

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



### A Beginner's Guide to Guiding Stars

God reaches out far and wide to announce the birth of his Son. He reaches out to simple shepherds in the fields around Bethlehem, and to great intellects from the East. He reaches out to those of different religions, to politicians and to scientists. The revelation that a saviour has been born is bigger than anybody. The story of the Magi, who followed the star and sidestepped the evil Herod, is

tempting in its appeal to romanticise, but if we are to learn anything we have to focus on the nature of God's revelation.

It mightn't feel much as though God is reaching out to us. The stable with its shepherds and kings might seem very far away as we take down our Christmas decorations and recycle our Christmas cards. There's a sense of 'back to normal', and for most of us that means a hum drum cycle of boring jobs and making ends meet. Today's story tells us that it doesn't have to be that way. To follow the star is to make a conscious decision to cut out everything that is unimportant. The rules are simple. We have to make the right choices on a daily basis no matter what the consequences. In the light of poor decisions, we must learn to ask forgiveness and move away from regret. We must find time in a world full of distractions to listen to our inner voice. Most importantly we have to ask God to guide us as he guided the Magi.

Most of us get through life relying on the knowledge we already have. Today's challenge is to look for something new. Knowing where to look for our own guiding star is up to us, but one thing is for sure, if we are not looking for revelation, we will never find it.

#### **Bite Size**

"There is no need to reach high for the stars. They are already within you — just reach deep into yourself!" ~ Terri Guillemets

**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 [Reg. Charity 278742]

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### 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (SOLEMNITY)

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

Saturday	6.00 pm	Int. Sacred Heart Parish (Sanderson)
Sunday	9.00 am	Int. Clemente Rosi
	11.00 am	Int. 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 5.30pm, or on request / by appointment

#### Weekday Mass Times (1<sup>st</sup> week in Ordinary Time) [Psalter Week 1]

Mon.	10.00 am	BAPTISM OF THE LORD - Int. Jim Tinney
Tues.	<b>No Mass today</b>	Feria
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room
Weds.	10.00 am	Feria - Int. Peter Like
Thurs.	10.00 am	Feria - Int. Seabrooke (Fdn. *)
Fri.	10.00 am	Feria - Donor's Int.
	5.45 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Silent Prayer
	6.15 pm	Evening Prayer (Vespers)
Sat.	10.30 am	Feria - Donor's Int.
	6.00 pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Donor's Int.

\*Fdn. = Foundation Mass

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

**Anniversaries this week:** Kathleen Strayton, Jane Elizabeth Winifred Oaksford, James Tinney, Margaret Jones, Pamela Whigham, Nell Hunt, V. Rev. Canon Herbert Gray (1<sup>st</sup> Priest at Dereham), Harry Monk, Rachael McErleane and Cicely Harvey. *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:** Joan Blakiston, David Peek, Robert Nicol, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Eileen Brockleby, Pat Howe, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Margaret Leggett, Peter Brown, James Maxwell and Pamela & Catherine Evans.

**Money Matters** – The collection for the parish last weekend amounted to £424.93. Thank you very much. Thank you also for the additional £80 for the Christmas Offering.

**Diary Dates for this week** –

- Weds. 11<sup>th</sup> Jan. – Union of Catholic Mothers meeting – 11am in Emmaus Room. All women from the parish are very welcome to come along.
- Fri. 13<sup>th</sup> Jan. – Confirmation Candidates meet – 7.15pm in Emmaus Room
- Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. – Saturday Club meets - 11.00am in Emmaus Room

**Retreat:** I will be going on retreat in Birmingham from Jan 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>. I am looking forward to this. It is requirement that every priest take a retreat every year. It is a time to withdraw from things for a few days, listen to some inspiring talks, be quiet, and receive some spiritual renewal. It is, if you like a true holiday as in Holydays.

**Deacon Martin and Terri**, would like to wish all Parishioners a healthy, happy and holy New Year. We have asked Fr Brendan to celebrate Mass for each of the weekend Masses, (not all at once). Our wish/prayer is for each of you and your extended families, and we would like to thank you for all your help and assistance that you give to both of us.

**Foundation Masses:** The Diocese has informed all parish priests that the income from Foundation Masses is now so low as to make it difficult to fulfill the requested intentions. This has been the situation for several years now. However, the Foundation Masses for our parish will be celebrated for this year and we will have to wait and see what happens next year.

**The Altar Servers** enjoyed the Pantomime in Norwich on Tuesday night. A good time was had by all.

**Looking Forward:** The Fabric Committee will soon restart its meeting. There is a budget available to it from Alive in Faith Funds from Jan 17 of £3,101. This money can be applied for when the committee has decided on the project it would like to do. I would like to hold another Open Parish Meeting as we had last year. Please consider what you would like to be discussed and I ask all the parish groups to prepare their reports for the meeting. The date will be set when the Financial Report is ready for distribution. The model set last year worked very well with MIDDAY PRAYER, lunch and the meeting in the Emmaus Room.

**Proposed new Catholic schools in the Diocese** - You may be aware that the Diocese is intending to submit bids to the government in March 2017, to open new Catholic schools across the Diocese from 2019 onwards. Primary schools are being proposed in Norwich, Cambridge, Peterborough and Thetford whilst a high school is being proposed in West Cambourne, Cambridgeshire and a sixth form in Norwich. The Diocese has set up a page on its website with more information about these proposals. There is also an opportunity on this website page to register your interest in these new schools, and this will also allow the Diocese to keep you updated on the proposals. It is very important that we get as many people as possible to register their interest on the website as this will provide strong evidence to the government of the need for Catholic schools in East Anglia. The website address is <http://rcdea.org.uk/freeschools/> and can be found in [today's newsletter](#).

**Recycle Your Christmas Cards 2017** - No! Don't just chuck your Christmas cards. You can recycle Your Christmas Cards with Marks & Spencer and The Woodland Trust. It's 19 years since The Woodland Trust started a scheme to collect Christmas cards for recycling and since then a whopping half a billion cards have been collected and 245,000 trees planted thanks to the British public! Since 2012, Marks & Spencer have partnered with the Woodland Trust to collect Christmas cards for recycling in their stores, with the cards collected helping to raise money for the charity. For every 1,000 cards which you drop into M&S stores for recycling throughout January 2017, a new tree will be funded by M&S and planted by The Woodland Trust in the UK.

*The Angelus*

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. **R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary**  
V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord. **R. Be it done unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary.**  
V. And the Word was made Flesh. **R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary.**  
V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. **R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**  
LET US PRAY: **Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel may, by His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ, Our Lord. Amen**