

PARISH OF ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN MORECAMBE

Parish Clergy

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Parish office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 a.m. till 12 Noon

7th January 2024 – The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord



GOSPEL REFLECTION: The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a saviour. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday 6/01	St Mary's St Patrick's	10.00am 6.00pm	Special intention EMP People of the Parish
Sunday 7/01	St Mary's	8.30am	Robert Hewitt & Alexander McDade RIP
	St Mary's	10.30am	Janet Oakley Get Well
Tuesday 9/01	St. Patrick's	10.00am	Margaret and Phillip Morrison and deceased relatives
Wednesday 10/01	St. Mary's	10.00am	William (Billy) John Quigley RIP
	St Mary's	7.00pm	NO MASS
Thursday 11/01	St Mary's	12.10pm	Jude Harris RIP
Friday 12/01	St Patrick's	10.00am	Peter McCarthy RIP
Saturday 13/01	St Mary's	10.00am	Frank Dunne RIP
	St Patrick's	6.00pm	Pat and Frances Margey
Sunday 14/01	St Mary's	8.30am	People of the Parish
	St Mary's	10.30am	Allan Davis RIP

FEAST DAYS:

Monday 8th January is the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.**

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, Jesus' baptism was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, the voice from heaven speaks to all who are present. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism shows that something new is beginning through the baptism and ministry of Jesus. The baptism of Jesus is considered an important manifestation of God in the person of Jesus, another epiphany. Jesus' baptism inaugurates his mission. Mark's Gospel moves quickly from the report of Jesus' baptism to Jesus' temptations in the desert to his ministry in Galilee after John's arrest. The end of the ministry of John the Baptist is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Irene Benson, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Dean Brownlee, Davina Tetteh, Terry Bridge, Edgardo Hecate, Dee Rowley, Mary Walsh, Pam (Mary) Clark, Rev Jim Murphy, Winnie Coupe, Zoe Jarman, Alan Anderson, Karen Guerrero, Win Cowell, Tony Manley, Deacon John McCann, and the sick and housebound in the parish and those in local hospitals and nursing homes.

LATELY DEAD: Frances Maria Chester, Maureen McGuire, Linday Purcell

FUNERALS: Frances Maria Chester, 29th January 2024 at St Marys Church, at 11:30 a.m. and burial at Torrisholme at 12:30 p.m.

1ST ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for all those whose first anniversaries occur between 7th and 14th January and all those names on the anniversaries' lists for January which are on the noticeboards in each church porch.

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EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. till 9:55 a.m., followed by 10.00 a.m. Mass, Thursday 11:00 am till 12 noon followed by the 12:10 p.m. Mass and Saturday 10:30 a.m. till 11:00 am

WEEKLY COLLECTION: £1262.72 **ATTENDANCE:** 265

PARISH NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH: If you are new to the area, or are visiting us just for the weekend, you are very welcome! Please introduce yourself to Fr Darren or Deacon John. Please could new parish members and parish members who have not yet done so complete a parish registration form. There are also gift aid forms and bank standing order forms available at the back of Church.

CONGRATULATIONS to Natalie Doran who was baptised on 29th December 2023.

TEA AND COFFEE: Tea and coffee are available in the church hall after the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday. Why not come along, have a chat and a cuppa and meet new friends? Everyone is very welcome!

HOLIDAY: Please note that I will be away on holiday from Sunday 7th January 2024 until Friday 26th January 2024. We welcome Monsignor Verity will be covering the Masses whilst I am away. Deacon Stephen Pendlebury will be covering any funerals and will deal with arrangements and will assist at any funeral Masses. Please note there will be no Wednesday evening Masses whilst I am away.

THANK YOU: A big thank you to our play group who provide a safe and secure environment for our children to develop and build friendships. Please note that play group will resume on Monday 8th January 2024.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: We will shortly be commencing the First Holy Communion programme. Please go to the website (<https://www.sjhn.org/forms>) and complete the Communion Form if you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion this year.

EVENTS:

SAVE THE DATE - QUIZ NIGHT – Friday 2nd February 2024: Students from the OLCC Uganda Project are holding a quiz night at St Patrick's Church on Friday 2nd February, starting at 7 pm. They will be planning some interactive fun rounds as well as more traditional ones. Tickets are £4 to include light refreshments. They will be available from Ali Bates at St Patrick's or Pat Ormesby at St Mary's in January. You can also pay 'on the door' but it would be useful to let us know numbers. All proceeds from the evening will be used to support our Ugandan Partner Communities. Thank you for your support.

Day	Time	Event	Location
Every Sunday	After 10:30am Mass	Tea and Coffee	St Mary's Parish Hall
Every Monday	10.00am-11:30am	Playgroup	St Mary's Parish Hall
Every Tuesday	10.00am	Legion of Mary	St Patrick's
Every Wednesday	12noon-2pm	Warm Welcome	St Mary's Parish Hall
Every Friday	2.00pm-3.00pm	Lectio Divina	St Mary's Presbytery
Monday 8 th January	10:30am-12noon	Cuppa and Chat	St Patrick's
Monday 15 th January	1.00 - 3.00 pm	Bereavement Group	St Mary's Parish Hall
Tuesday 16 th January	1:30pm	Bingo	St Patrick's

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2024: Next year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 23rd to 30th July 2024. For further information please check out the Diocesan Pilgrimage website: www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk or email: operationsdirector@lancasterlourdes.co.uk For the youth trip please email: youth@lancasterlourdes.co.uk

CAFOD;

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission. Could you help in our parish, inspiring our church to help build a better world or by visiting our local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the area? Could you support local volunteers or share your admin or people skills to help CAFOD keep costs low? Training and support is provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or get in touch with lancaster@cafod.org.uk Or could you take part in The Big Lent Walk? cafod.org.uk/walk "

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY:

FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.