

The Parish of St Dunstan and St Jude

Second Sunday after the Nativity of the Lord

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Sunday 3rd January 2021

www.stdunstanandstjude.co.uk

Sat 2 nd	<i>St Basil and St Gregory</i>	11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Mass Vigil Mass	Mary and Joseph Monteith Martin and Moira O'Neill
Sun 3 rd	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY	9.15am (<i>St Jude's</i>) 10.30am 12noon 6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Jim Hoe Philomena Burkett Paul Collins Brian McDaid
Mon 4 th	<i>Christmas Feria</i>	9.30am 5.00pm	Holy Mass <i>Reception and Vigil for</i>	Pro Populo Susan Melvin (RIP)
Tues 5 th	<i>Christmas Feria</i> <i>(Vigil of the Epiphany)</i>	10.00am (<i>St Jude's</i>) 10.30am 7.00pm	Holy Mass Requiem Mass Holy Mass	Astorre's beloved dead Susan Melvin (RIP) Winnie Sumner
Wed 6 th	SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	9.30am 12noon (<i>St Jude's</i>) 7.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Noreen Roulston
Thurs 7 th	<i>Christmas Feria</i>	7.00pm	Holy Mass	Liam Corcoran (RIP)
Fri 8 th	<i>Christmas Feria</i>	9.30am 7.00pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass	Cath Southby Noel Cyriac
Sat 9 th	<i>Christmas Feria</i>	11.00am	Holy Mass	Pat Macken (Ints.)
		11.30am	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
		11.30am 4.45pm 5.30pm	Confessions Confessions Vigil Mass	Stephen Thomas Curwen (RIP)
Sun 10 th	FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	9.15am (<i>St Jude's</i>) 10.30am 12 noon 6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mandy Calder (RIP) Carol Ann Kinahan (RIP) Louise Doherty (RIP Anni.) Teresa Creamer (RIP)

A very happy New Year to you all. Let's hope it will be a better one than last year! As you may know we are now in tier 4, but thankfully this does not affect the celebration of public Mass.

Thank you to all of those who gave so much in time and talent to enable the Christmas liturgies to be celebrated. The work into the Christmas seating plans, the flowers, the cleaning, stewarding, serving and Godfrey our organist, enabled what could have been a rather dull Christmas shimmer with glory!

Thank you also from Fr Philip and Fr John for your very kind cards, gifts and Christmas offerings. It has been a very different kind of Christmas for most of us but, thank God, we have been able to gather around the Altar and offer Holy Mass in celebration of Our Lord's saving birth.

Also a huge and very heartfelt thank you to the kind and giving members of St Dunstan's and St Jude's Parish who supported our venture to supply the makings of a Christmas dinner to families who are finding things difficult. Because of your wonderful generosity, we were able to make up 112 hampers containing: turkey, potatoes, carrots, peas, stuffing, gravy, mince pies, tinned fruit, Chocolate Fingers, Jammie Dodger biscuits and chocolates. However awful 2020 may have been, you have made a difference in our little corner of the world.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

By Wednesday much of the colourful lights and trees of Christmas might have disappeared by the Epiphany (especially those up since October), but for the Church the Christmas feast journeys on with the celebration of the visit of the Magi or Wise Men to the infant Jesus in Bethlehem on Wednesday. St Matthew tells us that 'the sight of the star filled them with delight' for it awakened in them the gift of faith which led them, as it does us, to the Christ-Child.

Pope Benedict, reflecting on this feast, once said: 'men and women of every generation need on their pilgrim journey to be directed: what star can we follow? After coming to rest "over the place where the child was", the purpose of the star that guided the Magi ended, but its spiritual light is always present in the Word of the Gospel, which is still able today to guide every person to Jesus. This same Word, which is none other than the reflection of Christ, true man and true God, is authoritatively echoed by the Church for every well-disposed heart. The Church too, therefore, carries out the mission of the star for humanity. But something of the sort could be said of each Christian, called to illuminate the path of the brethren by word and example of life.'

