

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE EPIPHANY



**Follow That Star!** - It's the Epiphany, and traditionally the time of year to pack Christmas back into the attic. Today the three wise men set us a shining example. Yes it's time to put the tinsel away, but how can we keep the Christmas star alive?

The wise men in the Epiphany gospel were visionaries with a star that they were determined to follow whatever the obstacles. It's a romantic notion, but visionaries are more than just romantic dreamers. Visionaries are men and woman who can visualise and map the future. More than this, visionaries can realise a better future by their conviction and focus. The wise men began their quest with a hunger for the truth and a determination to find

answers. When they finally found Jesus lying in a lowly stable they came away happier and wiser men as a result. Following the star rewarded the three wise men for their focus, by giving their lives better meaning and purpose. Following their star helped the Magi to be the people God had meant them to be.

So how do we follow our star? Firstly we have to have a vision. What does God want of us? Some people agonise over this question, but for many of us it's simply a case of looking at our talents and using them to make the world a better place. Having a vision is all well and good, but next we have to make plans and put those plans into action. This might involve sitting down and identifying obstacles. Remember that obstacles aren't always put in our way by other people. More often or not obstacles exist in our own minds and in our own character traits. As we travel towards our goal we have to determine in whom and in what we trust. When things get tough, it is easy to listen to a well-meaning friend encouraging us to take an easy way out, or adopt a more comfortable goal. "King Herods" don't always come in the obvious guise of a pantomime baddie. Lastly, we have to be able to recognise Jesus in our lives, and once we have found him, allow him to navigate.

For all those who are heading into the new year feeling lost, or tired, or lonely, or disillusioned, remember that good things await those who listen to God, and follow his star.

**PARISH PRAYER - Father, pour out your Spirit upon our parish. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new faithfulness to your Word, and a new consecration to your service; that your love might grow among us and your Kingdom come.**  
**Through Christ our Lord. Amen**

### Useful links:

Diocesan Website: <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>

Notre Dame High School, Norwich Website: <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>

## PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY

**Parish Priest: Fr. Brendan Moffatt** - email: [brendanmoffatt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:brendanmoffatt@yahoo.co.uk)

**Address:** The Presbytery, 35 London Road, Dereham NR19 1AS

**Telephone:** 01362 694066.

**Parish website:** <http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk>

*Permanent Deacon: Rev. Martin Sanderson - Tel: 01362 822590*

*email: [dcnmsanderson@hotmail.com](mailto:dcnmsanderson@hotmail.com)*

## 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2016 - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, SOLEMNITY

### Sunday Masses – Page 114/115 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Conaty Family
Sunday	9.00 am	Private Intention
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

### Music for Sunday Masses - *Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass*

**Entry** 6pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 170 – We three Kings of Orient are ...

**Offertory** Hymn 166 – As with gladness, men of old ...

**Communion** *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

**Recessional** 11am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 167 – Bethlehem! of noblest cities ...

## CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

### Weekday Mass Times (2nd week of Christmas) [Psalter Week 2]

Mon.	<b>12.00 noon</b>	Bernard Warwick - Christmas Feria
Tues.	<b>No Mass today</b>	- Christmas Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Elizabeth Kelly - Christmas Feria
Thurs.	10.00 am	Sister Gillian O.C.D. - Christmas Feria
Fri.	10.00 am	Joy Bussey - Christmas Feria
	5.45 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Silent Prayer
	6.15 pm	Evening Prayer (Vespers)
Sat.	10.30 am	Special Intention (Mealy) - Christmas Feria
	6.00 pm	Faulkner Family - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The Parish Newsletter (incl. back copies) is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week.

[Reg. Charity 278742]

**Anniversaries this week:** Ellen (Nell) Raiteri, Robert Clark, Eira Whitehouse, Patricia Gravestock, John Doherty, Rev. Bernard Warwick (Deacon), Joseph Sadowsky, Matthew Murphy, Frank Pike, Philip Ward, Lillian Carter, Len Smith, Kathleen Strayton, Jane Elizabeth Winifred Oaksford and James Tinney. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

**Hospital Visits** – If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital (NNUH) or Queen Elizabeth II Hospital (QEII), King's Lynn, and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call either St John's Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615) for visits to NNUH, or Fr Peter Rollings (01553 772220) for visits to QEII. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

**Sick List - Please pray for:** Michelle Redmond, Joan Blakiston, David Peek, Michael Reavey, Sheila Christie, Robert Nicol, Doreen Kanssen, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, David & Anna Thompkins, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Rhonda Darby, Collette Barrow-Nessian, Eileen Brockleby and Pat Howe.

