



## THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST. WULSTAN

WOOD STREET, SOUTHAM CV47 1PP

Parish Priest: Fr Arul Samy Deacon: Rev. Terry Hum (Rtd)

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Angela Scull, Phone: 07847611013

Parish School: St. Mary's Catholic Primary & Nursery School, Daventry Road, Southam CV47 1PS

Tel. No. 01926 812512 Head Teacher: Mrs. Price

Tel: (01926) 812351 E-mail: [stwulstan.southam@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stwulstan.southam@rcaob.org.uk) [www.stwulstan-southam.co.uk](http://www.stwulstan-southam.co.uk)

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No 234216



### 03.01.2021 – Second Sunday after the Nativity

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

#### Christ, the Wisdom of God

Today's liturgy assures us that God never abandons his people but is always present with them. We celebrate Christ, the incarnate wisdom of God who has come to dwell in our midst. This should be a source of comfort and strength to us in our difficulties.

#### Masses & Intentions

<b>Saturday 02</b>	
5.30pm	Sr. Kathleen Gooch
<b>Sunday 03</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY</b>
10.00am	Mary Beryl Caves (Intentions)
<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>Reception into Church: Kay Griffin RIP</b>
<b>Monday 04</b>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
9.15am	Judy & Les Perry (Intentions)
<b>12.00noon</b>	<b>Requiem: Kay Griffin RIP</b>
<b>Tuesday 05</b>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
9.15am	Marie & Pete Lines (Intentions)
<b>Wednesday 06</b>	<b>Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord</b>
<b>9.15am</b>	Fr. Siluvai Nathan (40th Ordination Anniversary)
6.30pm	Eucharistic Adoration
7.00pm	Margaret Gillard (Intentions)
<b>Thursday 07</b>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
9.15am	Lorraine & Peter James (Intentions)
<b>Friday 08</b>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
9.15am	Gladys & Frank McDonagh (Intentions)
<b>Saturday 09</b>	<b>Christmas Feria</b>
5.30pm	Judy & Mike Brown (Intentions)
<b>Sunday 10</b>	<b>FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>
10.00am	Jeannette Oubridge (Intentions)

**The Word made Flesh John 1: 1-5. 9-14:** The Gospel reading for this Second Sunday after Christmas is the same as that for Christmas Day itself. Perhaps, after all the celebrations of Christmas, there is room for a more sober thought. The climax is not at the end of the reading, but is in the centre: 'to those who believe he gave power to become sons of God'. On either side of this verse are rejection by his own people, and acceptance by those who see his Glory. This theme of acceptance and rejection runs right through the gospel of John, some accepting (the disciples, Nicodemus, the Man Born Blind), some rejecting (the Pharisees, the leaders of the Jews). The disciples accept at the Marriage Feast at Cana; the leaders of the Jews immediately afterwards reject at the Cleansing of the Temple. You cannot remain neutral; you must either accept or reject. It is a great trial-scene, and we judge ourselves by our reaction to Jesus. The Father has given all judgment to the Son, but the Son judges no one. The last dread scene is when the Jewish leaders pass sentence on themselves before Pilate and before Jesus crowned as king and seated as judge; they reject God's kingship by saying, 'We have no king but Caesar'. There is no need for sentence to be passed, for we pass our own sentence on ourselves.

**Does it make sense to say that we judge ourselves?**

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

#### Happy Christmas and Blessed New Year!

Hope you had a peaceful Christmas celebration and welcomed the New Year quietly and with hope.

During this New Year:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace.

(From the First Reading of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on New Year's Day)

As with the current restrictions we are reminded to take care and stay safe, let us do our best to help contain and overcome the pandemic.

#### The Solemnity of the Epiphany – Holiday of Obligation

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. It is a *Holiday of Obligation*. Masses at 9.15am and 7.00pm

#### Thank You

- To our sacristans
- To our Readers, Eucharistic Ministers. Stewards & their co-ordinators.
- Organists & all who help with singing / music.
- Altar Servers.
- To all fund-raising event / effort organisers.
- To our Children's Liturgy Organisers
- To all who help with organising refreshments on Sundays.
- To all who help in the parish life and ministry.

Wish you all a Happy New Year. May this Holy Season bring you and to all your near and dear ones blessings of peace, joy, health and happiness.

God bless you all. Enjoy the rest of Christmas season!

**Thank You** very much indeed for your generous Christmas offerings. Thank you too for all your Christmas cards, gifts, good wishes, prayers and blessings. Appreciate them very much. God bless you.

**Pope's Prayer Intention for January (Human Fraternity):** May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

**Funeral Arrangements for Kay Griffin RIP** are as follows:  
Reception into the church on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 5.30pm.  
Requiem Mass will be on Monday at 12noon  
Interment at Oakleywood Crematorium at 1.30pm.  
May she rest in peace.

**Sick:** Please pray for all those who are unwell at this time, especially all those who are affected by Covid-19, those who are in isolation and all who help / take care of them as well as all those who serve our communities in frontline jobs.

