



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church  
Greyfriars, Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SB  
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The Epiphany of the Lord  
7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm – All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – St. Paul 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel – Matthew 2:1-12

The solemnity of the Epiphany has as its focus the revelation of God to the Gentiles. We do not know who the three men were who came from a distant land to pay homage to the Child Jesus. Three wise men, three kings, three magi – the key is not so much exactly where they came from, but that they represented all of us in their search for God. They set out on the journey presumably because they were open to God in the first place – why else would anyone set out on a perilous, tough journey anywhere? It is that search of God that forms the question of today's celebration: how do I search for God and what am I prepared to go through in my own journey in order to find whom I seek? The journey is unique to each of us, but as we see from the three visitors, it is never really undertaken alone. Others are called to share in our journey, and many people will be placed by the Lord in our lives who will support us in that journey. Today let us thank God for all those who have been instrumental in our own searching and finding God in our lives.

Apart from those who journey alongside us we are asked to reflect on what will be our gifts that we offer to the Lord. We do this at every Mass where the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar in order to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body and Blood, and in that procession, we actively offer ourselves to the Lord with the hope of the same transformation. Whatever it is that we may offer Him, He will always look on with love and compassion, and

transform our little contribution into something that attains a high value when united with the offering of Christ Himself. Our gifts matter, and during each Mass we could prepare ourselves by reflecting on what am I offering the Lord today as a gift.

This constant journey of coming to seek the Lord, of offering something new to Him every day, will probably lead us to a place we would never have expected before we set off on that journey. The Lord is a generous giver and He will send us back to our homes, our families, our friends, as witnesses to what meeting Him can do for us. This is what makes our Christian journey exciting. We get to be surprised by the Lord, we get to find out more about Him as we make our way, and we find out a lot more about ourselves in the process. Let us pray that as we begin the New Year and celebrate His Epiphany, we may renew our desire to search for the Lord and continue looking for Him with greater eagerness and longing.

**PLENARY INDULGENCE IN FRANCISCAN CHURCHES:** From the 8th December till 2nd February, the faithful who visit a Franciscan church in order to stop and pray in front of the nativity scene can receive a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions (be in a state of grace, pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, receive the Lord in the Eucharist). This gift and privilege granted to all our Franciscan churches throughout the world by our Holy Father is to mark the occasion of the 800th anniversary of Christmas in Greccio, where St. Francis of Assisi wanted to commemorate the birth of the Lord starting with a nativity scene leading to the Eucharistic celebration, where Jesus Christ makes himself present in the bread and wine.

**Crib Collection this year is for the Friends of the Holy Land** – to recognise the urgent needs of Christians in the land of our ‘Mother Church’. Thank you for your generosity.

**Second collection weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> January** is for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) – White Flower Appeal 2024. Act now to end of the deadly pills-by-post DIY abortion policy. All laws permitting abortion are unjust but they pills by post policy goes even further by endangering the women themselves, facilitating extremely late term illegal abortions and violating the sanctuary of the home. Please visit our website for further information: [www.spuc.org.uk](http://www.spuc.org.uk).

**Lectio Divina Prayer Group** reconvenes at 17:30, Monday 22nd January 2024, at Greyfriars Library. Gospel reading Mark: 21-28. Br Martin Sanderson will continue to lead future sessions as and when his ministry permits. In Br Martin's absence, Helen and Yvette will administer to the Group. For more information, email: [iffleycross@gmail.com](mailto:iffleycross@gmail.com).

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service** will be held at 2pm on Sunday 21st January at the Christadelphian Church, and Rev Canon Dr Geoff Bayliss will be preaching. It will be preceded by a bring and share lunch at 1pm. If anyone would like to read at the service please contact them directly and see more details are on the attached poster in the Church porch.

**CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal** - Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](http://cafod.org.uk/ipc) or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers."

**Tea and Coffee** – After 11am Mass every week. After 9am Mass on 1st Sunday of each month – next Sunday will be 7th January.

### **Parish Donations**

Collection Last Week: £459.88 Gift Aid: £93

Crib: £100.10

St. Anthony's Bread: £26.23

Thank you for your generosity and support of our parish, also to those of you who also contribute on-line and via the contactless payment machine.

**Please pray** for those members of our community who are sick, especially Therese O'Malley, Aline Beaupiere, Margaret Corcoran, Oonagh Clarkson, Albert Paintin, Gillian Mellor, Br. Michael Hargan, Ewan Williams, Anne Wilkinson. If you are aware of somebody in our community who is sick and in need of our prayers, please ask them to contact the parish or let us have their contact details.

**Sacrament of Penance (Confession):** Saturdays 11am-12noon, 5.30pm-6.15pm and by appointment.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Geraldine Coggins, Michael Curran, Anne Harpin. They can be contacted at: [sg.ofmca.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.ofmca.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/[safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

### The Mass Times

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 The Epiphany of the Lord		
6.30 p.m. (Sat)	Christie and Pat Joyce and family	
9.00 a.m.	Parishioners	
11.00 a.m.	Raymond Keown R.I.P.	
5.30p.m.	Deceased Legionaries R.I.P.	
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup></b>		<b><i>The Baptism of the Lord</i></b>
7.30 a.m.	1) Adale Afonso 2) Friars and Benefactors	
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>		
7.30 a.m.	Paddy and AnneMarie Joyce	
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>		
7.30 a.m.	1) Sean Jennings R.I.P. 2) Kieron Hughes	
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup></b>		
7.30 a.m.	Br. Gordon	
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup></b>		<b><i>St. Bernard of Corleone, Capuchin</i></b>
7.30 a.m.	St. Anthony's Guild	
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>		
8.00 a.m.	Anne, Jimmy and family	
6.30 p.m. (Vigil)	Bernadette and family	