**Money Matters** – The collection last weekend was £381.40. Thank you very much.

**Diary Dates for this week** –

- Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> Jan – Please note the changed Mass time (12 noon)
- Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> Jan. – Saturday Club new term starts - 11.00am in Emmaus Room

**Thanks** - I would like to express my personal thanks to all of you for creating a truly lovely atmosphere at Mass at Christmas. Thanks to all who prepared the church, to our Altar Servers, Readers, Musicians, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Mulled Wine and Tea Makers and to all who by their presence celebrated Christmas in a joyful and reverent way. Thank you for your very generous Christmas Offering to me which came to £1,533.13 and for your many gifts and cards. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness very much indeed.

**A Parish Open Meeting** - By the end of January I will have been with you for a year. We need to hold an Open Parish Meeting, to present Parish Accounts to you and to look at Parish Life and our strengths and our weaknesses. There will be an Agenda and items for discussion should be submitted to me, but there will not be an open window for discussion under 'Any other business'. Please give this some positive thought and consideration. I think a Sunday afternoon might be a good time. Should we have something to eat together beforehand ?

**Message from Bishop Alan Hopes – Walsingham** - "I know that you will be very pleased to hear that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has granted by a special decree the title of Minor Basilica to the national Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham. It includes the Slipper Chapel, the Chapel of Reconciliation and the domain. The decree was dated December 27th, on the Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph - such an appropriate day for England's Nazareth! The Holy See's recognition of the importance of the church in Walsingham is a recognition of the growth and witness of the Shrine over

these many years since it's re-establishment after the Reformation, for its constant witness to the importance of marriage and family life, and its pastoral care of the tens of thousands of pilgrims who make their journey to the shrine every year. I am quite sure that this moment will bring many blessings and graces to all pilgrims in the coming years. I would especially urge you during this coming year, which is both the Jubilee Year of Mercy and the fortieth anniversary of the erection of our Diocese in 1976, to join together in thanksgiving at the Diocesan Pilgrimage on May 2nd. May Our Lady of Walsingham pray for us all!"

**CAFOD Day of Recollection** – CAFOD invite a couple of people from Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary to join a special day of recollection reflecting on the Year of Mercy. It is an opportunity to meet supporters from across the Diocese and hear about how we are helping people access safe and clean drinking water in Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe. **Date:** 30 January 2016 from 2.30pm – 6.00pm. **Venue:** Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda, Newmarket. For more information, please visit <http://cafod-recollection2016.eventbrite.co.uk> or call Stephen Matthews on 01223 358552.

**Pope Francis' Prayer intention for January - *Interreligious Dialogue*** - The basis of interreligious dialogue is that there is more that unites us than divides us. In each religion we find common foundations. When we celebrate our similarities, we find peace and harmony. This month, Pope Francis asks us to join in his prayer intention ..."**that sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.**"



**Jubilee Year of Mercy** - How can we show others the mercy of God? We say that God is compassionate, but do we show compassion for the poor? We say that God loves us and has mercy on us, but do we hang on to grudges or stand in judgement over others? In this, the Jubilee Year of Mercy, our actions need to authentically reflect God's mercy.

**Christmas Card Recycling** - The Woodland Trust is calling on the UK to recycle its Christmas cards for the fifth year running. The Marks and Spencer Christmas Card Recycling Scheme is now in its fifth year, and the UK is 32,000 trees richer thanks to the public's efforts in dropping cards in to store each January, rather than distributing in kerbside recycling bins. Last year 6,255,833 cards were collected through the M&S Christmas Card Recycling Scheme, enabling the Woodland Trust to plant 6,256 trees throughout the UK. The popularity of the scheme means it will run again this year. Special card collection bins will be in M&S stores from 2nd January to 31st January 2016.

***Bite Size***

"If we value the pursuit of knowledge, we must be free to follow wherever that search may lead us. The free mind is not a barking dog, to be tethered on a ten-foot chain."

*Adlai E. Stevenson Jr.*