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF HOMES

*It has been one of the old traditions of the Church to bless chalk at the Masses of the Epiphany, and then to use the blessed chalk to invoke a prayer of blessing on your home for the New Year that has just begun. You use the blessed chalk to write above the doorway of your home **20+C+M+B+21** in the order below. As you do so, another says the prayer of blessing:*

The three Wise Men

(C) Caspar

(M) Melchior, and

(B) Balthasar, followed the Star to God's Son who became man

(20) Two Thousand and

(21) Twenty-one years ago,

+ May Christ

+ bless our home

+ and remain with us throughout the new year .

+Amen.

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. Bless this household with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your commandments. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Crib Offerings will this year be going to 'Let the Children Live'. This charity, founded from Our Lady's Shrine at Walsingham, supports accommodation and education for street children in Columbia, and tries to draw them away from lives of drug trafficking and prostitution.

When you come to church please do not leave newsletters in church after you have read them as they can become a source of infection. Please take them home with you.

Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound.

Please contact the presbytery if you or family members would like this, as a number of parishioners are still isolating and do not wish for outside visits.

Queen Elizabeth and Birmingham Women's Hospitals and St Mary's Hospice.

A number of you will have been grateful for the ministry of Fr Charles Miller as Catholic Chaplain over a good number of years. For some time he has been contemplating a new context for his priestly ministry. His last day as Chaplain of the hospitals and the hospice will be Christmas Day before he embarks on his training to be a chaplain in Her Majesty's Navy. He goes with our good wishes, thanks and prayers

There are, at present, no plans for a replacement for Fr Charles, so whatever chaplaincy services remain will sadly be much depleted. Therefore, regarding the sacraments, if you know that you (or a family member

or friend in the parish) will be going to hospital, it is important to have confession, the anointing of the sick and holy communion from one of the priests here before you/they go in to hospital. It will often not be available during your stay. Just have a word after Mass or ring or email the presbytery. This problem is somewhat exasperated by the pandemic, as no casual visits by family or clergy are permitted - and then only on very specific grounds.

For reference - it's worth remembering that the sacraments should be received when a person is conscious and able to participate as much as possible. This is essential for holy communion - *and viaticum or 'last holy communion' (not anointing) is the sacrament of the dying* - and confession.

Sadly a number of people think they need to wait to until it is often too late. So if we can remember – and teach others – that such things should be done, when circumstances permit, with plenty of time.

Government restrictions for funerals still stipulate a maximum of 30 attending.

We pray for those who have died recently: Winnie Sumner, Joan Johnson, Vincent O'Neill, Susan Melvin and Margaret Hooper.

Government restrictions for Baptisms still stipulate a maximum of 6 attending.

Confessions have now resumed at the normal advertised times. Social distancing means using the side chapel at St Dunstan's. **Please keep the time spent in the confessional to a minimum (5 minutes max) to both make it as safe as possible, and so that others have opportunity for the celebration of this sacrament.**

Church Cleaning will take place on Wednesday after Mass. If you can help you will be very welcome.

Please note that the toilets are presently closed due to COVID regulations, and the side chapel will be out of bounds apart from for Confession.

Weekly offerings can be placed in the baskets in church or posted through the Presbytery letterbox. Please place offerings in either the usual Gift Aid envelopes or a plain envelope marked 'St Dunstan' or 'St Jude'.

The Parish Office will now be open from 9.00am until 5.00pm on Wednesday and Friday each week. In order to minimise the number of people in the office and for the safety of those at work, until further notice we ask you to observe the following:

If you have an enquiry: please phone or email first to see if it can be sorted in this way.

For those wishing to book Mass intentions: please bring a sealed envelope clearly labelled with the intention details (person's name, required date etc) and include the offering inside. This can then be handed in at the office and if requested a Mass card be signed and given.

If you need to speak to the Parish Administrator or one of the Priests: we would ask that you phone or email in advance, so that an appointment can be arranged at a convenient time for both.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

FIRST READING

Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12

Wisdom speaks her own praises, in the midst of her people she glories in herself. She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High, she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One; 'Then the creator of all things instructed me, and he who created me fixed a place for my tent. He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob, make Israel your inheritance." From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall remain I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle, and thus was I established on Zion. In the beloved city he has given me rest, and in Jerusalem I wield my authority I have taken root in a privileged people, in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R: The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Zion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates,
he has blessed the children with you. **R.**

He has established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with the finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command. **R.**

He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them all decrees **R.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved. That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

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 READING

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.