

THE PARISHES OF S MARY THE VIRGIN, SUNDON & S SAVIOUR, LUTON. 899/430

SUNDAY JANUARY 3rd 2021 – SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

DAILY MASS – LIVE STREAMED – ST MARY THE VIRGIN SUNDON FACEBOOK PAGE

Sun:	Epiphany of the Lord	9:15am SOLEMN MASS	S MARY'S	PRO POPULO
		11:15am SOLEMN MASS	S SAVIOUR'S	PRO POPULO
Mon:	Feria	10:00am: Low Mass	S Mary's	Those with Covid 19
Tue:	Feria	10:00am: Low Mass	S Mary's	Those caring for the sick
Wed:	Feria	10:00am: Low Mass	S Mary's	The recently bereaved
Thu:	S Raymond	10:00am: Low Mass	S Mary's	Those in the legal profession
Fri:	Feria	10:00am: Low Mass	S Mary's	The Elderly
Sat:	Of Our Lady	10:00am Low Mass	S Mary's	The Shrine at Walsingham
SUN	Baptism of	9:15 SOLEMN MASS	S MARY'S	PRO POPULO
	The Lord.	11:15 SOLEMN MASS	S SAVIOUR'S	PRO POPULO

Welcome to S Mary's and S Saviour's. Luton and the surrounding areas of Beds Herts and Bucks are now in Tier 4. Please continue to observe hand sanitising, social distancing and face masking. Those in vulnerable categories are advised to be especially vigilant of the virus.

Epiphany. Today we keep the Feast of the Epiphany; the crib has been reset as is custom and chalk will be blessed for the marking of our houses – and the moveable feasts for the year will be announced.

Liturgical practicalities: unfortunately, we are still not able to sing the Mass Setting (or hymns) so Fr Yenda will simply sing the Ordinary of the Mass as per custom. Holy Communion will be distributed in one kind, socially distanced, at the chancel screen with the use of tongs or tweezers. Nothing is said.

The Mass sheets are copies of the Mass Card supplied by the Additional Curates Society. The ACS fund towards curates in urban priority areas. The sheets include all the new responses – “**And with YOUR spirit**” for example, and the Sursum Corda responses concluding with “**it is right and just**” make a clear link to the opening of the Preface “it is truly right and just...”

Many Thanks for all the lovely cards and presents I have received for Christmas again this year – I am deeply touched indeed; my mother is also very appreciative of the gifts she has received too and is very touched to have been remembered.

Gift Aid Envelopes: are available – they are from a previous year so the date is wrong! Please pick up your supply of envelopes for the coming year.

New Year Thoughts: I wish everyone a very happy New Year; and a happy feast of the Epiphany; one of the richest of all feasts. The Crib is re-set; the shepherds, straw and livestock are removed, and the three kings, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar replace them with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Chalk is also blessed and is used to mark the names of the three kings on our houses with the year and ‘Christus mansionem benedicat’ (‘Christ bless this house’). 20+C+M+B+21.

A new year is always something we look forward to, and this year we have especially high hopes for the coming year with a new vaccine up and running which should bring us at very long last back to some kind of normality after one of the worst and most worrying years we have known. Whereas 2020 was a year which brought us nothing we had expected, we now enter a year which is full of hope.

Epiphany comes at the beginning of the year and includes the announcement of the moveable feasts – those dates which change each year with the date of Easter – again this year small diaries are given with the principal dates of the year.

Let us look forward to a year filled with many blessings and much happiness as many people set about rebuilding their lives in 2021. Take care, stay safe, and a very happy new year!

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6 January
or the Sunday between 2 January and 6 January

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD A,B,C

Solemnity

The Revelation Of Christ To The World

We join all the people of the world in worshipping the infant King of the Jews.

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray

[that we will be guided by the light of faith]

Father,
you revealed your Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star.
Lead us to your glory in heaven
by the light of faith.

or

Let us pray

[grateful for the glory revealed today
through God made man]

Father of light, unchanging God,
today you reveal to men of faith
the resplendent fact of the Word made flesh.

Your light is strong,
your love is near;
draw us beyond the limits which this world imposes,
to the life where your Spirit makes all life complete.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13. *R* cf. v.11

R All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

- 1 O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. *R*
- 2 In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. *R*
- 3 The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. *R*
- 4 For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. *R*

Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star as it rose

and have come to do the Lord homage.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12
We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.

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.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,'

he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. 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. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.