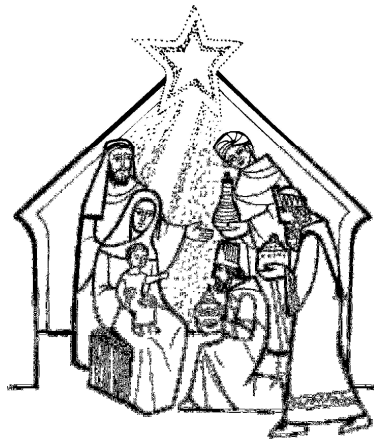


The Wise Men, with their clever knowledge of astronomy and their lavish gifts, represent all that is best in worldly values. They also have a bit of magic about them, for frankincense and myrrh were used in spells, and the word for 'wise men' can also mean 'magicians'. In this case, the Wise Men have real wisdom and its reward, and all the respect and fame due to a 'magus' and yet they lay it all at Jesus' feet. It might be worth asking at this beginning of the year whether we submit all our skills and comforts to Jesus as the Wise Men did. The story also rests on the sharp contrast between King Herod and the Wise Men. Herod was a Jew, so he should have recognised and honoured the Jewish Messiah. Not at all! He tried to kill the Messiah. By contrast, the Wise Men, arriving from what for us would be the equivalent of outer space, carry on their search till they find Jesus and humbly bow before him. This poses a nasty question: we Christians have all the guidance and encouragement of the Church, but how often do we find those outside the Church, not even professed Christians, behaving in a more Christian way than we do ourselves! What skill, what gift may I place before Jesus today?



Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

http://www.wednesdayword.org/downloads/parish_docs/510-A-Epiphany-2014.pdf

ESSENTIAL PARISH INFORMATION:

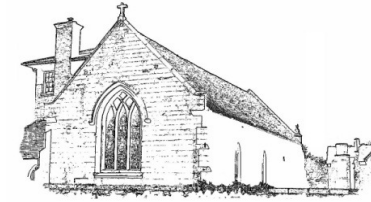
EMERGENCY EXIT: This is via the sacristy and through the house

GIFT AID: Miss Amalia Costanzo 01562 751657

SAFEGUARDING: Mrs J Lloyd 01562 754448

HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER: Mr M Dawson 01562 743776

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
HARVINGTON, DY10 4LR**



Parish Priest: Rt Rev Mgr Canon John Moran
Telephone: 01562 777319
e-mail: StMarysrc.harvington@gmail.com
Website: www.stmarysharvington.co.uk
Registered Charity No: 234216

The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

**Times of Holy Mass and Intentions
(YEAR B Readings)**

Sunday 31 December 8.30 am - 10.30 am -	Feast of the Holy Family For the people of the Parish Private Intention
Monday 1 January 10.00 am -	Solemnity of Mary The Mother of God Holy Souls
Tuesday 2 January 8.30 am -	Memorial of St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen Intention of Ivan Charuk
Wednesday 3 January 8.30 am - 9.00 am -	Christmas feria Holy Souls <i>#Discussion Group in The Stable</i>
Thursday 4 January 11.30 am	Christmas feria Holy Souls
Friday 5 January 11.30 am -	Christmas feria Ted & Mary Keane R.I.P.
Saturday 6 January 10.00 am -	Christmas feria Captain Andrew Duncan R.I.P.
Sunday 7 January 8.30 am - 10.30 am -	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Martin Purcell R.I.P. For the people of the Parish <i>(On Sunday, 14 January there will be a Second Collection for Pax Christi)</i>

**** PLEASE NOTE THE PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGED ON 25.08.17**

Anniversaries in December: Rev Sylvester Jenks (1714), Rev Thomas Atherton (1758), Sir Charles Throckmorton (1840), Charles Spink (1885), Edward Hailes (1912), Elaine Mulroy (1971), Eric Needham (1996), Cyril Hennessey (1999), Margaret Green (2004), Josephine Packwood (2004), Anthony Bashford, Pauline Reeve (2006), Terri Godwin (2008), James O'Brien (2012), Marilyn Way (2016)



Prayers for Sick:

Trudy Woodall, Anthony Mitchell, Veronica Mitchell, Philip Edwards, Julia Comber, Anne Hiron, Kathleen Clarke, Maureen Ribbins, Anthony Francis-Floris, James Arbuthnott, Susannah Michaels, William Tweddell Jnr, Mo Trow, Terry Mulroy, Jan Sewell, Sharon Warner.

Eucharistic Ministers:

Sunday 31 December Helen Raphael
Annick Harvey
Sunday 7 January Stephen Fox, Helen Raphael
Steve McWalter, John Charuk

Readers:

Sunday 31 December Martin Dawson
Anne Taylor
Sunday 7 January Biddy Goodyear
Jenny Wilcox

Church Cleaners:

Friday 5 January Audrey Myerscough & Anne Taylor

Money Counters:

For the 31 December collection: Mr & Mrs G Kelly

Contributions to the Parish:

Weekly Offertory taken on Sunday 24 December

Gift Aid Direct Debits	£ 253.00
Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 215.00
Loose cash	£ 177.33

Father John is most grateful for your generous Christmas Offerings.



"Where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them."
Matt 18:20

The Wednesday Word Trust leaflets are available from the table in the porch or may be downloaded from: <http://www.wednesdayword.org/parish/index.htm> (click on The Parish Version) either for your personal use at home or in anticipation of the group discussion on Wednesday mornings.

The informal discussion group is led by Fr John and is open to everyone.

Do come along for a cup of coffee and an exchange of ideas!

PLEASE NOTE: The rotas for January - June for Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Money Counters and Church Cleaners are in named envelopes and available for collection from the box on the table in the Church Porch.

Please note that since the originals were published on Sunday 3rd December the rotas for 8.30 Readers, 8.30 Eucharistic Ministers and also Money Counters have been updated. The new versions have been printed on yellow paper and again are in the named envelopes addressed to those affected.

As ever, the parish is very grateful to everyone who volunteers for these and many of the other roles not listed!



The **FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND** Will be holding one of their famous 'Pie & Pint' lunches will Sunday 28 January at St Ambrose Hall Kidderminster. Lunch served at 12.00. Gail & Stephen Brown will be selling tickets (£8) after both Masses today. Please try to join us and support our vulnerable brother and sister Christians in the Holy Land.

For further information, including the purchase of tickets, please contact:

Maureen Brewer ... 01562 754322
Gail & Stephen Brown 01562 753422
Jim & Anne Quinn 01299 851021

Our December collection raised a magnificent £390 for the Foodbank and also 55kgs weight in food. The Foodbank are very grateful for the ongoing support that they receive from St Mary's it relies totally on support from the local community and they have received fewer cash donations in 2017 so our support is especially valuable.



Our next monthly collection will be Sunday January 28th.

EVERYONE IS INVITED ...



After Mass each Sunday Morning coffee, tea and biscuits are served in the stable. It is an opportunity to meet one another and socialise. Please do pop in!