL); ints Una Higgins (D&CN).

STANDING ORDERS: Immaculate Conception : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "St Margaret's church/collection (or tote)" 00510567. St Charles : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "Charles church/collection (or tote)" 00269177.

THIS NEWSLETTER has two weeks currency. The next edition is planned for the weekend of the 19th January God willing.

BOXING-DAY SURPRISE The Radio 4 'thought for the day' on the feast of St Stephen was presented by Pope Francis: "I have been asked to speak to you of hope and kindness, for this I thank you," says the 88-year-old pontiff at the opening of his address. "Hope and kindness touch the very heart of the Gospel and show us the path to follow in our behaviour. A world full of hope and kindness is a more beautiful world; a society that looks to the future with confidence and treats people with respect and empathy is more humane," the Pope said, before addressing the forthcoming Jubilee year in 2025. "As you know, the Jubilee year began on December 24; it is a period in which we are all called to become pilgrims of hope. Even though we do not know what tomorrow may hold for us, we should not look to the future with pessimism and resignation. Wars, social injustices and the many forms of violence we are exposed to every day should not dishearten us nor draw us to scepticism and discouragement. We choose love and love makes our hearts fervent and hopeful. Those who love, even if they find themselves in uncertain situations, always view the world with a gentle gaze of hope. Kindness is not a diplomatic strategy, neither is it a set of rules to ensure social harmony or to obtain other advantages; kindness is a form of love that opens hearts to acceptance and helps us all to become more humble. And how important humility is – humility lends itself to dialogue, helps to overcome misunderstandings and generates gratitude." The Holy Father concluded in saying that regarding humility he "would like to quote the great British writer" GK Chesterton, "At the end of his autobiography, Chesterton wisely invites us to take the elements of life with gratitude and not for granted."

