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**FEAST of THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** January 7th, 2024

**SUNDAY MASS TIMES**

 Saturday 6.00pm St. Patrick’s church

 Sunday 9.30am Christ the King church

 Sunday 11.00am St. Patrick’s church

**WEEKDAY LITURGY TIME**

 Tuesday 10.00am Christ the King

 Wednesday 10.00am St. Patrick’s

 **Thursday 10.00am Christ the King {Funeral Mass}**

 Friday No Mass (Funeral at St. Francis, Acklam)

**MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED**: Special Intention, Evonne Keenan R.I.P.,

**ANNIVERSARIES: January 7th – January 13th:**

Maisie Veronica McReddie, Margaret Mary George, Veronica Kitson, Geraldine Mills, Maud Greenan, Percy Smith, James Fleming, Anna Mulhern, Annie Burton, Hugh McCann, David Stott, Irene Jackson, Des Brennan, Veronica Smith, Francis Michael Nicholson, Laura Dunn, Carol Coles, Nellie McCarthy, Eileen Nally, John Mulqueen, Evelyn Mulroy, David Humble, George Albert Lockwood, Kitty Thwaites, Kathleen Darragh, Harry Roberts Goodwin, James Goodwin, Elizabeth Darragh, Tony Stewart, Barry Woodhall, Steve Turner, Raymond Oliver Tait, Anne McDonald.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** in your prayers all our sick and housebound brothers and sisters.

**The word this week**

Isaiah 60:1–6 Arise, shine!

Psalm 71 ***‘All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.’***

Ephesians 3:2–3, 5–6 God’s secret plan is revealed.

Matthew 2:1–12 They presented gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

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n the East, this Season of Christmas is called the Time of Manifestation, or Showing. Today is the ‘Feast of the Manifestation’, or the Showing of the Saviour to the whole world, to all nations. In the wise men who travel from the East, we see all the nations other than the people of Israel being welcomed at the New Temple of the New Covenant - the newborn child in the manger. A look at the Psalm response shows this: “All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.” The same is true of the key word in the second reading: “Revelation” Remember that for the people of Israel this was to be their Messiah, come to restore their fortunes. By this feast, we proclaim God’s plan was to extend his salvation to men and women of every nation, of every time and every place - including us. In many ways this is our Christmas Feast, when we celebrate the Good News of the Saviour’s birth revealed at last to us.

**AT MASS TODAY WE PRAY** Eucharistic Prayer 3 and Preface for Epiphany of The Lord.

As children of the light, we raise our voices in a prayer of praise and thanksgiving around this holy table.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please remember in your prayers **Mrs. Majella Paula McConnell**, aged 65, from Thornaby who died recently. Her Funeral Mass will take place at Christ the King church on Thursday, January 11th, at 10.00am. **ALSO:** **Mrs. Rebacca Jean Umpleby,** aged 37, from Stockton (formerly from Thornaby). Her Funeral Service will take place at Stockton Crematorium on Friday, January 19th, at 10.00am. May they rest in peace.

**THE CELEBRATION OF MASS ON SUNDAYS**

“On the first day of each week, which is known as the Day of the Lord or the Lord’s Day, the Church, by an apostolic tradition that draws its origin from the very day of the Resurrection of Christ, celebrates the Paschal Mystery. Hence, Sunday must be considered the primordial (ancient) feast day.” {We will have more on the Sunday Mass over the next 5 weeks}

**BLESSING FOR EPIPHANY**

God has called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

May you experience his kindness and blessings and be strong in faith, in hope, in love. **AMEN.**

Because you are followers of Christ, who appeared on this day as a light shining in darkness,

may he make you a light to all your sisters and brothers. **AMEN.**

The wise men followed the star, and found Christ who is light from light.

May you too find the Lord when your pilgrimage is ended. **AMEN.**

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (B)**

**January 7th, 2024**

 **First reading** Isaiah 60:1-6

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.

 **Second reading**  Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

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.

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 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star as it rose

and have come to do the Lord homage.

Alleluia!

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. ‘Where is the infant king of the Jews?’ they asked. ‘We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.’ When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ‘At Bethlehem in Judaea,’ they told him ‘for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,

for out of you will come a leader

who will shepherd my people Israel.’

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. ‘Go and find out all about the child,’ he said ‘and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.’ Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.