

The week ahead...

Saturday 07 January Weekday before Epiphany	5:00pm	Mass: Teresa & Walter Drane and pro populo
Sunday 08 January The Epiphany of the Lord		
Monday 09 January The Baptism of the Lord		
Tuesday 10 January Tuesday of Ordinary Time 1	6:30pm	Mass: David Bell
Wednesday 11 January Wednesday of Ordinary Time 1	9:30am	Mass: Marie Wilson
Thursday 12 January <i>St Benet Biscop, Abbot</i>	9:30am	Mass: Parkin and McCall families
	11:45am	Funeral Service: Bill Williamson
Friday 13 January Friday of Ordinary Time 1	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
	12:00noon	Funeral Mass: Betty Allison
Saturday 14 January Saturday of Ordinary Time 1	5:00pm	Mass: Margaret Halliday and pro populo

Ministries for this week Saturday 07 January

Eucharistic Ministers
Pauline & Ambrose Burnside
Angela Harmston

Readers
Greg Mearman
Pat Middleton

Children's Liturgy
(In recess till school resumes)

Welcomers
Paul & Anne Kelly

Ministries for next week Saturday 14 January

Eucharistic Ministers
Malcolm & Teresa Wass
Andrew Aberdeen

Readers
Maria Griffiths
Angela Harmston

Children's Liturgy
Anne Davies
Michelle Dennis

Welcomers
Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION (Two Masses)

Gift Aid: £262 Loose Plate: £248

Total: £510

Mass Attendance: 177

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

Have you an item for the parish bulletin? Please contact Judith Bulmer on (0191) 378 3544 or 07980 481 858 or send an email to her at judithbulmer@rocketmail.com.

Please remember in your prayers people who are sick and housebound in the parish....

Pat Curran, Tom Taylorson, Sylvia Kelly, Marie Carey, Mary Spears, Rose Crick, Maureen McCrann, Teresa Parkin, Doreen Carroll, Dorothy Dowdle, Tom Tracey, Jean O'Donoghue, Margaret Pouton, Michael Kane, Pat Harrison, Ohwyn Morris and Bede Anderson.

THANK YOU...to Jane Smith and Helen Musham for their dedication to the children's liturgy ministry in recent years. They will now hand over to two more dedicated teachers. Jane and Helen, thank you again and every blessing upon you for the difference you have made to the faith of so many children!

Emailed Bulletin – If you would like to have the parish bulletin emailed to you each week please email Judith (details opposite) and you will be added to the mailing list. Parish Council minutes are also available



St Patrick's RC Church, Langley Moor

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The Epiphany of the Lord

08 January, 2017

"At Bethlehem in Judaea..."

THE "Three Wise Men" who occupy a central place in the Gospel this weekend are well-known to us all. They re-enter our consciousness each Christmas with the famous carol "We Three Kings of Orient Are." We can picture these wise men, or kings, as they journey west to Bethlehem, dressed in their fine, elaborate robes and bearing their precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The only thing is: there were not three kings or wise men. In fact, the Gospel doesn't specify the number of men travelling from the east. The tradition that there were three kings no doubt developed because of the three gifts that were brought for the infant Jesus, one king for each gift. There may well have been dozens of wise men journeying from the east, we simply don't know!

Of course, it doesn't matter how many there were. Nor does it matter whether they were wise men or kings. In fact, many scholars believe these men were astrologers. What matters most about these characters is their response to the sighting of the star that directed them to Bethlehem. As foreigners (non-Jews) one would have thought the birth of a Jewish king would have been of no interest to them, yet they make the arduous journey from the east (probably from modern-day Iran) bearing precious gifts to give to this new-born child whom they acknowledge to Herod as the "infant king of the Jews." Clearly these men are indeed "wise", wise in the sense that they are open to seeing in this new-born child one who, though referred to as the king of the Jews, is, in fact, born for the salvation of all people, not merely a select religious group.

Contrast their response with those who ought to have known better, the chief priests and scribes whom Herod summons. These men were well aware of the prophecy of a saviour, (even to the point of quoting it to Herod!), yet, as holy and learned men, they failed to see what the men from the east saw. They were no doubt blinded by their own preconceived notions of how a saviour would be revealed to the world by God. The idea of the saviour being a new-born child in a humble stable was clearly not on their list of possibilities. The wise men from the east proved their wisdom by being open to God working in such an unexpected way.

Epiphany Sunday is all about the manifestation of Christ to the world as the one who came to offer salvation to all people who would accept this gift, a gift far more precious than the gold, frankincense and myrrh given to him at his birth. The wise men from the East represent all the peoples of the world who may not be of "God's chosen people", the Jewish people, but who are open to the gift that is made manifest in this child born "at Bethlehem in Judaea" two thousand years ago.

May we embrace, and rejoice in, every manifestation of Christ that is presented to us in the year ahead, and so demonstrate that same wisdom of those wise men from the east when they followed that mysterious guiding star.

Blessings and prayers in the week ahead,

Fr Robert



What's going on...?

Funeral Mass for Betty ALLISON: The Funeral Mass for the late Betty ALLISON will be celebrated here at St Patrick's this Friday, 13 January, at 12:00noon followed by the Rite of Committal at Durham Crematorium. Please keep the family in your prayers at this time.

Funeral Service for Bill WILLIAMSON: The Funeral Service for the late Bill WILLIAMSON will be celebrated here at St Patrick's this Thursday, 12 January, at 11:45am. Please keep the family in your prayers at this time. Bill's wife, Angela, is the daughter of the late Walter and Teresa DRANE.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting: The first PPC meeting for the year is scheduled for this Wednesday, 11 January at 7:00pm in the presbytery. As always, parishioners are welcome at these meetings and minutes are available for emailing for those who might be interested.

