

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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*Priests: Fr James Boyle MHM: Fr. John Nevin MHM: Fr. Gerald Doyle MHM*

**Registered Charity N0: 103983**

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Cycle B) 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018**

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK:**

6pm Sat: 06/01: John O'Gorman & Paddy Black RIP  
10am Sun: 07/01: Intentions Kathleen Cronin  
9am Mon: 08/1: Mass in Honour of Saint Jude  
1pm Mon: 08/1: For Deceased members of Conway Family  
9am Tues: 09/1: Mass in Honour of the Archangels  
1pm Tues: 09/1: Mass in Honour of the Sacred Heart  
9am Wed: 10/1: Wellbeing of Briege & Teresa Lagan  
1pm Wed: 10/1: Hilary Fitzpatrick RIP  
9am Thurs: 11/1: Patrick McIlroy RIP  
1pm Thurs: 11/1: Colm Smith & Charlie McGrann RIP  
9am Fri : 12/1: Wellbeing of Maria Best (sick)  
1pm Fri 12/1: Malachy Johnston RIP  
6pm Fri: 12/1: Intentions of McGee family  
9am Sat: 13/1: Mass for the Holy Souls  
1pm Sat : 13/1: Conversions of sinners  
6pm Sat: 13/1: Intentions Fr Tom Keane MHM

*Let us remember the SICK in our Prayers: Paddy Gilliland, Michael Ryan, Peter Monaghan, Joe Faszczka & Betty, Jack Burns, Jan & Malachy, Martin Donaghy, James, Clare, Terry Fullerton, Elsie Cooney, Eileen Delaney, Anne Lambe, Donna Carey, , Danny Mc Kee, David, Dolores Kelly, Dinny Murphy, Sinead Ward, Colette Kearney, Sarah Keyland, Cian Travers, P McCloskey, Mary O' Neill, Maria Antonia Peres, Shannah Smyth, Pat Carville, Sheila Smith, Barry Mulholland, Paul Connolly, Joan Smith, Briege, Kumacho, Nora Mc Mahon, Marie Mc Guigan, Paul Kelly, Annie Crawford, Nuala Mailey, Paul Mc Larnon, Patsy Mullan, Larry Mc Gurk, Bernadette Boswell, Seán & Phyliss Smyth, , Linda McDonald, Christopher Browne, Kevin Heaney, Louise Green, Marian Hunter, Colm Gallagher, Margaret Mc Cafferty, Anna, Kohl Thelis, Deirdre O'Neill, Bridie Mc Crossan, Brenda McKervey, Margaret McCriskin, Margaret Mc Kenna, Jean Kelly, Joseph Duffy, Elizabeth Magee, Joel Rivera, Nora McDonagh, Maire Mc Kenna, Eddie O' Neill, Billy Houston, Mick Hughes, Annie Mc Nally. Patrick McAnulty; Tony Lindsay, Paddy McGeogh; Alex Vernon, Kathleen McMullan, Sean Mc Donnell, Eadie Staton, Gretta Whyte, Eileen Foley, Betty O'Rawe*

**Two collections this week**

**LAST WEEK COLLECTIONS : 1. £460**

**THIS WEEK TWO COLLECTION: 1. Upkeep of the Church**

**2. Diocesan Priests Welfare**

**NEXT WEEK COLLECTION: Heat and Electricity FRIDAY BUILDING FUND**

**COLLECTION: £236**

**SILVER CIRCLE: Jackie Mc Grattan & Frank Crawford**

***HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE FROM THE PRIESTS AT ST MARY'S  
AND IN 2018***

**“May the Lord bless you and keep you May the Lord let his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you  
peace” (Numbers 6: 24-26)**

## THE SUNDAY READINGS

**First Reading:** Isaiah 55:1-11 Isaiah calls upon the people to return to the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Isaiah 12:2-3,4-6 A prayer of praise for God's salvation.

**Second Reading:** 1 John 5:1-9 The Spirit of Truth testifies on behalf of Jesus, God's Son.

**Gospel Reading:** Mark 1:7-11

Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist.

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In most years, this feast is celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany. When Epiphany falls on either January 7 or 8, the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Monday after Epiphany.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism; it was a preparation for the Christian Baptism we celebrate today, and through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. In accepting John's baptism, Jesus, though sinless, united himself with all sinners.

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, Jesus' baptism was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, the voice from heaven speaks to all who are present. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism shows that something new is beginning through the baptism and ministry of Jesus.

The baptism of Jesus is considered an important manifestation of God in the person of Jesus, another epiphany. Jesus' baptism inaugurates his mission. Mark's Gospel moves quickly from the report of Jesus' baptism to Jesus' temptations in the desert to his ministry in Galilee after John's arrest. The end of the ministry of John the Baptist is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

Surprisingly, on this the last day of the Christmas season the Gospel does not tell a story from Jesus' childhood. Instead the Gospel reveals Jesus' relationship to God: the Son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. We believe that through Baptism we are also made children of God.

*Loyola Press*

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 6<sup>th</sup> 2018

**First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

**Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.**

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13**

Every nation on earth shall worship the Lord.

**Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6**

Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12**

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

**Background on the Gospel Reading** The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana. *Loyola Press*

**A SPECIAL ICON OF THE HOLY FAMILY** has been written to mark the year of preparation for the WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES. There was a large image of the ICON on the altar behind the crib over Christmas. Every family who comes to St Mary's will have got a smaller version of the ICON image to take home. This ICON was to be placed on the dining table for Christmas day dinner and during Christmas dinner, the family were to talk about THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES (22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018) and the expected visit by Pope Francis. This time is an opportunity for parents, grandparents and children to focus on the importance of family. Then the prayers on the ICON were to be said together as a family with a parent leading. We asked that this practice be repeated at family meal times at least once a week till August 2018. **Fr. James**

**DIOCESAN DIRECTORY IS ON SALE IN THE REPOSITORY @ £4**