

The week ahead...

Saturday 04 January Vigil Mass for The Epiphany of the Lord	5:00pm	Mass: Carter family and pro populo
Sunday 05 January The Epiphany of the Lord	NO MASS	
Monday 06 January Weekday after Epiphany	NO MASS	
Tuesday 07 January Weekday after Epiphany	6:30pm	Mass: Alan Aberdeen
Wednesday 08 January Weekday after Epiphany	9:30am	Mass: A Wedding Anniversary
Thursday 09 January Weekday after Epiphany	9:30am	Mass: Bill, Ian and Kathleen Defty
Friday 10 January Weekday after Epiphany	7:00am	Mass: Private Intention
Saturday 11 January Vigil Mass for The Baptism of the Lord	5:00pm	Mass: Souls in Purgatory and pro populo



St Patrick's R.C. Church
A Parish of the Finchale Partnership
Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Co. Durham, DH7 8JJ
Priest in Charge: Fr Robert Riedling **Ph:** (0191) 378 4486
Mob: 07904 833 785
Email: langleymoor.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk
Web: www.stpatricksrcchurch.co.uk
St Patrick's R.C. Primary School: **Ph:** (0191) 378 0552
Hospital Chaplain: Fr Paul Tully **Ph:** (01388) 818 544

The Epiphany of the Lord

05 January 2020

“The sight of the star filled them with delight...”

WE HAVE ALL encountered people who exhibit a fierce determination to achieve a goal in life. Regardless of whether they succeed or not, there is undoubtedly a sense in which they, like the wise men, are following a star. They have a focus and are determined to hold that focus unwaveringly in their sight until the end. This may mean enduring great sacrifice and struggle, but for them the star glows brightly, full of hope and promise in those times when great fortitude and endurance are required on their part.

Of course, not all the goals that people aim for are good. Some people might look to an endeavour which is selfish or harmful to others. Regardless of whether an objective is good or otherwise, the chances of success are clearly increased if there is a “star”, a focal point, clearly in view.

The story of The Epiphany is one which illustrates the focus on a star for a noble purpose. Here the star is a literal one, a guiding light for the wise men who, as we hear, were “filled with delight” at the sight of it. The wise men were able to discern the star that rose and shone in the west indicated the birth of the “infant king of the Jews.” They followed the star doggedly, even to the extent of detouring to see Herod, a meeting that they must have approached with some apprehension. But they were resolute in wanting to pay homage to this newly born Jewish king. Considering that they were not Jews but foreigners, their response was lavish: gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, highly symbolic, though, like the number of wise men, quantities are unspecified in the scriptures.

The challenge for us can be discerning the star that leads us to Christ amongst all the other stars that shine brightly for us – some good, some bad. As people of faith, we may well say that we follow the star of Christ with the same resolve as the wise men all those centuries ago. We are asked to be honest in our regular self-assessment of our faith journey and we would all surely acknowledge the times that we follow other stars that we know to be good – family, work, study, charity, health, and so on – we are doing all we need to do. Yet, many people who claim to have no faith, who are even vehemently opposed to any notion of God or religion, also focus on these important areas of life with equal enthusiasm and effectiveness. Focusing on these areas as a Christian without acknowledging Christ is rather like looking up in admiration at the beautiful stars on a clear night whilst forgetting about the largest star which makes all life on earth possible, the Sun.

As we embark on a new year, let us resolve to focus once again on the one star that truly matters and in which all other good stars are found: Jesus Christ. And may our response to this rediscovery of the source of all life be like that of the wise men from the east: a lavish gift, not of gold, frankincense or myrrh, but of ourselves.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,
Fr Robert



Confessions available after all Masses or by appointment

MINISTRIES
Saturday 04 January
Eucharistic Ministers
 John & Irene Carey
 Kevin Boyle
Readers
 Claire Lavery
 Greg Mearman
Children's Liturgy
 Maria Griffiths
 Helen Riddles
Welcomers
 Paul & Anne Kelly
Music
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

MINISTRIES
Saturday 11 January
Eucharistic Ministers
 Helen Musham, Jane Smith
 Wilf Lavery
Readers
 Brendan Payne
 Pat Middleton
Children's Liturgy
 Maria Griffiths
 Michelle Dennis
Welcomers
 Angela Harmston
 Christine Tracey
Music
 Bill Wilkinson & Choir

Epiphany

Should you have any items for the bulletin or wish to have it emailed to you, please contact the parish via phone or email. Contact details are on the front of the bulletin. Items for publication need to be submitted by **12:00noon on Thursday.**

We pray for our beloved deceased, including....

CARTER family
 Kathleen WILKINSON
 George ROBINSON
 Mary SKILLCORN

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick and housebound in our parish....

Jack Tobin, Margaret Pouton, Mary Spears, Frances Harland, Sylvia Kelly, Rose Crick, Frank Moran, Doreen Carroll, John Pepper, Tom Taylorson and John Byrne

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £275 Loose Plate: £170
TOTAL: £445
Mass Attendance: 119
 DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
 CHARITY NUMBER 1143450



What's going on...?

Thank you: I would like to take this opportunity in print to thank all those people who helped make our Christmas Masses such terrific celebrations: those involved in the various liturgical ministries, the choir members and musicians, the flower arrangers, school children and staff, cleaners, altar servers and sacristans. I would also like to thank all of you for the good wishes for Christmas and the New Year as well as the cards and gifts. I am sincerely grateful and humbled.

Mass Schedule: Please note the weekday Mass schedule returns to normal this week.

Gathering after Mass tonight: As always on the first weekend Mass of the month, we will be gathering in the school hall after Mass this evening for fellowship over some drinks and nibbles. Everyone is welcome!

