

Gospel Reflection

The account of the Wise men is much simpler than it seems. It is an epiphany; a revelation; a showing and sharing of faith. For Matthew, a Jew writing for Jews, it was an opening up of God's message to the world. The Messiah was meant for the people of Israel, yet here it is the stranger and the pagan who is called, who seeks him out and who acknowledges him. This is where we fit in, wherever we come from, whoever we are, we belong to this story. We are all chosen people.

And whether they were kings or traders it doesn't matter; they were wealthy; they had knowledge; they understood power; understood what a king was. Yet something not logical, not explainable, not visible allowed them to kneel in straw and animal dung in homage to two homeless peasants and their dishevelled child. They believed with the faith that looked into the mundane and saw God. God in the everyday and the everywhere. The Lord is present - human and divine. As each of us is human and divine, for the presence of God is a light within each of us. A guiding light that leads to the Kingdom. All we need is to have faith and the confidence to cross deserts, expect the unexpected, to make the journey, to follow the Star.

COFFEE MORNING our next Coffee Morning will be held on Tuesday 23rd January. There will be tea and coffee, cakes and biscuits, Bingo and a Bring and Buy Sale.

SCRIPTURE GROUP will begin again on **Monday 15th January** from 7.30pm in the presbytery. The group meets every two weeks to discuss the readings for the coming Sunday. It is not an academic study. It is about sharing how the readings speak to us in our own lives. New members very welcome.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon to arrange to see him after an 11am Mass on Sunday morning.

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm. that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

NEWSLETTER

St Joseph's RC Church
Woodford Lane
Winsford
CW7 2JS

Parish Priest- Fr Simon O'Connor
Tel: 01606 543877
Website; www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk
email: stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk
General Queries – contact Derek Pearce
Tel: 01606 889048
email: pearcederek36@talktalk.net
Diocese of Shrewsbury Registered Charity No 234025



"United in conviction and united
in love, with a common purpose
and a common mind"
Philippians 2:2

7TH JANUARY 2018 **THE EPIPHANY (CYCLE B)** **MASS & SERVICE TIMES**

Saturday 6th January	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation People of the Parish
Sunday 7th January	9:30am 11:00am	Dr Fallon family Bridget Walsh
Monday 8th January	9:30am	Mass - Hughie Duffy RIP
Tuesday 9th January	10:00am 10:30am	Requiem Mass – Hughie Duffy RIP Craft Group at Beryl's house
Wednesday 10th January	9:30am	Mass - Paul O'Connor
Thursday 11th January	9:30am	Service of Word and Communion
Friday 12th January	6:30pm 7:00pm	Mass - Our Parish Helpers Parish helpers party
Saturday 13th January	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Kathleen Harrison RIP
Sunday 14th January	9:30am 11:00am	People of the Parish Our Retired Priests

CRAFT GROUP Beryl can be contacted on 01606 552664 for directions to her house. The craft group is from 10:30am to 12:00pm.

If Fr Simon is unobtainable and you urgently need a Priest please phone the parish mobile: **07548 222133** Please use this number for emergencies only i.e. where a priest is needed urgently.

200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize
This week – Mr G Kavanagh

**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

If you would like to make a donation for the flowers please add your name to the list in the porch and place your donation into the wall box.

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The new Rota List is now available in the porch.

APACHE RESERVATION – OUR ADVENT CHARITY

Thank you for your generosity to the people of the Apache Reservation. A total of **£1,622** has been donated.

RETIRED PRIESTS FUND COLLECTION will be taken **next** weekend. We have around 30 retired priests – and in the 2-3 years a further 16 are due to retire from active service. The Retired Priests' Fund is used to provide accommodation and financial support. Please be generous in your response to this collection.

PARISH HELPERS' PARTY Friday the 12th January at 7pm
All helpers are cordially invited to a Party on the 12th January. If you are able to attend please can you add your name(s) to the list in the porch as soon as possible so that we can plan for catering.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

Prayer for our Parish:

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,
through Christ our Lord.

.....
St Joseph pray for us

Gospel Reading Matthew 2 1 – 12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory
- this was during Herod's kingship - a band of scholars
arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around,

"Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signalled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land, no longer bringing up the rear. From you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel."

Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship."

Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh. In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi