



**Pastoral Area
Newsletter**
www.3rivers.org.uk

**Year (C) Weekdays: Year I. Psalter Week 2.
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

Welcome to our Pastoral Area

Churches in the Pastoral Area

Bishops Waltham - Our Lady Queen of Apostles,
Martin Street.

Fair Oak - St Swithun Wells,
Allington Lane.

Eastleigh - Holy Cross, Leigh Road.

Chandlers Ford - St Edward the Confessor,
Winchester Road.

North Baddesley - St Andrew's, Fleming Avenue.

Romsey - St Joseph's, Abbey House Drive.

**Taking Today's
Gospel Home
+ Children/
Families**

*What gift would
you take to Jesus?*

**+ Young People/
Adults**

*What would you like to offer the
Lord? What might you use to
symbolise it?*



The Feast of the Epiphany

The story of the visit of the wise men to the Christ child of Bethlehem thrills our imagination. Indeed through the centuries details have been added that we do not actually find in the text as we receive it from Matthew.

We are not told that these visitors were kings but wise men or Magi. They are likely to have been astrologers. We are not told that there were three of them but rather that they offered three gifts. They are not named in Matthew's text as Caspar, Balthasar and Melchior and we are given no indication that they were different colours reflecting different ethnic backgrounds.

So there is a large element of mystery about these visitors from the east. They vanish from the gospel as swiftly as they appear. So what is the point that Matthew is making by telling the story of the wise men?

The Magi represent the Gentiles and their adoration of the child Jesus fulfils Isaiah's prophecy in the first reading of the homage to be paid by the nations to the Messiah. They represent all who search for truth and because they searched with the eyes of faith they were able to recognise the gift of God when they found him.

The evangelist wants us to see the contrast between the faith of these pagan visitors and the unbelief of the Jewish leaders. The pagans have answered the call to faith in Christ while the chosen people have for the most part rejected it. The infancy narrative is sometimes called a gospel within a gospel with reactions to Christ of both acceptance and rejection.

The Magi followed the light of a star and their encounter with the Christ child shows that in Christ the light of God is given to all people of goodwill. The story illustrates the universal breadth of the good news.

Father Michael.

❖ Liturgy and Sacraments

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Luke 3:15-16. 21-22. Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11. Psalm 103. Titus 2:11-14. 3:4-7. Please read the Gospel during the week and listen as it is proclaimed on Sunday.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION:

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church: Enquiries please to Lucy O'Neill, on 01389 878760.

St. Joseph's and St. Andrew's Churches: The first meeting for children and parents will be held on Tuesday, 5 January, at 6pm, at St. Andrew's Church. It is important that all attend. Enquiries please to Romsey Parish Office on 01794 513646.

St. Swithun Wells/Holy Cross/ St. Edward the Confessor Churches: The next session for parents will be held on Tuesday, 12 January, 2010, at 7.30pm, at St. Edward the Confessor Church, 191/193 Winchester Road, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2DU. The next children's session (parents will also be invited to stay) will be held on Monday, 18 January, from 6.30pm-7.30pm, at the church where the child is to make their First Holy Communion. Masses at St. Edward's Church and Holy Cross Church on Sunday, 24 January, will particularly involve children. Enquiries please to Elizabeth Nash on 01962 712022, or Anne Owen on 023 8065 8251.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: A Baptism Preparation Session for 3 Rivers Pastoral Area will be held on Sunday, 7 February, 2010, from 4.30pm to 6pm, for parents seeking the Sacrament of Baptism for their child. This will be held in the Resource Centre of Holy Cross Church, Leigh Road, Eastleigh. Application forms are available from the Parish Office in Chandler's Ford on 023 8027 3882 and Romsey Parish Office on 01794 513646.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: If you are intending to get married within the next 12 months, please speak to one of the priests as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.



❖ Ongoing Formation

CAFÉ (CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLORATION): Meetings will resume on Wednesday, 13 January, at 12.30pm in the Parish Centre, Romsey. Please bring a lunch to share. All welcome. Enquiries please to Romsey Parish Office on 01794 513646.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAMME 2009-10: A programme of learning, discussion and insight into our Faith, aiming to make Faith the centre of our lives. It will serve to reinforce our understanding of the Scriptures and the meaning of the Sacraments. Finally, it will explain Catechesis and help define our Faith. The next session will be held on **Wednesday, 27 January, 2010, (please note new date)** from 7.30pm for 7.45pm, ending at 9.00pm, at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham.

The Theme will be "Practical aspects of Catechesis in our community". This session will be of particular interest to Catechists, but all are very welcome to attend and are likely to find it interesting and informative. For further details please call/text Giles Brady on 07816 569293, or Charles Forrest on 023 8069 4482

JOURNEY IN FAITH: These meetings are for anyone who wishes to know more about the Catholic Faith, anyone who wishes to return to the practice of their faith, or anyone who would like to find out about becoming a Catholic. The next session at St. Edward the Confessor Church, 191/193 Winchester Road, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2DU, will be held on Thursday, 14 January, 2010, from 7.30pm to 9pm. Please come along. You will be warmly welcomed. Enquiries please to: Deacon Paul on 023 8065 8251 for *St. Swithun Wells, Holy Cross and St. Edward the Confessor Churches*. Deacon John on 01794 515688, for *St. Joseph's & St. Andrew's Churches*. Pat Taylor on 01489 895889, for *Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church*.



❖ Lent Groups 2010

LENT GROUPS 2010 Spot the Difference – For the lent house study groups this year the Churches in Chandlers Ford have chosen **Spot the Difference**, a group study course for Lent by Nick Fawcett. The course explores five ways in which Christian commitment can manifest itself. In the course participants are challenged to consider how well their lives display love, allegiance to Christ, joy, concern for others and faith. If you are willing to lead or host a group for five sessions in Lent, or if you have an existing house group and would like to be included, please put your name on the sheet in the Cloister. Enquiries please to the Co-ordinator: Philip Sheppard on 023 8026 1172. or email him on, pipsheppard@googlemail.com

❖ Supporting each other

ST. SWITHUN WELLS FELLOWSHIP: The group meets regularly at St. Swithun Wells Church, Allington Lane, Fair Oak, on Wednesdays, during term time from 7.45pm to 9pm. On Wednesday, 13 January, there will be a planning meeting for the coming term. Do please come along. You will be warmly welcomed. Enquiries please to Peter Baggott on 023 8069 4060, Bob Birtles on 023 8069 2416 or Steve Holmes on 023 8069 3669.

HOLY CROSS AND ST. SWITHUN WELLS CHURCHES:

Ministers of the Word: We are hoping shortly to run workshops for anyone who would like to participate in the Mass by reading the Scriptures. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Nash on 01962 712022 or Kath Cunningham on 023 8061 6340 and further details will then follow.

❖ Outreach

TWO SAINTS (ST. DISMAS): Thank you to all the children who brought Christmas gifts to our churches for the residents of Two Saints Night-shelter. Our thanks also to those parishioners who so generously provided warm men's clothing and soup for them. All Christmas gifts and provisions were delivered before Christmas Eve.

POITIERS PROJECT: Christmas hampers were prepared by Poitiers Project and delivered to families in crisis locally in good time for Christmas. Thank you to all parishioners who supported this charity in any way.

CAFOD SUPPORTERS DAY: Saturday, 9 January, 2010, at St. Bede's Parish Hall, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX, 10.30am-3.30pm, (Stations of the Cross at 3.30pm). An opportunity for all CAFOD supporters across the Diocese to get together and hear about upcoming plans to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Lent Fast Day, and be led by our Spirituality Team reflecting on and praying in solidarity. Refreshments provided—please bring your own lunch. To book a place contact the CAFOD Portsmouth Office: Portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or 01252 329385.

❖ World Youth Day 2011

The next International Gathering for World Youth Day (WYD) will be held in Madrid during August, 2011. The Diocese is planning to take a group. If you would like to be part of this group or you want to find out more about WYD, then come along to one of the information evenings. Please see poster in welcoming area for the venues including an Information Evening on Tuesday, 19 January, 2010, at St. Edward the Confessor Church, 191/193 Winchester Road, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2DU, from 7.30pm to 9pm. To book a place please contact Eileen Stephenson on 01329 835583, or email her at estephenon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk at the Department for Pastoral Formation, Park Place Pastoral Centre, Winchester Road, Wickham, Hampshire. PO17 5HA

❖ Catechists, Youth Leaders, etc.

'HOPE'—To coincide with the launch of the new Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMfED), the "Hope Congress" will be providing fresh inspiration for youth leaders on Saturday, 27 February, at Friends Meeting House in Euston, London. The national congress is an opportunity to refresh and envision the whole Catholic community, and speakers will be sharing some of their insights and dreams around the theme: *"We have set our hope on the living God" (1 Tim 4:10-12).*

'A day of brilliant input to inspire and support all those looking to connect young people with the Church - especially Youth Leaders, Parish Volunteers, Chaplains, Catechists and Priests ...'