Friday Mass Intentions: Please don't forget that each Friday there is a 7:00am Mass for which there is rarely an intention requested. Whilst I understand that many people wish to be present when a Mass intention they are offering is being celebrated, this is not essential. If it is not important for you to be present at a Mass for which you are asking an intention, consider asking for it to be celebrated on Friday morning. The intention will be printed on the back page of the bulletin and the Mass announced and faithfully offered.

Christmas Crib donations: You will notice that there is a collection plate adjacent to the Christmas crib at the base of the altar. All donations will be sent to Friends of the Holy Land, an organisation which helps the poorest Christians in the Holy Land, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan. Donations can be made as long as the nativity display is up, which will be for the next few days.

Churches Together Prayer Group: The prayer group will meet in St Patrick's presbytery during the winter months, each third Tuesday, 9:30am—10:00am. Next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 17 January.**

Churches Together Bible Group at St Andrew's Methodist, Brandon: Next meeting will be on **Monday, 09 January** from 3:30pm—4:45pm. All are welcome and Bibles are available if you don't have access to one.

SCHOOL NEWS

Spring Term

Following the Christmas break, school re-opens to pupils on **Tuesday 10th January, 2017.**

Thanks

Grateful thanks to Father Robert for all his support of the school last term and throughout the services and celebrations held during Advent and Christmas.

A big thank you to all the children and their families who supported events and celebrations throughout Advent and Christmas, especially those who read, sang in the choir or helped by carrying out a particular role and to those parishioners who were able to attend celebrations involving our school children, both in school and church.

Many thanks to Richard Openshaw for providing the music during the Carol Service held in the last week of term and to all those involved in providing and serving the refreshments that were made available after the last Mass of Advent.

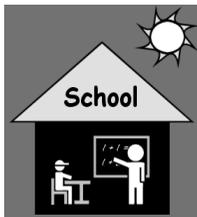
For their regular help in school last term, we are thankful to Mary Rowe and Jennie Staff and look forward to seeing you both again next term.

First Holy Communicants

The next session for the children preparing for First Eucharist will be held in the Presbytery at 4:00pm on Saturday 14th January.

Happy New Year

On behalf of all the staff of St. Patrick's School - we wish you all a happy, holy and peaceful year ahead.

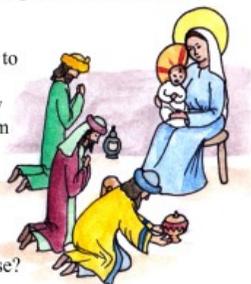


The Kids' Bulletin

Epiphany: True or False?

*How well do you know the story of the wise men?
Which of these are true and which are false?*

1. Wise men came from the West to find the Baby Jesus. True or false?
2. The wise men went and asked King Caesar where the Messiah would be born. True or false?
3. The king told them to come back and tell him where the Baby was once they had found Him so that he could go and worship Him. True or false?
4. When the wise men found the Child and His mother they bowed down and gave Him gifts. True or false?
5. The gifts they gave were gold, frankincense and myrrh. True or false?
6. When they were going to go back and tell the king where the Baby was, they had a dream that told them not to. True or false?
7. The wise men went back to their land by the same road that they had come on. True or false?



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Aelred of Rievaulx - 11 January

Aelred was born in Hexham around 1109. His family was well connected and he was sent at an early age to serve in the court of King David of Scotland. He was attracted to religious life but also attached to life at the king's court. At the age of 24, after a personal struggle, he entered the newly founded Cistercian monastery at Rievaulx. After a short time at another new monastery in Lincolnshire, he returned to Rievaulx as Abbot where he remained until his death in 1167.

Aelred is remembered for both his energy and gentleness. His writings and sermons were characterised by a deep love of the Scriptures and by a very personal love of Christ 'as friend and Saviour'. Under his direction Rievaulx grew to an extraordinary size.

Aelred has been called the St Bernard of the North.

(Information taken from [Universalis](#))



~ Mass Times This Week ~

Please be aware that the regular Mass schedule resumes this week!



FLAME CONGRESS

On Saturday 11 March a group of 1,000 young people and accompanying adults from our diocese will be travelling to Flame at Wembley Arena. Flame is a National Catholic Youth Congress with inspiring speakers and music from Matt Redman. Coaches will be leaving from every part of the diocese. There are still places left for young people Year 9 and above and for adults. If you would like to go, please contact YMT for further details. Email admin@ymt.org or 01207 592244.

DID YOU KNOW...?

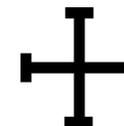
...that the wise men who came from the East were quite likely what we would today call astrologers or perhaps even Magi?

There is much speculation and debate around the subject of the wise men simply because there is so little detail given in the scriptures. It has often been assumed that the wise men were astrologers or perhaps Magi, priests of the Zoroastrian religion, begun in 600BCE, which still has a following today, especially in its home of modern-day Iran. The best known modern Zoroastrian is perhaps the former Queen lead singer, Freddie Mercury.

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"If the Magi had come in search of an earthly King, they would have been disconcerted at finding that they had taken the trouble to come such a long way for nothing. Consequently they would have neither adored nor offered gifts. But since they sought a heavenly King, though they found in Him no signs of royal pre-eminence, yet, content with the testimony of the star alone, they adored: for they saw a man, and they acknowledged a God."

St John Chrysostom
(c.349-407)
Bishop and Doctor of the Church



PRAY FOR... PEACE as the new year begins. Pray that this year will see God work in ways that will motivate those responsible for violent conflicts to open their hearts to possibilities for true and lasting peace. Peace is not the mere absence of war but comes about through an attitude of tolerance, understanding and respect for the dignity of all. May it start with us!

