



# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH BREWOOD

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<b>Parish Priest</b> Fr Tomas Zuna	<b>Permanent Deacon</b> Rev Stephen Gee Tel. 07923127398	<b>Parish Secretary</b> Teresa Blunn	<b>Safeguarding</b> Jan Fergusson sg.stmary.brewood@rcaob.org.uk
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## SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

<b>Saturday</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> January	4.30 – 4.45pm <b>5.00pm</b>	Confessions <b>Sunday Vigil Mass</b>	Jacintha & Joe Phelan
<b>Sunday</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b> (in Penkridge) <b>Sunday Mass</b>	Seamus Gunn SI People of the Parish
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup></b> Monday after Epiphany	9.00am	<b>Holy Mass</b>	Mary Gill RIP
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 10<sup>th</sup></b>		No Mass	

## FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

<b>Saturday</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> January	4.30 – 4.45pm <b>5.00pm</b>	Confessions <b>Sunday Vigil Mass</b>	Lily & Billy Devoy
<b>Sunday</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b> (in Penkridge) <b>Sunday Mass</b>	People of the parish Barbara Pritchard RTH
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup></b>		No Mass	

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<b>Saturday</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> January	4.30 – 4.45pm <b>5.00pm</b>	Confessions <b>Sunday Vigil Mass</b>	Karen Grainger RIP
<b>Sunday</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b> (in Penkridge) <b>Sunday Mass</b>	People of the parish Irene & Richard Rose RTH

Please join us for refreshments in the Hall after the 11am Sunday Mass

**SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** – This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany as we mark the visit of the Three Wise Men to the Christ Child. The Greek word, from which the name 'epiphany' comes to us, means 'revealing'. Indeed the visit of these mysterious gentiles from the East reveals Jesus not only as the promised Jewish Messiah but also as the saviour of the whole world. But it is not just the Wise Men but also their gifts that reveal something of who Our Lord is:

Gold symbolized kingship since Jesus is the King of the Universe.

Frankincense points to Christ's Divinity, as incense is used in divine worship and its smoke represents our prayers rising to Heaven.

Myrrh points to Jesus' saving death since myrrh is a resin that was used for burial rites. According to John's Gospel Nicodemus indeed brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes to prepare Our Lord for his burial (Jn 19:39).

**Epiphany Chalk** will be blessed today for you to take with you to be used to bless your homes. This ancient tradition is rich with symbolism. The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the Wise Men: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase: Christus Mansionem Benedicat ('May Christ bless the house'). Finally the crosses represent the Precious Blood of Christ through which we are saved. In this we are reminded of the events of the Passover when lamb's blood was used to mark the doorposts of the Jewish exiles and thus protected them from God's punishment in Egypt.

Use the blessed chalk to write above the doorway of your home **20+C+M+B+25** in the order below while saying this 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  
**(25)** Twenty-Five 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.

**Deacon Stephen Thanksgiving** – Mass of Thanksgiving will be on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm followed by a celebration in the Hall. It would be great for as many people as possible to make the Mass. There will be a planning meeting to organise the celebration at 6.30pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January in the Hall. Please come and help to organise this

**THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD** – Next Sunday the Christmas season concludes with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Whilst chronologically they are decades apart, next week's celebration is very much connected to the Feast of the Epiphany. Both events in the life of Our Lord - the visit of the Magi and His Baptism – have, in ancient times, been in fact celebrated together on one day as they both, in their own way, reveal something of who Our Lord is.

**Don't dismantle your cribs just yet!** – Catholics traditionally keep the Crib in place for the 40 days until 2nd February, the Feast of Candlemas (the Presentation of Christ in the Temple) as, according to the Scriptures, Mary 'kept to herself' for 40 days after her Son's birth in obedience to the Law of Moses (Luke 2:22). Daily prayers at the Crib may include the Angelus, Rosary (Joyful mysteries).

**Fr Andrew Robinson** – Next Weekend please welcome Fr Andrew Robinson. For most people he no longer needs an introduction but, for those who are new, Fr Andrew is a member of staff at Oscott College, our Diocesan Seminary.

**Two weekend Edition of the Newsletter** – Please note that there will be no newsletter next weekend and therefore any news items will go on the bulletin for Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January.

**Christmas Raffle** – there are still a few uncollected prizes: Collette Murphy, Adam Rai, Anne Richards, Oliver Murphy. Please contact Teresa in the presbytery to collect or speak to Fr Tomas after the Mass.

**Crib Collection** – This year's crib collection will be in support of the Christians on the West Bank and Gaza. The money will be passed on to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre collecting on behalf of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

### OTHER PARISH NEWS

**Teresa Prendergast RIP** – Requiem Mass at St Anthony's, Fordhouses on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan at 10.30am, followed by 12noon Cremation at Bushbury Crematorium.

**Week of prayer for Christian Unity** starts on 18<sup>th</sup> January. There will be prayer meetings in all churches during this week in addition to an ecumenical service at the Brewood Methodist Chapel on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan at 4pm.

### PLEASE NOTE

**Interested in being Catholic?** – If you are thinking of becoming a Catholic or know of someone who is please speak to Fr Tomas. We would be glad to accompany you on your journey of faith.

**If you are going into hospital,** please contact Fr Tomas in order to receive the sacrament of the Sick before you go. When you are admitted to the hospital, you will have to explicitly ask for the catholic chaplain to be informed you are there.

**If you know of a parishioner with a serious/long-term illness or who is dying,** please let Fr Tomas know so that he can get in touch and arrange a visit.

**Food Bank** – There is a basket at the back of the church where you can leave non-perishable items that will then be given to The Well, our local Food Bank.

**Please also pray for the sick,** especially Tom Rochford, Philip Harding, Jean Ellson, Susan McLuckie, Mary Stokes, Frank Birch, Rev Stephen Gee, Philip & Christine Elson, Bill Baker and Bernard Boyes.

### Collection

#### Weekend of the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

Loose:£217.20    Gift Aid:£88.00    Total: £305.20

#### Weekend of the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Loose:£164.85    Gift Aid:£95.00    Total: £259.85

Total Gift Aid Standing Orders for November were £1,410.00  
(average weekly total £352.50)

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Jan Fergusson. She can be contacted at [sg.stmary.brewood@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stmary.brewood@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.