

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 2nd January 2011

✠ The EPIPHANY of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ✠

Sun 2	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Joseph Mackenzie RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Rita Keating RIP
Mon 3	Feria of Christmas	10.00am	✠ Mass: Philomena Breach RIP
Tues 4	Feria of Christmas	10.00am	✠ Mass: Gelsi Antonietta
Wed 5	Feria of Christmas	10.00am	✠ Mass: Finola Bishop RIP
Thu 6	Feria of Christmas	7.00am	✠ Mass: Bert Batchelor RIP
Fri 7	Feria of Christmas	10.00am	✠ Mass: in Reparation for Abortion
Sat 8	Feria of Christmas	10.00am	✠ Mass: Dec'd members of the Beare family
		10.30am	<i>Confessions</i>
✠ The BAPTISM of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ✠			
Sun 9	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Mass: Philomena Breach RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: David Featherstone RIP
		12.15pm	<i>Baptism of Victoria Uzoegbu</i>

A very Happy New Year to everyone!

Please pray for the following whose anniversaries occur this week:

Daniel O'Driscoll, Sarah Gilder, Michael Walsh,
Edward Crittenden, Benito Balducci, Frances de Wit,
Bert Batchelor, Clarice Deere, Finola Bishop,
Joseph Almeida, Frederick Weller,
John Abela and William (Liam) Byrne.

*May their souls and the souls of all the ✠ faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace.*



OUR LADY of GILLINGHAM

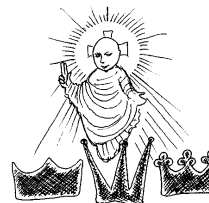


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— Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark - Registered Charity 235468 —

2nd January 2011

✠ The EPIPHANY of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ✠



WORD of GOD

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

(Isaiah 60:2-3)

WORD for TODAY

Today marks the last event in the Christmas story. The arrival of the wise men represents the flowering of God's plan as people from East and West come to know of the wonders God works in the birth of Jesus. As Twelfth Night approaches, the customary time for packing away the Christmas decorations, our challenge is to keep the hope of new life alive in our hearts and minds.



MOVEABLE FEASTS - 2011

Ash Wednesday 9th March
 Mothering Sunday 3rd April
 Palm Sunday 17th April

- Holy Week -

Good Friday..... 22nd April
 Easter Sunday..... 24th April
 Pentecost Sunday 12th June
 Trinity Sunday 19th June
 Sacred Heart 1st July
 First Sunday of Advent 27th November

HOLIDAYS of OBLIGATION - 2011

Epiphany [Sunday] 2nd January
 Ascension Day [Sunday] 5th June
 Corpus Christi [Sunday] 26th June
 SS Peter & Paul [Wednesday] 29th June
 Assumption [Sunday] 14th August
 All Saints [Tuesday]..... 1st November
 Christmas Day [Sunday]..... 25th December

AROUND the PARISH

CRIB All offerings collected at the crib during the Christmas season will be forwarded to the Cabrini (formerly Catholic) Children's Society. Parishioners are reassured that these collections will only be used for activities other than adoption, for example, residential care and support for children with special needs. The Society helps children and families in need regardless of their faith or background.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS Many of us receive gift items which we are not able to use. If you do have anything, please do hold on to it and we will have a table sale after Christmas in aid of our building fund. Further details after Christmas.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE winning numbers were **PINK 603** and **BLUE 382**. Thank you to all those who purchased tickets, proceeds of which will go towards the annual parish trip to Joss Bay.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS The next session will be on Saturday 8th January at 5.30pm in the McMahon Hall.

WASTE PAPER Please don't forget that all that used wrapping paper, cards, cardboard packaging etc. can be turned into cash for church funds by adding it to the recycling skip in the car park. This is a double source of revenue for the church as we not only get paid for the weight of paper which goes to the recycling company, but we also receive a generous recycling credit from the Council - again according to weight. Our thanks to all of those who regularly bring along their old newspapers, etc.