First Holy Communion candidates: Please keep our First Holy Communion candidates in your prayers. We welcome them to Mass once more this evening. Don't forget that their names and faces are on display on the noticeboard in the narthex.

Christmas Collections: The collections from the two Christmas Masses totalled **£916.10**. Thank you!

My Favourite Hymn: It's back! Your chance to nominate hymns for our choir. Forms are at the back of the church.

The God Who Speaks: A Year of the Word: The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have designated 2020 as **'The God Who Speaks: A Year of the Word'** to celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Verbum Domini* - Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord', and the 1600th anniversary of death of St Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin. Therefore, 2020 will be a year of celebrating, living and sharing God's word, through a range of events, activities and resources. Go to <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/> for more information.

Twitter: Please don't forget St Patrick's has a Twitter account and something is tweeted each day. These tweets are both of a spiritual and practical nature. Simply search for **St Patrick's Langley Moor**.

Missio (Mill Hill Missionaries): The Mill Hill Missionaries send any foreign money and old/ used stamps collected from parishes to be converted into cash. Please give any used stamps and foreign currency (that you no longer need) to Michael and Stella Foody. They will send it to Mill Hill Missionaries in Freshfield, Liverpool, on your behalf. Thank you!

Missio December Quarterly Collection: The total amount collected from the red boxes and brown envelopes was **£626.04**. Thank you all for your generosity and to the sponsors for giving their time during such a busy season. Michael and Stella.

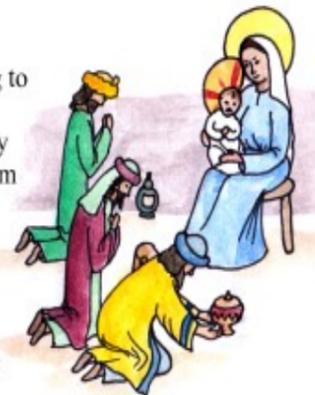
Nativity Scene Donations: There is a basket adjacent to our nativity scene in front of the altar for any donations you may wish to make to support the work of the Friends of the Holy Land. To quote from their website (www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk): "...we focus on encouraging Christians to remain in the land of their birth by supporting them to build resilient and self-sufficient communities, in what can often be a challenging environment." Please support this very worthy cause to ensure that Christians do not abandon the very place where the Christian faith was born. The crib will remain in place until just after the feast of Epiphany next weekend.

Pastoral Care of the Sick and Housebound: Do you know someone who lives in the parish but cannot get to Mass and is in need of the sacraments? It is our responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters who cannot gather with us each week. If you know someone in this situation who is in need of pastoral care, and is open to a visit, please, with their consent, pass their details on to Fr Robert.

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. True or false?



SCHOOL NEWS

First Holy Communicants

Candidates met this afternoon, for a preparation session, focused on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. These young people will receive this sacrament, for the first time, on Wednesday 15 January, in our beautiful school chapel (the meeting with parents is scheduled for 5:00pm on 08 January, in school). Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

Unclaimed Raffle Prize

Thank you to all those who supported our Christmas Raffle, during the last week of term, especially Diane, our school crossing patrol, who collected the raffle prizes. There is still one unclaimed prize (white ticket 216-220).

School Re-opens

School re-opens to pupils on Tuesday 07 January. We look forward to welcoming everyone to a new school term, after what we hope has been a pleasant and refreshing break.

Happy New Year

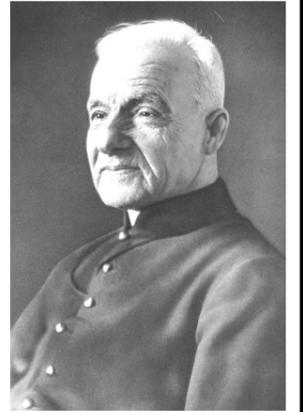
Very best wishes for 2020, to all our parishioners and families, from the staff and governors of St Patrick's School.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St André Bessette - 07 January

André Bessette was born in Québec in 1845 and joined the Congregation of the Holy Cross in 1872: the parish priest sent this functionally illiterate, frail young man to the Congregation with the words, "I am sending you a saint."

André had great confidence in Saint Joseph and recommended prayer to him to all who were sick. So many were cured that Brother André himself was acclaimed as a miracle-worker, and when he died on 06 January 1937, a million people filed past his coffin. He was canonised by Pope Benedict XVI on 17 October 2010.



(Information taken from Universalis)

Pope Francis' Mission Statement for January

May all Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill, promote peace and justice in the world.

"Blessed are those who believe and who have the courage to foster encounter and communion."



~ CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DH7 ~

Prayer Group & Bible Study

The next monthly **Prayer Group** will be held here at **St Patrick's** on **Tuesday 21 January**, 9:30am - 10:15am. Refreshments from 9:15am.

The next **Bible Study Group** will meet on **Monday 13 January** at **St Andrew's Methodist Church, Brandon** from **3:30pm - 4:45pm**.

All are welcome at these events and all events organised by Churches Together!



Next Week's Readings

The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7

Acts 10:34-38

Matthew 3:13-17



*"This is my Son, the Beloved;
 My favour rests on him."*

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"Let the full number of the nations now take their place in the family of the patriarchs. Let the children of the promise now receive the blessing in the seed of Abraham, the blessing renounced by the children of his flesh. In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judaea only, but in the whole world, so that his name may be great in all Israel."

Pope St Leo the Great (c.400 - 461)
Sermon on the Epiphany



PLEASE PRAY FOR.... the following intentions during the Advent and Christmas seasons, as requested by Bishop Robert: **Openness to the Word of God; Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.** Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer....

