

St Clare's Catholic Church

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7th January 2018



Wise men (and women) seek Him still...

Today we celebrate the day when the Magi came from the East to meet the new-born King, Jesus. They went to great lengths to set eyes on Him. Are we wise enough to put ourselves out, and set off this year in search of our Saviour?

FOCUS ON... Epiphany Blessing of your home

There is a lovely tradition of blessing our homes on the feast of the Epiphany. Prayers are said by the family or individual who live in the house, asking God to grant His blessing in the year ahead. The door or lintel of the house is marked with crosses, the year and the initials 'C', 'M' and 'B', in the following way:



20 + C + M + B + 18

The letters stand for the traditional names of the three wise men: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, but also invoke God's blessing, since they also represent the Latin words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* – meaning 'may Christ bless this house.'

If you would like to bless your home in this way, please collect a sheet with the prayers and instructions from the Church entrance. The only other thing you need is a bit of chalk and a few minutes to say the prayers!

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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass Book Page 119

Office: Psalter week 1; Sundays: Year B; Weekdays: Year 2

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details	
Saturday 6 th	6pm (vigil)	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	Fr Leo Bamber	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 7 th	9:30am		Eric Bamber	
	6pm		Joan Walling	
Monday	9:15am		The Baptism of the Lord	Sarah Ann Cottam RIP
	5:15pm			<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	7pm		Peter Hampson (birthday)	
Wednesday	12noon	Requiem	Catherine Walker RIP	
Thursday	9:15am		Patricia Barnish (Sick)	
Friday	12noon		Rev Fred Kenny RIP	
Saturday 13 th	10am	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Pearl Collins (Sick)	
	6pm (vigil)		Ronald and Mary Airey RIP	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 14 th	9:30am		Christine Kidman RIP	
	6pm		Beryl Connor (sick)	

LATELY DEAD: Please remember in your prayers **Catherine Walker**, whose Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday at 12noon, **Samuel Teehan**, whose funeral service will take place on Friday at 1:30pm, and all who have died recently.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday 7-8am; Saturday 10:30am-12noon (for vocations).

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 11am-12noon, and on request.

ROSARY: Mysteries of Light prayed after 9:15am Mass, and before 12noon Mass on Fridays. These prayers are offered for the protection of life at all stages.

ANGELUS: said at 12noon on Fridays, at the start of Mass.

ANNIVERSARIES: Walter Wilson, Carole Ann Thompson, Janusz Cichy, Agnes Gavaghan, Norah Jones, Anne Gray, Ernest Moore, Gerard Robinson, David Creighton, Ethel Ray, Joseph Billington, Gwen Lakeland, Robert Coarey.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY: That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to you and all your loved ones. May God bless us all, and watch over our parish community, in 2018.

THANK YOU from Fr Andrew for the many cards and gifts received over Christmas, and for your generous Christmas offerings. They are all much appreciated, as are your constant support and prayers. Thanks also to all those who helped out in Advent and Christmas to make the celebration of the Lord's birth so prayerful, and for all the work you do in the parish throughout the year.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, which is celebrated on Monday, marks the end of the Christmas season. This weekend is your last chance to make a visit to the crib! Why not pause before this beautiful scene to pray for yourselves and loved ones?

WEDNESDAY MASS: Please note that Mass on Wednesday will be celebrated at 12noon instead of 9:15am, and is a Requiem Mass for Catherine Walker.

TUESDAY THIS WEEK: Please note that the church will be closed from 8am until 5pm due to building work. The Blessed Sacrament will be reserved in the side chapel for private prayer during this time. Morning Exposition and evening Mass will take place in the church as usual.

NARTHEX UPDATE: Further painting of the interior has been taking place in the last few days. On Monday work commences on the exterior steps and pathways to the entrance, and on Tuesday the builders are back and should be installing the doors between the narthex and the Church. We are on target for a revised opening date in late January, and will soon confirm the date for an official opening and blessing of the building. Thank you for your patience.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: Next weekend the annual White Flower Appeal takes place, in support of SPUC – the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. Please pray for the protection of human life at all stages.

CENACOLO COLLECTION: Next weekend at all Masses. Please leave items in the porchway of the presbytery (house) at Mass times only.

LOURDES PRIZE BINGO: Taking place in February. If you would like to donate a prize, please bring it to the presbytery or drop it into the sacristy after Mass.

ST CLARE'S ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER: Regular parish news and pictures: to keep up-to-date, don't forget to 'like' or 'follow' us: Facebook: St Clare's Catholic Church Fulwood; Twitter: @StClareFulwood

OLSE LADIES GROUP: Thursday, January 11th a talk by Nina Woodfield on "The Street Pastors." in the Parish at 8.00pm Cost £2.00. Visitors welcome.

RECENT SUNDAYS: 4th Sunday of Advent: Attended: 338; Collection: £1057.48;
Christmas Day: Attended: 685; **Holy Family:** 435; Collection: £1,161.66. Thank you.

Events this week (one off/occasional events in bold type)

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Mon-Fri	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Monday	6pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	Journey in Faith	Chapel
Tuesday	7:30pm	Prayer Group	Chapel
	7:30pm	Finance and Fabric Committee	Presbytery
Wednesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Parish Hall
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Saturday	9am	Pilates	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Spanish Class	Parish Hall
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Cenacolo Collection	House porch
Sunday	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
	7pm	Anointed/Sent Groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall

Advance Diary Dates

17th January: Whole school start of term Mass, 9:15am

28th January: Holy Communion Preparation begins

2nd February: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord; Mass at 12noon

3rd February: Confirmation Preparation begins

9th February: Lourdes Prize Bingo

Further ahead and further afield...

"Come and See" – spiritual weekend for women and men in their 20s and 30s: at Hyning Monastery near Carnforth, 26th-28th January 2018. Contact Sister Mary Bernard: hyningbookings@yahoo.co.uk or call 01524 732684.

Appeal regarding Catholic Education

The Government is making a critical decision on whether or not to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it; now we need your help in preventing a U-turn.

Visit catholicnews.org.uk or search 'Catholic Education' to write to the government and urge them to keep their promise. You can also write to the Education Secretary, Justine Greening MP, to show your support for Catholic schools.