

CHRISTMAS  
GIME

# Solemnity of the Epiphany of the LORD

## Newsletter

Our Lady of Mount Carmel &amp; St Patrick

**W**e saw  
his star as it rose  
and have come  
to do him homage.

(Matthew 2:2)

The closing of the Christmas festivities leaves us with one amazing fact: the God who is responsible for the whole of creation took our human flesh and remains for ever within our world in the person of his Son Jesus Christ. Under which star will we find him this week?

## Epiphany

The word **epiphany** means **manifestation** or **showing**, the Christ-child is shown to the whole world. 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. Our challenge is to keep the hope of new life alive in our hearts and minds.

The story also has its darker side; because of this visit Herod saw the new born king as a threat to his own authority and gave the order for countless children to be slaughtered. It also meant that Joseph and Mary had to take Jesus to Egypt for safety. In other words, they became refugees.



Today's world is full of refugees. For several years the people of Syria have been forced to flee their homeland to escape the war. More recently more than 600,000 Rohingya children, women and men have been forced to flee to Bangladesh escaping violence in Myanmar since August 2017.

A harsh reminder that in our world today so many people have to leave their homelands in fear of their lives.

## The Lost Sunday?

A consequence of the feast of the Epiphany transferred to the Sunday is that the first liturgical Sunday of the Year is lost and so the Feast of the...



## Baptism

### of the LORD

is transferred to this Monday and is the start of Ordinary Time which means that next Sunday is the

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Readers please note.

## FAITH IN FOCUS: EPIPHANY PEOPLE

To follow the star and become Epiphany people we have to be aware of three important challenges.

Epiphany people have first to be people of faith. Imagine setting out on a journey like the wise men and not actually knowing where you are going, following only where a star leads you. Yet this is what faith demands. To be a person of faith means that we trust in God so much that we are prepared to be led, wherever God decides to take us. Being people of faith doesn't mean having all the answers; it simply requires us to be open to God's promptings and prepared to act when others think we are mad to do so. Faith and trust cannot be prised apart.

A second characteristic of Epiphany people is that their faith makes them want to worship. The wise men brought their gifts and worshipped the Lord. Just knowing our God should be reason enough for worship. We bring our gold (the best we can be), our frankincense (our contribution to making the world a more beautiful place) and our myrrh (our pains and our tears as well as the comforting presence we extend to others), and with these gifts of our lives we fall on our knees before the God that our faith journey leads us ever closer to.

And finally Epiphany people are people of change. The wise men didn't simply spend the rest of their lives fawning at the crib. They left enriched by what they had seen and heard and they headed off to tell others what they had experienced. But they heeded the warning of their dream and decided to change their plans and go back home by a different route. Every encounter with our God-made-man challenges us to change. God never wants us to stay where we are; our job is to follow the star.

Epiphany reveals Jesus to all nations. His glory is seen by people from all over the known world. And these Epiphany people are people of faith, people of worship and people of change.

Parish Priest: Fr John Southworth

Parish Office: 27 High Park St, Liverpool L8 8DX Phone: 0151 727 1463

www.mountcarmel-stpatrick.org.uk • Email: olmc@rcaolp.co.uk • stpatrick@rcaolp.co.uk

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## Christmas Season

The traditional end of Christmas, Twelfth Night, is 6th January. Liturgically the season of Christmas continues until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord; this is usually the Sunday after epiphany Sunday. However this year it is the day after the Epiphany.

**Holydays** Earlier this year the Bishops of England and Wales announced that two of our holydays will be returned to their traditional days: the Feast of the **Epiphany** (12th night) and the feast of **The Ascension** (40 days after Easter, so Ascension Thursday returns). There will still be exceptions for the Epiphany - if the feast falls on a Saturday or Monday it will be transferred to the Sunday, as is the case this year.

### OLMC & St Patrick Christmas Cards

The OLMC & St Patrick Christmas Postal Service quite a few undelivered cards languishing at the back of church. Perhaps some kind postman Santa (or Santas) would take it upon themselves to spread them around so that the Christmas cheer may be spread before the end of the season!

