

St Saviour's Church

5 January 2020 - The Epiphany of the Lord



The subtitle of today's feast in the *Book of Common Prayer* is 'The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles'. This emphasises that, from the moment of the Incarnation, the good news of Jesus Christ is for all: Jew and Gentile, the wise and the simple, male and female. Nothing in the Greek text of the gospels indicates that the Magi were all male and even the number three and making them Kings is a much later, non-scriptural tradition. Western Christianity adopted 'the twelve days of Christmas' climaxing on the eve of Epiphany, or 'Twelfth Night'. The implication by the fifth century was that this was the night on which the Magi arrived. The complications of dating became even more confused with the changing in the West from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar, the eastern church refusing to play any part in such a radical change. So this day remains the chief day of celebrating the Incarnation in Orthodox Churches.

Parish Notes:

Fr Graham Francis RIP - our thoughts, prayers and condolences go to Eleri and her family in the coming days and weeks. We will miss our friend dearly and thank God for his ministry and loving humour in this and other parishes in our diocese. Funeral details in due course. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Epiphany Blessing - It is traditional that we ask God to bless our homes on this feast day. Chalk and blessing sheets are available at the back.

Cleaning and Tea rotas are now available. Many thanks to those who continue with the ministry of hospitality and cleaning. It would be great to recruit some new helpers. Please speak to one of the wardens or Liz if you think you can help.

Nightshelter Rota for January 2020 has now been sent out. If you would like to help in any way please contact Fr Phelim. Please pray for our guests and helpers.

Faith QI - next begins in St Saviour's at 7pm on Wednesday 8 Jan at 7pm. This is a faith discussion group in which we look at questions surrounding different topics of faith and spirituality. It is ideal for those new to faith and Christianity or those who would like to reflect and learn more about faith. Next topic: Ecumenism & Unity.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020 - this year's theme focuses on the hospitality of God & 'Unusual Kindness'. This year we hope to have a nightshelter based joint service. The week of prayer is from 18-25 January 2020. The joint service will be in St German's on Wednesday 22 January at 6:30pm.

Recently Departed: Fr Graham Francis, Ted Griffiths, Joan Irene Grady *RIP*.

This week:

Sun 5: Epiphany of the Lord

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

8am Nightshelter Mass

11:00 am Sung Mass

Mon 6:

6pm Mass (St G)

Tues 7:

10am Mass (St S)

Wed 8:

10am Mass (St G)

Thur 9:

5:45pm Mass (St S)

Fri 10:

No Mass

Sat 11:

11am Mass (St S)

Sun 12: Baptism of the Lord

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

8am Nightshelter Mass

11:00 am Sung Mass

Parish Priest:

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READINGS THIS WEEK

Isa 60:1-6

Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11,
12-13

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matt 2:1-12

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Isa 42:1-4, 6-7

Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3b+9b-10

Acts 10:34-38

Matt 3:13-17

PSALM RESPONSE

All nations shall fall
prostrate before you, O
Lord. (vv.4)

COLLECT

Gracious God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

GATHERING:

1 As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to Thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradle-bed, there to bend the knee before Him whom heav'n and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy-seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare; so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way; and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed lives at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.

5 In that heav'nly country bright need they no created light; Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown, Thou its Sun which goes not down; there for ever may we sing alleluias to our King.

OFFERTORY:

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Bow down before him, his glory proclaim; with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness, kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness, high on his heart he will bear it for thee, comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness, guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine; truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness, these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness, he will accept for the Name that is dear; mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness, trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

COMMUNION:

1 We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still
proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,

over us all to reign.

3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

5 Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.

FINAL HYMN:

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour
all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour
all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending,
bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting,
looking above,
Filled with His goodness,
lost in His love

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. *R/*
Psalm 72

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Isa 60

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**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. *R/*

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

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. *R/*

SECOND READING

A reading from Paul's letter to the
Ephesians.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Eph 3

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to St Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after
Jesus was born in Bethlehem of
Judea, wise men from the East came
to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the
child who has been born king of the
Jews? For we observed his star at its
rising, and have come to pay him
homage.' When King Herod heard
this, he was frightened, and all
Jerusalem with him; and calling
together all the chief priests and
scribes of the people, he inquired of
them where the Messiah was to be
born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem
of Judea; for so it has been written
by the prophet: "And you,
Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are
by no means least among the rulers
of Judah; for from you shall come a
ruler who is to shepherd my people
Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the
wise men and learned from them the

exact time when the star had
appeared. Then he sent them to
Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search
diligently for the child; and when
you have found him, bring me word
so that I may also go and pay him
homage.' When they had heard the
king, they set out; and there, ahead
of them, went the star that they had
seen at its rising, until it stopped
over the place where the child was.
When they saw that the star had
stopped, they were overwhelmed
with joy. On entering the house, they
saw the child with Mary his mother;
and they knelt down and paid him
homage. Then, opening their
treasure-chests, they offered him
gifts of gold, frankincense, and
myrrh. And having been warned in a
dream not to return to Herod, they
left for their own country by another
road.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Matt 2