



**St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Stephen Harding Catholic Church**

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Priest: Father Anthony Wild ☎ 01952 811299

Deacon: David Hill ☎ 01952 813004

Deacon: Wilf McSherry ☎ 07983 981931



Date	Time	Service	Intention
<b>Sunday 2 January</b> <i>Psalter week 2</i>	<b>MASS 11am</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS</b>	Parishioners
<b>Monday 3 January</b>		3 January <i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>	
<b>Tuesday 4 January</b>	<b>7pm</b>	4 January <b>Evening Prayer over Zoom</b>	
<b>Wednesday 5 January</b>	<b>NO Mass</b>	5 January	
<b>Thursday 6 January</b>	<b>MASS 10am</b>	<b>EPIPHANY of the LORD</b> 	Eileen Kerrison
<b>Friday 7 January</b>	<b>7pm</b>	7 January - <i>St Raymond de Peñafort</i> <b>Rosary over Zoom</b>	
<b>Saturday 8 January</b>		8 January	
<b>Sunday 9 January</b>	<b>MASS 11am</b>	<b>BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	Parishioners

There will be NO Mass on Wednesday.

**Mass at 10am on Thursday, Solemnity of the Epiphany**

**Parish Evening Prayer & Rosary Evening Prayer** (Tuesday 7pm) over Zoom and the Rosary (Friday 7pm) over Zoom.? New pray-ers always welcome, contact [ssthomasandstephen@gmail.com](mailto:ssthomasandstephen@gmail.com) . Your New Year's Resolution?

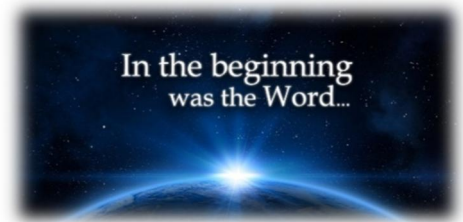
**Please keep the following Parishioners in your prayers ...** Pam Lovett, Niall Gallivan, Marie-Sophie Szymanski, John McGrath, Doreen Dodd, Faye Hargreaves, Mary Goodwin, Julian and Dawn Huxley, Sheila Minnery, Shane McGrogan, Doreen Warrilow, Sylvia Mary Stanworth, & all sick and housebound of the parish.

**The Pope's Universal Intention for Evangelisation** January 2022 For true human fraternity We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.



**Used Postage Stamps THANK YOU**, to those who have already handed in used stamps, and to those who will soon do so, in support of the Jesuit Refugee Service. Please **cut, not tear** from the envelope, and leave a large **margin** around the stamp. We collect used stamps, all of them, not just the Christmas ones, at any time of the year. Please place in the box in the porch.

**Gospel extract John 1:1-18 The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.** In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace & truth.



*Commentary* The Prologue of St John has a special place in Christian theology, and for centuries was recited at the end of the Mass as summing up the whole work of redemption. It begins with God's creation by the Word, and ends with the completion of the purpose of creation through the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. In the centre comes the incarnation, which enables and invites those who accept Christ to become children of God. John goes back beyond the infancy stories, to meditate on the ultimate part in both creation and its fulfilment of the Word who became flesh. Perhaps the most exultant cry of all is 'we have seen his glory', for glory belongs rightly to God alone. *Henry Wansborough OSB*

**The Twelve Days of Christmas A Partridge in a Pear Tree.** We are all familiar with the Christmas song. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written. It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts.

Catholics in England, during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic. The Twelve Days of Christmas was written in England as one of the 'catechism songs' to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in writing indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, or shortened by a head.

The song's gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The symbols mean the following:

- 1 Partridge in a Pear Tree = **Christ on the Cross**
- 2 Turtle Doves = **The Old and New Testaments**
- 3 French Hens = **Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues**
- 4 Calling Birds = **the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists**
- 5 Golden Rings = **The first five Books of the Old Testament,**  
the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
- 6 Geese A-laying = **The six days of Creation**
- 7 Swans A-swimming = **The seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven Sacraments**
- 8 Maids A-milking = **The eight Beatitudes**
- 9 Ladies Dancing = **The nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit**
- 10 Lords A-leaping = **The Ten Commandments**
- 11 Pipers Piping = **The eleven faithful apostles**
- 12 Drummers Drumming = **The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed**



**Gospel Extract for the Feast of the Epiphany Matthew 2:1-12 The visit of the Magi** After Jesus had been born



at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

*Commentary* The wise strangers of St Matthew's Gospel are the vanguard of all Gentiles who make their journey to God in Christ. They

may have taken a curious route but God draws all sorts of people to him by all sorts of different routes. The wandering Magi were led to God by natural wonder more than dogmatic instruction, and this has made them symbols of hope for all who struggle to God. If we are all exploring God, if we are journeying in faith and in love, then we can teach each other something about the Almighty. *Denis McBride CSsR*

**A Big THANK YOU to all who returned Missio Red Boxes. The amount raised came to £593.**



**Readers at Mass** Please sign up on the list in the porch to read at Mass on dates that suit you. New readers would be very welcome, help and practice can be arranged if wished.



**Churches Together** AGM - The next meeting will be the AGM on Sunday 23rd January 2022 6pm service followed by AGM - Venue – Methodist Church Market Drayton



**Market Drayton foodbank urgently needed food items**

The Foodbank has no or low stock of the following items: If you are able to donate, please leave your items in the green bin in the Church porch:

**Coffee, Tinned fish (not Tuna), Custard, rice pudding, long life cartons of fruit juice, UHT milk, sponge puddings/ slab cake, wash powder/ liquid/ tabs. THANK YOU!**