



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians &  
St Lawrence

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Diocese of Northampton

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2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2022	The Season of Christmas SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	
First Reading	Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2. 8-12 <i>The wisdom of God has pitched her tent among the chosen people</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.	
Second Reading	St Paul to the Ephesians 1:3-6. 15.18 <i>He determined that we should become his adopted sons through Jesus</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!	
Gospel	John 1:1-18 <i>The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.</i>	
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> January +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January + <i>The memoria of Ss Basil &amp; Gregory is not observed</i>	10.30am	Mass – (John Kavanagh RIP)
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January The Most Holy Name of Jesus – <i>op memoria</i>	10.00am	Mass (Catherine Reilly & Maureen Cowie RIP)
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass (Mary Redmond Int.)
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> January + The Epiphany of the Lord	9.15am 10.00am 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Hugh & Joan Kelly RIP) Mass – (For the Parish)
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> January St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest – <i>op memoria</i>	10.00am	Requiem Mass – Jean Kelly RIP
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Feria</i>	10.00am 10.30am	Mass (Alma Palmer RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
The Baptism of the Lord		
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> January +	6.30pm	Mass – (David Beadle RIP)
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> January +	10.30am	Mass – (For the Parish)
<i>Here ends the Season of Christmas</i>		

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** will be celebrated this coming **Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> January**. Mass will be celebrated in our Parish at **10.00am** and **7.00pm**. Please ensure that you contact Denise to book your place.



## THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in anyway to prepare our church for the worthy celebration of Christmas in our Parish. Fr David and the team wish you, your families & friends a very blessed & peaceful New Year



### Moveable Feasts 2022

Baptism of the Lord – 9<sup>th</sup> January  
Ash Wednesday – 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
Easter Triduum – 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> April  
EASTER SUNDAY – 17<sup>th</sup> April  
Ascension of the Lord – 26<sup>th</sup> May  
Pentecost – 5<sup>th</sup> June  
Trinity Sunday – 12<sup>th</sup> June  
Corpus Christi – 19<sup>th</sup> June  
Sacred Heart of Jesus – 24<sup>th</sup> June  
Christ the King – 20<sup>th</sup> November



### The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Although Saint Paul might claim credit for promoting devotion to the Holy Name because Paul wrote in Philippians that God the Father gave Christ Jesus “*that name that is above every name*” (see 2:9), this devotion became popular because of 12th-century Cistercian monks and nuns but especially through the preaching of Saint Bernardine of Siena, a 15th-century Franciscan.

Bernardine used devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus as a way of overcoming bitter and often bloody class struggles and family rivalries or vendettas in Italian city-states. The devotion grew, partly because of Franciscan and Dominican preachers. It spread even more widely after the Jesuits began promoting it in the 16th century. In 1530, Pope Clement V approved an Office of the Holy Name for the Franciscans. In 1721, Pope Innocent XIII extended this feast to the entire Church.



**St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest & Religious** was born about 1175 near Barcelona. He was a brilliant lawyer and at the age of 47 became a Canon of the Cathedral but soon after he joined the Dominican Order, eventually being elected their master general. St Raymond's gift was as an organiser and codifier and was noted for his knowledge of Canon Law, especially the application to the Sacrament of Reconciliation - he is the patron saint of Canon Lawyers. He was also influential in the evangelisation of Muslims and Jews. St Raymond died on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1275 in Barcelona. He was canonised in Rome on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1601 by Pope Clement VIII

## Reflection on the Epiphany of the Lord



Sometimes waiting for a feast or solemnity in the Church's Liturgical Year can feel like waiting for a bus, you wait a long time for one and then we seem to be engulfed in them. It has only been a little short of a fortnight since we welcomed the newly born Jesus into our lives at Christmas and since then we've celebrated The Holy Family; St Stephen, *Deacon and Protomartyr*; St John, *Apostle & Evangelist*; The Holy Innocents, *Martyrs*; St Thomas Beckett, *Martyr, Bishop & Secondary Patron of our Diocese*; Mary Mother of God and this coming Thursday, The Epiphany of the Lord. So much for us to celebrate in such a relatively short period of time that there can be a real danger that we do not fully immerse ourselves into each celebration in the way that we should.

For many people, the Christmas Season can be a very busy time in their lives – shopping to complete, gifts to buy, cards to write and deliver, homes to prepare to welcome family and friends barely time for us to draw breath let alone to ponder the great mysteries of our faith. Together with the feast of the Epiphany and the following two Sundays, our Gospel readings reveal three of the great **Epiphanies of Christ** – the arrival of the Wise Men at Bethlehem, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana - all of these revelations come to us before Jesus fully begins his ministry.

Reflecting on the Epiphany, I am drawn to the role of the star that guided the three wise men to where they would find Christ. This should remind us of the importance of praying to God to be given that **'inner star'** in our lives – the light of faith – a light that will draw us ever closer to God and to one another – a light that will strengthen our faith in God not simply as something that merely remains on our lips to which we give assent but something that will fundamentally change our lives.

The events in detailed in St Matthew's Gospel on the Epiphany remind us that there is a *real* need for us to **'go to Christ'** and to make our act of faith in Him. But we should not come to Him empty handed – we must come bearing gifts. **Our gift of Gold:** the talents that each of us have been blessed with, the opportunities that have been given to us to strengthen our faith and to be heralds of that faith to those in our lives. **Our gift of Frankincense:** that symbol of worship of God which has to be a fundamental part of our lives – day by day to spend time with God in prayer. And finally, **our gift of Myrrh:** the offering of our lives entirely to God – to be prepared and ready to leave this world when He calls us; to live our lives building up the kingdom of God.

As we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord – when Christ revealed Himself to the world but more significantly to each one of us, we are reminded that it is because of God's great love for us, that we all have it within ourselves to recognise Christ as the Son of God; to recognise His great love for us and to respond with our love for Him by what we say and what we do.

The Christmas story is littered with acts of giving – the giving of Christ to us from God; Mary's giving of herself in response to God's call; the self-giving of Joseph to Mary in a time of great testing; the giving of the lamb to the newly born infant Jesus by the poor Shepherds; the giving of lavish gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh by the wise men – but what of us? What is our gift?

Do we perhaps spend far too much time in our lives worrying about things that we cannot change?

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady Mother of God, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St Edmund, St Rita, St Basil, St Gregory & St Raymond pray for us all.

With our love and prayers,

Fr David and Deacon Peter