*Wish you all the Blessings of the Epiphany!*

**RIP:** Please pray for **Stacy Reed, Kay Griffin, Kathleen Healy** and all those who died recently and for all the faithful departed. *May they all, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*



**Sanctuary Lamp:** The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in loving memory of the late **May Field RIP**. May God be grant her eternal rest!

**Telephone support:** Some of our parishioners are supporting each other by telephone. Please phone 811703 (Shirley) or email ([shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com](mailto:shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com)) if you want a chat or to receive calls or if you would like to join those who are calling others.

### The Prologue to John's Gospel

In the prologue John introduces the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel – life, light, darkness, truth, witness, glory, the world. It cannot be fully understood until the Gospel as a whole has been read.

Through a summary of history, the prologue shows that from the dawn of creation God has been with humans, and in spite of darkness and ignorance, has invited them to knowledge of and intimacy with himself. But in Jesus something infinitely better is offered to us.

According to John, the Son descends from heaven to our level and ascends back to heaven bringing us up with him to the divine level. The prologue describes the Son in heaven and the descent; the Gospel describes the Son walking among us and his final elevation and return to the Father.

The first part (vv. 1-11) presents the Son as the Word. Eternally present with God, the Word brings life and light to the world. Sadly, the world, and even his own people, rejected him. This negative response is something that recurs throughout John's Gospel.

The second part (vv. 12-18) notes a more positive response. The Word becomes one of us and lives among us. **To those who accept him he gives power to become children of God.**

### The Twelve Days of Christmas

The song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" started life as a way of teaching young English Catholics the central elements of faith during the years of persecution in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Partridge in a Pear Tree	One God
Two Turtle Doves	Old and New Testament
Three French Hens	Father, Son, Holy Spirit / Faith, Hope, Charity
Four Colley Birds	Matthew, Mark, Luke & John
Five Gold Rings	The Pentateuch / Books of Moses
Six Geese a Laying	The days of Creation
Seven Swans a Swimming	Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Eight Maids a milking	Beatitudes
Nine Drummers drumming	Fruits of the Holy Spirit
Ten Pipers piping	Ten Commandments
Eleven Ladies Dancing	Faithful Apostles
Twelve Lords a Leaping	Articles of the Creed.

**New Parish Email Address:** Our parish new email is: [stwulstan.southam@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stwulstan.southam@rcaob.org.uk) Please adjust your contact list accordingly.

### The Epiphany of Our Lord



The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated either on January 6 or, (in some countries) according to the decision of the episcopal conference, on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8.

The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek *epiphainen*, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." Thus, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world, mainly the three events that

manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11).

The visit of the Magi is emphasized on Epiphany Day, and Christ's baptism is celebrated the first Sunday that follows.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/the-epiphany-of-our-lord-672>

### Catholicism did multiculturalism before anyone else

The Feast of the Epiphany has traditionally been considered more theologically important than almost any other Feast Day, including Christmas. The early Christians had only Scripture, not the wealth of tradition we have today, to guide them in marking the great events of the life of Christ. So Holy Week and Easter, the Baptism of the Lord, Pentecost, and Epiphany jumped off the pages of Scripture as great events which merited celebration. These few dates became fixed points on the calendar and were later surrounded over the centuries with numerous other feasts and saints' days.



Two lessons from the visit of the Magi are worth considering. The first is that the wise men's gifts were given after Christmas. Many Catholic cultures preserve the ancient tradition of giving gifts on the Epiphany, not on Christmas itself. This tradition separates the birth of Christ from gift giving. When these two things—the birth of Christ and the giving of gifts—are collapsed into the same day, it causes some confusion of priorities, and the birth of Christ never wins. Waiting to exchange gifts until January sixth lets the Child God have the stage to Himself for a day. It makes people, especially children, wait, a modern-day rarity in the Western world. Gift giving postponed until January sixth makes for a long, leisurely Christmas season and has the benefit of tradition and good theology as well.

Another great lesson from the Magi is more theological—that a true religion must be true for everyone, not just for some people. Truth is not geographical or confined to borders. Truth by its nature conquers untruth. The Magi are the first non-Jews, or Gentiles, to worship Christ. They tell us that the mission field of Christ is the whole world, not just the Holy Land. The Church is forever bound, then, to teach, preach, and sanctify the world over. The Magi crack everything open. The true God and His Church must light a fire in Chinese souls, Arab souls, African souls, and South American souls. This may take until the end of time, but Christianity has time on its side. The Magi give personal testimony to the universality of the Church, one of its four marks. The Epiphany is the start of the multi-cultural, multi-lingual, multi-ethnic, and faith-united society the Catholic Church envisions as the only source of true human unity. Catholicism started multiculturalism and diversity without sacrificing unity and truth.



*Balthasar, Caspar, and Melchior, your minds were prepared to receive a greater truth. Let us see in you an example of holy curiosity, of pilgrimage by light to light. When you discovered your treasure, you laid your gifts in homage. May our search also find. May our pilgrimage also end in truth followed by love.*

<https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/january-6-epiphany/>