For further details please see poster in welcoming area of all our churches.

❖ School Matters

St. Mary's College, 57 Midanbury Lane, Bitterne Park, Southampton, SO18 4DJ. Tel: 023 8067 0150
Entrance Examination on Saturday, 9 January, 2010, from 9am-12.15pm, for September, Year 7 entry.
Please see poster in the welcoming area of all our churches.

❖ Finance

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS COLLECTIONS HELD IN OUR CHURCHES ON 27 December, 2009.

St. Edward the Confessor: £1,042.83, (Loose plate: £154.52, Envelopes: £117.50, & Standing Orders: £770.81).

Holy Cross & St. Swithun Wells: £898.80, (Loose plate: £234.80, Envelopes: £104.00, & Standing Orders: £560.00).




200 CLUB: No. 92, Father George, £25. **St. Joseph's and St. Andrew's:** Gift Aid £423. Non Gift Aid: £190.




Items for inclusion in the Pastoral Area Newsletter are required please by Tuesday, noon, by post or phone, direct to the Parish Office at Chandler's Ford on 023 8027 3882, or email 3rivers@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Saturday	2	10.00am (HC) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i> (<i>The First Mass of Sunday</i>)	5.00pm (SW) Pat and Teresa McHugh 6.00pm (SJ) Charlotte Taggart RIP 6.00pm (OLQoA) MASS 6.30pm (SE) Deceased members of the Magee and McAtear Families RIP
Sunday	3	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 9.00am (SE) The People of 3 Rivers Pastoral Area 9.00am (HC) Polska Msza Święta 9.15am (SA) MASS 9.30am (OLQoA) MASS 11.00am (SA) MASS 11.00am (HC) Allan Smith RIP 9.15am (SE) George, Gertrude and Mary Lawton RIP 10.00am (OLQoA) MASS 10.00am (SW) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion followed by the Rosary</i>	
Monday	4	Liturgy of the Day 9.15am (SE) Benefactors of the Priests' retirement fund 10.00am (HC) Elizabeth and Richard Cooper FM 10.00am (OLQoA) MASS followed by the Rosary 10.00am (SA) MASS 6.00pm (SJ) MASS 7.00pm (HC) <i>Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament</i> 7.30pm <i>Holy Rosary in the Oratory of Marie Louise House Newton Lane, Romsey</i>	
Tuesday	5	Liturgy of the Day 9.15am (SE) Eric, Roslyn, Godfrey and Sylvie Lasker RIP followed by the Rosary in the Lady Chapel 10.00am (HC) Audrey Queen FM 10.00am (OLQoA) MASS	
Wednesday	6	Liturgy of the Day 9.15am (SE) Helen Christian FM 10.00am (HC) Jerry McDonnell RIP 10.00am (OLQoA) MASS 6.00pm (SJ) MASS	
Thursday	7	Liturgy of the Day 9.15am (SE) Mr. and Mrs. D. Alessandro's intentions 10.00am (HC) Jese Sepala 10.00am (OLQoA) MASS 10.00am (SA) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion with Morning Prayer</i>	
Friday	8	Liturgy of the Day 10.00am (HC) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i> (<i>The First Mass of Sunday</i>)	
Saturday	9	5.00pm (SW) Lydia Fonseca RIP 6.00pm (SJ) MASS 6.00pm (OLQoA) MASS 6.30pm (SE) Eileen Magee RIP	
Sunday	10	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9.00am (SE) The People of 3 Rivers Pastoral Area 9.00am (HC) Polska Msza Święta 9.15am (SA) MASS 9.30am (OLQoA) MASS 11.00am (SA) MASS 11.00am (HC) Michael Lane FM	

HC: Holy Cross, SW: St. Swithun Wells, OLQoA: Our Lady Queen of Apostles, SA: St Andrew's, SJ: St. Joseph's, SE: St Edward's.

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 The Presbytery, Martin Street,
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


RETIRED PRIESTS
Fr Clement Marshall
Fr Maurice Twomey
Fr David Whitehead

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DEACONS

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Deacon John di Meo




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Deacon Paul Owen




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PARISH OFFICES

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Parish Secretary, Rosemary Peacock

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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Registered Charity No. 246871

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES:

St . Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School 023 8026 6210
St George Catholic V.A. College 023 8032 2603
St Anne's Catholic School 023 8032 8200