

**PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART  
AND ST.MARGARET MARY, EAST DEREHAM, NORFOLK**

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**JANUARY 6<sup>th</sup> 2013 : SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**Sunday Masses**

Saturday 6.0pm Int. For the People  
Sunday 9.0am Int. + Jack Breen  
11.0am Int.+ The Holy Souls

**Weekday Masses**

Monday CHRISTMAS FERIA  
10.0am Int. The Union of Catholic Mothers  
Tuesday CHRISTMAS FERIA  
No Mass today  
Wednesday CHRISTMAS FERIA  
No Mass today  
Thursday CHRISTMAS FERIA  
No Mass today  
Friday CHRISTMAS FERIA  
**11.0am** Int. +Jim Tinney  
Saturday CHRISTMAS FERIA  
10.30am Int. +Herbert Gray, Priest  
6.0pm Int. For the People

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday Noon and 5.30pm, or by appointment.

**The Rosary** Friday 11.30am

**The Divine Office**

The Office is said a quarter of an hour before the Mass on Weekdays. This week we use Psalter Week 2

**The Mass today**

The readings can be found on p.115 of the Parish Mass Book, and on p.124 of The Sunday Missal.

**At the 6.0pm Mass** Eucharistic Prayer 3  
*Sanctus & Benedictus* Parish Mass Book p.25  
Hymns (*Angelus*) 166, 168  
**At the 9.0am Mass** Eucharistic Prayer 1

*Sanctus & Benedictus* Parish Mass Book p.25  
Hymns 167, 150, 145  
**At the 11.0am Mass** Eucharistic Prayer 2  
*Gloria* Lourdes  
*Sanctus & Benedictus* Parish Mass Book p.25  
Hymns 167, 170, 166, (*Angelus*) 145  
The Psalm Response for all of the Masses is printed at the bottom of the page.

*This Sunday the quarter-hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass will precede the 11.0am Mass. Next Sunday, it will take place before the 6.0pm Mass.*

**THIS WEEK**

**Tuesday** No Mass today, nor Wednesday, nor Thursday : Fr.John is taking a short break.  
**Wednesday** 2.0pm The Union of Catholic Mothers meets in the Narthex.  
7.30pm SVP meets at the Presbytery.  
**Friday** Please note that the Mass is at 11.0am today, rather than the usual 10.0am. This is because Fr.John has a beginning-of-term Mass at the St.Thomas More School, Norwich, at 9.15am.  
**Saturday** Saturday Club, for young people aged five to twelve, resumes after the Christmas break, 10.30am-11.30am.

**PARISH NOTICEBOARD**

**Anniversaries** Philip Ward (2007), William Carter (2002), Len Smith (2008), Kathleen Strayton (2001), & James Tinney (2009). R.I.P.

**Money Matters** Last Sunday £675.82 was given at the Offertory. Next Sunday, the White Flower Appeal takes place, when you will have the opportunity to support, if you wish, the work

of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC).

### **CAFOD – A good news story**

A member of the Justice and peace Group writes :  
‘Thanks to match funding from HM Government, the final total for the 2012 Lenten Appeal was an incredible £18.6 million. This money will be spent by CAFOD all over the world in projects to bring clean water, safe sanitation, and improved healthcare to the poor. How nice to start the new year with such positive news....’

## **THE GIVING OF PRESENTS**

My Mother, together with the English teacher at the Secondary Modern School I attended, combined to give me a dislike of slang terms. And I remember that one of the words to which my Mother had a particular aversion was ‘Prezzies’ ( a slang term for ‘presents’) Well yes, it is an ugly word, but perhaps it’s more than that. Maybe it demeans something which has a dignity which ought to be respected. Maybe presents have an almost ‘sacramental’ quality which make them very special, and not to be spoken of casually in the language of slang.

To explain what I’m trying to say, I can do no better than ask you to consider the gifts, or presents, which we recall on today’s feast, the Epiphany of the Lord. Today, Our Lord was ‘shown’, ‘revealed’ to the Three Kings – that is what the word Epiphany means. He was shown to these representatives of the non-Jewish world, and St. Matthew tells us that they offered him gifts – presents - gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. These were, as we sing in an ancient hymn on this feast, ‘solemn things of mystic meaning’. They were gifts which spoke of the nature and ministry of the Christ, the Messiah. As the hymn says, the gifts were

*Solemn things of mystic meaning,  
Incense doth the God disclose ;  
Gold a royal child proclaimeth,  
Myrrh a future tomb foreshows.*

These presents spoke not just of who Jesus was and is, but also of the devotion of the Kings, of the homage which they were paying to the Baby born

in a stable ; the giving of these gifts was in itself an act of worship and an expression of love.

Well, I think you are going to say, there is no comparison between the ‘solemn things’ which the Three Kings gave as presents at the Epiphany, and the everyday things which we give to our friends at Christmas, and at other times of the year: what we give are just ‘prezzies’. But I was always told that we give presents to one another at Christmas because we are not able – like the Three

Kings – to give them to Jesus himself. So that every gift given at Christmas is, at least in intention, a gift made to Jesus. And hopefully the presents which we give to one another at any other time in the year are likewise expressions of regard and of affection. And so the gifts which we make to one another do have an almost ‘sacramental’ quality in so far as they are outward expressions of an inner reality – namely the feelings and goodwill which we have towards the recipient of our gifts. They are signs, material manifestations, of something deeper and hidden, rather as are the ‘outward’ signs which are part of a Sacrament.

And so, I would argue, our presents have a significance, and indeed a dignity, which is not expressed by that ugly, silly, word ‘Prezzy’. Our gifts mean something, express something, and the giving of them identifies us with the God who is the giver of all that is good.