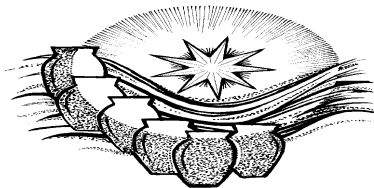


# NEWSLETTER

## Gospel Reflection

The Magis’ role in the story of the Nativity can be adapted to our own journeys and lives. As human beings who are born into this life with free will and the ability to choose whether or not to follow God’s Word, it is inevitable that we too will encounter temptations. I find that this passage is given to us at a time in which it is important to reflect upon ourselves and our lives. The Feast of the Magi is January 6th, six days after the New Year. During the beginning of the New Year, society calls for us to make New Year’s resolutions. I think this reading calls on us to do something similar.

While what we conclude through this reflection may not be that we need to go to the gym more often, or that we need to online shop less, it is no less important. This passage calls upon us to recognize the temptations present in our lives, to be cognizant of who and what will lead us to stray away from the path which leads to Christ. So, at the end of this Christmas season, I call upon you to take a step back and reflect on what you can do to grow closer to God in this coming year, what you need to do in order to follow His path for you. That way, one day you can feel the pure joy which the Magi felt when they finally encountered Christ in the Nativity.



### **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon.



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.

**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](http://www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk)  
 email: [stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk)  
 General Queries – ring the Parish Number and/or send an email to the Parish  
 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

 <b>5th JANUARY 2025</b> <b>THE EPIPHANY (CYCLE C)</b> <b>MASS &amp; SERVICE TIMES</b> 		
Saturday 4th January	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 5th January	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 6th January		<b>No Mass</b>
Tuesday 7th January		<b>No Mass</b>
Wednesday 8th January		<b>No Mass</b>
Thursday 9th January		<b>No Mass</b>
Friday 10th January		<b>No Mass</b>
Saturday 11th January	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 12th January	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)

If Fr Simon is unobtainable please leave a message and send an email to [stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk)

**200 CLUB DRAW**

Winner: £40 Prize  
This week – Mrs Beryl Harwood

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

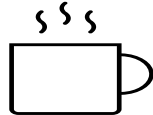
“Preach the Gospel  
always, if necessary  
use words”  
St Francis of Assisi

**Christmas Cards**

After the Festive Season could you please bring in your unwanted Christmas Cards as they can be re-cycled.

**Coffee morning**

The next coffee morning is on  
14th January 2025 at 10:30am,  
everyone is welcome.



**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**      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 knelt 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.