**Peace Sunday Migrant and Refugees—seekers of peace** The 51st World Peace Day will be celebrated next Sunday, 14th January. The theme this year focusses on the tens of thousands of people around the world who have been displaced and forced to leave their homes because of violence or climate related disasters.

**Mission Appeal:** The Kiltegan Fathers will make the appeal in all churches in the diocese this year and in this parish it will take place on the weekend of 20/21st January.

**OLMC Fund Raising Group** Thursday 18th January at 7.30pm in the Finbar Room

**OLMC Raffle:** The monthly raffle will begin again in February.

**OLMC Tea/Coffee** Come into the Finbar Room for tea or coffee after the 11.15 Mass. Cakes also available.

John Southworth

## epiphany traditions

The blessing of the home and some churches is a popular Epiphany custom. using chalk to mark their entrance door with the year, 2018, and with the inscription CMB, the initial **Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar**, the names of the three wise men in legend. The inscription also stands for **Christus Mansionem Benedicat**, which means "Christ, bless this home."

The popular form the inscription takes is 20+C+M+B+18. It remains above the doorway until Pentecost. You will find a fuller account of the tradition on *sheets at the back of church*.



## MASSES AND SERVICES

### In Church this week

- All Masses at their usual times.

### Sunday 7th January

#### FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Sat 5pm	Dennis & Mary Ramsey	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Josie Buchanan	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Parishioners	OLMC

#### Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Mon 8th January		
9am	Sammy McShane	OLMC
Tue 9th January		
7pm	Peter Olsen	OLMC
Wed 10th January		
10am	Christopher Owen	St Patrick
Thu 11th January		
10am	Margaret Finneran	St Patrick
Fri 12th January		
10am	Ann Dawe	OLMC

### Sunday 14th January

#### 2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sat 5pm	Eva Abernethy	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Pat & Joe Roberts	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Parishioners	OLMC

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 4-4.30pm

#### Thursday Evening Service 7pm

Short Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

### Bonus Ball / Mount Carmel and St Patrick

The bonus ball for Wednesday 3rd Jan: No 44

### Collections .....Many thanks

OLMC Sat Loose £74.89 Sun Loose £51.41  
Envelopes £142. Total £267.30

St Patrick Envelopes £0 Loose £130.15

### Please Pray For.... Those who have died: Mary Morgan

**The sick:** Tony Robinson, Bridget Dyson, Carol Pickford, Betty Billingsley, Sharon Gray, Tommy Duffy, Mary Frances, Audrey McKenna Ian McCafferty, Betty Christian, Bernard Duffy, Helen Melarange, Jack Davies, Joan Higgins, Michael McNicholas, Billy Thompson, Freya Matheson, Pat Smedley, Rene Humphreys, Clifford Browne, Gary Hollinson, Jackie Heath-Anderson, Ted Cunningham, Anne Deuchar, Charlotte Rice, Irene Finneran, Lisa Balshaw, Mary Kewley, Claire Kearney, Lyn Barton, Betty Devine, Kathleen Devine, Joseph Baxendale, Ann Chapman, Nadia Kent, Susan Roberts, Alex Sielski, Lee Foster, Paula Lacey, Denise King, John Dunning, Tommy Huyton, Emily Rolands, Angela Kent, David Majoury, Donald Smith, Pius Laizer, Maria Jones, Mary O'Toole, Sally Wilkins, Michael Murphy, Margaret Chung, David Stevenson, Thomas & John Paul Conroy, Keith Holden, Kathleen Crownly, Joanne Fairbrother, Eileen Edwards, Erin Caulfield, Lisa Ginley, Lillian O'Connor, Owen Hall, Anne Brannigan, Thelma Mainwaring, Cheryl and Lenny Hart, Sheila Chapman, Elaine Gorry, Alexandra Reid, Winifred Williamson, Kathryn Reid, Wally Williams, Chrissy White, Nicholas Maher, John Hodson, Terry Macklin, Muriel Minshull, Maureen Ryan, Mary Ryan, Regna Lewis, David Shea, Steven Binks, Holly and Lucy Brown.