

NEWSLETTER

Gospel Reflection

For Matthew, a Jew writing for Jews, the Magi illustrate 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 who seeks him out and adores 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. The star, that is the revealing of God's presence in a human baby, shone in their eyes and their hearts and they believed. They believed with the faith that looked into the mundane and saw God.

God is in the everyday and the everywhere. The Lord is present - without limit, without protocol, 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 pay attention and then to have the faith and the confidence to cross deserts, expect the unexpected, to make the journey, to follow the Star.



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 Rebecca Vickers
Tel: 07939 294442
email: rebeccafinnegan@hotmail.co.uk
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

5th JANUARY 2020 THE EPIPHANY (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 4th January	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Brenda & Gordon Lyle RIP
Sunday 5th January	9:30am 11:00am	Liam O'Hare RIP People of the Parish
Monday 6th January	9:30am	Service of Word and Communion
Tuesday 7th January		No service
Wednesday 8th January		No service
Thursday 9th January	9:30am	Service of Word and Communion
Friday 10th January		No service
Saturday 11th January	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Dennis Cole RIP
Sunday 12th January	9:30am 11:00am	Annie – Op recovery People of the Parish
Monday 13th January	9:30am	Service of Word and Communion

Please note- Mass times are subject to change and, whilst every effort will be made, intention dates cannot be guaranteed

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.

Scam alert: There has been a recent case of an elderly parishioner being scammed out of £500 because they received an email which they thought was from their parish priest requesting her to purchase gift vouchers for his niece as he was too busy over Christmas. Never respond to any such requests no matter how genuine they may seem.

On a lighter note: What kind of motorbike does Santa ride? A Holly Davidson.

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.

200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize
This week – Mrs Gloria Mundie

WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB AND HELP THE PARISH?

200 Club: The 200 Club is a way of benefitting both the Parish - and Parishioners. For as little as £1 per week you would have a one in seventy chance of winning £40 – much better odds than the National Lottery! If you wish to join the 200 Club there are forms in the porch.

Coffee morning: Our next coffee morning is on Tuesday January 21st 2020, everyone is welcome.

Christmas Cards: When you have finished with your Christmas Cards (and any Birthday Cards) can you please bring them in and put them in the Box in the porch. One of our parishioners can put them to good use.

Joke: **Who is the shortest person in the Bible?** A. Bildad the Shuhite (shoe-height). Nehemiah (Knee-high-miah) was a close second.

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

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.

SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS

Please continue to bring in your unwanted spectacles and cases.

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