IRISH NIGHT in the McMahon Hall

on Friday 21 January 2011, 7.30pm. Come and enjoy an evening of music, dance and traditional Irish food. Tickets £6 each. Please book in advance by signing up on the sheet at the back of the church. Bring your own drink.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS Rotas for January to June 2011 are now ready. Please collect from your pigeon-hole.

READERS' LISTS for February 2011 to July 2011 are now available. Please collect from your pigeon hole.

MASSES This year's diary is beginning to fill up. If you wish to book a Mass, please call in the sacristy after Mass, or into the parish office on a Friday morning.

SOUTHWARK DIRECTORIES are now available from the repository, just a few, containing all you ever wanted to know about the Diocese and Catholic life but were afraid to ask, or frequently asked and then forgot, like *Communion more than once a day*, *the Eucharistic Fast*, *Holy Communion under both kinds* (p 146) and the new arrangements for *Holydays of Obligation* (p 148). £3.00.

BAPTISM Please make initial enquiry to Deacon Michael or Fr Geoffrey after any Sunday Mass.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

HOLY DAYS of OBLIGATION (from front page) In 2006 the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, with the approval of the Holy See on 13th July 2006, decreed that with effect from the first Sunday of Advent 2006, three of the present Holy Days of Obligation which are Solemnities of the Lord will be transferred to the following Sundays. This means that the Epiphany,

the Ascension of the Lord and Corpus Christi are now celebrated on Sunday. The existing practice is retained with regard to the other Holy Days of Obligation: Christmas Day, the Apostles Peter and Paul, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and All Saints will continue as before. With the exception of Christmas Day, the discipline in England and Wales is that when these days fall on a Saturday or Monday they are transferred to the Sunday. Following this principle, this year only two of the Holy Days fall on weekdays: SS Peter and Paul and All Saints. Mercifully Christmas Day, this year falls on a Sunday. (Please spare a thought for parish clergy who, with Christmas Day on a Saturday, had the privilege of celebrating at least 5 Masses within the space of 36 hours.)

FAITH IN FOCUS: MODERN-DAY MAGI The Epiphany is the feast of the catholicity of the Church. This means that the Church is for everyone, in all places and at all times. The opposite of catholic is exclusive. But the Church is not exclusive; it's all embracing and catholic. We don't stand like nightclub bouncers at our church entrances, deciding on who should be let in and who should be excluded. We stand there to welcome in anyone of any race, colour or creed who wants to know more about Jesus Christ, the God who became one of us. And so the wise men entered the stable at Bethlehem at the end of their star-led journey to find this new king and to pay him homage. The Magi from the East show that Christ's message was not just for the neighbours, but for the ends of the earth. Epiphany is Christ's manifestation to the

whole world, far and wide. You and I are called on today to be both stars and wise men. It was a star that led the Magi to know where to find Jesus. In a world that seems so often to flounder in a sea of darkness we are called to shine, to shed our light on the difficult task of making sense of life. We are to offer the wisdom of God to a world that seeks true meaning. We must presume that, when the Magi left, they returned home to tell other people about what they had seen and heard. It would be pointless to keep it to themselves. So too with us. We cannot leave it to those with theology degrees to let the world know what a difference believing in Jesus makes. We must be Magi, wise men and women. A simple test of how we are doing as Magi in the 21st century is to ask ourselves how many people we brought to Christ last year. What sort of advert are we for Christianity? Are we ashamed of the Good News or proud to let others know how much it means to us? And at the end of this new year how many people will we have led to Jesus by the light of the way we live?

PARISH DIARIES have not arrived and we are unable to contact the suppliers. Sorry for any inconvenience.

ATTENDANCE 611 people attended Mass on Christmas Day. Fewer than that attended on the Sunday, the day after. However we did received **£404.83** in the collection. ■ Fr Geoffrey is grateful to parishioners for the offerings on Christmas Day. ♦ Please listen out for details of our White Flower Appeal for the protection of the unborn and vulnerable which, customarily, takes place during January.